

Good afternoon everyone! I'm Emily-Jae Smith, the head girl at Shuttleworth College and I went to Lowerhouse Primary.

My lead role around the school is assisting young students around the school to guide and help them around the school in transition and their first months of school. This year I helped in the week long summer school during the first week of the summer holidays where the new students enjoyed lessons like they would in high school to get a feel for what will actually happen when they join us in September. We also had a range of visitors such as from Kooth, who delivered a session on overcoming worries about transition and gave advice on making new friends, to academics from Lancaster University who brought a huge inflatable planetarium and gave us a guide to the constellations!

In form time and lessons the students are grouped with some of their friends however it is mixed with other primary schools to enable them to make new friends and build our community which is one of our main values that this school upholds. Being in the Shuttleworth community has helped me reach my goal of being a part of the senior prefects which has been an aspiration of mine since I saw the effect they had on people in younger years and how much they could help young people progress.

When I joined this school the previous head girl helped me overcome the fear and anxiety I felt; she showed me how supportive this school, its staff and students are. Shuttleworth is supporting me to achieve the grades I need to help me achieve my goals – to progress up into higher education studying a nursing degree and Mrs Ackroyd, our careers leaders talked me through step by step how I should get there, giving me the encouragement to sign up for colleges and helping me get over each concern I voiced. It is the same with year 7s, our school community takes you through your Shuttleworth journey step by step and we are always there when you need support.

I am so proud that we have two Year 7 students here to talk to you tonight; they can really give you an insight into transition and starting at Shuttleworth. I'll hand over to Jeylan and Talia.

Thank you.