

SURINI RANAWAKE - BURSARY RECIPIENT - CLASS OF 2009



I knew as soon as I attended the Open Evening that KGS was the right choice for me and would suit my personality and ambitions. Everyone was so friendly and I knew there would be so much opportunity for me to get involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities as well. It was thanks to an academic scholarship and in particular the additional support afforded by a bursary, that enabled me to attend KGS, my top choice Sixth Form. I spent two extremely happy and fulfilling years at KGS.

Having previously attended an all girls' school, it was extremely enlightening to share my English, History and Economics classes with young guys who had very different opinions to those I had been accustomed to. The teachers were brilliant in delivering interesting, engaging lessons, and whilst I truly loved all my subjects and chose to study History and English at

university, I would have to say that Economics with Mr Hall and Mr Ricketts was my favourite! The facilities such as the Library and use of interactive whiteboards and presentations during lessons were conducive to a dynamic learning environment, and the learning environment really helped me think about creative ways to study and revise for exams. Some of the tips that I learned whilst at KGS I used at university too. In fact, going to KGS meant that I was supported in the university application process, and I was able to study at Durham, my first choice university.

KGS helped me to succeed both academically and in terms of becoming more rounded, through a wonderful extra-curricular offer. I got involved in House Sport (the dance competition, swimming gala and athletics events). I was a Form Prefect in my first year and a Senior Prefect in my second year. It was a real honour to be involved in school life in such a way, especially as I only joined in the Sixth Form.

In terms of pastoral care, it was great that there was an atmosphere in the Sixth Form which encouraged openness and support. The Sixth Form readied me to take responsibility for my studies - something that was really important for university. I met some lovely people who I am still in contact with today, and KGS lived up to my expectations as being a place for opportunity, equality and friendliness. I am proud to be an Old Kingstonian, even though I was only there for two years!

Attending KGS gave me the confidence to realise that my potential would be recognised and could be developed without family circumstances being a barrier. I was extremely thankful for the opportunity to be there. The Bursary Fund has directly helped me to gain one of the best foundations I could have asked for when starting my journey into adult life. Family circumstances should not hold individuals back from reaching their full potential, so please do consider supporting the Bursary Fund as you are supporting the success of future leaders, entrepreneurs and hardworking individuals, who will be able to seize the opportunity and be thankful every day for the helping hand you have given them.