

BRYANSTON

Student: **Aurelia Schmiegelow**
Purbeck House
Tutor: Graham Scott

Autumn 2019 A3 Report

Tutor Report

Mr Graham Scott

Aurelia has had an outstanding first term. She arrived with strong IGCSE grades and got into the swing of IB work from the very beginning. She is highly organised, motivated, diligent, and very hardworking. Her chart marks have been excellent with some stand-out grades and comments. Well done on gaining academic commendations in Maths and Physics. She is engaged in academic scholars' society, music lessons and ensembles, Junior Guildhall, bouldering, soccer, dance classes... the list goes on! She is currently thinking about options for the Duke of Edinburgh award. Her current most likely plan is to post-apply for university: Oxford, Ivy League, possibly Cambridge. She is a delight to tutor and I congratulate her on a super first term at Bryanston.

Next term, she is due to perform the Beethoven 'Emperor' concerto slow movement with orchestra in the spring concert and there will be the dance show too. Her IB CAS project may involve Nepal and her upcoming trip there.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for 2020.



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Spring 2020 A3 Report

Biology Set: Blh

Mrs Anne Harwood

Aurelia has completed class work and assignments efficiently and used correction periods effectively to clarify her knowledge. Her independent learning skills are very well developed, and she makes effective use of the course materials to practise new knowledge so that she is able to perform well in tests. Practical work this term has included an investigation into the sensitivity of E. Coli to antibiotics using aseptic techniques and Aurelia was eventually able to achieve satisfactory results after some misunderstanding of the written instructions. Her early departure for the Easter break will require high levels of self-motivation and good communication skills to ensure that her learning is not adversely affected. The end of year exam will help to inform a predicted grade for university applications: reviewing feedback from past tests and assignments to target weaker areas first for revision may help Aurelia to perform as well as she can.

English Set: ENs

Mrs Emily Weatherby

Mature, self-possessed and reliable, Aurelia is an absolute star in English! She readily contributes ideas and opinions to lessons, reads aloud well, settles down to work independently and as part of a group, and is able to write top-drawer critical analysis that is well-structured, detailed and laser-sharp. Hardworking and ambitious as a student, she also has a kind and unassuming manner and a good sense of humour, and she seems to have her feet on the ground, in spite of her demanding schedule. She began the term with an excellent presentation on the theme of history in 'The History Boys'; subsequently she has responded well to 'Othello' and has made a start on 'Antigone', with a view to her Individual Oral exam next term in which she will compare two extracts linked by a global issue, such as race or gender. Aurelia is evidently capable of academic achievement at the highest level, and it is a joy to teach her.



History Set: **HIs**

Mrs Arabella de Steiger Khandwala

Aurelia continues to move from strength to strength. This term has seen us begin the study of Mao and Mussolini for the World History topic on Authoritarian States, and so far she has coped well with the transition to Paper 2 essay writing. Her diligence and attention to detail is excellent, and she has produced some very well evidenced planning tables which will prove invaluable for essays and revision in the summer and next year. Aurelia's use of critical analysis and historical perspectives in her writing is progressing all the time, but she does struggle to be selective with the evidence. Challenging herself to write within the exam time frame will undoubtedly help here, as will writing multiple essay plans to broaden her understanding of the different question types. In the last week of term we will be tackling coursework -at the time of writing, Aurelia had already left for the holidays, but I am sure she will make a good start remotely. Another great term Aurelia, well done.

Mathematics Set: **MA AAh**

Miss Katie Lorek

Aurelia has continued to impress this term. We have completed the core sections of the course now, and moved on to the topics which really set higher level apart from standard level, and we are pleased to report that Aurelia has risen to the challenge magnificently. Her assignments are generally completed to an excellent standard, and she asks thoughtful questions in class that suggest a deep level of understanding of all topics covered. In a recent class test, Aurelia achieved very well but must make sure to catch up on work she missed due to absence, especially as the A3 exams are not too far away now and we know she is aiming for the top grades.

Physics Set: **PHh**

Dr Michael Kearney

Aurelia has continued to excel in her physics work. She clearly gets tired and occasionally a little distracted given the time pressures she faces and it appears some late night sessions are used to produce work. The work she produces is consistently excellent and the effort put in exemplary. She has found a few topics to challenge her conceptually and mathematically; keeping up with some subtleties and idiosyncrasies of the IB course have tripped her up a few times, but far fewer times than the vast majority of students in her position. She is quick to pick up new ideas and has that all important curiosity and sense of excitement about adding to her knowledge, especially with some practical work and demonstrations. We have worked quickly to ensure her time away from Bryanston does not mean we fall behind the required pace but so far she is thriving in the demanding environment I engender, challenging her to think and follow logical leads to new discoveries.



Spanish Set: SPh

Miss Flavia Mateo Sanz

It is obvious from her work in class and her assignments that Aurelia is a very talented linguist. She is always eager to learn new and complex grammatical structures which she understands with ease. Her vocabulary is varied and she will always ask for new words, which she will aim to introduce into her production. She can, however, lose concentration when marking exercises in class, especially grammar, which then becomes obvious when completing her assignments. She should make sure to pay attention to corrections and to write it all down in her notes. Well done on another good term, Aurelia, and have a good Easter holiday.

Theory of Knowledge Set: ToK2

Dr Michael Kearney

Aurelia is very quiet in the ToK classes and will rarely contribute to discussions. She is stronger verbally if she has time to process and consider rather than the more spontaneous comment or query. I am not particularly worried by this, but I would like her to test her thinking more often if possible. In the occasional written tasks I have set she has generated very detailed work and notes. Answering a knowledge question on the arts she included an extraordinarily broad set of examples and ideas either researched with care or from her extensive background knowledge. She could excel in the coursework that we start next term but she must ensure the key mantra of ToK ('how we know rather than what we know") is not forgotten and concepts from our notes and discussions are used.

Activity Report: Running

Mr Carlos Blanco

Aurelia is a talented runner and she has made some good progress this term. In training she always tries hard and often runs at the front of the group. Unfortunately due to an injury, she has been unable to attend our time trials and races this season, which has been a real shame as she would definitely be in the A team. I hope that she will overcome her problem and that she joins us for cross-country running again next year!

Activity Report: Cello

Ms Fiona Murphy

Aurelia has worked with great commitment and enthusiasm in her lessons and I have been pleased with her progress. Her technical skills have developed well, particularly her tone production. She has been learning a variety of grade 7 standard repertoire and the scales and arpeggios for this level. Aurelia has also been working at some advanced bowing exercises. She has been a highly valued member of the orchestras.



Activity Report: Piano

Mr Graham Scott

It has been a pleasure to become Aurelia's 'Bryanston' (as opposed to Guildhall) piano teacher. In the earlier weeks, we focused on her competition repertoire, specifically the Beethoven sonata movement and to a lesser extent, the Liszt. She worked hard on the finer details and her technique is developing well too. More recently, our attention has turned to the 'Emperor' concerto movement - this has progressed very well indeed and Aurelia has created some lovely colours here. We have also worked a little on the Mendelssohn piano part for the chamber music piece, which at the time of writing is getting there. I remain impressed by her work ethic. A very good term.

Activity Report: Accompanying

Mr Xavier Iles

I have really enjoyed my accompaniment sessions with Aurelia. She is such a musical girl and her cello playing has come on significantly this term. She should be proud of the way in which she played in the string competition. Despite the slip towards the end, her playing was expressive, interesting and really gained her audience's attention.

Obviously her first instrument is the piano and her work on the Beethoven Concerto has been very impressive. Again, it is her musicality that stands out. She has a lovely touch and an ability to shape a musical phrase. At the time of writing, Aurelia is in Germany and I very much hope the concert goes ahead and that she is able to perform.



Tutor Report

Mr Graham Scott

Aurelia continues to impress with her academic outcomes, organisation and engagement with her learning. Her eCharts have been in great shape again, with lots of high marks and very positive feedback from teachers. With 43 points predicted at this stage for IB, I have no doubt that she is capable of reaching, or indeed exceeding, this level.

In her music, I have enjoyed working with her on the Beethoven concerto movement. She did very well in her music competition too in Germany and I am sorry that the next round was cancelled for public health reasons. She also played very musically in the Bryanston String competition, being commended in her class. We live in challenging times, and as I write, Aurelia is working remotely via Teams and email contact with teachers. She has clear ideas about life beyond school and I will be interested to see these unfold, both in terms of Cambridge/Oxford and the Ivy League. We have discussed what extra work she will need to do for these to strengthen her applications and I have no doubt that she will work very hard in preparation. A summer course (travel bans permitting) is on the cards for this summer in the USA.

She was disappointed that injury prevented her taking part in the dance show. For loading reasons, dance lessons have now stopped, as has Junior Guildhall. These are pragmatic and sensible steps to take, as her IB demands increase - ToK coursework and the extended essay being examples of this. Running and bouldering complete a very varied programme.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy Easter.

HsM Report

Mrs Olivia Tory

Aurelia is quite possibly the busiest student in the School and reading her report and reflections in her Spring Term review, I often wonder how she has time to fit everything in. She can often be found working late in her dorm and whilst she has been predicted incredible grades for the IB, it is important that she looks after her health with adequate quality sleep. Aurelia seems to enjoy all of her music and sporting commitments and achieved success with the bouldering championships earlier in the term. I hope she is able to find ways to maintain her fitness whilst she is away from school.

Aurelia is to be congratulated on her music achievements this term. It would have been lovely to see her perform at the Christchurch concert but I do believe she will benefit from some time to rest and rejuvenate, with a little work in there as well to help her hit the ground running again next term.



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Summer 2020 A3 Report

Biology Set: Blh

Mrs Anne Harwood

Aurelia began the term with an outstanding mark of 96% in an assessment on all work covered this year: a true reflection of her impressive commitment to her studies. It was always going to be a challenge to carry out a practical Internal Assessment from home, but not one to take the easy option, Aurelia showed creativity and perseverance – and considerable investment - in overcoming problems that were thrown up in her Venus Fly Trap investigation. Technical issues have plagued us this term, making communication difficult at times, and this, combined with Aurelia's illness, has not made for the easiest of conditions in which to engage in lessons, but Aurelia has tried her best to not let circumstances deter her. At the time of writing, she is preparing to submit her IA; it is essential that any feedback is used over the summer break to make any alterations required prior to the start of the Autumn Term, after which no further feedback will be permitted.

English Set: ENs

Mrs Emily Weatherby

Aurelia has met and overcome the challenges of remote learning with apparent ease. Although she has been in a different timezone, she has attended lessons and kept up well with the assignment schedule. As much of this term was spent preparing for the Individual Oral Commentaries, it was a pleasure to discover that she speaks as well as she writes. Her finished commentary, on hierarchies of power in *Antigone* and *Othello*, was detailed and well-argued, and made pertinent connections between the texts and the global issue. Another excellent term for Aurelia, and I look forward to seeing her continue on her starry path in September!



Extended Essay Set: **EE**

Mrs Arabella de Steiger Khandwala

RMDH (EE in Physics): I was happy to supervise Aurelia especially given the interesting subject matter she has chosen regarding quantum levitation. We didn't actually get to meet last term, due to the obvious disruption and until a few weeks ago I hadn't had much response to communications, which was a little worrying since as soon as pupils slip with deadlines things can get very tricky for them and it gets harder for them to do themselves justice. However, I must say I have been very impressed with how much thought Aurelia has put into the EE so far and she has caught up in style. As of the time of writing this, she needed to write her reflections following the first reflection session, so her progress is currently on track. I have full confidence that she will have made good use of the specific time allotted to her in week 9 of this term. A completed Essay Plan is due for upload by the end of term, and the full EE draft by Week 1 of the autumn.

History Set: **HIs**

Mrs Arabella de Steiger Khandwala

Despite some fairly significant challenges in connectivity during this strange term of virtual teaching, Aurelia has managed to keep on track. She was a little behind in her IA on the SACP and MK coming into the term, but quickly recovered the position to produce an incredibly well researched draft. Granted, it was more than 1000 words over the word limit, but I am hopeful that she can rectify this fairly simply before the end of term deadline! Aurelia also produced a cracking essay on Mao and Mussolini's policies on women (14/15), which gave me great encouragement about her ability to write well under time pressure. Practice will make perfect, but it bodes well for her achieving the top levels she is capable of next year! Most recently in class, we have been looking at the familiar topic of Weimar Germany which I know Aurelia studied at IGCSE. I hope that from this solid base knowledge, she can now deepen her understanding by tackling the varying historical perspectives. Well done!

Mathematics Set: **MA AAh**

Mr Anwar Tarafder

Aurelia has worked impressively throughout this most difficult of terms. We have managed to maintain a good pace through the course even with reduced contact time. Aurelia has made good use of correction periods on the rare occasions when she has struggled with a question. The main topic covered this term has been Vectors and Aurelia has shown a good understanding of this in the work that she has submitted. It has been a pleasure to teach Aurelia throughout this year and I look forward to continuing to do so in September.



Mathematics Set: **MA AAh**

Dr Tom Bourne

Despite her physical distance from Bryanston this term, Aurelia has engaged thoroughly with the Guided Learning Programme in mathematics. In live lessons she has asked mature and thoughtful questions in order to appreciate and understand the mathematics that she is studying. She always completes her assignment work to a high standard and her recent work on proof by induction has been presented in the clear and concise manner that is required. Aurelia is always prepared to tackle the meatiest question in an exercise set and this enjoyment of the challenges that mathematics presents is one of the driving factors in her level of attainment to date. It has been a pleasure to teach you from afar this term and I look forward to meeting you in person come September.

Physics Set: **PHh**

Dr Michael Kearney

Aurelia has maintained her very high standards through this unique term. Her commitment to her studies is highly commendable and her interest in the subject just seems to grow. It is a huge pleasure to teach her and share our exploration of some of the harder and more esoteric topics of quantum mechanics this term. She is thoughtful and fully engaged, producing excellent assignment work each and every week. Her end of year exam was taken shortly before I am writing this report and it was of a very high standard with a handful of marks dropped for a lack of detail or precision in writing but the physics ideas were clearly well understood and the calculations handled impressively. We still have a lot of material to cover and have lost some time last term and this, due to absence and illness, so the pace will remain high. A practical project is also part of the mix next term and some thought about that would be a good idea over the summer break.

Spanish Set: **SPh**

Mr Carlos Blanco

Aurelia has continued to work hard this term both in her lessons and her assignments. She has been engaging and has made the most of every opportunity to participate and speak in Spanish. She has also completed work in Class Notebook to a high standard. Outside of lessons, she has continued to work as hard as usual and I was particularly impressed by a video that she created on the characteristics of Merengue. Aurelia now needs to focus on how to include complex language and idiomatic expressions when doing the speaking and the writing tasks of the exam. She has made excellent progress on the study of the literary text (Como agua para chocolate). Well done on a great term, Aurelia!



Theory of Knowledge Set: ToK2

Dr Michael Kearney

We have finished working through the course material and in the second half of the term Marlene paired up with Aurelia to research and write the first of two coursework elements, the presentation. A shift of emphasis to more written work followed the closing of the school. Aurelia's work on some history questions was extensive and her arguments well presented. Unfortunately she did not submit her answer to a maths knowledge question. She has got to grips with the idea of writing about knowledge itself rather than specific examples and that is a good skill to have at this stage. Aurelia and her partner have used media responses to the Black Lives Matter movement as the start of their presentation. This has been effectively developed into a broad knowledge question and there is potential for a lot of good development of ideas. They should be returning to school in September with the presentation pretty much ready to go.

Activity Report: Cello

Ms Fiona Murphy

Aurelia has worked with great commitment and enthusiasm in her remote cello lessons. She has been studying repertoire from the grade 8 list and I have been pleased with her progress. As well as her pieces Aurelia has been learning the scales and arpeggios for this level and working at technical exercises with a particular focus on bow control. The main area for Aurelia to develop in her practice in the summer holidays is her confidence playing in the higher registers. She is playing far more accurately in thumb position but this still needs strengthening.

Activity Report: Piano

Mr Graham Scott

Aurelia has done some very good work on the Rachmaninov Prelude in C sharp minor, and as I write, she is in the process of recording it for the next online concert. She has worked well on the details and technical aspects too. Her Beethoven 'Andante' is also progressing and she will be able to focus more time on this soon. That is a good summer project. There is another Rachmaninov Prelude waiting to be started, so plenty of music to work on in the holidays. She is focused in lessons and her technique is building positively. Well done this year.



Activity Report: Accompanying

Mr Xavier Iles

I have enjoyed our accompaniment sessions this term, even though we have missed a few for various reasons. Aurelia is working hard on the Bloch piece. There are some tricky moments in it and, as she is fully aware, she needs to work to get her intonation more secure. We have discussed various ways of practising effectively and I have told her my favourite phrase "practice makes permanent". She must always think before she starts playing and go at whatever speed she needs to, and in small enough chunks, to not make mistakes. She find cello harder than piano, but she has a great deal of potential. Stick at it!

She is a very conscientious pupil and I look forward to working with her again next term.

Tutor Report

Mr Graham Scott

Aurelia is academically in a strong position having gained all 7 predictions for IB. This a great achievement. She has been very busy this term, especially with Internal Assessments and her Extended Essay. Despite some IT issues, she has pushed-on and adapted to the remote nature of this term - I think she has coped well with the 'Guided Learning Programme'. This summer, she can continue to research university options and write her personal statement. I hope she enjoys her online science course this summer too. I enjoyed her Rachmaninoff 'Prelude' in the streamed concert and she gained a special award for her engagement with the Strings Club and project.

These are a very fine set of reports indeed and speak of Aurelia's hard work, diligence, commitment, and maturity. I hope that she can have a proper break over the summer before opening her books once more. Well done this term and this year.

