

KYOKA HADANO

BST Alumna 2018

From BST to leading the ranks at Cambridge, Kyoka Hadano has had an incredibly impressive academic career. As a finalist studying English Literature at Peterhouse College, she is the first female BST student to go to Cambridge - and is a fantastic role model for current students.

Getting into Cambridge, however, is just one of Kyoka's many awe-inspiring achievements: at Cambridge she has not only survived, but thrived. She has achieved First Class grade assessments for every year of her degree,

but her accomplishments go beyond the beaten academic track: she has had her writing published in the Cambridge Review of Books, she has been a section editor at Cambridge's oldest student newspaper, Varsity, she has founded the outreach division of the Cambridge university law society, she has been shortlisted for the 2020 UK Law Society Awards, founded Cambridge's inaugural Shakespeare debate, launched the university's debate training curriculum and perhaps most impressively, is the incoming executive officer of the Cambridge Union, a role previously held by the likes of Ariana Huffington and John Maynard Keynes. Very impressive, to say the least!

According to Kyoka, Cambridge has been the most exciting and enriching in its people: the university offers thousands of talented students who are brought together through not only academics, but Cambridge's rich history and 'flourishing extracurricular scene' - the University offers the ability to debate, discuss and socialise with like-minded people who are not just interested, but interesting. It is more than just colleges - it is a community.

Kyoka has also enjoyed studying a wide range of English literature during her degree program, a love motivated by a fascination with the way in which words can be pieced together to 'persuade, incense, and move people to tears or to laughter'.



Kyoka Hadano
(School Photo 2017-2018)

Looking forward, Kyoka aims to bring this love of language, persuasion and critical thinking to a career in international commercial law.

She has already achieved many internship offers from law firms - from the likes of Sullivan & Cromwell to Skadden - and has received an offer to do her Masters at Oxford, where she hopes to write a thesis on rhetorical devices and objects of the imagination in the poetry of the British Romantic Period - primarily looking at Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats and William Hazlitt.

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University of Cambridge (www.cam.ac.uk)

Whilst Kyoka's academic path has always been impressive, it hasn't always been easy. Kyoka illustrates the most challenging aspect of life at Cambridge as 'plucking up social confidence' - at BST, she says, she was always on the more 'serious and studious side', but being at Cambridge has offered the opportunity to push her comfort zones in meeting new people and making new friends, something which has been instrumental in helping her while serving as the elected committee leading the Cambridge Union. She highlights the most important thing she has learnt from Cambridge as 'having confidence in yourself' - being surrounded by incredibly talented people can be intimidating, but Kyoka stresses that 'It's important to remind yourself that everyone has their individual dreams and talents, and not to be swayed too much by what others think.'

Having these dreams and goals are essential to Cambridge. Moving from a relatively small school such as BST to a large, internationally well renowned university can definitely be overwhelming, but Kyoka advises BST students hoping to make a similar transition to her to 'be proactive and curious, and follow your interests' - it is important that you really love what you do!

Have confidence in yourself, and remember that, in the words of Kyoka, **'BST, and the forward-thinking, international mindset it equips you with, puts you in an excellent place to adapt to new environments and study at global institutions.'**



Kyoka at the 2019 Cambridge Law Society Annual Ball