

Sixth from Open evening October 2021 -Student Senior Team Speech transcripts

Jess Reed

Hello Everyone, I'm Jess and I'm head girl of KSHS and I have been at the High School since Year 7. I take History, Geography and German for my A levels.

We thought you might like to know a bit about sixth form life outside of lessons. Most people take 3 subjects and so you have 15 scheduled lessons out of 25 a week. The rest of the time is divided between supervised independent study, free lessons and sessions that give you other opportunities to prepare for life after sixth form. We have something called enrichment for 2 hours every Wednesday afternoon. In Year 12 you sign up to at least two activities, including cooking, textiles, sport, music, debate, reading and so much more. I personally did debate club and music enrichment and absolutely loved both. Enrichment is such a great way to build confidence and make new friends, but it also gives you a break from constantly working all the time (as I'm sure that's what everyone does in their free periods).

Trips, COVID permitting, are another huge part of SJSF. Our Geography department goes to Iceland for 4 days which I know my entire cohort is very upset about missing out on. However, we were compensated with a trip to Boston and Skegness so we clearly didn't miss out on much. There are numerous trips to London for history, English and drama, but I can't mention every trip, or we'd be here all day!

VESPA is an opportunity that the school has bought access to in order to try and support their students to achieve their potential. It's a programme that all students undertake in tutor time and hear about in assemblies which helps students build a positive mindset and manage workloads, with effective and researched methods.

Positions of responsibility are another significant opportunity in the sixth form. There is a senior team at all three schools, and I know I speak on the behalf of all of them when I say that it is so rewarding, being able to talk to your teachers and fellow students and make a difference. The students are such a massive part of our community and I think it really shows just how much we are respected in the sixth form with the number of positions available. There are House captains and subject prefects, as well as Well-being Ambassadors. If you are a student who is passionate about making positive changes in your school environment, then I strongly encourage you to look into these roles.

The last thing I would like to say is that I know how daunting this open evening can seem. There are so many people and subjects and teachers, and I know I had no idea what I was doing, or what I wanted to do in the future. I went round all of the subjects I was interested in and I believe that my mum and I were the last ones to leave, which is something we have become known for at KSHS. I also remember when I came to this open evening, I would have loved to hear someone say "I have no idea what I want to do in the future". So I'll be that person today: I have no idea what I want to do in the future, and that is perfectly okay. You don't need to have your entire life figured out just yet, I certainly don't!

What I do know however, is that I would like to study History and German at university and that the sixth form has played such a massive part in encouraging me to follow my dreams, even if I am just figuring them out as I go along. There are so many options out there, so be brave and bold and work hard, but remember to have fun and be kind to yourself. Good luck, and I look forward to seeing you in the future!

Molly Burrell

Good evening everybody, my name is Molly. I am based at the High School where I am Deputy Head Girl I currently study A-Levels in History, Psychology and Ethics and Philosophy, and after completing the early application process, I'm hoping to go on to study History and Politics at university next year. This is something the school have been incredibly supportive of, always making sure we get the best opportunities to strive for what we want to achieve post-secondary school.

Studying at the sixth form has allowed me to come into my own and gain a wealth of independence, confidence and overall happiness. The freedom that being a member of Sleaford Joint Sixth Form provides has offered the chance for my peers and I to gain a level of maturity that just isn't possible in the lower school. I think one of the main reasons for this is the movement between the three school sites. One of the unique things about the Joint Sixth Form is that there is the opportunity to study at three different schools, the High School, Carre's and St. George's, while still being a part of one student body. This, of course, depends on your subject options, some of you may end up having all of your lessons at the school you are based at but most people, and study at least two of the sites maybe all three depending on your options. Due to my options, I am one of the students with lessons at all three sites, and I have really enjoyed this experience.

I started at the High School in year 7 moving up through the years and by the end of year 11 I was ready for a change, but I didn't quite feel ready for a change like moving to a completely new school. Being based at the High School but studying across The Joint Sixth Form was the perfect fit for this.

At first, I was nervous to walk between schools and try to find my classrooms, but everyone was helpful and accommodating. My first ever lesson in year 12 was actually at St. George's, and I had only been to the school once so the idea of getting to my class was very daunting. However, much to my relief, Miss Chant was there to guide us to where we needed to be, and everything went smoothly. These nerves about walking across Sleaford quickly became excitement and I loved the freedom it gave me, especially because it meant I could get a Greggs sausage roll on the way back from my lessons.

Another worry I overcame was figuring out who I would walk between sites with as most of my friends didn't share my subjects. This was easily resolved because you make friends in your classes so quickly and I'm now never at a loss for someone to walk with.

Overall, I think my time at Sleaford Joint Sixth Form has been a wonderful experience full of freedom and growth. It's given me the skills to find my feet in my future education and whatever may follow that. Although I would recommend checking the weather every morning in case you need your brolly.

I would also just like to add that Jess and I will be heading down to the High School after this and would love to help anyone in need of directions. Catch up with us in this hall after the talk if we can help!

Matt Bolton

Good evening everyone, my name is Matthew Bolton and I am the Head-Boy here at Carre's Grammar School. I study History, Ethics and Philosophy and Business A levels.

My Journey at Carre's began in a similar fashion to many of you, 6 years ago in 2015. A blazer a size too big alongside a more than spacious school bag. As a student at Carre's for the duration of secondary school, I can say without hesitation, that Year 7 and Year 12 hold many parallels. For some, being the new student in a new school may well remain the most prominent theme.

However, something universal for all is the new chapter of your education in the form of sixth form study. The significance of sixth form is often largely associated -solely- with achieving high grades alongside the mounting pressures of doing so. A-levels at the Robert Carre Trust are in an environment which encourages both academic success alongside individual growth. Many colleges and sixth forms focus solely on student university applications which limits the chances students have to find their genuine pathways and opportunities after sixth form.

Here at the Robert Carre Trust though, you will be given advice and mentored by members of staff to find the right steps for you upon completion of your courses.

From a personal perspective- I researched my options for study at university and decided that it wasn't the best choice for me. I was fully supported with this and was aided in my research into other career pathways which led to me applying for a number of apprenticeships and the Royal Navy, the school providing any references/ application advice that I required.

As a student at Carre's from year 7, a significant dynamic which does change in a positive fashion is your relationships with your teachers and form tutors from the younger years of the school. The progression from a set school uniform to a suit from Next does reflect the change from a student at GCSE and a student at A levels. You are now in most respects an adult; teachers and the sixth form alike repay this compliment with out of lesson time support and the implementation of free periods to promote your individual study.

The staff across all three sites are excellent and have a vested interest both in your results alongside your well-being, creating a good 'give-take' working environment which really does promote and inspire success.

Some of you may be nervous in beginning a new chapter at a new school, there is no need to be. No matter which school you base at, what your hobbies or interests are, you will have an amazing experience here throughout the two years of your studies.

Jessamy Adamson

Good evening,

My name is Jessamy Adamson and I am the deputy head girl here at Carre's. Two years ago, I was sat where you're sat right now, as I contemplated moving from my old school, KGGs, to Sleaford. I loved my old school, but I knew that I wanted a change of environment, and

after coming to the open day and speaking to some of the students, I knew Carre's was the place for me. I can confidently say today that I made the right decision.

Everybody here, both students and teachers alike have been so welcoming and supportive, and I felt as though I fitted in here immediately. The friendly, community environment of this sixth form makes it so easy to settle in and to know that there is always support available. I've found it so easy to gain a good balance between education and enjoyment, as I get to socialise in times like enrichment, as well as engage during my lessons. All of the teachers are very helpful and supportive, especially when it comes to planning for the future. Each form tutor can help you to read over and improve your personal statement when applying for uni, and class teachers are always happy and available to help you out with any subject specific areas, such as work experience or online courses to add to your application.

Not only do both Robert Carre Trust schools work hard to provide the students with support in education, but also within areas of mental health. This year, the staff have coordinated with the sixth form prefects and students alike, to form an ethos of de-stigmatisation around mental health, so there is always somebody available to go to. Both schools have trained sixth form Well Being Ambassadors who have formed a student-to-student support system, in addition to our trained staff counsellors up in the house. Some of the sixth formers have trained in mental health and wellbeing to provide an extra layer of support to students who may find it daunting to speak to an adult. I think this is so important, and the caring attitudes of all the staff have honestly made my time here so much better, and the transition much smoother. If you're thinking about moving, it is definitely something worth considering. A fresh start, new friends and new opportunities are things you won't regret finding.

Thank you for listening and enjoy the rest of your night!