

While writing this speech I was overcome with fear. I was quite frankly afraid of saying the wrong thing and not including the right thing, however that reminded me of our school motto, a saying that has kept its meaning through time; in the words of our founder Ms Buss "Onwards and Upwards".

So from this I would like to reflect on my time here at Camden and how those 3 words have motivated me through so much and will continue to motivate me as I walk through life.

When I first came to Camden, I was a late admittance therefore I didn't take part in induction day. I didn't meet anyone until the actual first day of term and the thought of leaving my new friends at Parli saddened me. However, coming to this school is something I'll never regret. It's an experience I've truly enjoyed and if asked if I want to experience it again for most of it I would be grateful too.

Over the years CSG quickly became a home to me. According to American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson "A house is built with walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams", and the love I've felt through the friendships and attachments I've made at CSG truly make me feel at home. As a result of this I'm very proud when people ask me what school I go to as I'm proud of my title of being a Camden girl, a title that I have upheld for 5 years and will continue to for as long as I live.

Being here has taught me many things... like how **boys are disgusting**... Just kidding... But what I've genuinely learnt is the importance of using your voice and how **everyone** here when putting their voices, their thoughts, their opinions and their feelings into something can make something amazing. The reason we are here today is because our predecessors never stopped campaigning, never gave up, never stopped using their voices and never stopped fighting for gender equality.

In the words of the tennis player Serena Williams "The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you're very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind, and above all be humble."

Our founder, Ms Buss is one of these women so I thank her. It was an extraordinary achievement for her to take on the educational establishment in the 19th century, establish two schools and become one of the leading architects of state education for girls. She campaigned for the endowment of girls' schools and for girls to be allowed to sit public exams. And she started this mission when she was only 23!

A woman I also thank is my mother, the first example of a strong woman was the one who birthed and raised me. Therefore I thank her for everything she does for me. I would also like to therefore thank all the parents in this room, for raising their children and bringing them to Camden where they are equipped with all the knowledge and skills they need to be extraordinary women like our CSG alumni.

I started this speech by saying how terrified I was about this speech. Do you know that Glossophobia, or a fear of public speaking, is a very common phobia. More of us are affected by glossophobia than a fear of spiders, heights and **even death!** I know that public speaking isn't something accessible to everyone, therefore I owe it to Camden. Debating society, one of the clubs I've attended from years 7-11 has taught me the impact of public speaking and how style and content play a huge role in conversation and interactions, and speeches like this. Therefore I feel the need to mention it as without the opportunities and confidence I've gained from it, I wouldn't be in front of you all today.

Perhaps it is fitting that on Founder's Day I would like to thank the music department at CSG. From primary school, music has always been a thing I've loved, therefore something I always made sure to get involved in, and some of my closest friends have come from the music made inside this school. I was also able to find out more about the importance of music at CSG. Even when the school students were evacuated in 1939 the music continued, composed regardless of the situation. Very Camden of them if I do say so!

Finally I would like to reflect on Camden's inclusive nature and cultural diversity. One of our proudest moments was the recent culture day where we celebrated the contribution of all of our community. To conclude, being at Camden has taught me many things but most importantly it's shown me the true meaning of what the Frozen character Olaf said to Ana as she was dying. While holding her close to the fire she pointed out his melting, to which he said "some people are worth melting for", and I am thankful I was able to have met those people at Camden.