



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW

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You were accepted to some amazing schools! Where are you headed next, and what will you be studying?

I'm going to **Brown University**, which I'm incredibly excited about. It's one of the Ivy League schools and **has an open curriculum that really allows you to explore different disciplines**, which I find essential to growing as a learner. I'll be studying **Computer Science at the School of Engineering**, with a particular interest in **Artificial Intelligence**. I've already done quite a bit in that field, but there's so much more I want to learn and build.

You've accomplished a lot already in AI and tech. Can you share more about that journey?

It all started early—I was in third or fourth grade when I founded **a student team focused on sustainability and green energy**. That led me to programming and web development, and eventually, to AI. One of my first major projects was **developing a smart, sustainable city model that used AI to solve real-world problems**. Later, I built Nikki, **a fully 3D-printed humanoid robot** using computer vision and natural language processing, with a team of 20 students.

I also created **a recycling bin that uses AI to sort materials**, and then developed **an educational initiative focused on integrating AI and ethics into school curricula**. I presented that at the **Council of Europe** and launched programs in Greek public schools. **The goal has always been to help others understand and use AI ethically, especially students.**

That's incredible. What drives you to do all this?

For me, **it's about making a real impact**. I've always believed that if you know something, you have a responsibility to share it. I love learning, and I love creating—but more than that, **I want the things I build to improve lives, even if it's just for one person**. That's what makes me get up early in the morning.



Balancing all of that with the IB program must've been challenging. How did you manage?

Time management was key. I like to schedule my days in detail—study time, project work, even fun. One thing I've realized is that a task will usually take as long as the time you give it. So, **I challenge myself by setting tighter deadlines.** It helps me push to my full potential and still keep balance. Also, exercising, doing water sports, and spending time with friends and family helped me **recharge mentally.**

What's something you're especially proud of that not everyone might know about?

I'm really proud of a community project in my village, Parga. With help from the local government and the community, **we transformed the old village school—**where my dad and grandfather studied—**into a library and cultural center.** We gathered unused books from locals, rebuilt the space, and made it a hub for learning and tradition. **It's not just about technology—it's about community and preserving culture too.**

What's one lesson or value you'll take with you from Pinewood?

The importance of community. Pinewood has taught me that when people support one another, incredible things can happen. Whether it's students helping each other with studies or teachers going out of their way to support you—**it creates an environment where you can really grow.**

In what ways has Pinewood shaped who you are today?

Pinewood gave me a sense of belonging. I transferred mid-year, and from day one, everyone was welcoming—students, teachers, and staff. The structure, the flexibility, the academic support—it was all there. And most of all, **it reinforced my belief in collaboration and care.** I was able to continue my projects and be supported through every step.

What's your favorite thing about being a Pinewood student?

The energy. **There's this drive to help each student go as far as they can.** Everyone's pushing toward their own goals, and at the same time, helping others do the same. It's really motivating.



Do you have a favorite Pinewood memory that always makes you smile?

Senior Walk! We all walked around the school, sharing laughs and nerves, and even spun a wheel to pick our table spots. Everyone—students, faculty, admin—was involved. **It was emotional and fun and showed just how tight-knit the Pinewood community is.**

What advice would you give to younger students just starting high school?

Start thinking early. Set some goals, even if they change later. High school, especially if you're applying to schools in the U.S., really starts in 9th grade. Also, try to “hack” your brain—**train yourself to focus, even when you're not in the mood.** It's like meditation—it takes practice. **And always push yourself a little beyond your comfort zone.** That's where growth happens.

If Pinewood were a person or a friend, how would you describe them?

Warm, open-minded, and supportive. Always there to help you grow, to listen, and to guide you toward becoming your best self.

And finally—what's your dream or goal for the future?

I want to build something—maybe a company or a team—**that uses technology to make people's lives better.** Whether it's through education, sustainability, or healthcare, **I want to contribute something meaningful.** If I can wake up every day excited to build something that helps others, then I'll know I'm on the right path.