



My Experience at Gordunstoun by Kihanna

When I was told about the trip to GISS, I thought I would never be allowed to go because it was so far away and I would be away for 3 weeks so my parents would not allow me to make that journey on my own. Due to this, I was so over the moon when my parents gave their permission for me to go that I couldn't sleep properly for days before the flight. I had so many expectations of what the experience would be like and how it would feel to be independent. A few major expectations I had before going to Gordonstoun were that some people would also be enrolled in the school year-round, that our schedules would not be as packed and we would have more freedom in choosing different activities that we wanted to do that day.

While there, I found that all of the attendees were not enrolled in the Gordonstoun School all year but attended different schools in their respective home countries. Because of their different nationalities, there was a very small language barrier. Most of the people in my color group, Indigo, were from Germany or spoke German. So, the most common language that was spoken in my group was German with English being a close second. In addition to this, most of our activities were done with our color groups but we did have choices for activities like shopping, horseback riding, go-kart racing, golf, and paintball just to name a few. I participated in shopping, go-kart racing, paintball, and rock climbing. I also participated in a varied activities while also at the adventure center, such as gorge walking, ziplining, camping, and raft-building. I also took an academic Information Technology course throughout my time at GISS. These activities helped me to understand the value of working as a team with people from different backgrounds, and geographic locations. One activity required was designing a raft. It consisted of brainstorming designs with the group, changing or updating the design, then creating the raft from drums and logs then finally, rowing the raft into the water.

The aspect of the program that impacted me the most was the competition between the clans. This allowed me to interact with and build relationships with people outside of my color group and house.

If I could repeat one activity, it would be indoor rock climbing because it allowed me to challenge myself physically. Before attending GISS, I had never gone rock climbing so participating in this activity with the others in my color group gave me the opportunity to challenge myself while competing with my group mates to see who could accumulate the most points for climbing. This friendly competition served as motivation for wanting to keep trying different climbing routes.

In conclusion, attending GISS allowed me to challenge myself mentally, physically, and socially by encountering new people and by participating in exciting activities. As I move forward with my academic journey, I will always look back on how three weeks in Scotland gave me the confidence to TRY, new and different things. Doing so creates balance and keeps me exploring new opportunities.

