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Learning languages starts to become more of a privilege than an assignment as you grow older and begin to notice the benefits you gain from it, and the opportunities you experience because of it.

I was fortunate enough to be able to experience this while studying Arabic at Peace School where they offered the Multilingual digital story telling project (MDST) which was one the most beneficial things I have ever done for myself. I don't think I would have been able to be where I am, studying law at SOAS, if I had not maintained participation in the MDST project, and excelled in it. I was praised for my commitment in attending all the events MDST offered, regardless of the fact it was alongside my high school studies, and felt the real benefits of being able to experience such events. Not all students are given that privilege.

I believe it was thanks to this opportunity I was able to become a law student.

One of the most gratifying experiences for me was when I delivered a speech in the Houses of Parliament to the then shadow immigration minister, Afzal Khan. It was a particularly proud moment in my life. My classmates and I were invited by Bernardette Holmes, the director of Speak To The Future (the

National Campaign for Languages). I addressed the room on the lack of language teaching in the education system and the impact on young people. Speaking on a campaigning issue, and in the Houses of Parliament, gave me a real sense of how the law works and gave me the motivation to explore further the possibility of pursuing a future career in law. Having my questions put to the prime minister regarding the lack of language teaching in schools, and its implications, was a hugely gratifying moment.

I have explored my appreciation for languages and debate in numerous ways. Invited again by Bernardette Holmes, I gave a speech at The Language Show emphasising the equality and uniqueness of all languages, and suggesting that, although English has become the international language, every language should be valued and appreciated in the same way. It was a thrill to meet Bernardette, a national figure, who applauded my speech and my determination to bring about change in the educational system.

We made a documentary video about bullying thanks to working with Goldsmiths University on a digital storytelling course. This was one of the most thrilling acting and teamwork experiences, but also one of the most difficult! It provided a useful practical understanding of how so many different disciplines interact to produce the finished product. Although I struggled a lot with time management while doing the MDST course at the same time as my GCSEs in high school, the benefits I received made it all worthwhile.

one of the most important lessons I could have learned from the MDST course, is that every language is significant, distinctive, and different for a purpose. We were all created to speak differently and communicate in our own unique way, which makes us stand out. No language is more significant than any other since each one is equally distinct and beautiful, and everyone should be able to communicate with the same equality and respect no matter where they are in the globe.