Good evening, everyone. My name is Arjun and as Head Student here at Isleworth & Syon, it's a pleasure to welcome you to our school this evening and I hope you find your visit both inspiring and enjoyable.

Not so long ago, I was sitting where you are now – a bit nervous but full of excitement for what was coming next. I hope by sharing about my journey so far here, you'll also feel just as excited about the amazing opportunities available to you here on your I&S journey.

When I think back on my time so far, three key things come to mind and that's friendship, leadership and seizing opportunities.

Year 7 started off as an amazing year with our PGL trip which was a great time to get away from school and really build good friendships with different people in my year, some of which are still my closest friends today. I loved competing for the school in sports such as football and badminton ending up in the school teams for both, often representing the school in games across the borough. All of this was however, suddenly sidetracked when COVID happened. It was definitely a big shock to me, not seeing new friends for several months, and discovering how to use this thing called Microsoft Teams taught me a lot about resilience and adapting to change.

Fast forward to Year 10, I decided it was time to give my academics greater priority and really just give it my all. I started taking on leadership roles in my form, continued representing the school at a higher level in badminton and was gaining work experience to feel out my future career. These moments, these opportunities are readily available to students here – you just have to take them.

Year 11 was full of many highlights ranging from academics to building my confidence. Notably, I worked really hard and finished as one of the top achievers for my GCSEs with mostly 9s and 8s. I also continued to partake in leadership opportunities and even won the Jack Petchey Public Speaking School Competition qualifying for the borough competition.

Starting Year 12 was quite similar to year 7 in that it was a whole new experience. However, I really came into my own. I was elected Senior House Ambassador where I helped organise some of the biggest school events such a Culture Day and spoke in front of an audience for the first time, I also managed to land work experience at some of the biggest finance firms and was as a maths and reading mentor to younger students in school.

This has all led to now. Being in Year 13, standing here as Head Student – a position I could not have even imagined I could be in back in year 7.

If there's one message I want to you to take away from my journey tonight as you decide whether you want to embark on your I&S journey, it's that there are so many unique opportunities waiting for you here. Whether it's academics, sports, the arts and music, leadership or something else entirely, I truly believe that there's something here for everyone. You've just got to take that step and make the most of it.

Thank you.