

Case Study

Claudia - Head Girl

KEY FACTS:

Head Girl dates: 2017-2018

Year started at Mary Hare: 2011

A Levels taken: Geography, History, Maths and English Literature

Local Authority: Warwickshire

Hearing Loss: Profoundly deaf

What was your first week at Mary Hare like?

I joined in year 7 and can remember my first few days very clearly. I was quite homesick as I had never been away from home more than a night. I had nothing to worry about as I soon settled in and was made to feel at home. The teachers and care staff were all very kind and welcoming. I couldn't have asked for anything more.

Did you find making friends easy?

While Mary Hare is an oral school, I was concerned that my lack of BSL would make me feel left out in the evenings. I didn't need to worry as I soon picked it up and found that I wasn't the only person in my situation. My peers were all very friendly and keen to get to know me. I felt that because we all had something in common - our deafness – we were able to really connect with one another. I know that I have made friends for life.

How have you found 6th Form life?

For me and most of my peers, the 6th Form is the best aspect of being at Mary Hare. (putting aside all the work!) Since being in the 6th Form I have gained more independence and responsibility. This has prepared me for life after Mary Hare as I no longer get the care staff waking me up in the mornings and forcing me to get ready for school! I have to make sure I get myself up and ready at an appropriate time. One of the many perks of being a 6th Former is being able to go into Newbury town on a regular basis to buy essentials or just to browse.



"Without Mary Hare I wouldn't be the person I am today. It has positively changed me in many ways both academically and socially."

Describe your experience of boarding

It is a strange experience to arrive into if you haven't been a boarder before. However, you soon get used to it and most people find that they would rather stay than be a day pupil as they feel they miss out on activities in the evenings. In younger years, if you are a boarder, it is often the case that you have to share a room with your friends. While some would prefer a room to themselves, I actually quite liked this. It was only when I was in year 10 I found myself wanting my own room to focus on revision for my GCSEs without getting distracted! Thankfully, my wishes were soon answered as the year 11s get to have their own room (in Murray House) for this purpose entirely. The 6th Form block is similar as you can get a room to yourself, if you are lucky, or share with one other person.

Describe your experience to date as Head Girl

I have only just got this position and I am really looking forward to the year ahead. I've already attended our first meeting with the rest of the prefect team to discuss some of the things we plan to do. We are keen to get them into action ASAP.

Some of our popular events throughout the year includes Christmas entertainment, an Oscars award evening, charity events and prom. In addition, we arrange prep duties to help the younger students with their homework. I can already feel the weight of my new responsibility and I am extremely honoured to have it.

Can you tell us what you have achieved academically?

At GCSE I gained 6 A's and 3 B's in French, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Core Science, Additional Science, Maths and Business Studies. This wouldn't have been possible without the support of the teachers who are, undoubtedly, the best in the country.

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Is there anything else you would like to say about your time at Mary Hare?

Mary Hare truly is an outstanding school. They couldn't be any better in the way they help deaf students to overcome the barriers they may face in the hearing world. Nowhere else will you find teachers and adults who completely understand the needs of a young deaf person. Without Mary Hare I wouldn't be the person I am today. It has positively changed me in many ways both academically and socially.

After I leave Mary Hare, I am hoping to do an Archaeology degree at university. The skills that Mary Hare School have provided me with will unquestionably be worthwhile for my future. I would highly recommend this school to anyone who wants the opportunity to reach their potential.

Securing the future of deaf children and young people

