

Grangewood Founders Day Speech 2015

I first came to Grangewood in 1993, when I was 4 yrs old, and I went through the school from Reception to Year 5/6... I have so many happy memories of primary school here and I made good friends, many of whom I am still in contact with 15 years after leaving.

I've heard people say that it can be a big jump to go from a small primary school like Grangewood to a big secondary school... but I think it's the confidence and self-assurance that you gain from a school like Grangewood, which then equips you to stand firm and not be lost in the crowd when you move to a big school.

At the end of secondary school I achieved 11 A*'s and 2 A's at GCSE and then ... 5 A's at AS and A2-level. My dream ever since I was about 4 years old was to be a doctor, and ... I got a place at Bristol University to study Medicine. 6 years later and I'm now graduating with a Medical degree, awarded with distinction and I also achieved a first class honours Bachelor of Science degree in Physiology along the way too! ... I am pleased because I have already been accepted on an academic junior doctor programme, so I will spend 4 months next year working on a research project of my choice, which is truly exciting.

As a current parent at Grangewood, I want to encourage you all that you've made a great choice. I didn't even have to think about it... I knew I wanted my son to come here and I would pay whatever it cost. I know times are tough financially but I've always believed that you can't skimp on your children. It's not just the independent education; Grangewood is a caring community that offers a real family-feel. Every child from nursery through to year six is known to all staff and the other pupils by name. That provides the children with a secure sense of identity and inner value. The small class sizes mean that teachers can give your child the time and attention they need. There's no hiding, no getting lost or overlooked in the class. And every child gets to participate in key areas of school life... like summer special production and in sports day... at Grangewood, everyone gets the opportunity to take part, and because of that the children get the chance to try different things and that's where you uncover their hidden talents and abilities. You only get one shot at primary school and if you get it wrong then that could affect your whole career in education and could turn a child off learning for life. But on the other side, the kind of solid and secure foundation that Grangewood offers, gives the children the confidence they need and sets them on a firm path for the future. I've seen so many changes, developments and improvements in this school over the years... new playground, nursery, Spanish lessons, chess club, school prom, music concert, spring research project, quiz night, sponsored bounce, the list goes on & on..

As an ex-pupil I want to say to the children that Grangewood is a fantastic school... Make the most of every opportunity and never give up on your dreams.

Finally, I would like to leave you with 3 key points: (#1) God comes first – I can honestly say that there's no way I could have achieved everything I have if it wasn't for God. In good times and in bad times, God is always there. Pray about everything and God will get you through. (#2) Work hard – achievement does not just appear out of nothing, it is earned. Apply yourself, put in the effort and you will see results. (#3) Never give up. Perseverance is the key. Keep trying and you can make your dreams become reality.