

30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Rotary family,

Hello from England!! Goodness what a whirlwind the past few weeks have been! To be honest, I still have to remind myself that this is not a dream – I am actually in London, I have actually fully unpacked, I actually have a student ID from the London School of Economics. What an incredible blessing.

The transition was busy, but I cannot say it was hard. I am so fortunate to have so many family friends in London that I did not have to do a single thing alone. My mother also came with me! In the middle of it all, we found some moments to relive our older holidays with tea and scones at Fortum and Masons, and a walk around Hyde Park! Now, I feel more or less settled and working on finding a real swing of things – the course schedule has been finalized, I am looking for a part time job, scouting some extracurricular activities, poking old and new friends for chats and some exploring, finding the local gym.

The Welcome Week events at LSE were more than I imagined – everyone has been so kind and warm and welcoming. I must be honest and admit that there were a few overwhelming feelings – all positive though! Friends, I want to do everything! I want to take ALL the courses, and attend ALL the events, and meet ALL the people, and read ALL the research papers, and comb through ALL the shelves in the libraries, and... I figure you understand the sentiment. All of this while I want to see all my friends, and visit all the museums (and coffee shops and book stores and pubs and restaurants), and travel the country, and...

Yes, I know I need to take a few deep breaths. Many people have mentioned “prioritizing,” and “taking advantage of the year,” and though I have heard those terms many times in the past, I am not quite sure what they operationally mean to me in this context – perhaps this is where I need to start. Any words of advice and wisdom would be greatly appreciated!

I also was so fortunate to get to have a coffee with my Rotary host family here! My host club is the Rotary Club of Harrow and the Hemmings have been so kind to take me on. They are such wonderful people, and I am not sure I can convey just how grateful I am. I also made it to a club meeting this week – they host them in a gorgeous (almost like a movie set) golf course in the north western part of the city. We had a wonderful meal together and they allowed me time to introduce myself. They were so warm, already treating me like family!

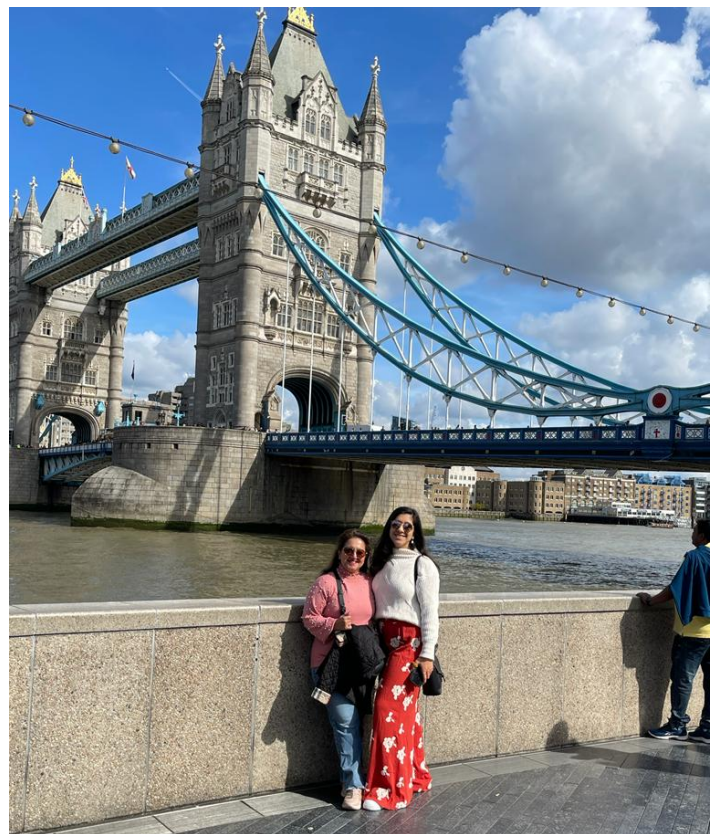
I hope you all are doing splendidly! I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done to make this dream come true. I promise to make the most of this opportunity and do everything I possibly can to make you proud.

With the most love,  
Aanchal

PS. Please enjoy some photos →



With some new friends at the LSE, after our first day of lectures!



Mum and I enjoying the lovely weather!



The upside down globe in the middle of LSE campus is quite iconic – I imagine there will be many more photos in front of it!

We had a wonderful Department of Health Policy lunch event this past week. I know, there are the same people in many of the photos – I think I am finding my core support system!







This is a small corner in my new flat (my new home!) – it is where I enjoy my morning tea, and where I write to you from! Isn't it just lovely??



Here is the view from the living room at sunset!



These are the Hemmings – my host family at the Rotary Club of Harrow. They are delightful and have been so incredibly kind to me in this short time. I am looking forward to hosting them in my flat for a meal sometime soon!