I wasn't the most disciplined pupil eight years ago, to be honest. All I cared about was seeking validation from others and finding happiness in their opinions, even though I never really took charge of my own satisfaction. I was immature and ignorant when it came to understanding the importance of determination and setting goals. I actually kinda enjoyed messing up my priorities because I thought I could learn from it. But as I grew older, I realized how empty it is to live for other people's approval. That's when I decided to focus on myself first.

Let me take you back about six years ago when my life took a major turn. I found myself in a new school called Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School in Lagos. Let me tell you, that place was all about competition and ambition. It seemed like everyone around me was racing to be recognized and succeed, both academically and socially. But amidst all the uncertainty, something unexpected happened during a special event called prize-giving day.

I remember watching the top science student stand up and share her story of perseverance and sacrifice. Something clicked inside me. Her unwavering determination in the face of challenges really struck a chord and ignited a fire of inspiration within me. It was in that moment that I realized I shouldn't try to be like someone else, but rather pursue my own passions and dreams.

From her example, I learned the importance of determination – the unwavering resolve to chase after my goals with grit and perseverance. Her story became my guiding light, showing me the path to self-discovery and personal growth. With newfound clarity and purpose, I embarked on a journey of exploration and self-realization, fueled by the same determination that had led her to success.

Fast forward three years, and my life was completely changing. New buildings, new uniforms, and new teachers greeted me as I entered a new chapter of my academic journey. The subjects became more challenging, requiring a higher level of understanding and dedication. Balancing my studies with social interactions became a top priority as I navigated this transitional phase of my life.

During this transformative period, I learned some valuable lessons in time management, discipline, and resilience. Each day presented its own set of challenges, forcing me to adapt and prioritize my responsibilities with precision and efficiency. I also learned the importance of tolerance and acceptance through interactions with people from different backgrounds and perspectives.

Above all, I came to appreciate the crucial role of teamwork and leadership in achieving collective goals. Collaborating with my peers on assignments and projects created a sense of camaraderie and mutual support. Taking on leadership roles also helped me develop the ability to inspire, motivate, and guide others toward success. These experiences not only helped me grow academically but also personally, laying a solid foundation for my future endeavors.

Nowadays, the skills I've developed over the years have become an integral part of who I am. They've shaped me into a confident and influential person for those who strive for excellence. These abilities, honed through experience, have been particularly valuable in my role as the head girl. They allow me to collaborate effectively with both colleagues and peers, fostering an environment of unity and productivity where everyone's input is valued and respected.