



Ellesmere College: Testimonial

Filip Radu – Yr 13 – Academic & Sport Scholarship



Filip Radu – top left - at the Leiden MUN Conference

I came to Ellesmere College from Romania to study A-levels in Year 12 as I felt that I could not develop myself there as effectively. I always felt that I was restricted in some way from pursuing the hobbies that I was interested in, such as debating and public speaking, and that I had little incentives to develop more and pursue new hobbies. That left a hole in my life that was filled once I joined the College in 2018. Even before starting my two years of A-level studies I could see what the College offered me: opportunities to develop myself as an individual, to pursue the hobbies that I was already interested in and even, discover new hobbies that I never thought I would love - such as writing poetry and short stories. The opportunities I saw fuelled my desire to move and once I started studying here my dreams were fully achieved. I was able to do what I could only dream of at home - develop myself as a person from both a personal and academic perspective and the support that I have received from both the staff of the College, from Housemasters to tutors and teachers, as well as my peers, most of which I quickly called friends, has helped me tremendously on this journey of personal discovery and development.

The Academic Scholarship offered to me by the college, based on my academic results in Romania, acted as the first incentive for me to develop as a human being and show my interest regarding academic pursuits. This was because the scholarship allowed my family to save up more money and fund the extracurricular activities that I pursued such as an MUN Competition in Leiden in Year 12 or my desire to take part in the Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassador Programme in the same year. The second was a more personal one, as by being awarded scholarship around my academic performance I thought that I had to show that I deserved it and so I decided to take part in more and more academic related projects and activities. Some of these activities included holding a presentation in front of the entire 6th form as part of the Academic Scholars Programme on the topic of "Freedom: A right or a privilege?" in Year 13, and taking part in an MUN Competition in Leiden, Holland, during which I was nominated 'Best Delegate'. I also developed my skills in public speaking which will come to play an even more important role in my life as I seek to pursue Law in my university studies.

Secondly, the support that was given to me by the College, both in the form of teachers as well as pastoral support, acted as the second incentive for me to develop as a human being – both in the areas that I was already skilled in but also, in many of the areas where I felt I was lacking. For example, before joining the College I had a problem with writing essays. They were always too long-winded and poorly structured and my message, even if it was good, tended to be lost. However, a result of the support I received from my teacher's in my subjects - English, History and Politics - I have fixed this problem. The individual-focused style of learning of the College helped highlight the mistakes to me and I was supported in the areas where I could improve. This improvement was quick to be seen as my grades improved to A's in Year 13 thanks to the support I received.

The support further manifested itself through being able to pursue new activities in both Competitive House Competitions as well as outside of the College with it's full support. For example, during my time in Wakeman-Lambert house, I have been involved in competitions such as the House Plays and the House Singing Competitions – both of which involved areas of expertise I had little skill in before. Moreover, through the support of my English teacher Mr Garrett, I have been able to



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pursue a new hobby that I still pursue religiously even today which is creative writing, and since I discovered it I have taken part in a number of competitions such as the 'Duke's Essay Competition', the 'Lichfield Cathedral Poetry Competition' and the 'National Flash Fiction Youth Competition'.

Not only has the support given to me by the College shaped me during my two years of study, but also it has left an impact that it is going to be felt later in my life. Through the individual support that was given to me I have been able to explore myself more as a human being and understand what I want to do in the future and allowed me to more easily choose my university subject and the path that I sought to pursue later in my life. Through all three of my subjects a passion for law and jurisprudence was stirred in me and by combining the knowledge from these subjects with the opportunities that were offered to me by the school to develop my skills in public speaking and debating I thought it appropriate for me to pursue Law as my university subject and seek to develop a career out of it. A pursuit that was again aided with the necessary resources being offered to me by the college in order to choose the best university for my subject and my tutor, Mr. Garratt, fully encouraging me in all aspects.

I feel that even though I have only had two years at Ellesmere College, they have not only opened my eyes to who I truly am as a human being but also, they have allowed me to develop as a person both academically and in hobbies I already pursued and new ones that I have just discovered.

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