

When considering her options for secondary school, **Scarlett** felt that **Kingsmead** was the **natural** choice



Scarlett and her mum Jo live in Heath Hayes with her dad Lee and sister Olivia

Natural selection

When Scarlett was deciding which secondary school she wanted to go to she visited others in the area, but only Kingsmead felt like the natural choice for her. "I was in the catchment area for another school but out of all the schools I visited Kingsmead was the nicest. I'd visited the school a lot because

my sister Olivia used to go there so I was familiar with it and knew that I liked it, but a lot of my friends were going to other schools, so I went to look at them. I didn't think they were as nice." Scarlett had thoroughly enjoyed the transition day activities and so was eager to join Kingsmead, where she's thrown herself into school life!

Finding the way

That's not to say Scarlett was unconcerned about starting at Kingsmead. After all, the move to secondary school can be a nervous one. Fortunately Scarlett's fears were easy to overcome. "My only worry was that I might get lost! We were given maps, but I didn't need to use mine much. Other students at the school were very helpful with directions, and I quickly learned my way around. We had a couple of days at the start of the year when there were only year 7 kids at school. The older students started later. That made things easier. It was nice just to have other years 7s with us at first."

New friends

Many of the other year 7s hadn't come from Scarlett's school of course. "During the activities that take place in the first week we were paired with some friends and some kids from other schools. The activities themselves are great fun and it's a good way to get to know new people. We just joined in everything together."

Fun to learn

What is it about Kingsmead that made Scarlett so keen to go there? "It's just really good! I like the teachers, they make everything fun. They're very enthusiastic about their subjects. Kingsmead also rewards you for hard work. This year I was one of the students lucky enough to take part in a trip to Standon Bowers which was a reward for my work."

Scarlett's favourite subject is drama, which she is taught by Mr Truby who is also Transition Leader, helping new students at Kingsmead. "Drama has given me lots of confidence. It's what made me help with the year 6 kids too. Mr Truby is great fun, but there's not a bad teacher at the school."

Eyes on the prize

During her first year Scarlett has taken part in drama club, keyboard club, netball and the Bikeability scheme. She's embracing all that school life has to offer. It's only her first year so she has a busy future ahead, but for now she's looking forward to the foam slide at the end of year fun day!



KINGSMEAD

"At Kingsmead we believe it's important to nurture our future leaders. High levels of challenge and a drive on independent thinking means that students like Scarlett thrive here."

Mrs. Mincher, Head of School

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