

“A unique Sixth Form experience...” ~ Surma S

I myself had been at the school since Year 7 so one thing I was worried about when considering staying for Year 12 was not having a change - however, I can assure you that the MGGs Sixth Form is a very new, yet very welcoming environment.

My first few months of Sixth Form may be quite different to yours (since there wasn't a pandemic to worry about); however, for me, it felt very different to my previous experience of MGGs. Of course, you have the obvious aspects such as fewer subjects and different locations such as Sixth Form Centra, however, you are also given much more independence in your learning. Personally, I found this the perfect way to explore the different techniques and methods of learning, which developed significantly over the two years and will help me when I continue to higher education.

Unfortunately, my time at Sixth Form wasn't always spent in the school building. With multiple lockdowns, we all had to quickly adjust to a new way of learning and this proved to be a huge challenge for many of us. But even though we couldn't all physically be together, academic help and mental health support was still available to everyone and it was great to see how everyone was still looking out for each other!

These events really took 'independent learning' to the next level but the skills and experience gained from them helped to shape how we all learn today.

I chose to stick to 4 subjects (Psychology, French, Maths and Product Design) and the systems I developed helped me find the best ways to manage the workload while still allowing me to pursue other interests such as a job, hobbies, social life and plenty more. I would say it is a myth that by taking 4 subjects, you have to study 24/7 since the systems you can develop, particularly by using the MGGs thinking tools and discussions with your teachers, can be extremely effective. As I apply to universities, this choice has benefited me as it has given me a higher chance of meeting my firm choice requirements with more subjects. Of course, this will be different for everyone but don't let your fears put you off too much if this is something you are considering!

One thing people often say they love about the MGGs Sixth Form is the multitude of leadership opportunities for students. I really do think that such opportunities are worth exploring as not only do they look great on personal statements and CVs but they also contribute hugely towards your personal development and key life skills. I was a House Leader (go Britons!!) and even though much of the duties had to be done virtually, we were able to take advantage of the Google facilities to connect with students from around the school and it ended up being extremely rewarding. Even if you're not the most confident speaker, I would strongly encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and try something new! I can honestly say that the opportunities offered within the Sixth Form will make you a much more well rounded individual and prepare you adequately for your future endeavours.

To be completely honest, the struggle was *real* when it came to thinking about what I wanted to do after school and even when choosing my A-Levels I was so scared of closing doors and losing potential future paths! I've always thought that being a doctor sounds amazing but lawyers seem cool, oh but also I wouldn't mind being an actor (and the list goes on...), but I've realised that in reality, no door is really ever shut. If you are throwing yourself into subjects you genuinely enjoy, you will likely find something that fits your interests perfectly. After multiple meetings with the careers advisor, Miss Hodges, who helped me to assess my options and create a personal statement that I am proud of, I eventually found the course, International Business with French, which I am eager to get stuck into next year.

A-Levels are not easy. You are bound to have days where your workload is huge, you've received a test grade you are not proud of or your courses are really challenging you. But at MGGs I genuinely believe that the facilities available and warm community will provide you with the tools to face the challenges ahead and thrive. There are so many friendships to form, memories to make and opportunities to take that the whole confusing, eventful and challenging experience felt 100% worth it.

Best of luck, stay safe and enjoy your time here as it goes very quickly! Surma :)