

My name is James Eynon and I am Head Boy of Culverhay School.

Let me introduce myself, in September I will start year 13, where I will be studying History, English Literature, Media and Sport. I'm looking into media production as a possible future career after University.

When I started at Culverhay, I was an extremely shy and timid boy who was absolutely petrified of secondary school. If I'd been to a larger school such as Beechen Cliff I would have been thrust to the side and given half-hearted help meaning I'd probably now be in a similar position as I was then with a low attendance that would've had a detrimental effect on my education. But Culverhay gave me consistent, non-wavering help throughout year 7 meaning I was able to, 4 years later, get 15 and a half GCSE's; including 3 A\*'s and 12 A's and giving me the confidence to stand in front of you now.

Culverhay offers a vast, inclusive framework to enable pupils from all backgrounds to get the most from their schooling.

Culverhay has teachers who can adapt themselves to individuals to give the best teaching possible. Many who are targeted low grades at the beginning of year 7 end up with grades exceeding their targets by 1,2, even 3 grades. I can't think of many other schools that can give such a pupil-specific education and this is down to the excellent rapport between teacher and student.

What I think sets the school apart from any other is the range of extra-curricular activities available to those who would not ordinarily be able to take part in them (activities such as drama, radio and cultural visits). The enrichment programme on Wednesday afternoons and Challenge Days have been innovative ideas that have enhanced the school. The links between the school and the Egg Theatre has brought the opportunity for pupils to act in a professional environment as well as improve their creativity and confidence. I've had the opportunity to publish poetry and short stories as well as performing them in poetry slams at venues such as this. The school's radio station offers opportunities to explore the media industry. Great sports facilities mean pupils can do sports from football to judo; something many wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. What other schools in the area offer so much to those from underprivileged backgrounds as Culverhay?

While others ask 'what can you do for us?' Culverhay asks 'what can we do for you?' Ofsted reports show Culverhay is improving year on year and so why close a growing institution? Imagine how many children from less fortunate areas such as Whiteway and Twerton will miss out on the opportunities I have had; to explore the world, to explore education and to explore themselves. You will find no other school that can give this support to their pupils and after all the hard work that has gone into making Culverhay better it would be criminal to close it.

The recommendation to close Culverhay goes completely against the public opinion and views shown in the consultation. The overall consensus was that people saw the need for 1 co-ed school in the north and 1 in the south. How do the recommendations of Messrs Watt and Parker fulfil this need?

The ethos of the school says it all; Culverhay does all that is possible to enable all pupils from all backgrounds to get the best all-round education possible.

I want to see future generations given the same opportunities as myself and I can think of no other establishment that gives such a comprehensively well-rounded education for its students at the school I owe my life to; Culverhay.