

This Lower Sixth pupil is 16 years old, lives in Dundee – which is about half an hour from Kilgraston - and boards. She joined Kilgraston three years' ago, in Lower Fifth, from a co-ed school. She is hoping to read Medicine at university and has been looking at various options including Queen's, Cardiff and several Scottish universities.

- **Why did you choose Kilgraston?** Saw good news about Kilgraston in the Good Schools Guide and liked what we saw at the Open Day.
- **What do you like socially about the school?** Love that it is smaller, everyone in Sixth Form stays together, it's not exclusive, everyone plays and works together.
- **Academically are you pushed?** Yes, considerably. I get loads of support and everyone works very hard. A 'peer mentality' with no-one wanting to let the side down. We receive great support from teachers and tutors – they organise extra tutoring if needed and surgeries (open learning in the classroom) are offered. Tutoring, on a one-to-one basis, is offered. This allows you to have support that is totally focussed on you.
- **Extra curriculum – what do you like about Kilgraston?** Duke of Edinburgh's Awards are offered. I'm just about to start Gold as I have already completed my Silver and Bronze. I have the Caritas Award, which involved volunteering with younger girls in boarding and in the chapel. I do a lot of hockey, am in the senior team and play the Clarsach in a musical group once per week.
- **What would you advise other 13/14 year olds to look for in a school?** You need a good all-round education, not just academic or social, but the whole package. Make sure you feel entirely comfortable with the other pupils at the school when you go and visit.
- **How did you know this was the right school for you?** It was mum and dad really; I trusted their instincts and they have been completely right. 'Mother knows best' but I also really liked the feel of it when we looked around.
- **How did you feel about becoming a boarder?** I slipped into boarding very easily; the boarding mistresses are all lovely. I actually found I was working a lot better here at school as there were fewer distractions than at home. At school there is always someone around to encourage you to work and do your best.
- **Do you mix with all year groups?** The school is really good about the buddy system. BFG - Big Friendly Girls - in U6 or the LFG - Little Friendly Girls - which is what everyone up to L6 is called. Last year I went to India and travelled with everyone from Upper Fourth to Upper Sixth.
- **How do you feel when term finishes?** Very sad, but I always look forward to seeing everyone after the holidays. It's the same with saying goodbye to the many global friends I have made here: sad to say goodbye, but then I always have friends throughout the world. My best friend left last year and went home to Spain, but we keep in regular contact and she will always be a great friend.
- **Academically, how are you guided regarding subject choice?** When I was 15 I sat down with my tutor and started to think about subject choices for Highers and possible university courses and careers. This year – L6 – we have been taken to a lot of careers events and have had talks from various industry experts: eg architecture, medicine, engineering and science.

The Higher Education Fair at Kilgraston is an annual event when lots of university representatives come along and inform and encourage you to pursue a particular course.

- **Why did you choose a single-sex senior school?** I felt I would be able to concentrate better and be who I wanted to be. I have noticed, coming from a co-ed background, how many more girls, proportionately, take science subjects here. At Kilgraston there is a strong interest in historically less female-orientated subjects, like Chemistry and Physics. Everyone is encouraged to take up any subject they feel like pursuing. There is no pressure to conform. Everyone is really comfortable at Kilgraston.
- **How did you feel about the introduction of the mobile phone ban during the school day?** Personally I didn't use my mobile very much during the day so it didn't really affect me too much. I think it's a very positive move for the school and sets a very good impression, especially to the younger girls. Some of my contemporaries did find it a little difficult at first but everyone has got used to it – we're all happy with one another's company so we don't really miss it now.