

# Mark (2008 leaver)

## Head of Programme Planning, Made Television Ltd

**A-levels:** English literature, history and politics.

**Degree:** English literature, University of Oxford.

### **The best thing about sixth form**

I loved the freedom that being in sixth form offered. I had a real sense of being a grown-up (whether I deserved it or not), choosing which subjects and projects I wanted to do, even having free periods and our own space to work and be among friends. And it was such a fine group of people to be around - the students from my year were an incredibly smart, positive group, many of whom I'm still in touch with and have gone on to do great things already in life. They truly made it what it was.

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

Do it. It's a brilliant school by any and every standard - and sixth form is the apex of the institution. I learnt more and grew more in two years there than I think I have before or since! It's a place you can achieve, do great things, make truly long-lasting relationships, and have a lot of fun.

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

So many conversations, so many lessons that inspired me, so many assemblies, so many ordinary days in sixth form that I can still remember fondly to this day.



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# Harry (2011 leaver)

## Commercial pilot with easyjet

**A-levels:** Maths, physics and chemistry.

**Degree:** Aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical engineering, University of Liverpool.

### **The best thing about sixth form**

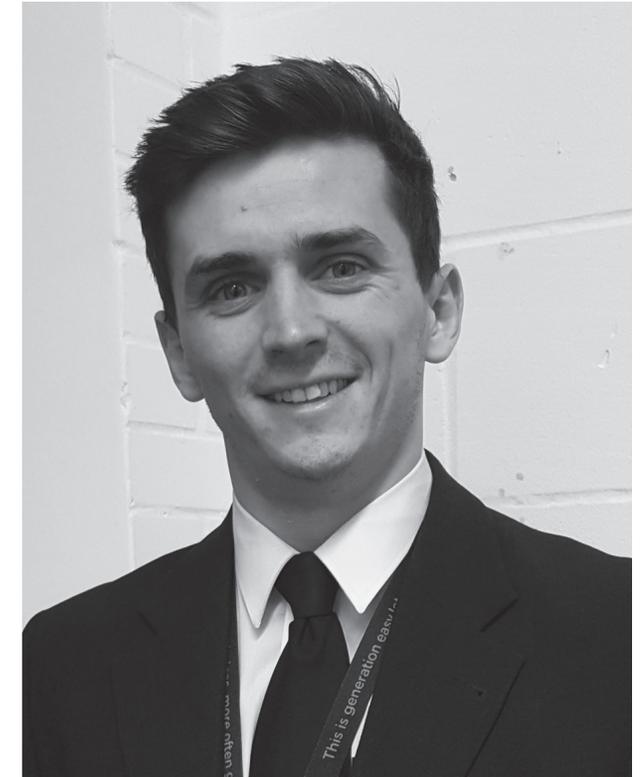
Being able to study in free periods or focus on other things, it allowed me to work in a way that best suited me.

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

If you're in a fortunate enough position that your parents/guardian are willing to fund a private education at sixth form level, jump at the opportunity and don't let go. The quality of tuition is second to none, the sporting and extra-curricular activities are extensive and varied and the opportunities provided are among some of the very best in the country.

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

The relationships built up with my favourite teachers and sport staff.



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# Oliver (2012 leaver)

## Global Commodities Analyst at Bank of America Merrill Lynch

**A-levels:** Business studies, history and geography

### **The best thing about sixth form**

Firstly the quality of teaching which really helped me to get ready for exams and secondly, the sixth form centre was a great area for social times which was something I really enjoyed. I also enjoyed the freedom in sixth form to make my own choices in sports and my learning so I could shape my own path.

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

Work hard and make the most of the great teachers. But also experience everything you can, whether that be sports, drama, debating as this will give you some much needed employability skills and help you stand out from the candidate pool.

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

Spending time in the sixth form centre with my friends, many of whom I know will be friends for life.



# Long (2014 leaver)

## Studying pharmacy at King's College, London

**A-levels:** Maths, further maths, chemistry, theatre studies, Latin (AS)

### **The best thing about sixth form**

The smaller number of students in each class gave more time for teachers to personalise their teaching to individuals, allowing them to tackle topics subjects that they were struggling in.

The study room also allowed you to have your own space, away from the younger years.

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

Ask for help. Whether you are struggling with UCAS applications, difficult topics in a particular subject or anything else, the teachers are there to help and guide you.

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

House Music - I had the most unfortunate role of dressing up as Sandy from Grease whilst conducting a whole choir, singing 'You're the one that I want,' competing against other houses. However, we won the choir competition and it was a really great evening where all the students banded together to pull off an entire evening of cheesy/poppy music!



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# Alex (2012 leaver)

## Research engineer, Thales UK

**A-levels:** Maths, further maths, physics, German.

### **The best thing about sixth form**

Being able to focus on the subjects you love the most and being taught by people who clearly love the subject.

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

Do it. Make the most of what your teachers are offering you and the chances you get to make solid friends. Join the scouts.

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

Numerous camping trips with the Explorers. In particular, the expedition to Austria and Italy.



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# Caroline (2015 leaver)

## Studying philosophy at Durham University

**A-levels:** Religious studies, classical civilisation, psychology, biology

### **The best thing about sixth form**

The increased responsibility you're given, having a better relationship with your teachers, enjoying lessons more as you have been able to specialize in what you're interested in. Mrs Heatley really inspired me and was the first person to teach me about philosophy and helping me to finally find what I was interested in as I was quite lost before this. She made some difficult concepts easy to understand and for the first time I was excited to write an essay!

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

It's an amazing opportunity to study in the sixth form at GSAL as the teachers are all really supportive. The relationship you have with them is much more equal and the conversations are very rewarding. It's also a great environment to prepare for university as the atmosphere is very pleasant, although you do need to be organized and self-motivated. The system that the sixth form has for helping with university applications is great and extremely efficient, ensuring what could be a stressful process is fairly easy.

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

Our leavers assembly - it was a lovely day, despite being somewhat tinted with sadness as it signified my time at school was almost finished. However, it was great to look back at many of the good times I had shared with my friends.



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# Eilidh (2013 leaver)

## Studying petroleum geosciences at Imperial College London

**A-levels:** Biology, chemistry, geography, mathematics (AS)

### **The best thing about sixth form**

Definitely the free periods and having our own common room. I really enjoyed playing netball for the school team so all of the PE staff too.

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

You'll have a wide array of subjects to choose from. All teachers want you to do your best and are there to support you throughout your time there. Take advantage of those free periods and even though you might not think you're enjoying it, and say you can't wait to leave for university - trust me when everyone I know has said they wish they could go back and experience school again! Time goes far too fast.

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

I loved how you could wander into the sixth form centre and everyone would be so friendly - you weren't assigned to a friendship group, you felt like you could sit and speak to everyone there.



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# Chandan (2012 leaver)

## Structural engineer at Arup

**A-levels:** Maths, chemistry, physics, English literature, biology (AS)

### **The best thing about sixth form**

I enjoyed being house captain, studying my chosen subjects and the pain au chocolat in the sixth form cafe!

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

The more you put in, the more you'll get out!

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

Just spending time in the sixth form centre, working and chatting.



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# Lauren (2014 leaver)

## Intern with Leeds Climate Commission (LCC)

**A-levels:** Geography, biology and economics.

### **The best thing about sixth form**

The best thing about sixth form was our own cafeteria and having more respect around school as well as the greater amount of responsibility.

### **Advice to pupils considering joining our sixth form**

My advice for those joining sixth form would be to work hard, enjoy it and keep on top of your time management because Uni is so worth it!

### **Lasting memory of sixth form**

My favourite sixth form memory would have to be the leavers day assembly and dinner as it was so nice to be all together as a year group and look back and reminisce.

