



Head Girl Open Evening Speech 2016 – Jess Wilton

Hello, my name is Jess Wilton and I am the Head Girl here at Haydock High. I am happy to see all of you here tonight, knowing that you and your child are considering choosing Haydock High as the place where your child will continue their next steps in education. I know choosing a school where your child feels happy will help them to achieve their best. I am here tonight to reassure you that choosing Haydock High can be the best choice for your child.

Nearly 5 years ago, my family and I were in the same position you are in. From the first day I arrived at Haydock High I felt happy and secure and have never looked back. Everybody is so friendly. It still amazes me to see staff walking down the corridor and hearing them greet the students by their name. My feelings about the school are still the same today.

The staff have made me believe that anything is possible and have given me the support and encouragement to achieve my best. So I am here tonight to reassure you that you will be making the right decision in sending your child to Haydock High.

We always feel supported. We have peer listeners who help the year 7s settle in. We have a form tutor during our time here and a Head of Year who we can go to and discuss any worries and problems we may have.

The school has given me lots of opportunities to develop my learning and self-confidence. The school has lots of dinnertime and afterschool clubs and activities on offer. They include netball, rugby, ICT, reading club, football, drama, art, media, trampoline and badminton. I have attended many of these as they are a great way to make friends and settle in. I also take an extra GCSE in French after school and the school have helped me do this.

We go on educational trips to support our learning including trips to the theatre, museums, workshops and events held by the Local Council where we get the opportunity to represent the school. We also get to take part in drama productions and concerts.

There are also lots of different exciting opportunities outside school too, like the Year 7 Residential Trip to Quinta which nearly all the children attend. It was really fun and we got to do lots of activities and it really helped us to get to know our year group. I have also been fortunate enough to go on school holidays with the History, Modern Languages and Media Department to Berlin and Paris. I have also been to Austria Skiing, which was amazing! The Geography department are running a trip to Iceland this academic year.



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In Year 10 we have been given the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme which includes learning a new skill, doing volunteer work and completing a hike and overnight camp which has been a challenge.

We also have a Student School Council, to which students can apply and be voted in to represent their school year. This allows students to attend meetings and have a voice. We also have school Prefects. We have to apply to become a Prefect and are given training and duties to carry out including being around during break and dinner time to support the staff and ensure all students follow school rules. We are also a familiar face for younger students to approach should they have any problems. All these help us develop our skills in leadership and responsibility.

A merit system is in operation at Haydock to recognise good behaviour. We receive marks for our Attitude to Learning, attendance and punctuality. Good attitude and behaviour is recognised. Throughout the term there are workshops held for those who have behaved well where students get to have hot chocolate, pizza or other things. At the end of each school year a Celebration Evening is held to recognise our achievements and awards are presented and parents are invited to attend. If we maintain good behaviour and standards throughout the year we get to attend an end of year trip and spend time with our friends at places such as Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

In Year 8 we choose our Options. As well as the compulsory subjects, we have a wide variety of subjects to choose from that suit everyone. I love all my subjects including English, maths, science, modern languages and history. Our lessons are always varied and interesting. When I leave school I want to go to college and university. I would like to become a solicitor or a children's doctor. I know I can achieve this. Additional revision classes and support is being given to us to help us achieve our best. We are being given the opportunity to attend local colleges including Carmel, Winstanley and Cowley Sixth Form. We have received Careers advice and have attended a Careers Fayre, during which I saw the opportunity to volunteer for charity work for a local charity, to which I applied and I now work for them every Saturday.



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From my personal experience I know how important it is to feel happy and want to come to school and be supported. Since starting at Haydock High my confidence has grown and I have thrived so much that I am able to stand in front of you this evening as Head Girl. In year 7 I would never have thought this was possible. I applied for this role as I feel proud to represent the school and help others achieve their best and make students, teachers and parents and the community feel as proud of Haydock High as I do.

I know what a big decision you and your children are faced with at this time. Hopefully I have helped you to see at Haydock High “We care. We support. We achieve” and that our school can help your child achieve their best.

Please visit all the different areas and talk to me or the other students and teachers here tonight to find out about Haydock High. We are very proud to be representing the school and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.