



Mill Hill LIFE

Two years ago, when I first arrived at Brentwood, it was very different from what I had imagined it to be.

Although I have lived in the UK for six years, Brentwood is one of the most fantastic towns that you'll find. Unlike my old school, which was located in the countryside, the busy high street had so much to offer. Supermarkets, restaurants, post offices and even a local cathedral, Brentwood could totally be classified as a city. There's so much to explore and it has brought a lot of convenience into our life.

The School itself provided fantastic opportunities. I was part of the Combined Cadet Force (RAF) community for my first year where I learnt how to shoot and took part in Remembrance Services. I am a big fan of chemistry so I quickly started up my own chemistry club. I enjoyed it so much and made friends with students from all years. During this period, we competed in lots of House competitions that were super exciting - House lip sync, House sports and even escape rooms! To encourage everyone to become active members you are rewarded House points for taking part and/or winning events.



*The Mill Hill community is amazing,
They're all so sweet - I could hardly
describe them with words.*

I was welcomed by the Head of House at that time who showed me around the School, I remember she was so easy to get along with.

Rules in the house were complicated but there was a handbook to help me - yet I never had to use it. The girls were so helpful that they would explain everything to me and the staff were very understanding too. It is a warm boarding house that made me feel at home.

The girls and staff love to have fun at the weekends - being so close to London is such a gift. Students may take the train from Brentwood or Shenfield stations to almost anywhere they want, so we got to go on various trips. Not only did we go on theatre trips in the West End, we also went to theme park trips further away such as Thorpe Park and I had some wonderful memories of those.

When I first started my journey as part of School House, I wasn't considering being the Head of House at all - I thought it was way too time consuming and demanding. Why did I change my mind then? It was because I became so close with the girls that I knew for sure that they would help me out with duties whenever I needed, I also knew they would support anything I organised. What a nice feeling. I would never regret applying for this position.

As Head of House, the duties included leading House Music (coolest event ever and we won this year) giving House meetings in the boarding house after dinner every workday to do the register and notices, organising House BAC weeks (coming up with headline events), preparing House sectionals and preparing birthday gifts for the girls. None of them were tough tasks but without knowing, my leadership skills and time management skills improved so quickly and easily.

Jessica



If you are inspired by **Jessica's** boarding experience, please contact Brian Hays, Boarding Manager, via his email haysb@brentwood.essex.sch.uk