

CHLOE'S CHRONICLES ... PART 3

For those of you who have prayed for Chloe and her family all through her first year in Saker, we cannot say thank you enough. The year was smooth and very eventful in the most positive of ways. Our carat very clearly explained to her British family she was returning without a doubt. But before she returned to face form two and embrace the challenges ahead – this is what she had to say...

A VIRGIN VOYAGE I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

When my mum talked about finding the right secondary school for me- one with a boarding house- I was excited, although I didn't know what to expect. It sounded like one of my environmental class trips to Normandy, where we learn during the day but spend long hours chatting and eating biscuits and chocolates at night, best friends in the same dorms (max 5-8 in number), and food is buffet style. But after listening to several stories about Saker I quickly realized this was not the case.

Summer 2014 passed by very quickly, during which time I learnt a few survival skills: Bucket showers, speed-eating, making up my bed, and highlighting important points from long texts etc. Feeling ready for my first voyage, I was dropped at Saker. The first days were very hard: No night lamp, no soft toys, no familiar faces. I cried a lot, not because it was a horrible place to be, but because it seemed so far, far away from home and I missed my family.

After a couple of weeks, though, I started to get used to the routine: Strict time keeping, the bland tea (which I found a way around: I just add lots of milk and sugar), bread every morning (I started taking my own cereal), and several other meals which everyone seemed to adjust to their taste by adding Maggi sauce or pepper. I started doing the same and very quickly the so-so food became OK.

The teachers are very kind, they don't shout much unless one is naughty, and they answer questions kindly regardless of how stupid the question may sound. But best of all are the dormitory times: Stories, snacks, gossip, and so on. Truly there is a lot of laughter in the air. I like my spare time in the dorms.

If you ask me what I would change, I would say there really is no need for all the fuss during "handover." My mum tells me it is school life and that I will probably do the same when I am a senior student. But I doubt it! The most difficult experience when I first started was coping with the sanitary facilities, and this is still my nightmare. The toilets never stay clean and the shower rooms are overcrowded with the mad morning rush.

Overall, there are more positives than negatives. I have made many friends, I have learned much from the many stories I have been told, the teachers are friendly, and I have improved in my organizational and time keeping skills, so I think I am almost independent LOL!

While I have had a fantastic summer 2015- in France, England, Wales, and Canada- many times I have missed the school/boarding life and my friend Oprah, but I am certain that when I return to face Form Two, I will miss my family! Especially my brother, Benjamin.

By Chloe McGough, Saker Baptist College