

**Email to Alex Bustamante, Programme Manager, Future Foundations regarding the Westminster Summer School.**

Dear Alex,

It is not very often that such an exciting array of opportunities are offered to me at once; nor have I ever before been given such a unique insight in to the subjects that I have been aware of but have so far failed to explore so deeply. I am writing to you to thank you and other members of "Future Foundations" for making this incredible summer school possible during the week beginning eleventh July; I also owe my thanks to the tutors, coaches, and year 12 ambassadors for making the experience all the more enjoyable through their inspirational advice and their resilience in putting up with me! Not only did Westminster Summer School greatly stimulate my confidence and hopes for the future, but it also encouraged me to broaden my knowledge and deepen my analysis: in other words, I was urged to challenge my own ideas for the first time, as well as exposing myself to concepts that I had never previously considered.

One of the most important messages I took away from the experience was that where you come from cannot determine where you are headed, but that it is what you are that mainly determines your life's destination. This message, for me, was personified by David and his moving speech, which resonated a deep chord in my mind and has taught me two things: the first, to try and "chill"; the second, that it is never really the end of the world and that each failure brings you closer to your victory, providing that you have learned from your errors.

In addition, I must thank the teachers for sharing their wealth of experience with us; for me particularly, Mr Edwards in English and Ms McMahon in Modern Foreign Languages provided me with a sturdy platform from which to begin sixth form, and intensified my passion for their subjects by taking me beyond the syllabus to engage in thought-provoking discussions throughout the week. Similarly, interacting with many like-minded people, enjoying the company of Bryce, Charlie, and Jamie, and being with in the architecture of this world-famous school has been an experience beyond description: I can honestly say "I have been there, done that, and bought the t-shirt", and loved every minute of it.

Therefore, the only way I felt I could properly describe the impression that these experiences have had on me was through a well-thought-out, wordy email, rather than a quick evaluation; which, come to think of it, I didn't manage to totally complete as we were all in such a rush on the final day. Also, it is due to this inspiring impression that I hope to soon volunteer and assist "Future Foundations" in any way possible, and hence, be able to somehow give back.

Kind regards,

Harshadha.

**Westminster Summer School Participant, 2011.**