

## Chapel Talk by Alexia Byusa

Good morning everyone,

Since the day Mr. Hungerford asked me to talk about something that has changed my life, I decided to talk about Westover.

From the day I received my acceptance letter to Westover, I was excited, but at the same time, I was sad to leave home and everything else I was familiar with, like waking up every morning and wearing my school uniform, that was pretty hideous to some people, but to me, it was normal. Being forced to do homework, and of course being with my family, friends, and not to mention the wonderful weather. However, when I first landed in Boston, I thought Boston was amazing! The city had large buildings, huge malls, pretty much what I saw in the movies, but this of course was all before I got to New York. Naturally, I expected Middlebury to be the same, but unfortunately, as I was driving into Middlebury, all I saw were trees! I thought that being in an all girls school would be bad enough, but I was wondering how I would survive living in a place surrounded by trees! But Westover was not as bad as I thought after all. As time went by, I found the community very welcoming and I slowly began to become a part of Westover. I learned how to manage my time with the work overload that I never had before, suddenly found myself doing homework without being forced to, I noticed that I became more independent by solving out my problems individually, instead of blabbing all my problems to my mother or putting out all my anger to my sisters (which I actually miss doing), and by the way, I'm almost getting used to people saying "OMG, you look so much like your sister!", doing my laundry, and other things as well...

So I can say with confidence that my life has changed for the better, and in this wonderful place, there is much in store for me. There will be more life changing experiences that I gladly anticipate. So I thank you all for helping me integrate.