



### **My Gordonstoun Experience by Daniel**

It was a regular day at school when I saw an email saying I have been nominated and selected to go to Gordonstoun International Summer School; I was astonished and enthusiastic. My teachers were saying it was a great opportunity and could potentially enlighten new ideas or paths I want to take in the near future. I told my parents but at first, they didn't like the idea of their son going by himself to another continent. After convincing them several times, they said yes. I was so terrified when they agreed because I was speculating about all the negative things that could happen, like me getting lost in a city somewhere. Kihanna and I went together through the entire trip and experience.

My expectation before going to Gordonstoun was how rude others may be, or how boring my time would be there. But that wasn't the case, the driver who picked us up was kind and humorous and the House Parents Tom and Callum were friendly. They gave me my schedule and showed me where my room and the bathrooms were. The next day, we started with icebreakers, trying to get to know each other in our group. My color group was Crimson and at first, I thought there will be a language barrier however everyone spoke English well. The meals they had were delicious, especially during breakfast and dessert. We did a bunch of activities like paintballing, go-karting, swimming, volleyball, basketball, soccer, netball, gorge climbing, camping, canoeing, and many more. If I could repeat one activity, it would be netball because it was challenging and I was good at it. The rules were easy to follow and understand. Shopping was fun but playing netball was even better.

My perspective changed after meeting everybody. Everybody was nice and fun to hang out with especially the student leaders. If we weren't having fun they always find an alternative. The food that was made also influenced me to cook similar dishes. When you first tried their breakfast you wish it can last forever as well as desserts. My trip to Gordonstoun opened many opportunities that I wouldn't expect to be interested in. Overall, my perspective before and after going to Gordonstoun changed drastically. I am glad I had the opportunity of going and share my experience with my family and friends. I hope those who think about going, actually go because I think it would be a great experience for them. The aspect of the program that impacted me the most were my peers because they influenced me to take up another language.

Listening to them talk to each other in a different language amazed me. Also, I didn't want to feel excluded again because I did not understand what they were saying. Multiple talented people spoke more than two languages. In the future, I would like to be a part of a talented group fluent in multiple languages.

My last day at Gordonstoun was memorable and depressing because it was the moment when we were dismissed and were set to go our separate ways. Everyone was crying and prolonging our stay on the South Lawn. I wasn't expecting to miss Gordonstoun as much as I did. In my head, I was ready to leave and see my family. However, I wish I could stay another week or relive my experience at Gordonstoun. Kihana and I had a great time and were ready to go home. I want to say thank you to those who allowed us to enjoy this amazing experience. I will always reflect on the influence GISS had on me.

