



Grace has made a flying start to her secondary school education encouraged by the friendly staff at Kingsmead School

Amanda lives in Enfield with her children, Grace, aged 12, and her son, aged nine.

Taking part

Amanda has been delighted with the way Grace has flourished in Year 7 at Kingsmead School. "Grace is doing very well and participating in everything enthusiastically and I have been very pleased with how much progress she has made during her first year," Amanda says.

Supportive teachers

Grace's favourite subject is Maths and she has become passionate about the subject, her mum says. "Grace has enjoyed taking part in the Maths Challenge, competing against other schools, and was pleased to get through the first round and to hear she had been put through to the regional finals. Grace enjoys Maths because she has an analytical brain. She has a thirst for knowledge and the school are encouraging this. Her Science teacher told me Grace will often come up with questions which show her depth of knowledge."



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Good impression

Kingsmead had not been in the running to begin with when Amanda was looking for a secondary school for Grace. However, the family live only a short walk from the school and so they went to view it. She says: "I was impressed by the standard of work on display and Grace loved it straight away. She said out of all the schools she had seen, it was the best, and she wanted to go there."

Enrichment opportunities

Amanda liked what the Headteacher said in his address to families and was pleased with the range of extra-curricular activities and after-school clubs on offer. "Grace was glad that students could have an input into the type of activities the school put on for students," she says.

Smooth transition

Only one other child from Grace's primary school went up to Kingsmead with her, but she quickly made new friends. Amanda says: "She was both excited and nervous about starting at Kingsmead and had been worried in advance about moving from one classroom to another for the different subjects, but she soon got used to it and settled well. The staff were very understanding because they were all new and Grace loves all her teachers."

Valuable experience

Grace has enjoyed working in a group with other students as part of the First Give project, which helps involve the children in charity work, Amanda says. "Her group picked a local charity, the North London Hospice, and Grace contacted them to find out what services they provide and ask them what they would do with the money the students raised. The class chose her group's project to put forward after they did a presentation to them and gave their views about it."

Student voice

Amanda says Grace likes the way students are listened to at Kingsmead and are given the chance to suggest things to improve the school. "With other students, Grace was able to meet one of the local MPs and discuss how the area around the school could be improved," she says.

Enjoying activities

Grace enjoys Music, learning the piano, and English and Drama at school, and likes playing for the school football team and going to the Science Club. Grace says: "I have enjoyed the trips we have been on during Year 7, such as going orienteering for Geography and visiting the oldest prison in London. I like going to the after-school clubs, particularly dungeons and dragons, because of the strategy and teamwork you need to employ to win missions."

Happy student

Amanda likes the way the school support students and how well the staff communicate with parents. She says: "Kingsmead is a very inclusive school. There are a lot of enrichment opportunities for students, and I can see Grace is very happy there."



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