



Belfast Model
School for Girls
ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Year 8 Student Voices

'Our First Term'



Achievement for All

School Priorities

2018 ~ 2021

- **Promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of the members of our school community**
- **Developing culture, character and care for learning**
- **Improving quality of learning and teaching**
- **Improving attendance**
- **Improving student outcomes at KS4/Post 16**

TO BE A MORE EFFECTIVE SCHOOL

At the end of a strange, yet very successful, first term, our students in Year 8 were asked for their thoughts and feelings about life and learning in Belfast Model School for Girls.

We hope that their comments will give you an insight into their experiences and show you how happy and settled they are.

Ms P Stuart (Principal)

Mrs S McKeown (Leader of Learning – Year 8)

<u>Student</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Partner Primary School</u>
Olivia Black	8M	Forth River Primary School
Kitty Hastings	8O	Carr's Glen Primary School
Amy Willis	8D	Lowwood Primary School
Tiana Watson	8E	Springhill Primary School
Darcie Matier	8L	Straidhavern Primary School
Brooke McMillan	8G	Glenwood Primary School
Dakota Foster	8S	Blackmountain Primary School
Rosie Ferran	8W	Seaview Primary School
Lilly Thompson	8A	Malvern Primary School
Amy Baker	8Y	Ballysillan Primary School

Olivia Black 8M
(Forth River Primary School)



Hi, my name is Olivia Black and I am in 8M with Mrs Thomas. When I received the news that I was going to be a Model student I was over the moon and extremely excited as I always wanted to go to this school. The night before my first day I was nervous, but also really excited. I was slightly worried about how things were going to be with Coronavirus, but I was mainly excited to start a new chapter in my life.

My first day was great, I was nervous but I knew that I had some friends in my form class so that helped. When I was finding my classroom and walking through the hallways all of the teachers were so nice and asking if I needed help with anything. I made some friends on the first day but have made a lot more throughout the year.

My first term has been amazing! I have loved every bit of it. Learning so much and discovering all of the new subjects has been so much fun, the teachers are all so nice. Even with Covid-19 it has been incredible. My favourite subjects are Maths, Science, History, Technology, PE, Spanish and French because they are all interesting and I really like everything I have learned in those subjects so far.

Break and lunch in our school is really good and very well organised. At break you can go to the Sports Hall or go outside. At lunch if you're getting canteen food (which is so tasty) then you go to the canteen, if you have a cold or packed lunch then you go to the Sports Hall and again, we get to go outside.

December was great fun – we did so many different activities – the Friendship Conference, the Carol Service, Movie and Munch, Santa's Surprises, my favourites were Movie and Munch and the Friendship Conference because we got to be with our form class all day playing games and having fun.

I am really looking forward to the extra-curricular clubs starting when this pandemic ends. My goal is to be on the dance team.

We've had to do some Home Learning this year. I really do miss school, my teachers and my friends, although I do like that I can have a little bit of a lie in. The staff members are putting a lot of work into us working from home, they are making a lot of effort to make Home Learning fun for us. I love all the little challenges and quizzes.

My advice for any P7 who is thinking about coming to our school is to not worry, it's honestly nowhere near as scary as you think it will be. You might be worried about meeting new friends or meeting your teachers, but there is no need to because you will make so many new friends and the teachers are so lovely. Just give everything your all and put the best effort into your work and make yourself and your teachers proud. Be yourself, don't try to be someone you aren't. Good Luck!

Kitty Hastings ~ 80
(Carr's Glen Primary School)



My name is Kitty Hastings and I am a former pupil of Carr's Glen Primary School. When I got my letter to say that I had gotten a place in Girls' Model I was so happy and excited because I had always wanted to go there.

The night before I started school I was so nervous because I didn't know anyone in my class. There was no need to be though – my first day was so exciting and now I have made lots of friends.

My first term has been great. Ever since I started I have really begun to enjoy Maths a lot more, but my favourite subjects are Music and Drama because I love to play instruments and I love to sing and perform.

December was a fun month with lots of activities including the Friendship Conference, the Carol Service, Movie and Munch, Santa's Surprises. My favourite was Movie and Munch because we got to sit down and relax with our friends after a busy term.

When Covid ends I am most looking forward to moving around the school more and switching classes. It will be fun to see other parts of the school. I have enjoyed Home Learning as I stick to a routine and get my work completed, I received three Home Learning Hero certificates as a reward for my work.

My advice to any P7 who is thinking about coming to our school is don't be scared about your first day or making friends. I was and I enjoyed my first day and have made some really good friends. You might also think the work is going to be really hard but it's actually not and if you do find it difficult the teachers are very helpful and will help you to understand.

Amy Willis - 8D
(Lowwood Primary School)



My name is Amy Willis and I went to Lowwood Primary School. I am in 8D and Ms Simpson is my Form Tutor. When I received my letter to say that I was going to be a Girls' Model student I was excited but a bit nervous about going to a new school.

The night before I started I was very nervous and a bit scared but on my first day I felt comfortable and enjoyed it. I didn't make any new friends on my first day as I am quite shy but everyone was lovely and I did make friends after a short while. I am sure you will have no problem making friends on the first day.

My first term as a Model student has been great. It was great to meet my teachers, they are all very sweet and helpful, in fact my favourite thing about school is the teachers. When Covid ends I am really looking forward to being able to interact more with them.

My favourite subjects are English, History, Music, Drama and French because I love learning new facts and languages, playing instruments and doing drama. Break and lunch can be loud but the food is great! It's a perfect time to catch up and chat with your friends, including those from other classes.

My advice for any P7s reading this is don't be nervous on your first day, the teachers and students will all be extremely nice. Also, don't be afraid to tell teachers about your problems or feelings – they will help you.

Tiana Watson - 8E
(Springhill Primary School)



Hi, I'm Tiana Watson and I am in 8E and my Form Tutor is Miss Hanna. When I heard I was going to the Girls' Model I was so happy that I had got into the school I wanted and screamed with excitement!

The night before I started I was overcome with emotions – nervous, anxious, scared, dizzy and very excited. My first day was amazing, I loved it! I met Miss Hanna and made lots of new friends – it was so much fun.

My first term has been great, learning lots of new things with a lot of fun subjects and meeting new friends and teachers. My favourite subjects are Maths, English and French because I just love Maths and English and love learning a new language. Lunchtime is probably the best part of the day, I really like the curry chips and the drinks.

The week before we finished for Christmas was so much fun, we had so many different things to do. The Friendship Conference was my favourite. I loved making the friendship bracelets and doing the quizzes and all of the different activities.

My advice to a P7 student who is thinking about coming to our school is it might seem scary on your first few days but believe me it's not, it's just getting used to something new. You will meet lots of new friends and teachers. Also school might seem boring but ours isn't – most of the work is actually really fun.

Hopefully I will get to meet you in September!

Darcie Matier - 8L
(Straidhavern Primary School)



Hi, my name is Darcie Matier and I am in 8L with Mrs Johnston.

When I found out that I was going to be a Model Girl I felt so happy and relieved because I always wanted to attend this school.

The night before the first day I felt anxious because I didn't know anyone in my class but I hoped all the teachers would be kind and welcoming – which of course they were. I was also a wee bit nervous about starting school in a global pandemic because I knew things were going to be so much different.

On my first day I was excited but nervous. We went to our classroom and met our classmates, I sat beside Renait and we chatted for a while to get to know each other and found that we had so much in common. I have now made lots of new friends and have really enjoyed my first term. My favourite things are all of the fun competitions and challenges and meeting my new teachers.

My favourite subjects are Maths, Digital Technology, Art, Technology, Home Economics and PE. I love subjects where you can be creative and use your imagination. I really like break and lunchtime because I get to meet up with all of my friends from other classes and chat about our day together.

What I am most looking forward to when Covid ends is moving around the school more and seeing all of the other classrooms as we've been learning in our bubble. I can't wait to cook in Home Economics any maybe do some different things in Art, I also can't wait to join the after-school clubs.

My advice to a P7 considering our school would be definitely come here – it's AMAZING! Try not to be scared, it is a bit different at the minute, but it is still great fun and we will all be here to help you with anything you need. School feels really safe and positive and everyone you meet will be happy to help you – especially the teachers.

Brooke McMillan - 8G
(Glenwood Primary School)



Hi, I'm Brooke McMillan and I am in 8G with Mr Adams. I went to Glenwood Primary School.

When I got my letter to say which school I was going to I felt both nervous and excited. It was going to be a change for me and I was going to meet lots of new people and learn new things, but change is good and it's been good for me.

The night before my first day I was nervous but also curious – curious to find out what 'big' school was really like in comparison with primary school. I loved my first day, we got to look around the school and got to know our classmates. I met a lot of new friends and had great fun with all the different activities.

My first term has been great, I've loved getting to do and learn new things that I didn't get to do in primary school. My favourite subject is History, I love to learn all about the past and learning all the interesting information. What I like most about the canteen is the variety, if there's something you don't like they have other options, you will always find something you like. One of my favourite parts of the first term was making and decorating Christmas Cards for the elderly who were going to be alone at Christmas – it was nice to know we were going to put a smile on someone's face.

My advice to any P7 girl who is reading this would be try not to worry too much about moving school, it is going to be different but you will enjoy it. You will meet lovely teachers and staff and learn and do a lot of new things. You will look back and wonder why you worried, you will have a fantastic time.

I really hope you all get into your dream school and hope that I will get to meet you next year.

Dakota Foster - 8S
(Blackmountain Primary School)



Hello everyone, my name is Dakota Foster and I am in 8S with Mrs Ward.

I was so happy and excited when I found out I was going to be a Model student.

The night before my first day it was so hard to get to sleep as I was thinking about how I was going to find my classroom, but I shouldn't have worried as there were lots of people to help me find my way.

My first day was fun and exciting, I was delighted about being back to school again after over 5 months at home. On the first day we got to know our form tutor and the people in our class, I made some new friends and got to know them really well.

My first term has been exciting and I really enjoyed being at school, talking to my friends and learning new things. My favourite subjects are Maths, Digital Technology, PE and Spanish because we have a good laugh whilst getting all our work done and learning new things. Break and lunchtimes are a good chance to relax and catch up with your friends, they're also good to do some revision with friends if you have any tests coming up.

Home Learning has been okay, the teachers are working hard and having Google Meets with us to help us understand our work, I don't really like having to stay at home, I would much rather be in school in person but we are doing all we can so that we can get back in person – hopefully next year you won't have to do any Home Learning and will be able to be in school every day.

My advice to any P7 student would be not to worry, there are lots of people to help you, do not be afraid to ask for help. Belfast Model School for Girls is a brilliant school and I would love for you to join us.

Rosie Ferran - 8W
(Seaview Primary School)



Hi everyone, my name is Rosie and I am in 8W with Mr Hance.

When I found out that I was going to be a Model girl I was so happy because I had been up to visit with my primary school and on the Open Night and all the teachers, staff and students were very helpful and kind.

On my first day I was excited and scared, although I didn't need to be scared, it was amazing and I felt very welcome. We made lots of things and got our fingerprints done for the canteen. I made lots of new friends in my class like Jodie-Leigh, Brooke, Skyla and lots more.

My first term has been fantastic, my favourite things have been getting to know my teacher and making lots of new friends. My favourite subjects are PE and Spanish. PE because we get to do lots of fun stuff and go into the fitness suite, Spanish because it has been great fun learning a new language and learning lots of new words.

I love break and lunchtimes because we get to see our friends, go outside and we even have our own playground which I love. The food is also lovely, you can get a hot or cold lunch, my favourite are the chips – they are scrummy!

My advice to any P7 who is thinking about coming to our school is just to let them know it is an amazing school and the teachers are so nice. Everyone in the school is really kind and there are lots of people to help you if you need it.

Lilly Thompson - 8A
(Malvern Primary School)



Hello everyone, my name is Lilly Thompson and I am in 8A with Mrs Jackson. I went to Malvern Primary School.

I was so excited when I found out I had received a place in Belfast Model School for Girls. The night before I began I was scared and excited and I found it hard to sleep.

My first day was great and I made three new friends, but now I have made so many more. My first term has been so much fun, I have really enjoyed it. My favourite subjects are Maths, English, Science, History, Technology, Drama and Home Economics. I like them because I am learning lots of new things and the teachers are lovely.

December was so much fun. We had lots of different activities like the Carol Service, Friendship Conference, Movie and Munch and Santa's Surprises. I really enjoyed the Movie and Munch because we got all cosy in our classrooms and enjoyed a Christmas Movie and some treats.

My advice to any girl thinking of coming to our school would be to make friends – school is much happier when you have good friends. Also try your best with your work, the teachers will always help you if you need it.

Amy Baker - 8Y
(Ballysillan Primary School)



Hello everyone, my name is Amy Baker and I attended Ballysillan Primary School. I am in 8Y with Miss Fryer.

I was so excited to find out I was going to be a Model student, I had heard so much about it being a great school. I was also a bit nervous but more excited for a new adventure.

My first day was great, I felt scared but relaxed. I was the first person to arrive in my class and I started to get to know my teacher whom I have grown to care for and have lots of respect for. I made friends with my class and after a month I knew everyone.

My favourite subjects are Maths, English, Digital Technology, Geography, Art, Music, Drama, PE and Spanish. Yes, I know it's a lot but I just enjoy learning them and finding out more about each subject.

At Christmas time we had so much fun, it was a busy time. We had a Friendship Conference, made cards for the elderly, Santa's Surprises, Movie and Munch and of course the Carol Service. My class performed a puppet show for this, it was great fun. My favourite part though was making the Christmas cards for the elderly.

What I am most looking forward to when Covid is over is being able to move around the school more instead of our teachers all coming to us. I really miss being at school at the minute, I miss talking to my teachers and friends face to face.

My advice to any girl wanting to come to our school would be don't be nervous or scared, you will settle in before you know it. I really like being a part of the Girls' Model family and hope you will too.

What we said about our first term...

So much fun!

Lots of new friends!

Kind, friendly and helpful

Amazing!

Everyone was very welcoming

My teachers are so nice

I felt comfortable

I learned so many new things

A great experience

It flew in!

Exciting!

I enjoy Maths so much more now...

Everyone treats each other with kindness and respect

Eventful!

Lots of new subjects!

What we said about our favourite subjects...

Technology because I love seeing how things are made.

I want to explore the world, **Geography** will help with that.

I am growing in confidence in **Maths** and my teacher makes it interesting.

I love learning and interacting with **Digital Technology**.

Drama, I consider myself very good at it.

History, I find it fascinating learning about the past and I really like my teacher.

Art is my favourite as I find it enjoyable and it relaxes my brain.

I enjoy **English**, my teachers tests my limits to see how hard I can work.

PE, it's so much fun and I would love to play hockey someday.



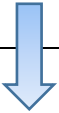

Home Economics - because not only do you learn about food, you get to eat food!

I love **Music** as I enjoy playing instruments and singing.

French, I love learning a new language and the teacher makes it so much fun.

Belfast Model School for Girls

3 Year Transition Programme

 Supporting Your Child From Primary To Post Primary Education 	<p>Primary 6</p> <p>Partner Primary Schools Link Programme</p>	<p>Year 1</p> 
	<p>Primary 7</p> <p>Partner Primary Schools Link Programme - December Taster Day</p> <p>Primary School Tour by Belfast Model School for Girls Staff</p> <p>Open Evening</p> <p>Year 8 Induction Meetings</p> <p>Year 8 Parent/Student/Teacher Individual Interviews</p> <p>Primary School Visits by Belfast Model School for Girls Year 8 team</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
	<p>Year 8</p> <p>Summer Scheme in partnership with Integrated Services & Greater Shankill Partnership</p> <p>Year 8 Induction Programme & Team Building</p> <p>Activities, Trips, Visits, Workshops</p>	 <p>Year 3</p>

Achievement for All



Belfast Model School for Girls

A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

Belfast Model School for Girls

35 Dunowen Gardens

BELFAST

BT14 6NQ

Tel: (028) 9071 8111

Email: info@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.belfastgms.org

