

What does being a Princethorpeian mean to you?

Princethorpe to me means a spirit of community and togetherness. I joined the school at the beginning of Year 10 in the height of Covid, after having lived in India for 4 years previously – it was the most dramatic change of scene I could have asked for. Unsurprisingly, this level of change meant I was incredibly nervous when beginning my first day in 2020, since I was being plunged headfirst into a totally new environment with unfamiliar faces. Despite this, I felt at home almost instantly, and had settled in comfortably with a large group of lifelong friends before the week had ended. I believe that the most significant factor towards this smooth transition of mine is Princethorpe's sense of community and family, as I have never once felt alone in facing any issue over the course of my time here. This warmth is Princethorpe's most valuable quality in my eyes, which in turn inspired me to give back to the school and become a Physics Subject Ambassador as I began the Lower Sixth. This allowed me the joy of performing engaging science demonstrations to younger prospective students alongside representing my subject in all fields, providing me with the privilege to spark that infernal curiosity in the next generation's scientists, engineering and inventors.

Moreover, Princethorpe has educated me on the importance of charity, especially via giving me the opportunity to participate in the 24/7 challenge to raise money for Mary's Meals. As a result of the support provided through such events, I believe one of the central aspects of being a Princethorpeian is learning to help others, no matter the occasion. This could be in the form of fundraisers, or simply assisting the younger years generate their love for learning and personal betterment as mentioned previously.

Additionally, being a Princethorpeian means always striving to do your best, regardless of the task at hand. This quality would be near impossible without the guidance supplied by the school systems and the wonderful teachers and staff all throughout the year. Princethorpe encourages you to be your best self, no matter whether your interest is to develop your sports skills, your academic prowess, your unique talents, or your care for the planet. Each of these aspects and more are what constitute a Princethorpeian such as myself, therefore they are all treated with the upmost importance in the school for each pupil. In this way, the Princethorpe community simultaneously look after one another in all walks of school life.

The longer I have spent being a Princethorpeian, the closer I have felt connected to and valued by the school. This trend is especially true when reflecting on my sixth form years, as my number of subjects dropped dramatically and the focus I dedicated to each area of study increased tenfold. Nothing is more exciting in a classroom than when neither the teacher nor the class can solve a certain problem individually, and instead join forces to tackle it together on the whiteboard. Whilst these detours may eat into the lesson's time budget, the sense of teamwork that descends upon the room is magical and ensures that I will never forget how to solve that specific issue again. For as long as I can remember, I have always been a naturally curious person, enthused by questions about the world surrounding me. Princethorpe armed me with the tools and knowledge to be able to answer these questions independently, which in turn leads to more questions and personal growth. Due to this, I believe that one of the key parts of being a Princethorpeian is to develop your own love for and curiosity about the world through the genuine support from teachers.

Princethorpe has drastically changed my life for the better, and the friendships and memories the community here have fostered for me have resulted in the past few years being the best years of my life. This makes leaving the school behind for university in only a matter of weeks bittersweet – I will greatly miss the innumerable experiences and spectacular people that will always have a place in my heart, but I am also excited to discover what my future holds as a result of the foundation that Princethorpe has provided for me. At least for now, I am confident in the fact that no matter where my life leads me from now, I will always have that foundation of support to return to, and will bring the knowledge, community spirit and love for discovery developed from my time here with me wherever I go. Even after leaving Princethorpe, I will always be a Princethorpean.