

19th June 2024

Hello,

My name is Sophie Finnegan, and I am in Year 10 at Bournville School. I am proud to be on the Student Leadership team as a Prefect. At our school, we provide a community that is inclusive and respectful of all backgrounds, religions, gender identities and races. This is one of our main priorities here at Bournville- to ensure everyone feels safe and respected. I'm very aware that many students may feel slightly intimidated on their first few days of Year 7, but at this school there are many staff members who can offer support to those who need a little extra help settling in. On my first day at the school, I felt worried by the older years and was concerned about having to spend lots of time with people who I have never met before.

Luckily, the staff support here is amazing, and it was made clear to me from very early on who I could turn to for help, and the help that I did receive was incredible. For example, I once needed help finding a certain area of the school, so I asked a maths teacher for help. Despite her being very busy, she took time to escort me to where I needed to be with kindness and care. There are countless examples of acts like this shown to students across the school. At Bournville, we take student voice very seriously. During my four years here, I have taken part in around four student voice meetings. Each meeting, the staff have taken our ideas seriously and implemented many of our suggestions. For instance, some of the students wanted to improve the outside environment so they were bought gardening tools and seeds to grow flowers. Students also feedback on what they might like for rewards. Recently, our whole school went on a trip to Drayton Manor, and we sometimes have movie afternoons and non-school uniform days depending on our behaviour and attendance. Our favourite reward is Golden Ticket Fridays where you might earn a golden ticket which means you get a special treat such as ice-cream.

Secondary school is very different from Primary School, in the sense that instead of having one teacher for all your lessons, you will have different specialist teachers and must go to their classrooms around the school site. This could mean separate rooms within a building or even having to go to another building altogether. This might seem a bit scary when you're used to being in one room for all your lessons, but I promise you get used to where everything is quicker than you think!

Teachers are enthusiastic about their subjects and encourage all students to branch out into extra-curricular activities, such as art club, netball, and many other sports. I have taken part in art club and singing, which has taught me to get creative and enjoy subjects that I didn't pick for GCSE- you can take part in these clubs from Year 7.

Finally, when you join our school, you can come to the Prefect team for any support or concerns. We offer support on a student-to-student level, sharing our own recent experiences to help those who ask for our help. Thank you for reading my letter to get an idea of what it's like to join our school. I look forward to meeting you in September and welcoming you to our school for the next stage of your journey.

Yours sincerely,
Sophie Finnegan
Y10 student