

MIA (new Year 8)

My name is Mia, I started and finished primary school at Chesterton, so I had no idea what it was like to move schools, let alone move to a secondary school. This meant I was scared of many things when I started, such as having new teachers and classrooms for every lesson, being in a class with loads of people I didn't know, being the youngest in the school, making friends, and most of all the amount of homework!

My first Induction Day was a very fun and scary experience, considering my friends and I got lost before the first lesson had even started! For the two Induction Days I mainly stayed with people from my primary school, but in some lessons we weren't allowed to pick where we wanted to sit. This of course helped with making new friends, but most of the time we didn't talk to each other. In my opinion the Induction Days did help with getting to know my way around the school, but it was a very different experience to my actual first day.

Now that I've been at Deer Park for almost a year, I don't think I am scared of any of these things anymore, well apart from homework! You get used to following a timetable and changing classes for every lesson, and you will get to make loads of new friends inside and outside of your tutor group. It may take a few weeks, like it did for me, but it will happen, I promise. Never be scared to join in with any of the clubs, sport events or school productions, it really does help to boost your confidence and make you feel more a part of the school. After I did the 'Footloose' production, I felt more confident and settled at my new school.

At first it may seem that the teachers don't really know you, and you don't really know them. But it doesn't take long for you to feel more at ease and comfortable around them. You see your tutor every morning and they will always give the information and guidance you need to help get you started. Although your teachers change, your tutor group doesn't, so you will always have someone to help you. Never be frightened to ask for help.

LOUIS (new Year 8)

My name is Louis and I am going to tell you a bit about MY experiences as a Year 7 at Deer Park. On my first Induction Day here I knew about three people who were coming to this school. I came from a tiny school outside the catchment area - there were only 17 in my class at Whiteshill Primary. But when entered this school I knew from the friendly atmosphere, the bond between teacher and student, and the amazing facilities that I had never seen in a school before, that this school was where I wanted to be!

From the start of school, it was only a matter of months before I had performed in the Winter Concert and had great friends who share my musical passion. Not before long I had played in the inter tutor group Hockey tournament and the Spring Concert. One of the big highlights from Year 7 was the moving trip to Belgium. There we learnt so much about World War 1 and visited loads of amazing cemeteries and museums (not to mention we bought *loads* of chocolate!).

I am still looking forward to events such as Enrichment Week in which we do water sports, visit @Bristol and loads more.

MAYA (new Year 11)

I remember being so scared but excited too. It was such a big change in my life, going from a small school to a big one, from being the oldest back down to the youngest. But there's nothing really to be scared of. Deer Park is a really good school. The lessons are fun. The staff are really caring and there are so many superb opportunities.

My favourite lessons are Science and Drama – they are both a lot of fun and Science is really interesting but I still look forward to all of my other subjects too. There are many after school clubs to get involved in, including all types of sports. Rounders was always my favourite. There's also Dance and Drama and many more that are open to everyone.

Every year the school has either a Talent Show or a school production. Last year the school production was 'Footloose'. In the end it looked great and was a lot of fun. This year it's the Talent Show which I am hoping to get involved with. Even if you don't want to get involved, you can come and watch and show your support.

What I love about Deer Park is the many great opportunities they give you. These have made some of my best memories. For example, one of my best memories is from my school trips in Year 8. I was given the chance to go to Paris for a week and it was amazing. The city is beautiful. We went to the Eiffel Tower, a famous museum and we even went to Disneyland for the day. In Year 9 I went to London for a week – we went on a river cruise down the Thames, to Covent Garden, to London Zoo and we also saw the theatre show 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Now I am thinking about my future. I want to go to Swindon College when I leave school. Deer Park has given me the opportunity to go there for a day some other pupils to do some courses.

So if you are worried about moving up to Deer Park, don't be. Even if you do get worried while you're up there, there are plenty of people to talk to, like your teachers, the pastoral team or just another pupil. So I wish you all good luck and hope that you enjoy every day as much as I have.

OLIVER (new Year 8)

When I first went to Deer Park, I was worried and nervous about what it would be like in secondary school. But now I been there for almost a year, I am not worried in any way.

When you first start there are lots of people around to help you find your classrooms. It is big and you tend to get lost but after a few weeks you find your way around and now I know all the shortcuts.

The food is delicious, either from the Canteen or the Atrium. I like that you have a card to use and I always have to try and not buy too many snacks.

They have loads of different kinds of activities, from sports fixtures to travelling abroad. I was lucky enough to go to Stratford upon Avon as part of our Shakespeare project and saw behind the scenes at the theatre which was really interesting. I have also just been to Belgium which was good but tiring. The best bit was the chocolate shop where you can spend 20 euros for a huge bag of full of chocolate.

There are a lot more lessons here in secondary school than there were in primary school. Science is way better because you use fire and toxic chemicals. There are loads of teachers and there are a lot more rooms.

I really enjoy being at Deer Park and I find it very interesting. It is very different but enjoyable.