

Past pupil profile

Bryony Chapman



Years at Read:

2008-2015 (Year 7 – Upper Sixth)

Subjects taken at A-level:

French, Spanish, History and Music

Pathway since leaving Read:

After I finished my studies at Read, I went on to study French and Hispanic Studies at the University of Liverpool. Now that I have graduated, I am currently living in London, working for a sports company where I am combining two of my passions, sport and languages.

Memories of Read School:

A lot of my memories came from my involvement in extracurricular activities. Whether it was playing in the sports teams or performing in various music or drama productions, you were always encouraged to showcase your talent, and always with a lot of support behind you.

Another was completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. The weekends away for the practice walks and the expedition hold many stories, ones that I still tell today. Spending time with a group of friends, walking through the beautiful countryside with many laughs, some tears but all completely worth it. I was even fortunate enough to meet the Duke himself when I collected my award from Buckingham Palace, so you could say that it was an unforgettable experience all round.

However, as a student with a love of languages my highlight has to be the exchange programmes. I was lucky enough to have participated twice in the exchange programme with Saint-Genès, a school

in Bordeaux. The first time I went, I fell in love with the city, enjoying the beautiful architecture, the great food and a personal highlight, meeting and watching the UBB rugby team in action! But upon my return I was able to get some work experience in the Novotel, completely immersing myself in the language in a working environment, completely putting myself out of my comfort zone, but I got a taste of what I would like my future to be like. The many friends and connections I took away from the experience have also proven useful, and since leaving Read, I returned once again to the city I fell in love with, living there for 6 months and working as a language assistant at Saint-Genès.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

The good thing about Read is that it prides itself on being a family, something I deem to be very valuable, especially during two crucial academic years. In the Sixth Form, you create a strong working relationship with the teachers who support you every step of the way, from the beginning of the syllabus until the final exam. Even today I still receive messages from many of them, checking in and wanting to hear what I'm up to!

The small classes allow you to have full engagement with the subject, and lessons can be tailored to the students so you end up having a stronger understanding. Additionally, your fellow peers are your support system outside of the classroom, providing advice, jokes and (many) cups of tea every day, and these friendships last after your time at Read has come to an end.