



Our Head Girl talks about life at Mary Hare.

What was your first week at Mary Hare like?

After being at a junior mainstream school with a deaf unit, it was certainly a big change in facing a deaf school for the first time. Hence, I was naturally nervous to make new friends, but I felt comforted knowing that my mum went to Mary Hare and had told me good stories about it!

Later, I quickly made friends and adapted to the new change. I was initially a full-time day pupil, but after realising that I was missing out on the fun of boarding, I started to stay one night every week.

I now stay two nights a week which allows me to see the teachers after school and not feel too tired from travelling, particularly after a long day of doing my A-Levels.

Did you find making friends easy?

It was easy for me to make friends, especially with the fact that we are all deaf and we can communicate easily either orally or by using sign language without any barriers that we would normally face in the hearing world.

KEY FACTS

Name:

Rebecca

Year started at Mary Hare:

2014

Head Girl dates:

2020 - 2021

A Levels taken:

Chemistry

Biology

Art

Local Authority:

West Berkshire

Hearing Loss:

Profound hearing loss caused by Waardenburg Syndrome. I wear a hearing aid in my right ear only, because I have no recordable hearing in my left ear!



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Securing the future of deaf children and young people

Why did you want to stay at Mary Hare for 6th Form?

During my two years of doing GCSEs, I received all the help I needed which was extremely beneficial. Therefore, staying for 6th Form was the obvious choice as I knew I would get the support for my A-Levels exams because of the smaller class sizes.

In addition, the extra two years at Mary Hare ensures that I understand how to plan for my exams, and also know what I want to do in preparation for life after Mary Hare, such as going to University or having a career.

I didn't want to struggle with my learning if I went to college because I already know that Mary Hare has assisted me in having a good education.

Can you tell us what you have achieved academically?

For my GCSEs, I achieved 2 As in English Literature and Art, 4 Bs in Chemistry, English Language, French and History as well as 3 Cs in Biology, Physics and Maths. As a consequence of my efforts, I was awarded the Principal's Prize, the Biology Prize and the Art Prize at Senior Speech Day.

Currently, I am in my second year of doing A-Levels which are Chemistry, Biology and Art. Thanks to my teachers' availability in the late afternoons, I am able to go to the labs and the art workshop to do revision and practical artwork.

What will you be focussing on as Head Girl?

It is really vital that all students feel comfortable to have a say in the school and get provided with all the support they require. By doing this, I would like to set up a program where I discuss with the pupils about their education and their personal issues, only if they feel comfortable with me. This ensures they have someone of a similar age to empathise with.

My reason behind this is because deaf children can be vulnerable to mental health issues as they might feel isolated outside school. The program could consist of regular sessions.

My other idea is to introduce an Art workshop where the students feel welcome to experiment on a variety of media. This idea could make students interested in Art, maybe taking it further in doing GCSE and A-Level. With my experience, I'm here for the students and to give them tips.

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Is there anything else you would like to add?

Throughout my time in the 6th Form, I have entered an Art competition organised by Newbury Rotary Club, and produced a piece based on the theme; Through Your Eyes. This was then included in my Art AS-Level coursework.

I was invited by a fellow peer to attend the Wellcome Genome Campus located near Cambridge. It is a scientific research campus based on genomics and biological data. It was fascinating to learn bits about the Human Genome Project.

I would like to work with animals and hope to do a Veterinary Nurse course at University.

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