

The Big Paper

Issue # 4

www.cambridgeschool.ro

February 02, 2016



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL MOMENTS



Despite her tight schedule, we have managed to get a hold of **Nadia** between a lecture and a Law Society workshop, and got her to answer some of our burning questions.

How did you manage to achieve the highest mark in the world for possibly the hardest A-level subject History?

It's a bit of a mystery to me too. Looking back, it probably was a combination of many factors that resulted in a very high level of motivation. I had a goal: my university offer required me to achieve an A* in History. I tried to focus as much as possible on achieving the actual grade,

and not what could happen after I did or did not. I also tried not to look at studying as a task; I took it as an opportunity to learn something in depth. I was lucky, perhaps, that the Cold War proved to be a topic I enjoyed very much. And I was lucky, too, that I found people around me who were ready to help me when things were rough. Although, at that point, I had already graduated, my former teachers were still very willing to offer their help.

In your view, what is intelligence? Is it something you are born with or something that can change over time?

Intelligence is a very misunderstood concept. People often see it only in terms of academic achievements, but it encompasses in fact a variety of talents. My idea is that each and every one of us is born with a set of different talents and whether those talents can later be described as intelligence, academic or not, depends on how one chooses to develop them, but also on what resources one has access to in order to develop them.

What advice do you have for our CSB students applying to university?

Think carefully about what you want to study further; it's a hard choice, but also

one that offers you more alternatives than you normally have or will have. If things don't turn out how you want them to be, take a gap year and try again. Of course, take a gap year if you want to take one. Whatever you do, think carefully.

You are now studying Law at the University of Cambridge. How does university differ from high school?

The workload is definitely bigger, and more emphasis is placed on independent study. We are tested much less than back in CSB: the only exams we have are a mock in January and the final exams in May. In terms of people, I found them to be just as friendly as in CSB.

What are your post-graduation plans?

I don't really make long-term plans anymore. In theory, I'd like to work with one of the Magic Circle firms in London, but you never know what's to happen in practice. I wouldn't rule out working for an international organization either.

by Yasmin Abdul