



## Ellesmere College: Testimonial

### Rhian -Carys Jones – Yr 13 – Music Scholar



**My name is Rhian-Carys Jones and I am a Soprano and I've been at Ellesmere College since September 2018 to July 2020.**

I come from Flint in North Wales and attended a Welsh medium school, Ysgol Maes Garmon High School in Mold before coming to Ellesmere.

My first experience of Ellesmere College was in September 2016 when I was invited by Mr Whitley (Head of Music at Ellesmere College) to sing at 'A life in Music' event in the Arts Centre at the College - hosted by Mr Coupe (Director of Music). At the time, Mr Whitley had just joined the College and because I had performed in a number of concerts with the Flint Male Voice Choir I knew Mr Whitley as he was their Musical Director.

I instantly felt and saw the strong sense of community at Ellesmere, but it wasn't until a couple of years later that I made the decision to apply for a scholarship to study at the College as I felt that I would have more musical opportunities and experiences to support my studies towards a career as a singer by coming here.

I found the process of application to the College straightforward. I had a tour of the College with its fantastic facilities and this was another reason why I knew it was the right place for me to study. Having been offered an audition, I performed songs and aural tests for the Director of Music, Mr Coupe, who gave me instant feedback and advice, and not long after that I was offered a place at the College. I was also very lucky to have been awarded the Walker Scholarship. Mr and Mrs Walker (pictured above) have been very supportive since the first day I started at Ellesmere and I will be forever grateful to them for supporting me.

The Music Department at Ellesmere nurtures every individual and helps them achieve whatever it is they want to. The staff treat everyone as individuals building on their strengths and developing weaker areas and the opportunities given to you as a music scholar are phenomenal.

Since starting the Sixth Form I feel I have achieved so much and had so many wonderful experiences that I will cherish forever. I have gained experience within the many and varied choirs helping to develop my ensemble and aural skills and I have had lots of opportunities to perform as a soloist and successfully applied to study at several Conservatoires.

Since joining the College I have passed my Grade 5 music theory and achieved Distinctions in Grade 8 singing (Trinity), Grade 8 Singing (ABRSM), Grade 8 LAMDA, and more recently my ABRSM Singing Diploma.

There are so many solo opportunities, a vast number of concerts and competitions and with the tours that are organised, I got to perform in some of the most prestigious venues around the world. I have also been able to develop my leadership skills through becoming one of the Music Captains for senior school.

Being committed and dedicated to all aspects of life at the College, I have achieved so much in such a short time and I have been fortunate enough to achieve everything I wished for including securing a place with a scholarship at The Royal Welsh College Of Music and Drama in Cardiff, which I am planning to start in September 2020. It has always been my dream to be further my musical studies there. I have really enjoyed working alongside the most amazing people in the Music Department in my duties as Music Captain.

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