

## Joe Earls (F19)

I have always been passionate about sport, particularly football, and I support Manchester United. My family home is in London and I went to a comprehensive secondary school in Southwark. There was no school football team, so I joined a local Sunday league to pursue my hobby.

When the time came to consider where I should go to sixth form, my mum knew of Charterhouse's reputations so suggested applying as she really wanted the best for me and my education. The only way I could study at Charterhouse was via a bursary or scholarship. We applied for the Charterhouse-In-Southwark Award, and I vividly remember the cover letter I wrote to go with the application; I concentrated on my passion for sport and football.

When I received the letter, it took me a while to open it. I thought I did well at the exams and in the interview so was hopeful that I had been successful in getting a place and receiving a bursary, but I was also worried about the disappointment I'd feel if I did not get accepted. When I finally opened the letter and saw I'd been successful, I felt overwhelming relief and excitement for this incredible opportunity!

What can I say about my time at Charterhouse?

I loved it! I loved everything about Charterhouse. The varied subject choices, my amazing English teacher Mr Sparrow, having the opportunity to study Business and, of course, being able to play football.

When I played football in my local league in London, we played at the local park where the fields were so bumpy and uneven. But when I came to Charterhouse I got promoted to the 1<sup>st</sup> football team as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Specialist, which meant playing on Big Ground. This was the polar opposite to what I was used to and one of my highlights, along with receiving the 'Player of the Year' award.

The sports opportunities were fantastic, simple things like being able to play basketball first thing in the morning or later at night, these experiences were just not possible where I came from in London.

Charterhouse was a fantastic experience and made me a far more confident person. The boarding aspect really prepared me for going away to university, and with my newly found confidence I successfully applied to Loughborough University. I am now in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at University studying English and Business, which I believe would not have been achievable without Charterhouse. And as I consider my next steps, I look to blend my passion for both business and sport in a future career.

I would like to thank all those who donated to the Charterhouse-In-Southwark Award and 'thank you' to those who are still supporting the various bursary and scholarship programmes. I was provided with an opportunity and life I never thought possible, so if you can support the Charterhouse bursary programme then you are giving young adults who otherwise could not afford it, a 1st class education and opportunity to have a brighter future.