

Jennifer Hall

What subject(s) did you study during Sixth Form?

I studied History, Art, English and Maths. I felt that this gave me a broad, well-rounded experience. I loved being able to study different subjects, but many of them also complemented each other.

What are you studying now and where, and what would like to do next?

I am a full-time student at the University of Leicester, studying History, although I am currently embarking on my Year Abroad in Munich, Germany! Over the next year I aim to use my time in Germany to help me write my dissertation on German Art during the Nazi period. After this year, I will be returning to Leicester to complete my degree, then I will hopefully be able to complete my Masters in Art History at the University of Birmingham.

What was your experience of Sixth Form like?

It was stressful, but fun! I was able to make the most of a wide variety of opportunities during my two years in Sixth Form, such as a trip to Zambia, working with the Lawn Tennis Association, and holding a position on the student council. All of my teachers were so unbelievably supportive! I particularly struggled with Maths, and my teacher would hold weekly after school sessions to help myself and other students with any work we found difficult. I also had a lot of support from teachers who didn't actually teach me for any classes, but encouraged me and gave me words of wisdom when I was stressed.

What was your favourite part of Sixth Form?

I loved my Art and History lessons in particular because I was able to move my interests to the next level and learn about art or historical periods that I had never studied before. I actually enjoyed all of my lessons (even Maths!) and I think that mostly comes down to the teachers I had. All of my teachers inspired me to want to do better, they made all of the lessons engaging and even if the lesson was particularly boring, they helped us all get through it and were always on hand to give advice. As for Sixth Form generally, I loved being more independent than I was able to be during my GCSEs. If I had a particular interest, I was able to pursue it independently with the help of my teachers. I was always supported in my personal growth. Nothing was ever made to feel out of my reach.

What advice would you give to someone about to move into Sixth Form?

Take every opportunity you can get, but don't overload yourself! Now is the perfect time for you to organise yourself with a much bigger workload than GCSEs, it will make your transition to University or further study much easier, trust me! But remember to still have fun, balance your work with relaxation and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. Don't hide away if you need help, it will make things a lot more stressful down the line, I know because I've been there!

One of my old teachers always used to tell me that you can do anything you put your mind to, and I still remind myself of that today whilst I'm starting to study abroad in a foreign country. It can seem scary at times, but you can do it!