

I have always admired the prefects and head girls that so effortlessly came and delivered their speeches without hesitation. Not ever in a million years or more realistically since yr7 had I imagined that one day I would be up here too. And yet as life has it here I am. I think that's the brilliance of it all - that you will never really know. Life brings uncertainty. Covid taught us that even the most unforeseeable events can and do happen.

So during the past few years as a student at Camden, some key surprising events have taken place : We went into 2 pandemic lockdowns ; The queen passed away after reigning 70 years; Lizz Truss hit a record breaking 44 days as prime minister; Ironically the now ex-health secretary of the UK breached health and safety distance regulation by... erm.. coming well within the 2 metre distance rule.. in a broom cupboard, And then went to live in a jungle; The senior prefects performed in a pantomime; Mr Flynn created a chemistry youtube channel ; Amber Heard's dog stepped on a bee; A Youtuber ran for mayor for the vibes; And, astoundingly, my fingerprint to gain access into the school still doesn't work.

Through all of this uncertainty, I can say that Camden school for girls has still held strong in its ethos, forged from its opening 151 years ago, providing the highest quality of education whilst simultaneously nurturing confidence and a sense of self worth within each student. Camden is special in that way - it empowers each and every individual to defy the harmful element of the status quo whether it be racism, gender inequality, homophobia, islamophobia, anti-semitism ; the list goes on. That whether I stand here male or female, black brown or white, with or without a hijab, I am still empowered in my right. I think something you'd find in each student attending this school is that we most are definitely not your average moody teenager. Well maybe a little moody but certainly not average. As camden students, since our beginnings we are nurtured with kindness and ambition, always fighting and staying persistent in the things we believe in. We understand the importance of unity through the differences between us, building and strengthening connections rooted within us as camden girls. There are legacies built upon the generosity and passion by former students and ones to come from the future students.

This academic year we have held numerous bakesales (ofcourse with the option of healthy fruit), fundraising for charities from StopHateUK to runnymede charity, we continued the tradition of pink week and raised thousands of pounds for fighting breast cancer, the CSG charity bake off spotlighted the talented young bakers at this school whilst also fundraising for the charities End FGM, which aims to end female genital mutilation, & refugee point charity which acts to support refugees in crisis, we integrated the main school and sixth form in unity through the 'meet the elders' event where the younger years were able to gain insight into the future sixth form experience ahead of them, we raised over £1000 for Great Ormond street hospital which helps and supports seriously ill children, we celebrated the diversity that runs through our school through culture day, and, of significant importance, we finally got new toilet locks.

With all this being said we must give due credit to our founder, since we simply wouldn't have the privilege of being here and having all these opportunities had this school not existed.

I'm sure you have all heard about Francis Mary Buss, unless you had somehow successfully managed to miss founders day each year. But I think what is truly inspiring about her fight for

women's rights is that in all her struggles and adversities she was still able to find the determination and will power to persevere regardless of the possibility of failing - These key attributes later being the reason for her push for education of young girls . Did you know she was the eldest of ten children of whom only 5 survived till adulthood, or did you know she was in fact, a woman that, in gen z terminology, 'could do both' where she worked during the day and studied during the evenings or did you know that even after constant pressure to abandon this school due to financial issues she stayed persistent and was adamant about providing education to children of poorer backgrounds because she understood the value of an education and the privilege of having one? Perhaps we could all learn something from her and her [belief in](#) equality and her strength of will in the most adverse of times.

There's this famous islamic saying which goes "Ina ma al usri yusra" which means 'surely with hardship comes ease.' That even in the most difficult situations there will always be the light at the end of the tunnel. I think there's a lesson in this for everyone because we all go through setbacks. At some point in our life we will struggle with something, whether it be that chemistry exam you didn't do so well in, that job promotion you didn't get, managing the high expectation of your own aspirations that sometimes you may fall short of, - **or** ! more gravely, forgetting to scan your - tesco club card. It is important to remember that as cliché as it might sound, your circumstances will get better. As the famous poet Sid the sloth from the ice age once said "bad news is just good news in disguise. That even though things look bad, there's a rainbow round every corner". So don't forget that Spiderman would have never saved lives had he not been bitten by a spider, Bill Gates would have never made Microsoft if he hadn't dropped out of school and Martin Luther King had to have 34 years worth of dreams before he had THE dream. A disclaimer before everyone drops out of school to create the next technological advancement, my point is that something important that I've learned from being a student here is that your mistakes don't define you, in fact they build you. There is always an opportunity to better yourself and your surroundings when faced with a difficulty. So pursue your passions. Walk the tightrope. Take the risk. Because the worst thing that could happen... is it won't. As Nelson Mandela once said " it always seems impossible until it's done" And the way I see it, each time you fail you're just adding a *little bit of spice* to your storyline.

With that being said, although I am still scared of the gerbils in the library and I never really got used to the sound of the pink police and I never managed to do a front drop in PE, (sorry Ms Devine), I can wholeheartedly say that the past 7 years at Camden have most definitely been life changing, unpredictable and yet a tremendous success.

And I will most definitely only be moving onwards and upwards from here.

My journey through CSG was not one ventured alone but I had the privilege of being surrounded by amazing people who stood by me each step of the way. So a special thanks goes out to ; My teachers, who taught with charisma and put up with my nonsense questions ; The site staff, whose work is often overlooked and yet so vital ; the receptionists, for opening the gates for the millionth time ; the sixth form admin staff for being the masterminds behind all the events and notices throughout the years; The sixth form pastoral team for organising events and opportunities for us to attend; My mother, for being the first female figure in my life whose kindness and generosity will always and forever be unmatched ; My father, who was determined to do anything he could for my education ; My friends, who

stayed with me through thick and thin and believed in me when everything seemed impossible ; And the students - because this school would be nothing without you.

Coming to the end of this chapter is something bitter sweet but in the wise words of the genius, billionaire, philanthropist, Tony stark “part of the journey is the end”  
And so as this chapter of my life closes, I will take on the next uncertainties and challenges of the future with optimism and strength, keeping strong in the virtues that I've been taught along the years and are now a part of me. Because in all honesty a piece of me will always belong in camden.

Thank you for the last seven years.  
It's been a pleasure.