



Ellesmere College: Testimonial

Iwo Hachulski – Yr 13 – International Baccalaureate Scholarship



The last 2 years of my life have certainly been the most ambitious ones so far and the ones I will remember for a really long, long time.

But let's start from the beginning. When I moved to Ellesmere back in September 2018, having been offered an International Baccalaureate (IB) Scholarship (via the BAS Scholarship programme in Poland), it was all quite surprising and I completely didn't know what to expect. The only thing I was certain of was that I was going to make the most of my time spent there. Everything was extraordinarily new. New place, new teachers, and obviously new colleagues and friends.

Nevertheless, I have to admit that after around 2 weeks in College I started to get used to it! Since I was not the only one in my IB class who was completely new to the school, it was easier for us to just slowly delve into this new environment. I quickly adapted and started being proactive not only in my classes but also in the range of extracurricular activities offered too.

Since there are multiple options available for Sixth Form students, I quickly found those that I felt most passionate about and I started participating in them. The most significant one was taking part in the gold Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award that included three main sections to be completed throughout the following year and a half – volunteering, skills, and sports. For my volunteering activity, I chose Lower School Reading that not only allowed me to increase my interpersonal skills but also enhanced my patience and attention to detail. To complete my sports section I decided to continue playing basketball which is probably a team sport that I feel most passionate about. Finally, for my skills, I took Russian classes and for one reason only – to boost my language skills and hence be even more ready for tertiary education. However, it shall not be forgotten that there are two more inevitable components of the gold DofE - expedition and residential. The first one I accomplished by taking part in a five days long canoeing excursion on the River Wye. The second one I completed during my holidays between Year 12 and Year 13 by taking part in a youth camp for those with and without disabilities organised by the University of Cologne. The DofE program hugely contributed to my development as a person. I have observed growth in numerous fields and in my opinion, the most important ones are resilience and determination.



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Furthermore, there were loads of other activities in Ellesmere that I took part in and it would be quite hard to talk about all of them. Though let's try to mention some that I enjoyed doing most including: House Quiz, House Cross Country, House Basketball and House Singing – these have all definitely been my favorite competitions.

Since September 2019, I have helped to manage the day-to-day life of the College as a part of the College's Prefect team. I improved my teamwork and communication qualities. Moreover, during my time spent in College, I have regularly and actively taken part in a series of EDGE Lectures organised in College and given by Old Ellesmerians. These are the lectures regarding all sorts of areas and are meant to inspire to work harder while keeping the motivation steady. I have deepened my knowledge in lots of different areas covered by the lecturers, many of those that I would never expect before.

I continued to further develop my management and leadership qualities by pursuing my newest project, PL Start, which proposes a solution to the lack of involvement of many young people in social initiatives. Working with a team of 30+ young, ambitious scholars and innovators allowed me to hugely develop the format of the project and acquire first partnerships.

In December 2019, I participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I am very thankful for the organizers for having me - as this event would not be possible without the Asia School of Business collaboration with MIT Sloan School of Management. Working as a part of the 'Meal Minion' Team - an ambitious, international crew – it was a great experience and I am extremely pleased to say that we finished the event with a victory. It was a marvellous way to finish the great year of 2019 and head start 2020 while awaiting for even more stunning opportunities! I would like to also thank the Ellesmerian Club who contributed financially to this excursion to make my participation possible.

Outstanding quality of teaching combined with a broad range of out of the classroom activities created the greatest combination I could possibly get. There is obviously one more thing - friendships, of which some will definitely last for many years to come. If you are deciding whether to join Ellesmere or not, please do, since you will never regret such a decision. My story is probably one of the best proofs.

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