

Open evening speech

Hi, I'm Molly Nicholls. I'm in year 13 studying maths, physics and chemistry with the hope of reading Astrophysics at university. As you can tell I'm a bit of a science fan and public speaking isn't my forte, but hopefully I'll do ok.

Seven years ago, when I sat where you are now, looking around Bournville was just a formality for me. My older brother was already in year 10 so it was almost a definite I'd be coming here as well. I can remember saying "mum, I really don't want to go, no one in my primary school is going, and it's so big, I'm going to get lost on my own!", and then all these other excuses followed so that I could stay with my primary school friend's rather than face such a scary task alone.

Then on my first day here I was shown to my form room, up giant staircases and long corridors. But when I got there, I made friends immediately and suddenly the school wasn't so big anymore. Yes, I still got lost once or twice but asking other students was never a problem and I found my way eventually.

So, as I started thinking about the great things Bournville has given me, all my memories of the last six years came flooding back. The variety of subjects I've taken has been amazing, from maths and science, to philosophy and music. And every lesson was fulfilling, and interesting, and sometimes hilarious, even when I wasn't a fan of the subject at all.

I also took part in lots of extra curricular activities that the school runs for free. I tried to learn to play guitar, but found that wasn't for me, so I took up piano instead, and found that playing instruments in general wasn't for me. So I looked what else the school has to offer and found a huge list of things to do, including art club, music club, film club, science club, sports groups and teams and so much more. In the end I had joined so many clubs I couldn't actually fit them all in

I also helped backstage on two of the school's pantomimes. These are done every three years by our fabulous drama department and they are simply outstanding. A full show of the school's talents with actors on stage, musicians in front of it, artists creating the sets and teacher's proving they are experts in dealing with stress.

And then, on top of all this, I've been on some of the best school trips of

my life. In year 8 I went to France for three days and it was the first time I'd ever been away without my parents. I ended up having the most fun I'd ever had. But, this was then topped in year 10 when I went on a week long trip to Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris. We raced around as many of the sights as possible and got hardly any sleep, but seeing the Eiffel tower light up at midnight, surrounded by old and new friends is an unbeatable experience.

But now I'm in my last year of sixth form I suddenly feel really old, and wish I could be sitting amongst you, starting this all over again. There is so much around school I've never seen or done because I'm always doing too much. And the school's has gotten so many new facilities recently that I haven't had the time to fully appreciate them like you will.

So, I guess what I've been trying to get across to you, is that even if it looks scary, and horrible now, you could have some of the best moments of your life here, and you'll look back and realise that fear was for nothing. When I was in primary school, I was the shyest, most nervous person around, and now I'm standing here, in front of dozens and dozens of people and I can honestly thank this school for transforming me.

And on that final note, I hope you enjoy your visit this evening. And I hope you get a taste of what Bournville is really like, because it truly is incredible. Thanks for listening