So tell me a little bit about yourself. So, like, where did you grow up and tell me about your studies?

I moved secondary school and I lived in Z. I went to Y, which was good.
And for a level did are English and maths, which was a bit of an outlier, especially considering doing art and English now.

So maths was just kind of there.

Good to have a range though.

I think I guess yeah, it was my lower grade. I got. I got a in the other two and then AB in maths, but it's fine. Oh, yeah, that's that's pretty good. Yeah. Yeah, that's what a level which was fun.

And yeah, as I say, you know in English I obviously enjoy because that's a degree.

And then more generally, I like my days day as well. I've got like 7 tattoos at the moment, so that's still hidden.

Yeah, yeah, it happens in winter, right? Yeah. And then we get the summer. And everyone’s like, oh, you've got a tattoo. And you're like, yeah. Yeah.

Especially if I get a new one over the winter. It's like no one gets to see it for, like, months.

Yeah. It's like waiting for its big reveal.

Pretty much. Yeah.

But yeah, cool. And how about coming to X? So how did you end up at University of X?

There was one of two unis that actually offered art and English as a joint degree.

And I was like, well, my two best subjects. So I kind of I'm going to apply for the two and that have it and then.

Apply some other options as well.

But it's also just like a nice mix of, like, far enough away from home for independence, but close enough or I just want to go home. I can just find my dad and being like Dad, I'm coming home in an hour.
So it's like a nice mix of two. And also I knew a couple of people.
They both graduated now, but I knew a couple of people that came here and they had really good experiences. So just having that, like actual feedback from other people was really good as well.

It also meant.

I wasn't, like, completely alone coming here 'cause they met me like in my first week of first year.

To like give me a bit of tour and show me where everything was, which was really helpful 'cause I was a bit intimidated. Yeah, yeah, yeah. No, that was really good.

Interviewer
Yeah, cool. And so you said that you're studying art and English because they're sort of like your best subjects, and the ones you enjoyed. Have you thought about, like, what you might want to do in the future with them or aspirations, aspirations.

I've been trying to think about it, I mean.

There's always like a part in the back of my mind that wants going to teaching English. So it's just really, I'm just very close to my level English teachers. So like they've always been a bit of an inspiration. So it would like, there's always a that in the back of my mind of like I could do that.

But other than that, I haven't really got any like.

Concrete ideas of what I wanna do?

Yeah, yeah, you can figure it out.

 Yeah, definitely.

Nice. Cool. Thank you. So, yeah, just to talk about a little bit like preparing for university when you're at school. Did your parents or carers go to university at all?

My dad's started but didn't complete P University.
My nan teachers at university umm.

But yeah, I don't think I think they're the only only two and I only one of them actually finished it, so.

How about siblings. Anybody else?

I've got an older sister and she went into an apprenticeship. Oh, yeah, and then a younger brother who's just started a level so. Right. But I don't think he's too keen on uni. So. Trying to like push him a little bit for it, but I don't. I don't think that's for him so.

Interviewer
Yeah, that, that's totally fair. So in terms of when you were applying or thinking about applying the whole process, how did you experience support from your family for that process?

I mean, my dad was just basically supportive of everything I was looking into and helped me research. He took me on like all my uni open days and stuff, and like, made sure to have time off, like to take me to them, which was really sweet.

And yeah, I mean most portfolio doing the actual application stuff came from school.
But my dad was, like, great with taking me to the open day. He was like, we'd just kind of make a day of it and like, see, like the actual like, town or city that the uni was in as well, which was nice. Yeah. And he also got really excited whenever I got any, like, offers through from what I'd applied for, which was really sweet.

So yeah, I mean, my dad was probably he would have been fully supportive regardless of what I picked. So, but he was just really proactive and like helping me actually figure out what I wanted to do, which was really nice.

Interviewer
Yeah, that's so important, isn't it?

Yeah, definitely. It was great.

But yeah, in terms of like actually applying most of the support came from school.

Basically going and pestering my English teachers being like what am I supposed to do? Sorry.

OK, so yeah, tell me a little bit about, like, more about support from your school and what kind of thing did they offer or yeah, how did you experience it from school?

Yeah. I mean, most of it, most of the support came from, like just assemblies of, like, here's what you've got to do. Here's how. Here's how UCAS works.
Make like these are all the deadlines, blah blah and then it was we were kind of left on our own a bit. But I was like, I kind of I think I want to go to uni so I'm going to go and ask my teachers for help and they were really great with like helping me apply.

My one of my local English teachers got really excited when I got accepted into here.

And I went with my younger brother, went to the same school as me and so I went in with him to pick up like GCSE results and teacher saw me and like Ran and gave me a hug and like asked how everything was going, which was sweet. Yeah. So yeah, like most, most support came from those two teachers, like my 2 English teachers, really because they were just really like help me, like, really go for, like, helping me meet deadlines and help me, like, get, get stuff done and like, X through like.

The personal site.

Personal statement?

Yeah, that one. And yeah, basically just proof reading it and making sure everything made sense, which was really good.

So OK, so it sounds like you were quite proactive in terms of seeking that support

Yeah.
And then yeah, they were great with actually providing the support.

So you would say you felt happy with the amount of support you provided?

They definitely. The school definitely could have done a bit more in terms of like showing off other options because I know like quite a few of my friends didn't want to go to uni and that wasn't really. Much guidance on what to do if you weren't going to UNI, but in terms of like what I picked up like going to uni, they were really good. But there like every other week was an assembly on like here's how UCAS works. Here's how you do that. So they were great with the support for UNI, so that was good, cool.

And did you ever have like anyone from a university come to your school to talk about anything?

Not specifically. I mean, we'd have like the uni fairs and stuff or like they'd just be like student reps from like a load of different unis.

And they were really good with, like, just chatting about, like, what the place was like and all that. But we didn't have anyone come into specifically talk about, like, their uni. It was all through the, like, fares and stuff, sure. But those fares were informative, micro, relaxed. So many of the, like course, programmers programmes and stuff. Yeah. Yeah. I think I've still got a part of them somewhere so nice.

OK, cool. So it sounds like most people in your school were encouraged towards uni. Is that what you would say? Like the majority of your peers were doing?

Yeah, teeny. I mean, I went to a grammar school, so it was very much pushed to continue with, like, academics. Mm hmm.

And most people wanted to, so it was fine. But there was a very heavy focus on, like, you need to go to uni. OK. Yeah. Which wasn't necessarily a bad thing, but there could have been a bit more like there are other options. Yeah.

Because like.

Yeah, not for everyone. But they were good with the uni support, so that's good. At least. Yeah.

Did you feel like you ever sort of were considering another path other than university?

I was looking at apprenticeships for a bit, especially like graphic designer apprenticeships and that kind of thing.

But then with like I kind of, I'm not really sure what I wanna do, so I'm gonna go to uni for a bit and try and figure it out. So yeah, which ended up being the right decision. So really enjoying it. So good. Yeah.

Nice. OK. And so just to sort of a few more questions about school related stuff, did you take part in any extra curricular activities whilst you were at school?

 Not really. Yeah. No, I can't. I can't be anything. But then COVID hit when I was in year 12, so I couldn't really do anything during sick form.

Yeah, no, fair enough.

So yeah, no, not particularly.

Is there anything that you would have sort of wanted to do in terms of extracurricular, particularly thinking about if it would have benefited you while supplying to uni or not?

I don't think so.

Because like the main, like extracurricular stuff was all, like leadership, like student leadership roles and stuff. And that's just not really something that interested me at all.

I mean, I did like do a couple of talks with like young years on like 6th form and whatever, which was pretty good. But yeah, outside that does not really anything that I would have wanted to do.

OK, that and how about sort of financial concerns, did you have any financial worries when you were thinking about university?

Yes, that was like my biggest thing with like. That was my biggest concern with applying because like my dad's a single dad, so it was like he can't provide any support, so I get full student loan, but that's not.

Always enough. And there's always like worry of, like paying it back and whatever. So yeah, financial concerns were definitely a worry with applying. Still a bit of a worry now to be honest, but yeah, definitely a worry when applying. OK, but I'm glad I applied in the end.

So yeah, did you get any sort of support for that even if, like, not necessarily actual financial support, but kind of people thought talking you through the process of student finance and stuff?

It was. It was honestly, my dad that, like, helped me research it a little bit more and he was great with that with like.

You don't need to pay it back until you're running over a certain amount, and then even then you're only paying what you're like, a percent of what you're earning on top of that amount and.

So he was great with, like, helping me work through that, which was good.

So you kind of just, like research that together. Did you use the websites in that?

Yeah. And to be fair, like, a few of the uni open days, I went to, went through how, like student finance and stuff worked, which was really good.

I can't remember the one that specifically stands out. Just my dad was like one of the ones I applied to was Z Uni, and my dad really likes Z. So he was really excited about just going there for the day.

And I remember that he did it because my dad basically made it a point of like you need to pay attention to this. OK. But I can't remember if X did it off the top of my head.

Sure. OK.
Cool. So just going to move on to talking about, like X scholars, obviously, which happened before you came to uni. So how did you end up taking part in scholars?

We had an e-mail sent out.

And it was obviously the school had, like, a record of who was on, like, lower income, whatever. So it was very much like, hello, do this. OK. And one of my friends from my school who's also actually here took part in it as well. So like.

In the same year or the same year as well. Yeah. So yeah, she called it. We were basically like, we could do this.

We kind of just like apply for it. Like, yeah, why not? And then, yeah, both ends up doing it, which was fun. So it's kind of nice to actually have a friend that was doing it. Yeah. But yeah, I've got emails to her about it. I was like, this looks fun. Why not?

So when your school was emailing you about it, what they're kind of saying would be, like, the benefits of doing it or the reason why you might be interested?

I mean obviously they have a list of all the like.

Subjects and stuff that were being offered and it was at that point like I was considering at least doing art as a degree. And there was one specifically for art, which is the one that I did.

So I was like, I mean can't hurt to learn what art's like at uni so.
Yeah, it was very much just like her this all looks.

Kind of interesting. It's what I'm considering for a degree. So might as well give it a shot. Yeah. And turned out being a really good decision, to be honest. So yeah.

Cool. So tell me a little bit more about your experience of actually the scholars programme when you went through it.
I mean, it was really helpful like.
They're getting to and from there the fact that, like.

Travel costs were covered because like the train tickets, because it was like rush hour, the only train that.

Goes from Q is like once an hour to P. The tickets for like £70 for a return. So I was like immediately that was like a worry off of like everything. It was like, yeah, no, that was just good.

Yeah, everyone that was like involved with it like students and like teachers and stuff all really welcoming and really chatty, and made everyone feel like really welcomed in it, which was really nice.
And it did make make me feel a lot less worried about uni because it was like, OK, everyone's have nervous as I am about like applying and going to uni.

But then at the same time, like everyone here seems really nice. So like it, it took a lot of stress off of like.

The like want to apply to UNI and also like what uni was actually gonna be like. Mm hmm. Obviously I didn't the year I did it was when it got moved online part of the way through because of COVID. Yeah.

So you didn't get the residential in on campus?

Yeah.

Did you come to campus at all.

Yeah, I think I came twice.

See the campus.

And everything which was good and also like finding people in the train station because everyone's wearing like.

Like a top and like had like posts like posts being like ready. Scholars come here. Yeah.

Like that was all like.

I got lost in the train station when I arrived. I couldn't figure out where the exit was. Yeah, it was like, like my train station back home was like, there's two platforms. One's going to M. One's going to P. Yeah. All of a sudden, it's like, oh, my God, there's like, 15 platforms, was a bit intimidating. Once I actually found my bearings was really easy to like, get to the uni. Everyone was really helpful at the station. Everyone was really helpful when I arrived on campus.

Yeah, it was just. It was really nice and welcoming a couple of times. So she did get to come over here. So yeah, that was really good.

Nice. So it sounds like kind of what you're saying is that it was useful more in, in terms of, well, not necessarily more, but, you know, in terms of kind of that, that social thing, as in like, meeting other nice people who might be coming to X as well. But also, you know, like our student ambassadors and stuff.

Is that fair to say? Maybe more so than like the academic element of it? Or were they both sort of equally useful to find out more about the course as well?

It was both were really good like getting to me other people who could be doing like.

The same courses meeting people who are already on the courses, like the social element of like getting to know like what ratings like like as a place to live and go to uni and just meeting people is really cool. I still talk to some of the people I met on the on the scholars saying which is really nice.

But then also getting to talk to like the academics and stuff and like.

Just actually find out like how the course runs like module options like all that sort of thing. That was also really helpful.

Also, especially if I was talking, it's like a certain like person about like of course, a module that they've run. They go more into detail than like what's on the website or anything, yeah.

So that was really, really helpful because actually like.
Some of the modules that caught my eye, but like over like sacked inside here especially I actually got to find out more about from the people that are going to be running them or students that are already on that module.

So yeah, I was really like it was good in both aspects.

Which was really nice.

Excellent. Are there any parts of X scholars that you didn't enjoy?

I mean my main criticism's came from stuff that couldn't be controlled because like I did, I enjoyed the like parts where it was actually here in person more than the online stuff, but that couldn't be helped.

And I mean like it was still organised to like the best it possibly could be with such a, like, rapid kind of events.
Yeah. Obviously it wasn't perfect, but there was very little time to reorganise everything. So I can't really complain about it too much. I think I was also just sick of zoom meetings at that point. I'm a little bit like sad that I missed out on the residential things that sounded really, really cool.

But we did like a three day like zoom thing instead where we worked on like a little project over the week and.

Because, like maybe a little presentation about it and everything, which was really nice, so.

It was still really good, like even with a little bit, even with half of it being online. So yeah, yeah.

I've got, like, literally no complaints about it. It was really good.

OK. And how about, like anything that you would add? So obviously aside from an in person residential, which wasn't possible, where they're kind of like anything, any other elements that you think would be really useful for scholars coming through?
I mean, at least on the art one, it would have been.

So like when I was talking to like the academics and stuff about just modules and whatever.

It just kind of like once or twice it happened that there was a module I was interested and the person who happened to be running about, like, running it. When I was asking about it would have been potentially a bit more useful to know, like, who was running what modules. So if there was, like, something that you were specifically interested in, you knew who to go and find and talk to.

To like ask about it. I guess to get a bit more information on it, but like.

That's probably the only thing I'd add. OK, I still managed to accidentally find the right people, and it was it was cool hearing them, like, actually talk about the module that they run. Yeah.

So just to clarify, you mean maybe like a list of you know if you're on this strand, these are the, they don't often don't know the exact modules, but these are the modules we think and this is like a named person to chat.

OK, yeah, that would have been pretend like that could have been potentially useful. But at the same time like. Might have been a bit overwhelming of like, oh God, there's so many things.

So how did you find speaking to other students who were doing like, at least probably some of the modules that you were thinking about?

I found it really useful to get, like, students perspectives on it because obviously they could talk a bit more about like.

Umm how the classes run like what you're expected to do, like in and out of class time. Umm. And how much work you like are expected to put in.

Which obviously from like a teacher and a student standpoint, are sometimes very different. So it was kind of useful getting like.
This more realistic view of how the courses, yeah.

Well, like all the students, I did talk to and being very friendly and really just like, easy to talk to and very like they all seemed very like willing and like happy to be involved with it, which was really nice.

And like always, just down to answer any questions which was really good so.

OK. So sort of thinking about your X. Scholars experience as a whole. What impact did it have on your decision to then actually apply to university? Would you say if any?

It made me feel a lot less anxious about applying.

It was like, OK, I actually like know a little bit like more about what uni's like.

Like how it runs.

Everyone's a bit anxious in the first couple of weeks that you find your people.

Like it did make me a lot less stressed about the whole thing.

Which was really good and did actually like solidify. OK, I am going to apply to uni and then umm.

Yeah, I'm start putting. I can't remember if I put it as my firm or like backup choice, but X was one of my top two options like part of it might have been like a familiarity because I knew the campus obviously knew a couple of people that were here beforehand.

But like, it was just really helpful actually.

Getting to like be on a UNI campus, doing like.

Things you might be doing in like a class setting, so that was it was just really good to actually have a bit of a taster that you don't necessarily get on the open days, yeah.

So yeah, it was really. It was really, really good. I really enjoyed it a lot. And yeah, I just did make the whole application process a lot less stressful.

Fantastic. That's great to hear. So just sort of staying on pre uni. Is there anything else so outside of scholars that you think universities could do to support people in like similar positions to you or just students in general when you're thinking about? Applying to uni, is there anything where you think actually if the university had done XYZ, I would have found that really helpful.

I don't think so really.

I think maybe it could be a good thing if more uni state offer this kind of thing because like it was a really useful experience and like.

I'm very glad I chose to do it was really good.

So I think like.

In general, more unis offering something like this could help a lot of students. Mm hmm, especially like students with like financial worries and stuff like.

It's it was really helpful for that. And also just I wouldn't necessarily have been able to like.

Visit and like see everything.

If, like costs haven't been covered because it's like my dad does not like driving down there, it's quite expensive. So yeah, like having stuff covered.

Was like really good and actually felt like I got to be a bit more part of the UNI application process, I guess, yeah.

But yeah, other than that, I can't really think of anything. A lot of it would just be down to like my individual school of like, maybe having, like, people actually come in and talk.

Right now we did have like a couple of assemblies, but it was it was very like STEM focused.

OK is that talks from unis?

Yeah.

That they were all very much like science degrees, maths degrees, not just kind of zoned out the whole time. So just like I'm not doing.
Yeah, I know. I'm. I know I'm doing something creative with my duo. I don't particularly want to go in science, and I mean my school was like an all girls school and like, getting girls into stem and stuff was like.

Very much pushed, so I get it, but just a little bit more support from my school specifically for like people that want to do arts. A degree would have been nice, but that's just a specific criticism on my school and doesn't really relate to the question you asked at all.

It does, yeah. It's what I'm hearing is you would like universities to have come in and talked about, like creative subject opportunities as well. Is that right?

Yeah. Can always feels like all like arts subjects get like pushed to the side a little bit so. Yeah, that just would have been nice. Just have a look, even if it's just like someone coming in to talk to a specific, like art class. Yeah, rather than like the whole school. Yeah. That would have been really helpful, I think.

So yeah, I think that would be something that would be helpful.

Cool. Thank you. That's good to know. Yeah. Cool. So, moving on to your experience actually at university. So how are you finding uni?

Yeah. Good.

It was a bit of a shock to the system at first of like.

Oh my God. I'm living on my own and I don't know anyone 'cause like it. I went to the same school for seven years. Yeah, I guess 7313. So it was very much like, oh, my God, I don't know anyone. I'm living on my own for the first time, but once I actually like saddled it. And it was really good.
Freshers events were like. Great for meeting people.
So that was good.

2nd at the moment, second year was.

More of a jump up from first year than I was expecting. Umm and I was considering dropping out at one point.

But.
I'm really enjoying third year at the moment, so it's overall been very good and very positive. I've really enjoyed it and specifically with X, I've really enjoyed living here for the last couple of years.

So yeah, that's good to hear. So you said like obviously it was quite a big life change, which it is when you're living on your own for the first time, yeah, would you say sort of like that, you felt ready or you felt completely unready for uni? Obviously there's a couple of different aspects to that. There's the living away, the social side, but also the academic side.

The moving away in social side was definitely the hardest bit. I'm very, very close with my dad and my brother. So like, no longer living with them full time was like.

Weird and also I miss my I still miss my cat. I yeah, I love going home for like Christmas and my birthday and stuff because I get to see my cat. Yeah.

So it was very much like her. Oh my God, I can't rely on my like Dad to help with everything.

Although we still have to deal with phone calls from at least once a week, so it's fine.
But the academic side like.
I did feel like genuinely again with the X scholars say. I think it did, like help me feel a little bit more prepared for 'cause I knew what I was getting into.

So last song on the English side, but English didn't feel as much of a jump up from a level.

In the first few weeks for that, we're definitely like and for us all the first few weeks were very much like helping everyone settle in.

And in English, the first few weeks went two different from what I've been doing in English at a levels so.

That was an OK set. That was like a pretty good step up. I felt ready for it and I enjoyed it and everything.

And then all I think I would have struggled with more if I hadn't done the art scholars thing because I knew like it's a lot more independent than what I was used to with GCSE and A level are.

Like actually knowing a bit more about the course, knowing like.
A couple of like the like professors and stuff was really helpful. So.

Yeah, that was definitely like less of a shock to the system than like I think it would have been otherwise. Umm, yeah. See, academic side was like completely fine, honestly, which was quite nice. Yeah. Yeah, that's good. Yeah. I mean, social side improved. I've got a very good friend group and I'm living with my best friend at the moment. So it's all works out pretty well. Yeah.

Yeah. There's always going to be an adjustment period. It's like a massive life change, isn't it? But yeah. OK. So are there any current challenges or barriers that you face at university, would you say?

Not hugely. I mean, honestly, my biggest one for like this year so far has been like I ended up switching modules for the first time earlier this term. So like I didn't really know how to like go about doing that and stuff, but like my academic tutor was great and like bought me through and like helped me with it and everything. So that's genuinely only been that's been the biggest like academic barrier of just like oh God I hate my module. What do I do?

But yeah, it all worked out in the end. I'm doing the module. I actually really enjoyed that also, that's good.

That's been the honestly the biggest academic barrier for like first year.

Like everything was tight in it, like quite a slow pace to like help everyone get settled in and meet everyone.

And then second year found a bit more difficult just 'cause, it was a lot more independent than first year. Mm hmm, but once I got used to it and like figured out what what I was doing, it was completely fine and I knew my academic tutor better at that point. So I could just e-mail her with like any worries that I was having. And she was like, do you want to have a meeting? And I was like, yes please.

So, like she's been great with, like, any worries I've like had at all, which has been really good so.

Yeah, genuinely. Adjusting to the More independence and 2nd year and the switching modules was like the two biggest like stresses I've had so far.

That's good that you haven't had any major academic stresses. How about, like, outside of the academic element of it, just more widely?
I mean, like do you mean with like social stuff or like, mental health stuff, that kind of stuff?

Anything really that you that you want to share? You know, I know we touched a little bit earlier on like financial concerns or yeah like social sort of sense of belonging, fitting in, mental health. Anything that yeah, that you want to share.

Yeah. I mean social side was like up and down in first year kind of fell apart in second year. But then I met my best friend right at the start of second year who I live with now.
And a few of my friends that graduated have actually stayed in X, so we've got like a little like.

Umm social group, which is really nice. We try and meet up like once every week or two at least, which is nice.
So that's been good. I've had like a few mental health like ups and downs, but like the counselling team has been amazing and like pointing me on the right track for like specific help with things.

And yes, like genuine, genuinely makes to the worries I've had of being able to be solved, which is really good. Good.

So yeah, it's just, it's been really nice.

And one thing that's been kind of tied back to academics as well with like one thing with the English side.

They're really good with doing like trigger warnings for any like books that we're studying that have, like sensitive topics like that's just one really good thing they've been doing. It's like if you need to skip this week. So we're touching on XY and Z. That's completely OK, just shoot an e-mail to, like, give us a heads up. You're not going to be there, which is just something nice and I really appreciate that. So yeah.

Yeah, good. Is there anything else that you feel, obviously, you said that you have felt supported with any issues you've faced, which is really, really nice to hear. Is there anything else that you feel like X as a university could be doing to support students?

I'd say making financial help a little bit like just more well known. I guess 'cause I when I like moved out of halls into my first house, I bit of like.

Oh God, this is so much more expensive and I'm having to pay like monthly rather than at the start of term, but it took me a bit of digging to actually find out. Uni does actually help with that. It's a little bit.

But it was while I was like, trying to find a job and failing, so like making it a little bit more well known that there is like financial support would be helpful, yeah.
Just because like that was a huge stress over summer last year.

And I know there's definitely other people who also struggle with that, especially like moving to from halls into housing for the first time. Like, yeah.

It was very different and quite stressful. So yeah, genuinely the financial support being a bit more well known would be my biggest thing.

And is there any sort of like ways that you would like to receive that information? Is there any sort of like channels that you would regularly use?

I mean, I know a lot of people follow like the X, Instagram and stuff. So like maybe just a bit of awareness on that or even like.

Some of the emails that come out just being like, hey, the support's here if you need it kind of thing, yeah.

Like, there's definitely a few different ways, and I think honestly because a lot of people like a huge number of people follow the X Instagram that could genuinely be a really good way to do it. Yeah, obviously I know I'm, but I'm pretty sure that is student run.
But it could. That could be more beneficial since all its students making other students aware this help. Yeah, which might make it a little bit more accessible and like less scary, I guess, to actually like be like, OK. Yeah, no, I need a bit of help with this.

Like the weekly emails that come out just like occasionally popping it in there kind of thing. Hmm, could be pretty good.

Cool. Amazing. Thank you.

That's all right.

So yeah, we'll just move on to some kind of final reflections. So what would you say are most important or influential things that helped you to be at university now. So that can be literally anything, but what would you say?

I mean honestly, probably support I got from English teachers. They kind of did help with that like final person like the do I don't I press the application button on UCAS kind of thing like obviously that's a very individual thing but they were huge and very supportive and like me going to uni.

And yeah, no, they've been great.

And also just like So when I had the Interview saying for the OR for the course generally here like.

My letter of like, OK, like the offer letter and stuff was like really personalised, which like just made it like obviously that was after I'd like applied. But like, the letter was really personalised and very specific to the interview I'd had with the head of Art, which was like.
Just made it, just made it feel a bit more comfortable. I guess it's like, oh, he remembered this really specific thing I talked about or, like, broke down a couple of artists that he thought I'd like to look into, which was that was just really nice and made it like.

OK, these people are like really like good what they do, but they also just people, which it just helps like humanise and destress the whole experience of it. So. And that was very specific to X, none of my other unis I’d applied to did that.

Had you had interviews at the universities as well?

Yeah, I had one with Z. My offer letter was like, you've got an offer. Whereas yeah, as I say, the one hit the one from here was very specific and personal, which was it was just really sweet, whichever it likes.

And to be honest, it implement. I think I've still got the licence at work so I just thought it was really nice that it did influence like a picking. Here is one of my top two options a lot.

So yeah, no, that was just that was just really nice and like.

Yeah, help destress the whole application and like going to uni process.

Yeah, that's good. Good. And are there any other barriers that I haven't asked you about that you would want to let us know about coming to university, whether it be specifically to do with X or not?

I don't think so. No.

OK, cool. And any final bits of advice for the X Scholars programme itself or X when thinking about kind of, yeah, widening participation in uni and reaching young people. Anything else you want?

I don't think so. Like.
So like I met people from like all over the country when I did writing scholars like sudden girl was like flown down from Aberdeen, I think, which was just really cool.

So like in terms of like reaching a lot of people that that's definitely done like.

And yeah, no, it was like.
As I've said, like several times like, it felt very welcoming, like, umm, my school did a good job of like advertising it, like literally like I think a couple of days after they got the e-mail through, like being like over doing this thing like it was sent out to like students. So it'd be interested.

Which was just really nice like.
It. Yeah. No, I think it was in terms of like advertising it and like making it.

Yeah. In terms of like advertising it and like.

Knowing who it's for, what's available, what it does like. Everything was done really well. I knew what I was like signing up for from the Get go, which was really nice.

Perfect. Anything else that you want to say before we close the interview?

Don't think so. I think I've done a lot of talking.

It's all super useful. Thank you.