

# LIAM OSHIMA

## BST Alumnus 2020

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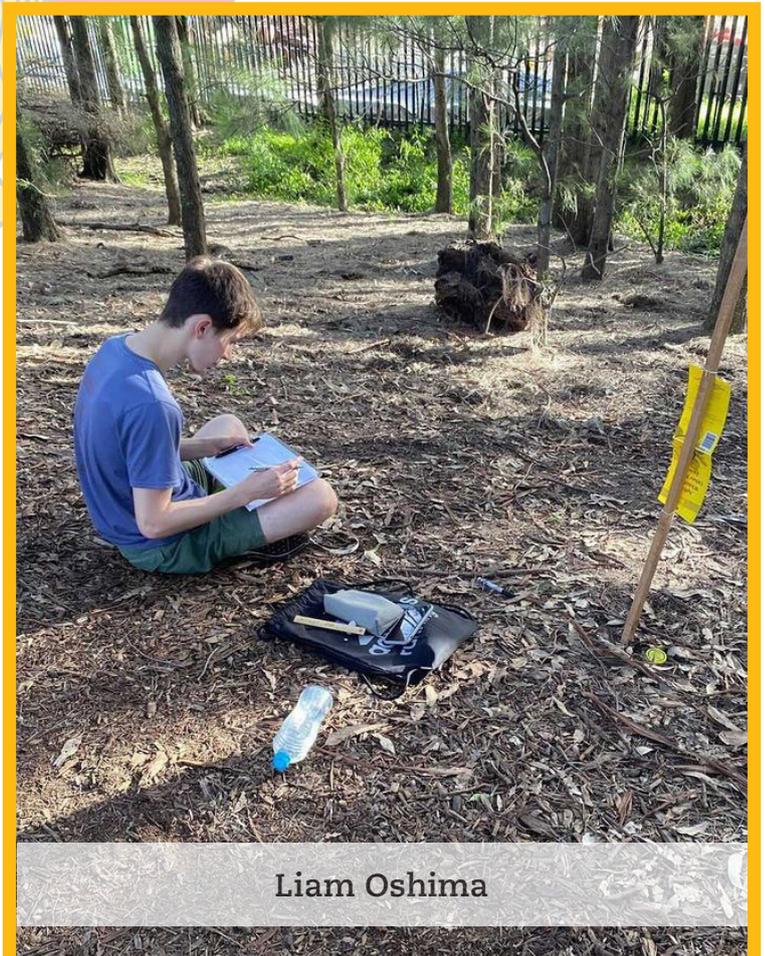
Fascinated by science and its applications in helping people, Liam Oshima was originally set to study medicine or neuroscience. However, his desire to learn about many other applications of science has guided him to a Bachelor of Science degree at Sydney University. Following four A Levels: Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths and an AS in Japanese, Liam's academic career continues to impress, in the form of The Chancellor's Award scholarship from the University of Sydney.

As Liam wanted to explore different fields more freely and broadly but still learn in depth, Australia was the perfect destination. Moreover, being an Australian citizen himself, this choice was economical and meant that he was closer to his family. 'There's a bit more wiggle room to explore different areas of study compared to a degree in the UK, but you're still taught in more depth and given more independence in learning than a degree in, say, the US. I'm definitely happy with my current choice!' Starting university life in a new environment, Liam has found that one of his biggest challenges has been adapting to online studies, Australia's culture, and the changes in his social life due to COVID. That being said, he has adapted to these new changes, and having just finished his first semester, considers his greatest achievement his 'newfound capacity to get into a consistent rhythm when things are so different from what I know.'

During his time at BST, Liam always showed commitment to extracurricular activities: being part of the Jazz band, football team and choir. His work-life balance has followed him to University; he is a member of the university's jazz band and enjoys exploring his new neighbourhood, reading and cooking. He strongly believes that 'the time you have available for yourself is a matter of priority as opposed to circumstance'.

Liam believes that BST's early focus on preparing for what lies beyond school was really helpful. Although his imminent future was not clear to him, having that foundation still allowed him to consider and explore different options, which he believes was really valuable.

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Liam Oshima

'Perhaps the community there (BST) is the most under emphasised yet crucial element of BST which prepared me for my degree.'

Looking ahead, Liam's main focus is to explore material that interests him and to discover where following such interests take him. He feels enthusiastic about being true to himself and his passions and trusts that this will lead him down great paths. After all, his favourite quote by Friedrich Nietzsche which has consistently resonated with him is: "Those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music."

It has unfailingly provided him with the confidence to worry less about people's opinions of his unique passions. Exposing himself to his interests has defined who he is and he strongly encourages everyone at BST to do the same. 'If there is something that makes you wonder, or something that you would like to try, dive straight in! If you end up not liking it, you've learnt something valuable and you can leave it behind. If you end up liking it, great! It will surely lead you to more things that you love.'

One further quote by William James which Liam believes is valuable for people embarking on change is, "There are more worms unattached to hooks than impaled upon them; therefore, on the whole, says Nature to her fishy children, bite at every worm and take your chances."

*Article written by BST Year 12 Student, Minami Street (May 2021)*

