

Hallfield School: Speech & Prize Giving Day 2024

Head Girl Speech by Angie, Year 8

“Τα αγαθά κόποις κτώνται”

I admit that it all sounds Greek to you. This is a quote coined by Aristotle, the Greek philosopher a few thousand years ago; it means “Success and Good things come with hard work”.

My journey to this podium has been one of transformation, resilience, and determination- and it wasn't my first attempt either! Four years ago, I arrived at Hallfield School from Greece, a wide-eyed and nervous girl with almost no proficiency in English. The support I received from this incredible school community from day one was nothing short of miraculous. From patient teachers who dedicated extra time to help me with the language, to classmates who embraced me with open arms; Hallfield became not just a school, but a nurturing home away from home.

Today, as I reflect on my time here, I am filled with gratitude for the countless opportunities that Hallfield has given me. I am proud to have held the titles of school counsellor, prefect, librarian, sports captain and of course, Head Girl!

On my first day at Hallfield. I entered with trepidation, but I was extremely excited to see my new school, meet my classmates and my teachers but worried nobody would understand me, and I would be lonely. When my sister Sofia and I arrived through the big red doors, Mr Butcher took Sofia and I to our form rooms; then I met Mr Lowe my form tutor and my classmates.

We played games, got to know each other and made some new friends. I remember telling my parents at the end of the day about all of this and how amazing it was; the worries I had initially had, were unfounded. I will always be grateful to Mr Woolthead who helped me throughout the rest of Year 5 with improving my English and I want to say a huge thank you to all teachers and especially to Mrs Raffermati and Mr Hewer.

Beyond academic achievements, what truly sets Hallfield apart from other schools is its unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of kindness, inclusivity, and empathy. It is a place where differences are embraced, and where every voice is valued.

Everyone has the chance to make great memories and gain many experiences; I still remember my first residential trip with Hallfield, which was actually my first residential ever! We went to Boundless Outdoors and did loads of activities such as zip lining, high ropes and orienteering... I was already a very adventurous person, but that trip made me even more confident and brave. It helped improve my independent skills as it was the first time I had been away from home on my own and I had to make sure I didn't leave anything behind.

I stand here today, a new chapter of my life about to begin, and am filled with a profound sense of optimism and excitement for the future. I am armed with the invaluable lessons I have learned at Hallfield and I am confident that I am ready to face whatever challenges lie ahead.

In September, I embark on a new journey at Bromsgrove School, my first and only choice, and I carry with me the great memories, friendships, and enduring values that Hallfield has instilled in me.

To my fellow students, I urge you to never underestimate the power of passion. Believe in yourselves, chase your dreams, and never be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. And remember, no matter where life takes you, if something doesn't work out the first time, it doesn't mean that it won't work out the next. I can vouch for this from my own personal experience regarding my Head Girl Journey. After each unsuccessful application in Year 5, 6 and 7, I remember my parents and Mrs Raffermati telling me that I would have another chance next year and that I must persevere with my dream if it was what I truly wanted. I didn't give up and here I am now, giving my last speech at Hallfield, as the proudest Head Girl of the school.

And finally, to my parents and family, words cannot express the depth of my gratitude for your eternal love, support, and sacrifice. You have been my pillars of strength, my guiding lights, and my greatest source of inspiration. Thank you so much and I hope I have made you proud.

In closing, let us remember that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Let us embrace the challenges that lie ahead with courage, resilience, and grace. And let us never forget the profound impact that Hallfield School has had on each and every one of us.

Thank you and good luck to the next Head Girls and Boys!