



A letter to my younger self

Aminah Hussain

Dear Aminah,

As you come to the end of Year 9 and have to decide which options to follow into Key Stage 4, I just wanted to offer you some words of encouragement. I remember being in your shoes, having to make the same decisions. I remember the unwavering support Khalid and Khadija, my parents, gave to me so I would encourage you to speak to your parents as they will give you great advice. I remember doubting myself at your age, and that can hold you back, so try not to doubt yourself and push yourself a little bit more to help you achieve your goals. I also had really loyal friends at your age, so do make time to talk honestly with them as they will help guide you in the right direction.

My advice to you would be the following:

- Try everything you are offered at school as there are great opportunities for growth, , even if it is daunting. Even if it doesn't seem like the right thing, you don't know until you say yes to the opportunity that it's not for you. Then you know you've tried.
- Ask for help from teachers from day one; don't wait until it's too late.
- Believe in yourself. You are capable of more than what you can realise you can do. You've got to have that belief. Whatever it is that you want to achieve, you can do. It might take you longer, but if you work hard, you will get there, so have that belief.

Don't change who you are to fit in with the people that are around you. You need to be the role model that you wish you could see, and you need to be that person from day one. So if you have a vision of that person that you want to be, you've got to be that person.

