



Year 8 students Erin and Amy's Open Evening speech

At Open Evening on Thursday 4th October, two year 8 students, Erin and Amy, addressed a packed hall of primary students and their parents/carers to share their experience of being part of Team Durrington for the past year. Here is their honest and inspiring account of life so far at DHS:

Good evening everyone.

Erin: We have only been here a year but we are here today to talk to you about our experience of Durrington High School.

Amy: Let's start with why we chose Durrington. I chose it because of its curriculum, resources and the learning that goes on in the school.

Erin: One thing that really stood out to me was the extra-curricular activities. The sports clubs we went to after school helped our sporting knowledge and gave our confidence a huge boost. The ones we enjoyed most were netball and basketball because of the amazing facilities, the fact we'd play lots of matches and the teachers made it fun.

Amy: By doing this we gained new friends and got a chance to see the teachers in a different light. The more we put in, the more we got out.

Erin: Before I came here, to be honest, I was worried about friendships but during the two team-building days, and all the other year 7 activities, we learned more about ourselves and the new people in our year. We now have so many more friends. And as the pavilion is only for years 7 and 8 we have somewhere of our own to go if we want to.

Amy: For me, the greatest worry was finding my way around. Yes, the school is big, but other students and teachers supported us along the way as we learned where everything is. The transfer days were incredibly useful. While we were in year 6 we got to know our form tutor and classmates. We started learning about what was expected of us and already felt part of the school. We were also given the full tour so we could familiarise ourselves with our new home for the next 5 years. What else did we do?

Erin: We also went on lots of Taster Sessions in the summer term and this really helped too.

Amy: The team-building days in September were great. We completed 2 days of challenges, indoors and out, and all of our teams hoping to come out on top! Some were indoors and some were out on the field. At least we didn't get too wet!

Erin: In middle school I didn't look forward to maths at all but now I really love it and enjoy it as a subject. Personally, I thought settling in would be a challenge. However the staff and other students have all encouraged me to do what I love and to feel comfortable. We have learnt not to be afraid of challenges, haven't we?

Amy: Yes. And by participating, and with encouragement, my ambitions in life are to do what I love and be successful in them. I'd like to be a personal trainer and help others achieve their goals.

Erin: I'd like to go on and follow my passion for sport and maybe even be an Olympian as I love competition and trying to be the best that I can.

Amy: Whatever we choose we know we will have had the best start possible.

