

## **Writing Your Personal Statement**

Your statement should have no more than 47 lines or 4000 characters.

### **A good personal statement should:**

- Discuss your choice of course
- Show you have the skills suited to university life
- Show you are somebody who will benefit from life at university
- Show that you are an interesting personality

### **Other tips:**

- Have a strong opening sentence
- End your statement as strongly as you started it
- Use creative language
- Limit the number of times you start a sentence with 'I'.

### **Explain your course choice**

- Why this course? Explain why it is a subject that you enjoy.
- What specific skills have you gained from your studies and experiences that will be useful for your course choice?
- Why did you study the A-level subjects that you have?
- Be careful if you are applying for a variety of courses

### **Explain your career plans**

- What do you want to do?
- Is this linked to the course choice?

### **Include personal information**

- Part time job/voluntary/work experience
- Contribution to school/wider community
- Leadership or positions of responsibility
- What you do in your spare time?
- Summer schools/mentoring activities
- DofE Award Scheme
- Balance of study/work/leisure

### **Show that you have the skills suited to university life**

It is useful to show an admissions tutor that you have what it takes to survive the university experience. Probably without realising, you have gained skills through your studies and in your spare time:-

- You may be the Sixth Form Council representative or captain of a team, or volunteer weekly in lower school classes – this evidence shows responsibility and commitment

- You may work part-time – being punctual, balancing a part-time job with your studies and social life shows excellent time management skills. Working part-time develops communication skills through working with different colleagues and customers. The role may be a position of trust, cash handling or key-holder; being able to work with minimum supervision and use initiative. What other activities do you do that help you to gain these skills?

#### **Show examples of your personality**

- Few people are incredibly outgoing, have travelled the world twice over, been captain of a sports team and have completed a period of work experience in exactly the area suited to their chosen degree.
- Be imaginative but honest about the things which you have experienced and how your interests or responsibilities may set you apart from other students. Try to be specific by providing details or examples.
- Think about what you have already achieved and experienced. The admissions tutor will see what kind of person you are and how you will fit in at university.
  - Are you involved in any team sports? How often do you train? Are you captain? Would you like to continue this at university? If so, have you already looked into this?
  - Are you a volunteer for a charity? Do you help in your community? Have you participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award? Have you been involved with the Safeguarding Team, Council, Advanced STEM Leaders? Are you a member of a committee?
  - Have you travelled anywhere exciting? How has this influenced you?
  - Do you have any plans for your summer break before university that may be relevant to your chosen course?

## **Use this guide to make your personal statement truly personal**

### **Plagiarism**

Be aware that UCAS has a Plagiarist Detection Service. This ensures that all statements are personally written and not copied from previous applications. Your statement will be checked against a statement library and web sources. Statements showing a potential level of similarity of 10% or greater, will be reviewed by the university and applicants will be notified. The university then makes the decision whether to consider the applicant for the applied course or to reject them.

**To help you get started, follow the instructions below:-**

Now that you have read the opening pages of this booklet, it's time for you to get down to business and start putting pen to paper so...

- Follow the instructions and work through the '**Personal Statement Tutorial**'.
- Review the information detailed on the '**Extracurricular Activities**' page and aim to pursue these, or similar activities, in order to add depth to your personal statement.
- Use the conjunctions on the '**Positive Phrasing**' page when you start to link your sentences together in continuous prose.
- Refer to the wealth of information available within the **50 subject specific personal statements**

**Your aim is to produce a mature, formal essay which is eloquent, flowing and above all else, interesting to read!**

## **THE PERSONAL STATEMENT TUTORIAL**

This section breaks down and explains the personal statement into 5 paragraphs:

- **Introduction**
- **Subject specific information/your interest in the subject**
- **A-levels**
- **Extracurricular activities**
- **Conclusion**

By following the '5 paragraph rule' you will produce an interesting and eloquent personal statement that any admissions tutor would be happy to read. So, let's get started ...

### **1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph – Introduction**

This needs to be a concise but convincing and interesting explanation of your motivation to study your chosen course. The opening has to grab the interest of the admissions tutor so ... after reviewing the points below, complete the boxes on the following page.

- Think about what first triggered your interest in the subject – this could be a book, a museum trip, a documentary, a film, a teacher, an inspirational mentor, a work or life experience etc.
- Develop this line of thought with why this subject is important and why it inspires you.
- Explain what motivates you to study this discipline.
- Talk about why you think this subject is significant to society – perhaps relate it to current affairs or industry.
- Be specific – don't just say you love English or Maths, say why, but never say, 'I have always wanted to study ...' – it's too cheesy and fails to impress admissions tutors!
- Having explained the significance of Physics in your life, go on to say how it's really the module on Astrophysics that really excites you and in what way you hope the degree course will develop your passion further – you will probably need to review the course prospectus for all your chosen universities before you write this.
- If you are planning to open with a quotation – do so with caution! Make sure it directly relates to your course and show that you fully understand the concept of the quote. Ensure it flows neatly into your introductory paragraph.

**What was it that inspired my passion in this subject?**

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**How does my subject relate to society or current affairs, why is this important to me?**

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**What aspect am I really looking forward to studying in more detail? Why?**

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**2nd Paragraph – Subject Specific Information**

- Start by explaining the things you have done outside of school. This will allow you to shine because it is the things you have done in your own time that prove your genuine passion for the subject
- Write down activities you have undertaken in pursuit of a greater understanding of your course – so, give brief details of any trips, books, documentaries, research or experiences you have found inspiring and why.
- Why does this make you more suited to the course – be specific – for example, ‘a family visit to the Somme encouraged a genuine sense of the importance of history and I am now looking forward to studying the early 20<sup>th</sup> century French history module in greater depth’.
- Note down any course related work experience and how the skills you developed and observations you made convinced you this is the course for you.
- Include specific skills like analysis, complex problem-solving, research etc.
- At this point, you should try to demonstrate your independent learning skills and include any wider reading you may have completed or activities you have attended, such as summer schools or taster days.
- If you have a rough idea of a career path then you may wish to write it here. This is much easier for those applying for vocational courses. Do not worry if you have no idea – many people don’t.
- Review the ‘**Extracurricular Activities by Subject**’ page further on in this booklet for ideas.

### **So what have you done that will impress an admissions tutor?**

On the next page is a list of extracurricular activities.

- Tick all that apply to you and any that are specific to the course.
- Make notes on what you have learnt and how it will be useful for your course.
- You are NOT expected to have done everything on the list but try to write down everything think of, no matter how small – it may be useful later.

ACTIVITY	TICK	DESCRIPTION	WHY HAS IT MADE YOU MORE SUITABLE
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Outside reading		<i>Reading the Economist regularly</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Understanding economic concepts</i></li> <li>• <i>Keeping up-to-date with current affairs</i></li> </ul>
Outside reading			
Theatre trips			
Exhibitions			
Work experience			
School clubs			
Clubs outside school			
Voluntary work			
Museum trips			
Historical sites			
Trips abroad			
Community Activities			
Documentaries			
Articles			
Hobbies			
Competitions/Prizes			
Awards			
Workshops			
Summer schools			
Career aspirations			
Other			
Other			
Other			
Other			

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraph – A-levels**

Here you will need to talk about your A-level subjects; how they might relate to each other and the course and which elements you have enjoyed.

For instance, 'A-level Maths has enabled me to develop my logical thinking skills and to use structures when problem solving. This allows me to analyse information thoroughly before arriving at a conclusion, a skill which is easily transferable and which I use to great effect when completing work in History and Psychology'.

or

'A-level study has helped me to develop the important skills of self-motivation, time management and coping with pressure, which are essential for a career in paramedical studies. I am enjoying Biology, particularly the human anatomy side of the subject and have benefitted from studying myocardial infarction and respiratory disease. Both Maths and Geography have provided me with analytical skills to interpret data; to work concisely and problem solve'.

or

'The EPQ will further my understanding by looking at the effects of the present economic climate on our local community. A love of Maths made Economics seem an attractive subject when first electing to study it at A-level and I particularly look forward to the future challenge of using my maths skills to study Econometrics. Studying Psychology gives me an insight into human behaviour, which I believe can help me to predict responses to economic policies. The research, analysis and essay writing are transferable skills that will be of great benefit as an undergraduate.'

**Complete the table below with the three subjects you intend to study at A2:-**

A-level	Skills generated	Units enjoyed and why	What links the subjects together

**4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph – Wider Skills/Extracurricular Activities**



This is where you will evidence your non-academic skills and achievements either in or out of school as well as your interests and hobbies. This allows admissions tutors a glimpse into the kind of person you are and most importantly what skills you have developed through those interests, hobbies, sports, work experience or part-time job. Also include here Duke of Edinburgh, volunteering in school, STEM leaders, school prizes etc.

**Fill in examples of how you've developed key skills. Complete as much as you can.**

<b>KEY SKILL</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
Communication	<i>Helping weekly at Scouts, Sixth Form Council,</i>
Communication	
Commitment	
Time Management	
Teamwork	
Initiative	
Public Speaking	
Sense of Responsibility	
Adaptability	
Organisation	
Leadership	
Research & Analysis	
Other	

**Conclusion – 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph**

Finish the personal statement by drawing everything together and summarising why you want to go to university to study this particular course and why you deserve to be offered a place. For instance:

'I am hardworking, enthusiastic and determined to achieve my ambition to become a primary school teacher. I believe my academic credentials, together with my work experience ensures that I am suited to meet the challenges this course will inevitably deliver and I am excited to embrace all that university life has to offer'.

'I feel certain that this subject will provide me with the intellectual challenge best suited to my personality and ambition of pursuing an academic career in the Social Sciences. The prospect of studying such a stimulating and dynamic course truly excites me'.

'Through experiences in my community and school, I have matured and developed valuable qualities that will help me as I embark upon the rigours of studying at university. I am approaching this course in a thoughtful manner, with a broad understanding of what both the course and the career entails. I am a conscientious, outgoing individual who is keen to learn and test myself. I am confident that I have the determination and ability to succeed and am keen to embrace the opportunities that university life offers',

**In the table below, make some notes for your own closing paragraph:-**

<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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**Your First Draft**

Look back over the tables you have filled in. It might not look it at the moment but this is your first draft! The next step is to select the most important elements to include before you start to turn your notes into continuous prose.

Think about what admissions tutors are looking for:-

- A strong desire to study the course
- The more 'outside of school' evidence the better.
- Good time management, teamwork, communication skills

Highlight the aspects that you think an admissions tutor will be most impressed by and re-write them as **brief bullet points** in the space below:-

1. Introduction

2. Your interest in the subject out of school

3. A-levels and how they link together/to the course

4. Wider Skills/Extracurricular activities

5. Conclusion

**Second Draft**

Now you have completed your bullet pointed draft – convert that into continuous prose in the table below. Use the positive phrases on the next page to help you to link your sentences together. You can then start to transfer it to your computer but remember to back it up on a USB pen!

#### Introduction

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#### Interest in the subject out of school

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#### A-levels

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#### Wider Skills/Extracurricular

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#### Conclusion

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### **POSITIVE PHRASING**

Here are some examples of positive phrases and key words that can help you link sentences together to combine your experiences with skills:-

<b>Furthermore</b>	<b>ENABLE ME</b>	<b>ADDITIONALLY</b>	<i>Of particular interest to me</i>
<i>used my initiative</i>	Not to mention	<b>Thrive under pressure</b>	<i>On reflection</i>
<i>STRENGTHEN</i>	<i>Explore my interests</i>	<b>ENHANCED</b>	
<b>SKILLS I HAVE GAINED THROUGH</b>		<i>An opportunity to...</i>	
<b>PARTICIPATED IN</b>	As well as	I learnt from	<i>Intellectual exploration</i>
<i>Reinforced</i>	<b>This has furthered my</b>	<b>MOREOVER</b>	
<b>COMMITMENT</b>	Taking part in	<b>CREATIVELY</b>	
Using my initiative	<i>I undertook</i>	<b>IN ADDITION</b>	
<b>Responsibility</b>	Efficiently	<i>Hard work</i>	<i>Learnt to prioritise</i>
Benefit	<b>MY PURSUITS</b>	<b>BROADENING MY INTEREST</b>	<i>Thought provoking</i>
<i>I aspire to</i>	More recently	<b>I particularly enjoyed</b>	
<b>My passion for</b>	<b>IMMENSELY REWARDING</b>	<i>I continue to develop</i>	
<b>COMBINING ... WITH ... HAS TAUGHT ME</b>		Through regularly attending	
	This has expanded my knowledge of ...		
<b>I HAVE ACQUIRED SKILLS WHICH ...</b>	<i>Enabled me</i>	<b>CHALLENGING</b>	
<b>I WAS DETERMINED TO ...</b>	<i>Provided me</i>	<b>TO IMPROVE MY</b>	
<b>BESIDES</b>	<b>My involvement with...</b>		
<b>BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION</b>	<i>Highly competitive</i>	<b>Continuing my education</b>	

Do not use any negative phrases in your statement – words like never, hate, useless, mistake, tiring etc. You can turn anything into a positive learning experience!

Choose some of the phrases above and start putting your sentences together, crossing them off as you go along to avoid repetition. Try to think of phrases of your own too for originality.

Once you have put all your experiences into sentences and formulated an introduction then you are well and truly on the way to an excellent personal statement. At this stage do not worry about the character count, the important thing is to write everything down because we are going to proof read and re-draft, and proof read and re-draft until it is perfect!

# Advertising and Marketing

Throughout my entire student life it has been my creative skills that have shaped every activity I have undertaken. It is because of my desire to immerse myself in imaginative and artistic tasks that draws me towards a career in Marketing and Advertising and makes it so appealing. I believe this profession not only suits my ambitious nature but also satisfies my desire to work creatively and continuously develop new ideas suited to future clients.

My two strongest subjects, which I have continued on to A Level are English Language and Art. My passion for these subjects encourages me to strive to attain high grades and work to my maximum potential. They strengthen my suitability for Marketing and Advertising in different ways; English enables me to analyse texts and their effect on the client. I developed my interest in this by studying the topic of 'Language and Gender' as this looks at how the media targets different genders and what techniques create this subtle difference, deepening my understanding of how Advertising targets clients. My presentation skills have also progressed; further improving both confidence and people skills. In year twelve I received a school award for my work in English as well as a Head of Year award for continual hard work throughout year eleven. By studying Art I have been able to develop my creativity, meet and work with difficult deadlines and also learn to juggle the heavy work load as well as the stress that this can bring. Each of these skills can be attributed to the climate that I would be working under in a Marketing/ Advertising position. Biology A Level and Maths AS have enabled me to look at projects analytically and in a numerical, practical way as well as simply applying creative ideas. This adds a further dimension to my academic capabilities. I regularly take part in volunteering and organising work for charities both in school and out as well as being asked to use my skills to create logos, artwork and other ideas towards such events. An example of this is my work towards an in-school event for a local hospice where I created various promotional designs such as tickets, flyers and stage designs; this permitted me to work to a specific brief and I enjoyed overcoming the challenge independently. Other artwork I have completed over my time at school include yearbook graphics and prom invitations, as I enjoy this side so much I feel that the Advertising and Marketing industry is a good place for my skills to flourish. I have been involved with charity work which included organising group activities to raise money for Cancer Research - for which I and a few other students received the Flame of Hope award for. I have also volunteered for St Luke's Hospice, both of which help me improve organisational skills as well as my ability to communicate well with others. Working as a waitress and a Peer Mentor increased these skills further as both need to have a certain formality which could mimic the relationship I would have with a client. I was chosen to mentor both year sevens as they settle into high school and year elevens to help deal with stress in the run up to exams, I feel that this developed my ability to adapt depending on the client's needs and I managed to develop a relationship with them where I could trust my decisions and the advice I gave them. During October half term I will be involved in work experience in NRL and looking at how marketing is used within a large business. Overall I feel I am a well-rounded and hard-working student but my creativity and innovative personality gives me a thirst for new and exciting ideas and challenges, setting me apart from others of similar academic profiles and offering me the opportunity to excel in the world of Marketing and Advertising.

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# Aerospace Engineering

December 17, 1903, an illustrious day in aviation history when the Wright Brothers made the first recorded flight. They were the first true Aeronautical Engineers, who showed us how to scientifically analyse failure and previous experiments in the pursuit of engineering advancement, inspiring people like myself to pursue a career in Aeronautical Engineering. Yet, however advanced current technology is, there are always problems to be solved and ground-breaking solutions to be discovered. My goal is to be part of this engineering expedition of discovery.

Complex global manufacturing requires multi-skilled engineers to work within the challenging ever-changing systems of the aeronautical engineering sectors, and it was whilst undertaking the process of achieving my Advanced STEM Leader's Award that I fully appreciated the importance of a successful business. During an interview with Mr Tom Crotty of INEOS, I realised how vital a supply of graduate engineers with fresh, innovative minds is to a company of such status. My work placement at Woodford Engineering Consultancy, a contractor for Airbus, was particularly insightful as I was shown the details of their work and current projects, including how to overcome ice problems in fuel systems in aircraft. I was fascinated by their depth of knowledge and how they applied their engineering expertise to this issue and was particularly struck by the fact that icing of a sensor on an Air France Airbus-330 caused a fatal accident in 2009. Seeing the engineers tackle such problems has inspired me to embark on an Aerospace Engineering career. Further in my exploration of the aerospace industry, I visited the Airbus wing manufacturing facility in Broughton where I witnessed the technological complexity involved in producing the A380 wings. This is the culmination of engineering expertise becoming a reality. These experiences have stimulated me to learn more, and I have read 'Engineering: a very short introduction' which has opened my mind to interesting concepts and shown me how big the spectrum of engineering physics is; from electromagnetism to even heat playing a part. I am also a student member of the Royal Aeronautical Society, allowing me access to the monthly online magazine 'AEROSPACE' keeping me updated with the aerospace community and advancements within the industry.

Since commencing A-Level Physics, I have been captivated by the course; answering questions such as how gravity maintains a satellite in centripetal motion and what forces are experienced by a space shuttle due to gravity. In the same way, Maths has complemented my knowledge of engineering through the Mechanics module. As well as this I have enjoyed the challenges of topics such as Trigonometry; particularly rewarding is the sense of achievement gained after working through lengthy mathematical problems and arriving at correct solutions. Physics and Maths interlink frequently, allowing me to understand new concepts and ideas. Biology studies have shown me how the laws of Physics apply to all life systems and how they are required for life to be maintained.

During the three years I spent in the Army Cadet Force, I rose to the rank of Corporal, after proving my skills as a cadet and showing potential for leadership through activities such as directing drill parades, orienteering exercises and instructing younger cadets in weapons handling. These leadership qualities were further demonstrated during my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award where I worked hard to keep team morale high. Additionally, I run a weekly 5-a-side football team and enjoy keeping fit at the gym.

From my experiences at Sixth Form, I feel my well-rounded, outgoing personality will allow me to excel as an undergraduate at university and provide me with a chance to contribute positively within the engineering field. Embarking on an Aerospace Engineering degree course will be the first step to a rewarding career.

# Agriculture

With the World's population set to reach an estimated 9 billion by 2050, there has never been a more compelling time to enter the agricultural industry. Farming faces challenges on a global scale with increased pressure on natural resources caused by droughts, flooding and the growth in population. Increasing pressures will accelerate the innovation of production methods, therefore, my generation will be at the forefront of technological advancements to succeed and surmount the immediate and future challenges faced. I believe studying Agriculture at degree level will equip me with both the knowledge and practical skills to address such challenges and enable me to progress within the agricultural industry.

My passion for agriculture was sparked by my love of being active on the family farm; enjoying milking cows to mending electric fences. I am fascinated by the diverse range of production methods for agricultural products, from extensive to intensive farming. The mix of public concern about the production methods of agricultural products, specifically meat, combined with the growing need for more food, will provide an opportunity to promote good quality British produce. This has most recently been endorsed in the 'Give a Fork about Your Pork' campaign, supported by Jimmy Doherty, promoting the farm assured Red Tractor logo. I am motivated by the issues farmers face in being productively efficient, producing food at the lowest possible cost, whilst maintaining high animal welfare standards and caring for the environment. The debate about how far farmers should go in being environmentally efficient has been brought to the fore with the development of anaerobic digestion, as many believe that crops should not be used to create energy when we live in a world where many are starving. The media are extremely important in increasing the self-sufficiency of Britain, as currently I believe we are jeopardising our food security by becoming overwhelmingly reliant on vast imports of fruit and vegetables that could easily be produced in this country.

I am currently studying Biology, History and Economics at A-level. Biology has given me a solid grounding in the fundamental necessities of life. I was particularly interested in the immunity module; it gave me an in-depth insight into how vaccinations work and how useful they can be when tackling disease prevention. Furthermore, I enjoy Economics as its theories can easily be applied to the day to day running of a farm. It has given me knowledge of how the prices of goods in a free market are determined by the levels of supply and demand. The Cheshire Ice Cream Farm is a prime and inspirational example of the diversification of a farming business. Working there has helped me develop my time management, teamwork, and communication skills.

Being captain of the school hockey team in Years 10 and 11, and also playing hockey for Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club 2nd and 3rd teams has greatly improved my team work and leadership skills. Alongside this I am a member of Beeston Young Farmers Club who I have represented for various events such as the Conservation Quiz, the Junior Quiz and the Float competition at the Cheshire Show, all of which have boosted my social skills and confidence. This year I hope to become even more involved by representing them in the Entertainments and Stock Judging competitions. Buying, rearing and selling my own flock of mule ewes has given me overwhelmingly useful skills in money management and has enhanced my knowledge of livestock production. As a member of an Explorer Scout group, I completed the 2012 Cheshire Hike, which was an invaluable experience as it greatly improved my communication and motivational skills.

I am confident that I possess the ability, passion and above all determination to pursue a career in the agricultural industry and I am excited to embrace the opportunities that university has to offer.

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# Architecture

The concept, design, development and use of space both functionally and aesthetically are what define Architecture to me. I have been inspired by the recent work of the innovative Architect Renzo Piano, the designer of The Shard in London. Its physical height alone makes a real statement of dominance within the industry and the London skyline. This is not the only part of its appeal; I admire the facades of angled glass that reflect sunlight and the sky above, producing a chameleon like reaction during daylight transitions. However, Architecture is much more than designing "pretty buildings" and the benefits socially must be part of the concept; the Shard is a contemporary engineering phenomenon that has evoked much discussion and within a short period of time has grown its own personality, permanently shaping our capital city's horizon and the lives of people that see and use it.

There is a real "chicken and egg" relationship between my curiosity of building design permutations and a desire to travel. Either way, my eyes are open to what the world has to offer and its thirst for more functionality and creativity. Over the summer I took my first independent venture overseas to Venice; the architecture was a marvel to behold. The Rialto Bridge and the intricacy of the frescos of the Basilica of St Mark's Square were truly visually enriching. Earlier in 2012 I applied for a place on the renowned and prestigious "Young Artists in Tuscany 2012" residential and after interview I became the only representative from my school to secure a place. I visited Florence, Siena and San Gimignano where I got a real taste of medieval, gothic and renaissance architecture. The Duomo in Florence was the most breathtaking structure I have ever seen. It urged me to sketch; analysing key features from different perspectives allowed me to absorb the brilliance of this grand building. I have a fine eye for detail and find the output of hard work rewarding. I am driven to get things right and do the best I can, almost without regard for time and effort; however, within a group environment I value and listen to the ideas of others as well as having the confidence to express my own ideas.

Academically I possess a strong balance of art and science and I believe both have complementary roles within the world of Architecture. I have an innate urge to explore ideas and with an open mind I take great satisfaction in allowing ideas to unfold and grow into something that is well considered. A-level Art has allowed my creativity to develop and I have combined this with a keen eye for perspective and shape which brings another dimension to my artwork. A-level Chemistry has nurtured knowledge of materials, their properties and how they interact; this is a fundamental aspect of design. At the same time my numerical skills with the use of equations and data analysis are also strong. This is further complimented by my Biology studies where I have gained an appreciation of the impact we have on the environment and the concepts of environmental sustainability. Architecture requires the ability to recognise and manipulate materials that creatively echo the needs and culture of their surroundings, my studies are an excellent foundation for this. Outside my studies I have found time to work through bronze, silver and currently Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Whilst the physical challenges required by these schemes are significant they have also helped me with the fitness levels I require for my other hobby of dancing. I have been dancing ballet and tap from an early age for enjoyment but I also perform in shows and have taken exams. I am keen on a vocational path which is suited towards my dexterity, creativity and personality. I believe that studying Architecture in the first instance would provide many routes to a fulfilling career. I am under no illusion of the amount of effort required but with much enthusiasm and passion it is within my reach.

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# Art

Art has the ability through its subjectivity to unite and divide those who observe it, and because of that we are able to appreciate the full capability of imagination regardless of personal opinion. Art is without limits and is a concept that grants me freedom and sheer enjoyment that I do not always gain from other aspects of my academic life. I have a passion for developing my knowledge of contemporary and classic artists, experimenting with the skills they use.

A-level Art has allowed me to gain an appreciation of the academic aspect of art and the importance of research in developing a passionate response as well as the confidence to experiment with ink, my favourite medium. Looking critically at other artists, those I like, for example Stephanie Pui Mun Law and those whose style doesn't appeal, such as Damien Hirst has led to critical assessment of my own style, leading to continued self-improvement. Since I was young I have been searching for my own unique artistic style and have developed a thirst for learning new ways to turn my imagination into something that can be seen. Because I enjoy the diversity of so many creative methods I have chosen to study either Fine Art or Illustration.

In my AS year I was given the responsibility of tutoring Years 7 and 8 with their English work helping them to learn to read and supervising them. Through my success with this, I pushed myself in my A2 year to work with students in their art lessons. Interestingly I have realised they have inspired me with new ideas about art constantly surprising me with originality and humour. Psychology and English Literature have been key in my academic development, enabling me to refine my research and analytical skills. Psychology has helped me appreciate how artists' lives influence the composition of their work- the painter Piero Della Francesca's eulogy to his mother- 'Madonna del parto' for example. English Literature is an inspiration for my own work- an example being Carol Ann Duffy's 'Little Red Cap'- the fairytale aspect of the poem has given me the opportunity to experiment with an illustrative style. Recently I have earned a place on the 'Gifted and Talented European Study Course'- a programme for the Art students of Cheshire that each year uses a one-week trip to Tuscany to widen our knowledge of Italy's vibrant Renaissance history, which is then used as our A-level coursework. I am hoping for the opportunity to learn more of my favourite Renaissance artist Botticelli and see first hand the world-famous 'Primavera'. My application portfolio was very well received- they were particularly complimentary on my observational ink drawings of aquatic life and my research on artist Jenny Saville.

I have received several tutor awards over the course of my first A-level year for charity work, for mentoring, and last year I was picked for the Best in Year subject award for Business Studies- this pleased me particularly because of the sense of capability in business it gave me- inspiring me to become an independent artist and despite the drawbacks of self-employment I am working towards it as my ultimate career goal. In free time I enjoy horse-riding, swimming, reading, most recently books associated with the Italian Renaissance, my favourite being 'The Botticelli Secret'- writing poetry and short stories- which I have had published in a Young Authors anthology for Cheshire; researching mythology as inspiration for personal artwork and writing, and having fun with my friends.

By attending university to study Art further, my aim is to equip myself with the practical skills and life experience to become a successful and independent artist. When I attend University I intend to bring my artistic strengths, my desire to constantly learn new things, my passion for life, and hope that armed with all these things I will be able to create a legacy that will not only help my future but will reflect on the experience and knowledge I gained from University.

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# Automotive Engineering

Over the course of the 20th Century, the automobile rapidly developed from an expensive toy for the rich into the de facto standard for passenger transport. The automobile now plays a massive part in modern life; seen as a necessity society cannot live without. Cars and engines have always been a passion of mine. I have been fascinated with cars from a young age resulting in a growing knowledge of the field, and racing of any kind, coupled with the fact that I have always known I wanted to work within engineering and more recently engine design.

I have been attending racing events for many years, including Formula 1 and Moto GP, always being encouraged by my father to get involved in automotive activities, always lifting the bonnet of our cars, working out what everything is and how it works, but little encouragement is needed. Recently I was interested to read "Hilliers Fundamentals of Motor Vehicle Technology" from which the "Transmission systems" section stood out to me, as I learned how transmissions have developed throughout the car's history, and how it is now moving towards being automatic and electronically controlled. In the past year I have been fortunate enough to visit Vauxhall Motors in Ellesmere Port twice, experiencing first-hand how a car develops from the design stage through the manufacturing process, to the finished product, allowing an insight into a modern car manufacturing plant.

Studying Maths and Physics at A-level, it seems a natural progression that I am drawn to a career in Engineering. Certain aspects of mechanical physics are particularly interesting to me, such as force and momentum. Moreover, I very much enjoyed the maths mechanics unit where I explored how maths relates to engineering models. Additionally, I have taken part in three UK Maths Challenges gaining a Silver Certificate each time. Economics has introduced me to the workings of the global market, ensuring I have a broad knowledge of supply and demand.

I am involved in a wide range of sporting and extra curricula activities. I have played football since I was 4 years of age, playing for Crewe Alexandra, then Nantwich Town where I became captain for a number of years. Being captain really helped develop teamwork skills whilst I thrived in this leadership role and received many Manager/Players player of the year awards. Whereas I started playing cricket at a junior level, through to the first team and culminating in me being picked for South Cheshire. My love for racing and engines also manifests itself in Karting where I have acquired two lap records. My favourite quote originates from motorsport, "If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough," said by Mario Andretti. I am keen for all things adrenaline and have recently started sky diving in my spare time, and am determined to carry this on and obtain a full licence.

Completing my Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards has proved I am committed and determined to see tasks through to the end. For the community service element, I assisted weekly at my local scout group and have undertaken various charity fund raising events, including taking part in a local pantomime for three years raising money for a children's hospice. Furthermore, I have completed the Advanced STEM Leader's Award which involved interviewing the Chief Executive Officer of INEOS and writing a subsequent report of the interview; resulting in an extract being featured on the STEM Leader's website, and achieving second place in the Tomorrows Engineers Award.

My social and academic skills, commitment and dedication make me well suited for university life and to achieve my ultimate goal. Working in a field in which I have an undying passion for is a huge drive and motivation. I am excited to expand and develop my knowledge in the automotive sector and am ready to throw all my childhood passion in, and create tomorrow's cars today.

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# Business

The corporate industry is an exciting, ever changing sector which has always been a key driver behind economic growth. In these more challenging times, businesses require employees who are highly trained and also have the necessary experience, knowledge and skills to be effective. Studying Business and Management at Undergraduate level will provide me with the skills to be a dynamic employee within the corporate industry.

I was first captivated by the mechanics of the business world with the study of basic theory at the start of my Business GCSE Course. Continuing my studies to A Level, I have since been recognised by the school with an award for my effort and achievement in Business Studies. This recognition has made me confident that business and the world around it is well matched to my personality and academic skills. My A Level courses were a decision that I took with a career in Business Management in mind. Continuing with Business Studies has given me a large breadth of knowledge and has given me the skills to apply to real life situations. Studying French at A Level has broadened my understanding of the country and its culture. The ability to speak a second language would also benefit me in the international business market. Studying Psychology has allowed me to gain an insight into how people think and behave and is another skill I will bring to a degree which involves understanding human resources. I also took Maths Statistics as an AS subject which gave me an understanding of the financial side of businesses as well as extending my mathematical knowledge. Outside of the classroom, The Economist and The Financial Times have become regular reading for me to widen my knowledge and to understand the current economic climate. I believe this has been a vital resource on applying my knowledge to the corporate industry.

I am a highly committed member of the sixth form outside of my studies. One of the projects I am currently involved in is a mentoring project within school which allows me to help younger students at GCSE level and advise them on how to reduce the stress or problems they face choosing A Levels and discussing their future options with them. This has been very beneficial for me as it has shown me that the wellbeing of people is a vital attribute in order to be successful. This is not only important in schools but is also extremely important in the work place that to be successful, a business needs to maintain a happy workforce to obtain a competitive advantage.

Outside of school, my commitment to sport has been very important for me as they allow me to relax. Since the age of 8, I have played tennis for Tarporley Tennis Club, including entering junior and adult leagues and also several tournaments. Combining singles and doubles tennis matches; has allowed me to become more competitive whilst still being able to communicate within part of a team. In addition, netball has been one of my other hobbies for over six years, playing for both school and a local Young Farmers' club. Being part of a team has enabled me to meet new people of all ages from all walks of life. In addition to my many hobbies, I also have a part time job as a waitress in a busy local pub /restaurant where I have worked for nearly two years. My role ranges from receiving payments, organising other members of staff and dealing with customers' orders. During my employment, I have acquired essential skills that enable me to work as part of a team and to work under pressure.

Undertaking a degree course will provide me with the opportunity to extend my knowledge and understanding of business management to the next level. I am excited at the prospect of gaining new skills which will make me a versatile and beneficial employee within this ever expanding industry.

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# Chemical Engineering

If we look into the making of everything around us, it is easy to discover the fingerprints of Chemical Engineers - everything we use has, at some point, been affected by Chemical Engineers. The manipulation of chemical reactions to convert raw materials into useful products is an art and a discipline worth learning. As a child I was intrigued by how things work, what things are made of and asking 'why?'. Rather than simply understanding the knowledge, I now aspire to engineer science and utilise it to solve problems.

Participation in the Advanced Leaders Awards for STEM gave me the opportunity to interview a senior professional in the chemical industry, Mr Tom Crotty, Chair of INEOS ChlorVinyls. We discussed the future of the industry, the issue of energy, as well as what it takes to be successful in this field. Achieving 1st place in the Tomorrow's Engineers category and 3rd place in the NCETM category nationally in the Advanced Leaders Special Award, for my report of the interview, has motivated me to pursue a career in Chemical Engineering and inspires me to succeed as 'Tomorrow's Engineer'. Subsequently I visited plants that are part of INEOS Enterprises. I visited their brine and salt plants in Cheshire, where I was introduced to some of the chemical processes and the functions of the machinery. I was particularly impressed with the vacuum evaporation method used in the extraction of salt and the structures of the vacuum pans. Observing the plants in action brought to life the theory learnt in the classroom. I gained awareness of the problems of scaling up processes whilst retaining thermodynamic efficiency and its importance to the viability of the operation. It is this fine balance of applying science whilst using mathematical knowledge to verify productivity which draws me to engineering. Speaking to Chartered Chemical Engineers in their working environment was inspiring. Seeing the raw brine eventually turn into useful salt products was fascinating, and I appreciated the complexity of creating something so many take for granted. A-level sciences have taught me persistence and problem solving, as well as practical skills. Maths requires discipline, practice, hard work and logic. I have gained analytical skills and consequently am a more rational thinker by studying global issues in geography. Throughout my school life I achieved four awards for various subjects including geography and ICT for my efforts and successes. I volunteer in the maths and science departments at my high school, where I assist the learning of younger students by encouraging and helping them during lessons. Maths and science are subjects which I am passionate about so to be able to share that and guide them through their learning has been rewarding. From this I have gained communication skills by translating knowledge and confidence from speaking to new people. I am my tutor group's representative on, and an active member of, the Sixth Form Council where my role is to voice and bring to action the opinions and suggestions of my peers to improve the learning environment and sixth form experience. Being part of the council has given me motivation, responsibility and teamwork skills, allowing me to feel like I am making a difference in the school's community, something I hope to do in my university life too. Having grown up in Thailand, I feel I have good cultural understanding and enjoy the pleasure of living in an international atmosphere. My Buddhist upbringing has shaped my values, taught me respect and a good work ethic. I am also fluent in Thai. In my spare time I enjoy music and reading, and play the piano to grade 4. I am a driven individual; I don't believe in doing anything less than my best, hard work and strength of mind being key ingredients for success. Chemical Engineering is a challenging course, but I think my character is well suited and that I will be able to adapt to the demands and make the most of the opportunity.

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# Chinese

Having a German grandmother and a bilingual mother, I have been exposed to a different language and culture from as far back as I can remember and from this, I developed my love for foreign languages. To me, there is nothing like the thrill generated by translating a word correctly or easily understanding a complicated sentence, which is why I am eager to learn Mandarin and put myself in a position to be able to experience a country and culture, not as an observer, but as a participant. To that end, I am travelling to Beijing during Easter 2013 and am very much looking forward to experiencing the country first-hand.

Geography lessons at GCSE first introduced me to China and her strong sense of culture, so different from our own. As a newly industrialised country, rapidly evolving to becoming the next superpower, with a population of over 1.3 billion, it is a country creating massive wealth as well as retaining areas of extreme poverty. China has transformed from a third world communist state to one of the world's leading nations, showcasing her progress in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. It is because of China's growing influence on the global economy that I aspire to learn the language and become involved with the growth and development of this country within the context of the western world. My knowledge has been further enhanced after I was fortunate enough to spend time with a visiting teacher from China, whom I accompanied to local primary schools where she spoke passionately about her culture and the inner workings of government and politics, together with an inside look at the country from a native's point of view. This valuable insight further encouraged me to study Mandarin at university.

Studying German at A-Level has enabled me to understand how languages form and develop and it has provided me with the opportunity to gain skills that have proven invaluable in the study of a second language. In order to learn a language you have to be determined and committed, I feel I have developed these skills and have been successful in putting these into practice. In addition, Geography at A-level has developed my analytical skills and enriched my knowledge of global and environmental issues, whilst Psychology has given me with an understanding of human behaviour as well as an ability to analyse data. It will be interesting to transfer these skills and apply the theories learnt to a different culture.

Volunteering in Year 9 language lessons is extremely rewarding, particularly when the children respond to me enthusiastically. This has helped to consolidate my knowledge of linguistic techniques and improve my basic teaching skills. Furthermore it has provided me with the opportunity to lead sessions at my local primary school's European Day of Languages. For the past ten years I have helped to choreograph dances for young children in preparation for their dance exams as well as teaching dance to a four year old child who has additional educational needs, this has proved very inspiring and fulfilling. I have recently completed my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which although challenging was very gratifying. The experience allowed me to enhance my teamwork and motivational skills. For the past four years I have journeyed with my family to India where we have travelled extensively, avoiding the conventional tourist areas. I have found it exciting to witness another culture and have learnt much by observing and experiencing a different way of life. My travels in India motivated me to look at studying other cultures.

Learning a language is difficult and takes time and dedication, but I believe I have the skills required to learn and practise Chinese. I am patient and committed to learning Mandarin and I look forward to the time where I can hold a conversation with a Chinese citizen. I am excited at the prospect of studying at university and embracing every opportunity it has to offer.

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# Dentistry

Having spent the early years of my teenage life as a "goofy" child, orthodontic treatment completely changed my appearance, enhancing my confidence and improving my life. This experience opened my eyes to the world of dentistry, its intricacies and complexities, which I believe will give me an opportunity to pursue a rewarding and fulfilling career, suited to my strengths, abilities and personality. Initially I struggled to find work experience locally and so after reading the British Dental Journal, I wrote to them explaining the difficulties I experienced. Following publication of my letter I was fortunate to receive offers from Dental Practices in Deganwy and St Helens. I spent two weeks at these practices and a further week in Heswall. This experience proved invaluable, giving me an insight into how both NHS and private dental practices operate. I realised how important manual dexterity is, so by building and painting model cars, I worked hard to improve this skill. I also acquired a greater knowledge of amalgam and composite fillings, as well as the importance of patient education and the use of fluoride. I now understand how some illnesses can present themselves in the mouth and how a dentist must be alert for any such symptoms.

In order to gain experience of a different aspect of dentistry, I contacted the GDC and was offered a one week placement shadowing Mr Ridler. Here I attended a presentation for first year dental students on the work of the GDC and subsequently attended disciplinary hearings, culminating in the observation of members of the dental profession charged with various offenses from drug dealing to fraud. This indicated to me the importance of honesty and integrity within the dental profession. I have always been passionate about science and studying Biology and Chemistry at A level has inspired me to gain a greater understanding of the complexity of the human body. A level study has helped me develop the important skills of self-motivation and coping with pressure which are vital for a dental career. As the youngest ever chairman of the council, I led a team of pupils who met weekly with the headmaster to discuss our concerns and ideas. Through this position, I gained skills in leadership, ensuring that pupils had a say in what went on in school as well as organising events and fundraising.

I have always been a strong team player, in football I represented Chester City and Tranmere Rovers youth teams as well as my school. In rugby I am in the school first team and play for Wirral Rugby Club. Completing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award gave me a great sense of personal achievement; the expedition reinforced how important team work is as some members of my team struggled with this section and required support. One of the most important characteristics of being a good dentist is the ability to communicate effectively with patients and the dental team. Good communication is key to obtaining valuable information from patients in order to establish a diagnosis, and to address their individual needs ensuring they understand their care plan. I have been a volunteer at St Johns Hospice in Clatterbridge for approximately two years, this involves interaction with seriously ill patients of different ages and social groups whilst serving refreshments to them and their families. Even though my actions are small, the appreciation received from the nurses and especially the patients, is extremely fulfilling. Volunteering at the hospice also helped me to acquire a number of skills required to become a successful dental surgeon. Interaction with patients at highly emotional and poignant periods in their lives has caused me to mature and become more sensitive and compassionate to the needs of others. A career in dentistry presents a prodigious challenge and offers the reward of a fulfilling career. I am extremely committed to my chosen career path and relish the opportunity to take the next step of this challenge.

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# Dentistry

As a keen scientist, I have an increasing desire to pursue a skilled vocation that is both challenging and stimulating. I believe life as a dentist will provide me with a gratifying career pathway that will incorporate the practice of excellent healthcare, combined with a responsibility to improve the wellbeing and self-esteem of patients. I recognise it is a demanding yet highly rewarding profession but undeniably, this ever expanding field will satisfy my passion for scientific knowledge, lifelong learning and the chance to have a positive impact on others.

Spending two weeks in two different dental practices proved to be a fascinating experience and I continue to attend one practice weekly. This has enabled me to see several intricate procedures performed on a diverse range of patients from different socioeconomic backgrounds. In all instances, I have witnessed the importance of a calm dialogue as the dentist explains how the consultation will proceed; remaining reassuring, professional and trustworthy when dealing with patients evidences that successful dental treatment requires excellent inter-personal skills; attributes which I feel I possess.

During a week-long placement at a Maxillofacial unit, I gained valuable insight into the many expanses of dentistry, including orthodontics and paediatric dentistry. I was instructed in the correct way to 'scrub up', and subsequently entered theatre to observe the extraction of ankylosed primary teeth in the preparation for orthodontic treatment. This experience further enabled me to appreciate the demands of dental surgery and the essential need to cope effectively under pressure. During this week my confidence grew and my determination to become a dentist was enhanced. By viewing surgical procedures in the Oral Surgery department I was able to witness impeccable manual dexterity in the removal of a large cyst on a patient's neck and a skin graft onto a patient's lip. Additionally, I have spent a day at an orthodontic practice seeing both private and NHS patients. Here I witnessed the many diverse forms of braces available and the outstanding results achieved from them. As well as mixing the alginate by hand, I was able to operate a 3D oral scanner to digitally capture images of dental impressions and save them to the system. This really demonstrated to me the technological advancements of dentistry.

For the last six months, I have volunteered at my local hospital day-care centre. This involves caring for elderly people with physical disabilities and dementia. I lead games of bingo, quizzes or exercise classes and am currently trying to raise money for more equipment and days out to allow for a wider range of activities. I have bonded with many patients and derive great satisfaction from our interactions, particularly when learning about their lives. As a Sixth Form Lead Learner, I work alongside my teacher helping Y7 students with Chemistry. I enjoy the teaching role and the satisfaction gained when students develop a greater understanding of the subject and make progress. These ventures have helped me to converse with a range of different generations and taught me the importance of adapting the way I communicate.

Working as a waitress for two years has equipped me to cope under pressure and to work efficiently as part of a team. To relax I play netball and have captained the school's A-team for five years. In addition, I enjoy playing the piano and am a member of a tennis club, both of which require skilful hand-eye co-ordination. All these activities have improved my leadership skills and shown me the importance of cooperation within a team.

My experiences and academic progress have given me confidence in my ability to succeed in what is certainly my career choice. I look forward to both the intellectual and social demands of university life and sincerely hope that, through dentistry, I will be given the opportunity to improve the health and welfare of others.



# Economics

In two hundred years there has been an Industrial Revolution, two major world wars and a technological leap. Yet Adam Smith's invisible hand still remains relevant. This is what interests me about economics, that no matter where or when, economics affects everybody. To me economic theory is not some formula which says that  $x$  will happen when  $y$  occurs, but a complex method which encompasses both the rational and irrational decisions which we make on a day to day basis.

Having always been encouraged to read and discuss the news, it has stimulated my interest in current affairs and the way that countries interact. Hence, I am looking forward to learning about 'development economics' and am particularly interested in the huge shadow of poverty that persists in Africa. Volunteering at the charity 'ARC', which works to improve lives in less developed countries, has allowed me an insight into how non-governmental organisations combat absolute poverty. This led to my decision to undertake an Extended Project, for which I am exploring the extent of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. Reading Banerjee and Duflo's 'Poor Economics' has furthered my interest in how economics impacts the least developed countries. Learning that in parts of India, subsidies on food staples lead to less of it being consumed, interested me as it demonstrates how economic theory does not always take into account how illogical humans are, and the effects of the law of unintended consequences. Additionally I have read 'The Undercover Economist' by Harford, the concept of how the price of coffee influences the cost of rent, was particularly enlightening. Moreover, it reinforced the fundamental theories that underpin economics, and how individual markets operate.

As part of the Advanced Stem Leader's Award I volunteered in Maths lessons at my school. It was rewarding to share my understanding of mathematical principles and further improve my communication and leadership skills. Also, it has broadened my knowledge of the manufacturing industry and the economics behind it, coupled with work experience at Bentley Motors, where I received a better understanding of how changing markets effect a firm, and their response to it. This has increased my awareness of organisation structure, management and planning.

I have enjoyed studying Economics A Level, especially the dilemma between relying on market forces and government intervention in order to fix the economy. Economics has increased my understanding of both local and global processes. Geography illustrated the impacts of both micro and macro policies and the effect that they have on different parts of the world. Also, my analytical skills and ability to interpret data have been furthered as a result of a fieldwork residential.

The satisfaction of finding the right answer from a long algebraic equation is what entices me about maths, and I relish the challenges posed. I look forward to studying Econometrics so that I am able to apply my key mathematical skills in a real life setting and gain knowledge of how models can be used to anticipate human behaviour and the statistical analysis behind it.

As a representative on the Sixth Form Council, I have organised charity events and benefited from the responsibility and commitment it has brought. Working towards the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, has been one of my most challenging and rewarding pursuits, and the expedition enhanced my confidence and teamwork. Throughout college I have demonstrated a positive outlook and determination, which has been reflected in winning the Geography prize, and becoming an Economics Ambassador.

By studying Economics to degree level I will gain a greater understanding of its everyday influence on our lives and realise my ambition to follow a career in this field. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that studying at university will bring, both academically and socially.

# Economics

Economics and its relevance to society and current affairs interests me greatly as the subject is closely linked to the modern world and encompasses the production, consumption and transfer of wealth. I am looking forward to learning more about the global perspective of Economics, such as macro-economics and world trade topics with their impact on an international level; superpowers and their influence on global money markets.

A recent visit to the Bank of England confirmed my desire to study Economics and made clear to me the value of money, inflation, deflation and its impact on the UK economy. Additionally, I plan to visit investment bank Goldman Sachs in the City of London, which will enable me to gain a greater understanding of the working world of Economics at the heart of the commercial district. It is fascinating to comprehend that London controls 40% of the UK's financial services, and was closely linked to the triple-dip recession; recently avoided due to an expansionary fiscal policy. This strategy helped to boost the economy through increased government spending, which resulted in creating jobs, subsequently reducing unemployment, and I look forward to exploring this subject at a higher level and expanding my knowledge of micro-economics. Reading the economics related book, 'Free Lunch' by David Smith is interesting due to the fact that he expresses many important points, and states; "It is easy to get the idea that economics is about the billions of dollars flowing around the world's financial markets... but human behaviour is at the heart of it." This indicates that economics is not all about the money and how wealthy people are, but how it can affect peoples' lives and what we as individuals can do to change our economies, even though we do not contribute to the big decision-making financial services. Adam Smith highlighted a key point concerning the Eurozone and how, even though it is in recovery as a whole, there are peripheral countries, such as Greece and Cyprus, who are still struggling greatly, which shows that even though we are under the umbrella of the European Community, all economies are different and work independently.

At A Level, Maths provides me with logical reasoning skills, enhancing my ability to solve economic problems, furthermore, by using my mathematical knowledge, I am well-suited to use economic equations and draw data sets effectively. Geography covers a range of techniques and has given me good analytical skills as both subjects are transferrable. Many of the economic topics that I have studied strongly relate to world trade, especially in macro-economics where I have examined them on a global scale; discovering the policies that governments use to deal with problems, such as making markets more contestable in order to keep trading market prices low and therefore beneficial for consumers.

In my last three years of High School I was chosen to be a Student Ambassador for my year group, which meant that I represented the school on formal occasions looking after visitors and directing tours around the school. This allowed me to be able to listen to others and work in a team, whilst expressing my own views in a formal context. Outside of school I play the drums and am currently working towards Grade 8. Additionally, I have a weekend job at a garden centre where I work as a retail shop assistant. This has boosted my communication skills and enabled me to speak confidently to different people at all times.

I believe that I am well-suited to the study of Economics at university. I am determined and hard-working, and will complete every task to the best of my ability. Also, my passion for this discipline will allow me to try my hardest as I enjoy learning new things and am always happy to accept advice. Along with the skills that I have already developed, I look forward to academic life and relish the new challenges which university will bring.

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# Engineering

My passion for engineering stems from a keen interest in how things work and my inherently inquisitive nature. From initially dismantling a CD player to investigate its inner mechanisms, my interests in engineering have widened to include buildings and large structures. I have designed various houses from large farm buildings to a glass house built into the side of a hill, as well as a property to the specification of 'no corners', by basing the building on the concept of bubbles. In order to immerse myself in the world of engineering, I have researched Isambard Kingdom Brunel in connection with his revolutionary work on the Great Western Railway, together with the SS Great Britain; the first ship built from iron with a screw propeller. Whilst from a 21st century viewpoint, I am captivated by the robot Asimo, and the complex technologies developed to enable Asimo to recreate human characteristics and movement.

Studying at Advanced level has introduced me to the basic functions essential to an Engineering degree, for example, using Calculus as a tool to accurately define the relationship of displacement, velocity and acceleration. Similarly, Physics has expounded my interest and brought about a deeper understanding of engineering, specifically, resonance, which was exemplified in the Tacoma Bridge collapse. The bridge's failure brought about the advancement of structural technology and thus prevented a similar fate befalling the Millennium Bridge, by the insertion of 91 dampers. Combining Mathematics with Chemistry and Physics confirms my genuine passion for finding solutions in a pragmatic manner and it is my love for these subjects that has led me to aspire to study Engineering at university. Moreover, I thrive on independent learning by applying methodology in an autonomous manner as it gives me a deeper understanding of my A-level subjects.

Reading Engineering will provide me with the techniques to apply new technologies to real life challenges. I am interested in investigating materials such as straw, as it is strong, an excellent insulator, cheap and sustainable. Offsite construction is another technique that interests me and I am excited by the prospect of analysing the actual benefits and drawbacks of this innovative approach to building from first-hand experience and research. Combined with this, I seized the opportunity to spend a day at Vauxhall Motors, where I was provided with a valuable insight into a modern day operational manufacturing processing plant.

I have furthered my knowledge of sustainable technologies by visiting the Centre for Alternative Technology. This visit contributed to my efforts as chair of our Eco-schools Committee; a proactive organisation within school, which has made a significant impact on our school environment.

Aside from my studies, I involve myself fully in a number of voluntary projects, during Year 12, I contributed over 200 hours to community service, including: Supporting a primary school after school club, chairing a new student led school Safeguarding Team, assisting in Key Stage 3 Mathematics, helping with the running of a local youth club and performing on stage to raise funds for a children's hospice, raising over £6,000. My ability to balance all of my commitments is evidenced by the fact that I have two part-time jobs and, since completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award, have been working towards obtaining my Gold Award. Furthermore, I have participated in the Advanced STEM Leaders Award, providing me with an active role in the STEM community and allowing me to speak to well established industry professionals.

Ultimately, I have many goals in life but they all have one thing in common; I want to see what amazing things I can achieve; I am full of energy, ambition and determination. Being eager to embrace all that university life has to offer, I know I will thrive on the variety, challenges and problem solving nature embodied in an undergraduate degree in Engineering.

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# English Language

The way the English Language has evolved into what it is today intrigues me, how modern English has been influenced by other cultures and languages and how the process of standardisation has transformed English into a recognised global language. I am fascinated by the variety of linguistic communication in today's society and the impact technology and social networks have on present day language through the creation of new technological words and ideas. This regularly divides opinion between linguists, as some believe technology is ruining language, whilst others consider this to be positive as it allows for creativity. There is much diversity in the topics and views of linguistic theorists for example Burrhus Frederic Skinner, who believed children learn through imitation and from the input of carers. Many believe otherwise, for instance Jean Piaget considered that children learn by actively exploring their environment. It is this diversity that makes English one of the most dynamic and fascinating of all languages.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to further explore the effect and influence of English whilst on a work placement at a travel agent where I was given the task of re-writing a series of travel leaflets, using presentational and linguistic methods. By writing to persuade, I compiled promotional material for distribution to potential clients, which led to increased local interest in the business. Studying Spanish at A-level allows me to apply grammatical knowledge to another language, as well providing me with a greater understanding of the difficulties and nuances integral to English. In addition, Geography compliments my English studies, due to the emphasis on structure, theories and subject specific vocabulary. In both cases I enjoy gathering research, analysing data and putting together a conclusive exposition and account.

In school I am a Sixth Form Ambassador, assisting staff wherever possible, by helping in PE lessons and serving refreshments at parents evening, as well as guiding guests around school on open days and visits.

Outside of school, I have worked as a scoreboard operator at the 2012 Golf British Open, a prestigious opportunity where I was responsible for updating the main scoreboard. This was a crucial role as it was imperative that the scoreboard was up to date, showing the correct score at all times. My hobbies include golf where I have been selected as Junior Captain of my club and have won many individual and team honours. My role as captain highlights my organisational skills, being responsible for representing my club, arranging matches and team selection. Additionally, I am the youngest player in a highly skilled adult weekly six a side football league team, as well as playing football for the Sixth Form. Furthermore, I am a keen tennis player and ski regularly. Engaging in a variety of sporting activities has helped me to gain teamwork skills, improve my fitness and provided me with a platform to meet new people. Previously I have participated in two Cheshire Hikes, involving a two-day expedition with a partner, from which, on one occasion, I was placed first in the district. I accomplished this whilst being a member of Scouts, where I also achieved a Chief Scout Award for Contribution to Scouting.

So why is university important to me? It will present me with a suitable environment to continue my studies, meet new people and to develop further as a person. In addition, it will increase my independence, and if the opportunity arises I would relish the opportunity to study in Spain; which will broaden my knowledge of language and improve my communication skills. I am also keen to continue with my sporting pursuits. From a broader perspective, the skills and knowledge that I will gain from my degree together with my experience of university life will be of great benefit to me in my chosen career path.

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# English Literature

English Literature is the psycho-poetry of life. I am fascinated with how its multi-layered interpretation allows us to explore the human condition in all its impossible forms. The prospect of reading English at University is exhilarating because it will further diversify and deepen my understanding of texts and enhance my knowledge and passion for the subject. My love of English began with reading Brontë's 'Jane Eyre' as I was fascinated by the visceral human emotion within the novel that appealed to me through the Gothic romanticism of the intense relationship between Jane and Mr. Rochester. In particular, I was taken with how Brontë timelessly immortalises the congruent underdog 'Jane' who holds firm to her self-value and thus becomes the heroine. This has led me to investigate the novel within my Extended Project Qualification exploring the presentation of male protagonists as the projections of female writers' desires and fears. The feminist movement in Literature enthalls me and I am intrigued by D.H. Lawrence and John Braine's male perspectives of the female most poignantly seen through the varying degrees of 'repressed' women in 'Sons and Lovers' and 'Room at the Top'. In addition, I admire Sylvia Plath's 'Ariel' poems that present how Plath breaks free from society and in doing so, structural poetic conventions. I am engrossed in Plath's life and have researched it through reading her journals and comparing her poetry to the work of Ted Hughes. This has inspired me to apply psychoanalytical theory to works of literature, such as Freud's 'Mourning and Melancholia' to my independent analysis essay on 'The Bell Jar' and 'Sophie's Choice'. In addition I am amazed by the profound effect Literature can have to disturb the mind. This explains my fascination with Gothic Literature, particularly Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' and Iain Banks' 'The Wasp Factory' and how the writers question what is 'natural' within the context of their own societies.

I have also explored the atrocities of the Holocaust in Literature through the works of William Styron, Thomas Keneally and Viktor Frankel. This interest led to my Head of Sixth Form inviting me to represent the school in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project that allowed me to visit the camp, meet a survivor, and take on a very personal role as an ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust. Elsewhere in my A-Level subjects, studies in History have encouraged my analytical skills, whilst my debating talent has improved due to my involvement in the school's Philosophical Society, improving my essay writing skills immeasurably. I enjoy the academic demands of learning French and chose to study at a Language School in Rouen, whilst staying with a French family, for two weeks during the summer holidays. Furthermore, I lived in the Middle East for five years and I believe these experiences have improved my understanding of language, its foundations and the different cultures of human existence. This taught me the importance of human relationships and teamwork that has helped me in my role as an Explorer Scout and during my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh experience. I am inspired creatively by acting, film and theatre. I played Nancy in a school production of the musical 'Oliver' and the title role in a student film of J.D. Salinger's 'Franny', therefore I hope to be a part of University productions and to explore Drama within Literature. I admire the works of William Shakespeare and John Osborne and the directing styles of Ingmar Bergman and David Lean.

The fact that English can transcend so many different mediums is in essence why I wish to delve into the great cannon of literature; so that I can discover literary tastes, movements and theory I have never before experienced or understood. It is the joy of witnessing the human condition and finding something that inspires me to think, that makes me want to continue with my English studies at University

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# Environmental Biology

At the age of sixteen, whilst visiting the Eden Project in Cornwall, I realized a common theme that had been constant throughout my life. This theme was the love of nature and it was then that I understood that I wanted to devote my life to the study and conservation of it. My passion, empathy and excitement for Earth and the life that fills it is something that I believe will live for at least as long as I do and, through my actions, hopefully much longer.

The subjects I selected for my A-Levels are Biology, Chemistry and Math's and during my AS year I also studied Geography. Studying Maths has honed not only my numerical but also my problem solving skills. Chemistry has improved my analytical and lab work skills, as has studying Biology which has also reinforced my passion for the natural world. My awareness of both the positive and negative human impacts on the environment has been raised while studying Geography at AS. The study of Chemistry inspires me because it unlocks the mysteries of how life is possible. I have had an enquiring mind from a young age, whether exploring new ideas, challenges or environments my thirst for new experiences has driven me for my whole life. It is the reason why I want to study abroad, whether during or after my degree.

In 2006 at the age of eleven I completed the Cheshire Hike; although a minor accomplishment it inspired me to attempt the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 2009. To earn this award I learned to play guitar, to play tennis and volunteered at a local scout group as well as completing the compulsory three day hike. This experience became my new yardstick for measuring all challenges against, a baseline of accomplishment from which to begin more difficult challenges. My Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is now in progress. My seventeenth birthday was spent canoeing on the river Amazon, in the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Peru. This was part of a three week expedition with the British Schools Exploring Society, two weeks of which were spent in the rainforest. During my first week in the jungle I assisted local Peruvian scientists in their ten year monitoring study of the biodiversity of the area. This involved data collection and collation, as part of a three person team which was part of my fifteen person group. I undertook bird, fish and caiman surveys as well as day and night land transects. The second week of the expedition was spent canoeing some of the many rivers that run through the reserve, including the Amazon, as well as learning jungle camp craft. To pay for the expedition I had to fundraise the required four thousand pounds myself, with the help of my family and friends. I was also pleased to accept an invitation to give a talk at my local primary school about the rainforest in which I lived during the expedition. Fundraising for and being part of the expedition overtook the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award as my yardstick for measuring new challenges against, whilst simultaneously becoming the greatest experience of my life. Although I am sure that something greater and more challenging will come to replace this in the future. In my free time I enjoy reading fiction as well as the National Geographic magazine, to which I have a subscription.

Keeping my body stimulated as well as my mind is important to me and I do my best to stay fit and healthy. I regularly exercise at home: doing strength, cardio and flexibility training. I am still learning guitar and as such I play often. Although I enjoy many solitary hobbies my friends play a central role in my life and much of my time is spent with them. My dream is simple: to achieve happiness through spending my days doing something that I love. Since visiting the Eden Project this ideal has become so engrained into how I perceive myself that failing to achieve it would be like failing to exist. University is my key to ensuring this does not happen. University is my key to success.

# Fashion

To me, fashion means more than just textiles; it is a lifestyle and a chance to express yourself both individually and creatively. My passion for media was ignited when I embarked upon my GCSE media coursework project, creating my own fashion magazine which enhanced my computer work skills including photo editing, composition and photography. I am continuing to develop these skills through A-level Media, where I have been fascinated by the practical projects, creating our own campaigns and advertisements. My commitment to Media was acknowledged by an achievement award from my sixth form college and I have since been recognised personally by the Chief Examiner of the WJEC board in an exam report written to the school. I believe that studying drama at GCSE and A-level has required me to think on my feet as a director and deviser and I find that being innovative means that I am not scared to think outside the box with my ideas, it has also aided my public speaking skills and self confidence. I have an excellent understanding of the English language through studying it at A-level which has also helped me to acquire essay writing skills. Studying maths has required me to think analytically and logically and has also taught me how to approach and solve problems. I have always been interested in being involved in fashion, with my first ideas being formed from a younger age. I visit The Clothes Show Live in Birmingham's NEC annually and read fashion magazines analysing the advertisements and editorials, thinking of ways I could create my own. In addition, I continuously update my own fashion-based blog 'Slice of Fashion' where I share and express my ideas on new trends and celebrity red carpet events. I recently enjoyed posting 'London's Streetwalk' which discussed my latest trip to London Fashion Week 2011 and in particular the quirky street fashion of other bloggers that were there. Through attending a journalism taster day organised by NCTJ- News Associates I realised that I thrive under pressure and enjoy the adrenaline rush and I felt that after just a few hours I had already dramatically improved my writing skills. As well as representing the school internationally in Italy with the hockey team and visiting Paris, I also have a range of linguistic abilities including a GCSE in French. As Paris is one of the fashion capitals of the world it is important to be able to have an understanding of the language and culture. I also undertook a 6 week course in Mandarin Chinese enabling me to speak basic Mandarin; this will benefit me in the future as China is increasingly involved in the manufacturing of many products. My part time job in a popular local restaurant has given me the opportunity to demonstrate and improve my people skills as I work as a waitress, interacting with the customers and hotel guests. Keeping my part time job shows my commitment and has also given me the skill of time management as I never fall behind in my school work. By participating in dance showcases annually for my local dance group I have shown my commitment and also my eagerness to work well as part of a team. In addition it has also helped build my self confidence which I know is a crucial quality in my later, professional life. I was rewarded with a junior sports leadership award (JLSA) for my involvement in sports showing that I can also be a team leader. I am extremely responsible, creative and professional which will help me later on in life in the fashion industry. I am motivated and hardworking and, assisted by my degree, I hope that fashion communication is the career path I will follow; this is something I have a real zest for, and believe that in life, if you have a real passion for something, you will succeed

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# Fashion

The way in which we dress our bodies communicates who we are; our personality and our interests. Fashion is a way of expressing ourselves without saying anything and we are often judged and characterised by our dress sense and style. My interest in fashion stems from my love for clothes, fabrics and textile technology. This fascination has been with me throughout my life, which is why I am sure that a career within this industry is the right path for me. Work placements have enhanced my existing knowledge of the fashion industry. In particular, work experience at Gale Furs, a retail store offering a tailoring service, helped me to gain an understanding of working with vintage fur to resize, restyle and repair. This led me to review the DKNY and Antonio Berardi fur exhibitions, and also value the work of Astrid Andersen, who plays with the gender roles of fur, creating a more masculine approach to her garments. In addition, a placement with an interior design company introduced me to software programs such as Adobe Illustrator as well as planning and designing the interiors for a row of mid-century houses in Liverpool.

I have always valued my own personal style and cared about how I dress. From this I discovered my interest in textiles technology and studying garments in a flat format, my interest developed and I have started to design my own paper patterns from looking at existing patterns and developing them. I am keen that my work incorporates both fashion and sportswear, this stems from my curiosity in the science behind textiles and my athletics career outside of school. It is hard to believe that we can have a significant impact on an athlete's performance by simply changing a material's fibre or weave. Not only do I have an interest in the science of fibres but I am interested in how sportswear styles are brought to the streets to create an urban style, which is very much on trend at the moment. Studying sportswear design at degree level will introduce me to the development of smart, modern materials and the way in which they are evolving and enhancing sporting performances.

In Textiles at A-level, I designed and produced a Team GB track and field vest, which I forwarded to Paul Brady of Stella McCartney. As a consequence of this, he contacted me and invited me to visit the Adidas design studios in London, unfortunately, due to ill-health at the time, I was unable to attend but I remain proud that he liked my designs enough to consider inviting me to preview the London 2012 Olympic kit. My project for A2 is Ancient Greek mythology as a culture study. I plan to use fabric manipulation to produce a couture evening gown with a consistent drape. My studies in Fine Art have included topics such as natural form, identity, and fragments. I have found inspiration from contemporary artists such as, Grayson Perry, who dealt with the pressures of social class by recreating classical paintings in the style of an illustration. Alongside this, the work of Catherine Withrow has introduced me to the delicate lines of architecture and buildings. Her laying techniques are particularly inspiring. Media Studies at A-level is crucial in determining how to construct a media text to be commercially successful. It has also improved my ability to analyse and contextualise sources, which is a useful skill across all subjects.

My sporting achievements have included representing my school, county and club in athletics, whilst outside of college, I specialise in the 400 metre hurdles and am involved in coaching my local club's U11 sprint squad. In Sixth Form, I have represented the Art and Textiles faculties at numerous open evenings.

I am excited by the prospect of attending university and taking the first step towards a career in the fashion industry as well as being able to work with peers who have a natural flare and understanding of what it takes to excel and achieve in the creative industries.



# Geography

I have had a real passion for Geography even before choosing to study it at GCSE. Studying Geography or Sociology at degree level within a university environment will undoubtedly expand my knowledge and understanding of the subjects. I enjoy all aspects of Geography with a preference to the human side. Over time my enthusiasm has intensified as a result of life experiences. For instance I have been fortunate enough to travel through many countries in Europe, America, the Caribbean and indeed the UK too. I have seen and experienced many cultures, environments and societies.

Participating in Geography field trips has been beneficial also to fuel my interest. Last year I took part in a residential trip to Whitby, North Yorkshire, studying the area in vast detail. We put into practice rebranding areas and coastal management consequently increasing my knowledge and passion for the subject. On the field trip I put into action many Geography fieldwork techniques such as environmental quality surveying and beach profiling. To be physically involved in specific tasks relating to the hypothesis helped me to gain greater understanding of the topic and in turn relate to real case studies. Since taking Sociology at A level, I developed an appetite for the subject immediately. Furthermore, my learning is complemented by my other subjects as there is a correlation in the topics for example crime and deviance. Understanding research methods links my Business Studies too. Business Studies at A level has helped me to develop analysis and evaluation skills, which I can apply throughout my student life.

I have more than knowledge and enthusiasm to bring to university; my participation in extracurricular activities within my local community has helped to build my social skills that are important in society. Health and fitness are a priority as I appreciate the importance of the mind and body working as one. My attendance at the local gym illustrates my determination and is backed up by a varied and balanced diet. I love football, playing, watching and coaching. I have represented my school, village and Scout group by playing within the team. Last year I became the manager of the Year 7 football team, sharing my knowledge and experiences with younger students. I am currently working towards my Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. I recently completed the expedition element in the Peak District and have volunteered as a peer mentor. This involved many weeks of training which led to mentoring a Year 7 student who was struggling to grasp the new challenges of high school life. Last year I also participated in a sports leader's course in which I learnt the most beneficial ways to coach young children. This involved coaching local primary school children athletics techniques and helping at several sports events. I have found it most rewarding to be involved in raising funds for charity. Last year I participated in the Sports Relief 3 mile run at Chester Racecourse. I will definitely be getting involved with future charity projects as I enjoy the challenge and the reward of helping others. During holiday periods I have worked in a soft drinks manufacturing factory undertaking various roles such as factory operative, engineering stores and quality control. I believe this has given me vital experience in working for a company and seeing how a business is run, also the communication and team work skills necessary for working life. At university as well as improving my underpinning knowledge and understanding of my chosen subjects, I want to develop skills that will assist in receiving a good qualification at the end of my degree. This will enable me to be an adaptable, skilled worker beneficial for my future career and in turn afford me the opportunity to deliver a better contribution to society. I am excited at the prospect of being a university student, engaging with and encountering a variety of new people immersing fully in university life.

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# Geography

From climate change to biodiversity the earth is constantly adapting to the needs of an ever-growing population. It is this aspect of Geography that attracts me to the subject. The ever-changing nature of this discipline often leaves me wanting to learn more about the world in which we live. As a result of this I believe that Geography is the subject I wish to study further as it encompasses my academic preferences alongside my personal interests. The world, in its constant phases of evolution, means that there is always more to learn and it is these changes that fascinate me with their seemingly limitless potential.

I spent a large part of my childhood living in the UAE. I feel that this experience has benefitted me greatly as it has allowed me to see and experience the differences that occur both culturally and geographically. In April of this year I visited Beijing as part of a Geography field trip, which gave me a huge insight into the way in which China operates on a daily basis. It gave me the opportunity to gain large amounts of primary data, providing me with a greater depth of knowledge of how development differs in foreign cultures and how it has grown from relative obscurity to a global superpower. I also participated in a fieldwork exercise in Anglesey, where I acquired large amounts of primary data from many sources and broke down the important demographic aspects from the figures into comparable quantitative and qualitative data. This allowed me to come to a justifiable conclusion about levels of development in the North Wales area and gave me an important insight as to how to achieve results using specific types of fieldwork and specialist equipment. I am also a member of the Royal Geographical Society, as a result of which I am able to keep up to date on the world of Geography and more specifically, the rise of the 'BRICs'.

Studying A-Level Maths has enabled me to develop my skills as a logical thinker through the process of problem solving. This skill is easily transferrable to Geography as it allows me to analyse information before reaching a valid and logical conclusion. Physics at A-Level has given me a better understanding of the matter that makes up our planet. By studying this I have a greater knowledge of the process of looking for patterns, which allows me to develop the theories associated with the topic. As a result of this I can use these theories to come to relevant hypotheses with which to work towards. This not only links with Maths but also Geography as it means I can use these skills to further enhance my geographical knowledge.

Outside of school, I have undertaken my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition and am working towards completing the other elements in full by December. By taking part in the award I have found my skills as a team player have increased significantly, as have my levels of determination and motivation, which I have been able to transfer to my studies. I currently work in the restaurant of an hotel, which brings with it a whole new set of responsibilities and adaptability in order to meet the needs of the customer. I am also undergoing flying lessons at John Lennon Airport in the hope of achieving my Private Pilot's Licence within the next 1-2 years. I have developed leadership skills by coaching the Year 9 and 10 school basketball teams with weekly training sessions and fortnightly games with local schools. I have a great passion for sport, which naturally drove me into football, rugby, cricket and basketball teams during my secondary school education, which has taught me the values of teamwork, responsibility and communication. All of these skills will aid me, not only in my studies, but also in adapting to university life.

I look forward to the exciting prospect of continuing the study of Geography and enjoying all that university has to offer both academically and socially, as well as within various sporting societies.

# Geography with French

I am passionate about current issues affecting the world, and my Geography studies only fuel this fascination further. They make me more aware of my surroundings. I enjoy learning about the physical aspect of the subject; however, I also find the interaction between human and physical Geography interesting. Having studied geography since year 7, my knowledge and understanding of the subject, as well as of other cultures, has been enhanced and continues to be developed. My interest in other cultures has also inspired my passion for languages.

I believe that having the ability to speak a language fluently is a highly desirable skill for the global workplace. Through my studies of French to A2 level and German to AS level, I have become a more effective communicator and have empathy for others. Through the medium of French literature and film - such as "Les Choristes", and "La Vie en Rose" - I have enriched my understanding of both the French culture and the language itself. Having taken Sociology at A-level, I have furthered my skills in analysis and the evaluation of topic areas in relation to questions. Sociology has also enabled me to understand my own society and culture today. I am looking forward to completing my EPQ, relating to both French and Geography, which I believe will further my knowledge in both subjects. I hope to develop my research techniques and independent learning. The presentation at the end of the qualification will ensure that my confidence continues to grow.

Sport plays an important part in my life, having represented the school for hockey and rounders since Year 7. I pursued my love of hockey by joining my local club, and whilst there, I became the vice-captain for my team, showing my maturity and willingness to help others. Having represented Cheshire and the North of England as Goalkeeper for the last four years and two years respectively, I received the huge honour of an England under 18 trial. Through my dedication to the sport I have motivated others and developed team work, essential for later life. Sport has opened up numerous challenges for me, such as the Community Sports Leaders Award and the Duke of Edinburgh, for which I have used my work as a peer mentor to Year 7 students for the voluntary section of my Silver Award. For my Sports Leaders I organised sporting events for the local primary schools. I have also helped at the Year 7 hockey club at lunchtimes, coaching the new goalkeepers. Although difficult to find work experience related to geography, in both Years 10 and 11, I earned the Key Stage 4 Geography Award, for my commitment and motivation in the subject. I have assisted with Year 7 lessons for the last year, along with assisting in Year 8 French lessons. As a result of this, I have interacted with both staff and younger pupils, and this has given me insight into the possibility of a career in teaching in the future. Having taken part in a weekend MFL course at Aston University, I learnt of the skills and dedication needed to study at a university. In order to improve my French, I participated in the French exchange, where I went to Bohars in Brittany and stayed with a French family. This encouraged me to speak French all day for ten days, as the family could not understand English! Going to Paris with my school enabled me to absorb the French culture, visiting museums, palaces, market places and even speaking to the locals about topics relevant to my AS level studies. Waitressing at Macdonald Portal Hotel and Spa has enabled me to meet new people in a formal and informal setting, and places me in a demanding and highly stimulating environment every time.

As a hardworking, determined and enthusiastic individual, I aim to enjoy every aspect of university life and grasp every opportunity it provides. I believe this is the next stepping stone to enhance my employability within an ever changing world.

# History

My perception of the past and how its affects have shaped the world today is something I often deliberate upon, as I believe that the close examination of history is enormously valuable to society and there are many lessons to be learnt. Consequently, I have closely followed the Arab Spring and the building tension within the Middle East by using my knowledge of history to link present incidents to those of past events, which, I consider, subsequently dictate the future. From an early age I was interested in reading and learning about history, most notably 'Horrible Histories', together with visiting, and becoming immersed in, awe inspiring castles and National Trust sites. Study at Advanced Level has strengthened my passion for history; it has encouraged me to fully engage in a subject I easily enjoy and my captivation with the past sparked an interest which has grown and led me to pursue the study of history at undergraduate level.

In order to further my historical wider reading, I have sought to increase my contextual knowledge around periods of time and events by exploring significant manifestos, such as 'Mein Kampf', the 'Communist Manifesto' and historically accurate books, such as, 'All Hell Let Loose' by Max Hastings, one of my favourite historical writers. In turn, this has fuelled my interest in military history and made comparing different views and philosophies concerning historical events and ideas far more engrossing and stimulating. I possess a particular fascination for military history, which stems from my traditional military family and also from my study of significant military events, such as the World Wars and the nuclear age, as well as visiting the wartime airfield of Duxford and battlefields such as Culloden. In addition, I have become engrossed in regional history and have explored local Roman and civil war history within my vicinity. Moreover, in an effort to further my understanding and contextual knowledge of Britain and its political system in the 19th Century, I have enjoyed reading Tess of the d'Urbervilles.

My studies at A-level further support my choice to pursue history at university with a mix of academic and scientific subjects: History, Maths, Technology and Physics, which have given me the ability to think logically and have a rounded approach to history. Also, by undertaking the Advanced STEM Leaders Award, I have developed my ability to take primary research and to communicate it effectively. As part of my STEM leader role, I have increased my familiarity with my subjects by regularly volunteering to help in lower school lessons. This evidences my ability to communicate with a range of ages and to be able to easily illustrate my ideas and interpretations to an audience. I was able to develop these skills further during my work experience at a primary school, where I had to continuously adapt from communicating and interpreting information to very young children to more capable older children.

Outside of school, having a part-time job has helped me to learn valuable time management and organisational skills which I am able to transfer to my school work, together with this, by working towards my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award I am able to demonstrate teamwork and communication skills and prove I can complete demanding and challenging assignments fully. This enthusiasm has developed into a fierce determination to achieve to the best of my ability in all aspects of my studies. In order to unwind, I play the cello and enjoy many sporting activities. As a post graduate, I hope to join the RAF at officer status and to that end, I am currently benefitting from flying lessons in a light aircraft, which aside from being a wonderful experience also works to perfect my communication skills and teamwork.

In conclusion, study at undergraduate level, with the provision of comprehensive libraries and a range of researchers and lecturers excites me hugely and I look forward to expanding my historical knowledge even further. As George Santayana said, "History is always written wrong, and so always needs to be rewritten" and that is my aim.

# History

Whilst Elizabeth I was reigning Queen, she had nicknames for several of her courtiers, one of which was 'frog'. History comes alive for me with the more personal, interesting and bizarre stories behind the people and events of the past, making the stories even more fascinating and reminding me that these grand historical 'beings' were all simply human. I developed a curiosity for the past from a young age, stemming from many family and school trips to historical places of interest. I knew I would continue history at university when, to my cousin's surprise, I chose to visit St Fagan's in Cardiff instead of shopping! My inquisitiveness for stories behind buildings, artifacts and events was stimulated by moving to an old farmhouse rich with history. This curiosity has led me to undertake researching the history of the house and area for my Extended Project Qualification.

I enjoy historical novels as they can bring the events and people to life; recently I read 'The Lady Elizabeth' by Alison Weir which gives a remarkable insight into Queen Elizabeth's life and 'The Return' by Victoria Hislop is a captivating story set during the Spanish Civil War. Through the A-level course last year, I became absorbed in Russia's turbulent history, so I read 'Animal Farm' and '1984' by George Orwell and Leo Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina' to compliment these studies. Studying History at A-level has really fuelled my enthusiasm for the subject; I found myself excited about the election as a result of studying British Reform in the 19th century. This year I am studying Irish history; supplemented by reading James Joyce's 'Dubliners'. For me Literature captures the essence of the time which I find through my A-level study in English Literature.

To broaden my literary horizons further, I attend a Sixth Form book club and subscribe to BBC History magazine for more factual based reading around the past; it is fascinating that history can be re-visited and even re-written all the time. On listening to my aunt's experiences with French at university, I was inspired to continue the language beyond A level. I became aware of the opportunities and excitement that studying French would bring both at university and beyond. Reminiscing over holidays and visits to France I realised I had developed a love for the country, language and of course the food! Visiting the Bayeux tapestry, Joan of Arc's church and the D-day sites has shown me France's vibrant past, which links with my interest in history. Despite my best efforts, I was not able to excite a passion for French in certain year sevens in the lessons I regularly helped with last year, once overhearing, 'Why should I learn French, I'm not French!' This view frustrates me when having felt the reward of managing to communicate in France it is obvious why we learn languages. It is the thought of conversing fluently in French that spurs on my desire to study the language. Enjoying the book 'L'Etranger' for the A2 course has aroused my interest in French Literature and I know I would enjoy studying further renowned works at degree level. Pursuing my interest outside studies I have watched various French films my favourite of which is 'Amelie' and I often read French magazines which have improved my knowledge of the language and country.

As a Christian, my faith is important to me; I attend church every Sunday and regularly volunteer with the youth group. This, along with working at a busy coffee shop and chairing Sixth Form council meetings has improved my communication and teamwork skills. Over the summer I walked Hadrian's Wall for charity with friends and I feel university would offer many similar opportunities. As a dedicated, diligent student I am ready to study both French and History at university and the opportunity to continue these two diverse subjects excites and inspires me.

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# Law

The Law is a vast and diverse subject; it touches and shapes every aspect of our society. It is this kind of thinking that sparked my interest and as I become more aware of the world around me, the way the Law is central to our entire civilisation has begun to fascinate me. I am also more aware of injustices that occur throughout the world and how using the Law can rectify such situations. This fuels my determination to practice Law and make a real difference.

As I decided that Law was the career for me half way through Year 12 I chose to re-sit and study subjects that would better equip me with skills that would benefit me at University. This was a difficult decision but one I felt was necessary to ensure I was a strong enough candidate. As a result I have developed many transferable skills that would contribute towards the study of Law; I have gained analytical skills from History and can efficiently evaluate and use sources to back up my arguments, moreover in History we have been encouraged to study independently and research the many varying opinions on events. I have acquired essay-writing skills from my study of English Literature, which has enabled me to write fluently and creatively within my work. The study of different aspects of literature has developed my language as a whole and made me far more eloquent which has enhanced my ability to give a more reasoned and persuasive argument. Furthermore by combining these subjects with Maths I have enhanced my ability to give a logical interpretation in my other subjects, this has been especially useful in Spanish when translating from one language to another. My ability to speak a second language at conversational level is a valuable skill and I am hoping it will increase my employability. At university I plan to continue building on my knowledge of the Spanish language and their culture.

Within school I am strongly involved in the sixth form council having volunteered to be the secretary. My role involves taking the minutes of the meeting every week and keeping accurate records. Being on the council has developed my debating abilities and allowed me to take on responsibilities such as arranging a charity car wash that included all students in the sixth form. Throughout my school life I have always been involved in the sports teams particularly rugby, and in 2009 I was chosen as one of sixteen students in Cheshire to attend a trip to Spain in order to coach rugby. This proved an invaluable experience and forced me to become more self-reliant and organised when preparing and planning my sessions. It also encouraged me to think on my feet in situations when the language barrier became a particular challenge or something wasn't going according to plan and I had to immediately think of an alternative. During my trip to Spain I completed my foreign language leader's award and level two sports leader's award. I have also achieved my Black Belt in Ju-jitsu. More recently I have volunteered in our school library to supervise younger students as part of my Duke of Edinburgh silver award, and last October completed the expedition element of the award taking a lead role in the navigation.

Outside of college I play rugby for Chester RUFC this has really enhanced my teamwork skills and my ability to communicate and co-operate efficiently so I excel as part of any team. I am currently working part time as a barman, this has encouraged me to develop a strong work life balance and my inter-personal skills have improved as a result of the varying needs of our client base.

My ambition after I have completed my degree and taken the necessary further steps is to join the military as a military lawyer. I believe this is an area in which I would do extremely well and it would not just provide the sort of challenges I crave but also provide invaluable experiences that will enhance my personal and professional development.

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# Law

Law is an integral part of civil society; it shapes, bends and moulds cultures and civilisations through creating order and structure. Aspects of law influence everyone and I have come to understand and acknowledge the way in which Law regulates decisions we make, for instance, from Crime to Business and Conveyancing to Tort.

The effect of International Law on current affairs intrigues me, for instance the debate on how to react to the use of chemical weapons in Syria; banned under the basic principles of the Laws of War. With no clear distinction for the appropriate retaliation, how do people decide what is the "Right of self-defence" as Article 51 of the UN System of Use of Force states, is it morally right to step in to defend those who cannot protect themselves? How do the Security Council authorise a deterrent against Syria's leadership without repeating the history of Iraq and what are the justifications to warrant the "Right of self-defence" which the Iraq war was based on? This reasoning behind major world events fascinates me, and highlights once more the far reaching and effect Law has on our lives. Furthermore, the Leveson Inquiry is an example of how Law shapes the future through politics; where the 'phone hacking scandal may result in the regulation of the press, which may then contradict the act of "Free Speech". Moreover, at a lecture on the morality of punishment, I became intrigued by the Innocence Project, an organisation set up to try to protect those who have been convicted wrongly such as Curtis McCarthy, which led me to read *"Der Vorleser"*, which discusses who is truly innocent. These experiences have increased my wish to choose Law as a career.

At A Level the study of English Literature has helped me to refine my writing into a coherent and powerful argument and provides the necessary skills to critique the choice of language or imagery used. I enjoy the challenge of Spanish because it is an output for creative speaking; forcing me to think with well-formed and appropriate responses under pressure and it was an honour to receive the prestigious school MFL prize. Problem solving through rational thinking is also a highly important skill which is required in Mathematics and helps me to further my logical thinking. These are all adaptable and transferable skills necessary for the LLB.

A placement at a primary school was a rewarding experience; working independently with 7 and 8 year old children in small group settings in a variety of subjects. Whilst this summer, my participation in an archaeological dig in Cornwall was a very exciting and different situation and produced many early Georgian artefacts. Additionally, I have volunteered locally as a Librarian. These diverse experiences show my adaptability to different situations and also my ability to work in changing environments, which I will be able to apply to my future studies. My participation in Italian club shows initiative as I worked with teaching staff to establish this group and has enabled me to become a more confident speaker.

Sport is a big part of my life with fencing being the most enjoyable. Progression from being best novice to becoming captain of my team and competing at national level has given me a huge sense of achievement. Fencing provides me with responsibility and it is gratifying to mentor younger members of my team. A strong sense of commitment is also created by my participation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Additionally through my jobs as both a kitchen porter and a waiter, combined with managing my studies, job and social life, I have evidenced my ability to work as part of a team, as well as organise and manage my time wisely.

Entrance to this course would be both a challenge and a privilege. I am a motivated, conscientious and caring individual who relishes the prospect of studying Law at university.

# Law

'At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.'  
Aristotle Beliefs such as this form the basis of my interest in the study of Law. Human behaviour fascinates me, and I see our laws to be a fundamental part of modern existence, giving structure to and underpinning all aspects of society. Therefore, I see the study of Law to be, in many ways, an examination of civilisation in its most basic form. I cannot imagine a subject that I would find more absorbing and rewarding, and my interest has developed over a number of years. As my awareness of the world around me widened, I became increasingly conscious of injustices that occur, as the result of the behaviour of individuals as well as governments.

As a member of Amnesty International, I keep up to date with human rights issues and am passionate about taking action where I can. I see a degree in Law as the first step towards a future career for myself, where I hope to eventually have the ability to have some impact on the lives of others. To have the chance to extend my knowledge and understanding even beyond an English Law degree would be something that I would treasure. I believe that I would thrive under the challenge presented by the opportunity to study French Law alongside English, be it a small taste or a full qualification; the context it would lend my studies would be invaluable and the contrast with the English system captivates me. To study the French deductive mode of reasoning in comparison with the English inductive would be challenging but incredibly rewarding. Currently, I am embarking on my Extended Project Qualification: an analysis of the compatibility of Sharia Law with the English system. I plan to embrace the opportunity to undertake study of such depth and independence. Another aspect of the study of Law that appeals to me is the significance of the nuances and subtleties of language and of situations, the impact that slight differences can have. Within the Law, specifics are of course vitally important.

An awareness of this, as well as attention to detail, are two of my strengths that I have particularly enjoyed developing through my study of History and English Literature. When analysing History, an understanding of the influence that each factor may have is a skill that is required, and one that I believe I will find useful in the study of Law. Undertaking work experience at the firm Aaron & Partners helped to provide me with a realistic picture of the practice and study of Law, its incredible breadth and detail and the challenge it would present. During my placement, I experienced a handful of aspects of Law, of which Employment Law particularly appealed to me. I have also come into contact with Family Law, when I was adopted at the age of 17. I became very engaged with the process, and found the thoroughness fascinating. I gained an understanding of the practicalities of the study and practice of Law through conversations with solicitors and barristers during a two-day course at the University of Nottingham. I was also able to take part in debates and a mock trial, which I enjoyed immensely.

My commitment to a range of activities is representative of the focused and determined approach that I would have towards university life. I have been involved in numerous projects throughout my time at school, and feel particularly proud of my long-standing contribution to the School Council. I have also taken part in the school's theatre productions each year. The opportunity to perform, be heard and appreciated is extremely valuable and has given me great confidence in terms of verbal communication. This is something that I am very interested in using in my future career. I am aware of the ability I have in terms of voicing my opinions, as well as the freedom we all have within this country, and as such, feel it would be worthwhile for me to use my skills in a position of advocacy.

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# Law

Law shapes every aspect of society. It is integral in today's world and in our history. For this reason, Law has always interested me and I am determined to pursue it as a career. I have always been surrounded by lawyers within my family's social circle; this is one of the key motivators that have driven me towards law. It also enabled me to gain valuable work experience shadowing barristers in Liverpool Crown Court and watching them in Chambers and before a judge on numerous cases. In particular, I sat in on a murder trial; enabling me to see key components of court which fascinated me and consolidated my ambition to become a barrister. Furthermore, over the next year I plan to shadow lawyers in a variety of business environments.

I spent the majority of my work experience in 2008 in a family court and was able to view numerous cases from custody to divorce which sparked a strong interest in Family Law. Furthermore, as my parents are separated and both remarried this element of the law was personal to me and I feel a connection and understanding of it. I feel that specialising in family law will make a tangible difference to other people's lives and that this is the place of lawyers in society.

My subjects complement a future in law and provide me with strong attributes that I will apply to my studies at university. Many aspects of law affect how we manage our economy and for this reason economics is applicable to studying the law and my experience at university. Through History I have studied British and Russian politics which taught me a lot about politics in relation to law. Moreover, History and Economics provide me with key analytical skills that will help me to excel in this course. French and English Literature provide me with a greater understanding of not only the French language but also my own whilst helping me appreciate other cultures and societies. All my subjects enable me to improve my communication and oratory through class discussions and debates.

Throughout my school career I have been involved in numerous extra-curricular activities, particularly in sport, representing my school in the 800m at district level. I feel I can bring the qualities involved in good sportsmanship forward to university. More recently I have been involved within our school community as a Sixth Form Ambassador at parents' evenings and governors' meetings. This helped to improve my people skills and gave me valuable insight into important processes within the school system. Participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award has been extremely rewarding. Completing Silver last year, I am currently working towards the Gold award. Although challenging, it has taught me vital life skills as well as dedication, team work and perseverance. As part of the award I have been a young leader at my local Brownies since 2007, through this I have learnt to be authoritative as well as a good role model for young people. Hopefully, these skills will be useful whilst at university and I feel they provide me with a strong foundation for success.

Coming from a large family, it is important to have my own independence which I fund through part-time jobs. I am extremely responsible and professional; these are two traits which I will carry forward to university. Furthermore through my experience working in various hospitality environments I have gained good time management and customer service skills. Having a part time job provides me with a useful insight into the world of business that will be useful during university and afterwards.

It would be an honour to study at university where I hope to contribute by continuing my volunteer work in the university community. I also hope to be able take advantage of many of the extra-curricular activities on offer. I am extremely motivated and hardworking and I am resolute on pursuing my ambition of practising as a Barrister.

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# Marketing and Media

Having thoroughly enjoyed my GCSE and A level studies and having had a number of stimulating experiences in different working environments, I have chosen to study Marketing and Media. I want to obtain a better insight into the different aspects of running a business and learn key management skills; I hope to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge which will aid me in my future career. Media is a subject that not only I will find incredibly useful but fascinating at the same time. I enjoy exploring how the media affects an individual, I have studied Media, Theatre Studies and Sociology at A- level. I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to produce print or moving image based products where I gained skills such as independent research and working to a deadline. Sociology has helped me with my analytical skills writing essays and producing a balanced argument analysing each point and concluding it. Theatre Studies has also helped with my presentation and confidence skills and this will aid me in the future, including being able to produce presentations confidently. Public relations has been a passion of mine since going on a work placement in the PR office for the company Mamas and Papas. I enjoyed writing press releases and liaising with journalists; in addition I wrote for the Ciao monthly magazine for the company, this enabled me to enhance my English skills. I found myself towards the end of the placement being able to work independently and create high standard press releases that were sent to journalists. I was then asked to come back and help with the organisation of the Midwife Of The Year Awards, this allowed me to look behind the event and what it involves, I learnt how to work with others as part of a team and the importance of meeting a deadline. Personally greeting guests improved my inter-personal skills. Furthermore I was asked back the following summer to do another two weeks, where I took an in depth look into this career. Having 4 weeks work experience, exploring the way journalists work and promoting products, gave me skills which confirmed my desire to study Marketing and Media. In addition I worked as a general retail assistant at Mamas and Papas. My role consisted of working the tills, helping with general customers queries, also making sure the shop was presented to a high standard. Working on the tills meant I was a trustworthy person. I worked there for 2 years and showed that I was a committed employee that could apply myself to sometimes challenging tasks and providing the best customer service. At present I am working as a waitress; I have thoroughly enjoyed the high paced work atmosphere and dealing with sometimes stressful situations and resolving problems together as part of a team, which will aid me in whatever career path of I take. When starting Sixth Form I thought it would be good, to be able to pass on the knowledge I have learnt though the years on to my peers in the younger years. I did this through my Theatre Studies; every Thursday, I help the year Key stage 3 improve in the subject, creating tasks for them to be involved in, such as creating tableaux. This helps with my confidence of speaking in front of a large group of people, also learning how to apply my knowledge to a younger student. I am the founder of the Sixth Form newsletter, this is the perfect experience in particular for media studies, being able to search out an interesting story that will grip both the younger and the older target audience is a challenging but rewarding task. Writing for the newsletter helps me to develop the writing style that is needed of any journalist or PR consultant. Assisted by my degree I hope that Public Relations is the career path I follow, this is something I have a real zest for, I believe that in life if you have a real passion for something you will succeed. Both Media and Marketing will aid me in this career choice and I hope I am given the opportunity to follow this path in life.

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# Media

The Media touches every part of our lives and is something we cannot escape. Media Studies excites me, intrigues me and inspires me. What stimulates me to study Media at degree level is the idea of looking at 'the bigger picture', not just a small image on the screen but what that image represents in a deeper context. I love the creative side of the media and can appreciate the power and immediacy of images which attract global audiences.

My passion for media was recognised by my teachers and I was subsequently selected to take photographs for our Sixth Form Prospectus. I selected the images, organised the shoots, chose subjects and the camera positions. It was a privilege to see my images reproduced in such an important document. Additionally, I was asked by the History Faculty to film a documentary during 'World War One Week', to mark the centenary. I used my film-making and editing skills, such as camera angles and shots that I believe looked suitable for the documentary. Whilst editing I used different animations and visual effects to make a five-minute piece which received wonderful reviews from students and staff alike. To further increase my media knowledge and experience, I have requested some work experience with an ITV television crew filming a drama series in my village which will increase my understanding of filming and editing.

My A-Level Media course has allowed me to develop my practical skills, creativity and technical competence. I have developed sophisticated analytical skills and can deconstruct media texts, appreciating how audiences are positioned and targeted. My AS coursework focused on creating a provocative cause campaign, which targeted impressionable youngsters, boosting their self-esteem. The external moderator specifically commented: "The audio track was particularly suited to the campaign and visual codes. Campaign posters showed a clear sense of audience in their construction and content." At A2 I am currently studying music videos which convey social messages. I am planning my own narrative video production which will be visual and evocative; offering a positive representation of modern women. The recent moral panic regarding female objectification and the overt sexualisation of women in music videos is topical; the current debate regarding age appropriate imagery and how to regulate the industry is interesting in this digital age. In my opinion, the classification of music videos will result in a reduction of younger viewers, who often make up the target market.

A-Level Drama has helped me to develop confidence and the ability to bring abstract ideas to life. Furthermore, as a director, I have had to creatively connect with an audience to evoke a response; elements that are crucial to any media text. History has taught me to write in an analytical style and use evidence to support my view; improving my ability to analyse media texts and skilfully apply theoretical concepts.

Outside of school I volunteer at a Key Stage 2 drama club. This experience increased my confidence and improved my ability to work with others. I love helping younger students to learn and build confidence. I have been a Sixth Form Ambassador at my school's open evenings, giving tours to prospective students and parents. Parents commented on my maturity, helpfulness and articulacy. I currently have a part time retail job which has furthered my communication skills and ability to work well with others. Professional media productions involve a team of experts working together. I am a team player and enjoy the creative energy which group work brings.

I am a hardworking, determined individual who is excited and ready to further my education at university. Through my work experience and the opportunities given to me within school, my enthusiasm towards Media Studies has continued to grow. I am eager to further my knowledge of the media at undergraduate level and to embrace all that university has to offer.

# Materials Science

Materials science has the capability to change the world for the better. By improving the materials we use, we are able to make technology more accessible to the developed and third world to drastically improve the lives of many people. I feel that I can make a contribution in this respect. My academic interests have developed into a passion for both physics and chemistry, I study both at A level; taking these as a basis, I would like to develop my technical ability in the materials area. My interest leads me to read broadly around these subjects and when I examine the advances in composites, Nano-technology and in forensic science (in relation to materials) my curiosity is further stimulated. Albert Einstein stated "Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction". This inspires me to consider how changing small things may ultimately provide answers to many problems. The idea of manipulating the atom configuration to completely change the properties of a material amazes and challenges me. Currently Nano-materials have few commercial applications but this is certain to change in the near future, creating exciting opportunities in research and development. As part of my general interest in science I am a member of an astronomical society I have discovered fascinating entities in the cosmos and their composition. Within the society we have a monthly lecture on particular mysteries which helps to quench and yet stimulate my thirst for knowledge of the universe. I regularly view the stars with my telescope and hope to further develop this into photography in the future. Working in a Quality Control laboratory in the detergent industry, over the last two summer holidays has helped to improve my understanding of chemistry and how it is used in manufacturing. It has also shown me the importance of teamwork in problem solving. In the lab I was trained to use a variety of equipment and this has helped me to understand analytical techniques and the way in which test procedures are developed. Having committed to the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, I recently completed the expedition element in the Peak District. For part of the hike I navigated and worked hard to improve team morale, developing my leadership and decision making skills. Our secondary task was to develop a presentation on the effect of hikers on path erosion in the Peak District. Currently I am in the process of completing an EPQ on composite materials. I am hoping to do a theoretical study ideally followed by some practical testing of commercially available materials. This will enable me to work independently and also develop my practical skills in the material science area. At my local rugby club I am assistant coach to the under nines. I am working through the coaching courses of the RFU, with the aim to reach level 2 by the end of the academic year. This has helped me develop my leadership and communication skills. It has also helped me to build relationships with a team of coaches and gain the trust of the under nines team. I have played on the wing for Northwich RUFC for four years; more recently for the senior colts. Team tactics, creation of space on the field developing the attack has helped to expand my problem solving and logical thinking skills. In school I have served as a prefect, competed in the UKMT senior maths challenge, and was presented an award for excellence in Chemistry last year. Also, I regularly tread the boards in the school productions. I have also been a member of the school Karting team since year 7. I hope to get out of this degree the skills and knowledge to help develop new materials that will change the world for the better. I am reliable, hardworking have teamwork skills and can work independently. I believe my passion for science and my academic abilities make me a perfect candidate to study materials science at university.

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# Maths

Mathematics has always been my greatest strength; the subject that comes most naturally to me and gives me the most pleasure. So far in my academic career I have been introduced to some basic applications which have reinforced my view that Maths and Physics are fundamental to all aspects of modern life and I have realised how statistical techniques can be used by business to forecast future volumes, trends and behaviours. Now I need to understand more. My ability to comprehend and remember scientific theories has recently led me to contemplate how they can be applied to existing problems and conundrums. By completing the Advanced STEM Leaders Award I began to sate my ever-growing appetite for the world of applied mathematics. It was a challenging but worthwhile task; my determination and passion paid dividends as my research and dissertation were judged worthy of a special award. Rendered curious by this newfound field I began to read further into the subject. With mechanics being my favourite module during Year 12 I decided to delve deeper by reading J. Jones and J. Burdess' 'Basic Mechanics with Engineering Applications'. Physics complemented my understanding of the usages of mechanics and I became gripped by the numerous usages of Maths in the real world. This captivating insight developed my knowledge of devices that we take for granted; from the simplicities of a belt drive to the relative complexities of impulse turbines. With the current economic climate a pressing issue, I was also keen to grasp an understanding of how Maths can solve problems in a business sense and the macro-economic damage which can be caused by using poor mathematical models, over optimistic assumptions and inadequate analysis. I am currently reading 'Introductory Mathematics: Algebra and Analysis' by Gregory C. Smith in addition to subscribing to the Financial Times newspaper, to give me both a mathematical and purely economic view of the situation. This has developed my knowledge to no end and has taken my understanding further than I could ever have achieved during Sixth Form. In school, I have volunteered in Year 11 Maths classes; solving problems, correcting misunderstandings, filling in gaps and guiding students towards their GCSE. This was a hugely rewarding experience as I was able to transfer some of my own knowledge and skills to others, whilst in turn developing my social skills and patience.

Balancing my studies and interests has also been important. I thoroughly enjoy music and have played the piano and clarinet to grade 5, performing in numerous school concerts. My sporting passion is handball; being a member of the U16 England squad and winning the National County Championship were huge achievements for me and opened up the opportunity to volunteer at the London 2012 Olympic Games where I managed a six person team, emerging as a more responsible, independent person.

During my summer, I took the opportunity to gain some work experience at a large food manufacturing site. Having joined the finance team I was able to work on a project to simplify the group's ERP system, enabling the company to automatically generate management information. In touring the factory my mind was opened to the immense influence of maths in business; in engineering, logistics, finance and even HR; confirming my belief that maths is a fundamentally important discipline. In addition to my work experience wherever possible I have taken opportunities to visit other businesses including car manufacturers, financial services and consultants giving me new insights into the business world.

I look forward to developing academically during my degree and understand how, by using science in practical ways, it will play to my strengths as a mathematician. I also intend to continue with sport and music and I recognise the opportunities that life at university will offer, leading me to a career using a subject which I am committed to and passionate about.

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# Maths

I have always enjoyed the challenge of problem solving. I relish going further to understand the mechanics of a problem and being able to see why things work the way they do. In my academic life this inevitably led me to Mathematics and Physics as these subjects concern themselves with solving fundamental problems and explaining the nature of the world around us. As such these have always been my favourite areas and this is helped by the fact that I have always seemed able to deliver good exam results in them. My interest in Maths and Physics also extends outside the classroom. I read around the subject and I recently enjoyed 'In Search of Schrödinger's Cat' by John Gribbin as it allowed me to extend my knowledge of Physics beyond A level and gave me an insight into one of the topics that I will be learning about at university. Another favourite of mine is 'Visions' by Michio Kaku, which discusses the technologies of the future and talks about how and when they could be developed. Being published in 1997 actually makes it a more interesting read as much of what he talks about already exists. It is exciting to think that by studying Maths and Physics, I could be involved in the realisation of some of the technologies he explores. I also try to keep up to date with recent ideas and experiments using the internet and periodicals such as New Scientist. I have also competed in the UK team Maths challenge twice now and I feel this really helped me to develop my teamwork, as well as my communication in both explaining Mathematical ideas and also understanding others' approach. I have also entered the normal Maths challenge achieving gold each time. During year 12, having been the only student in my year taking Further Maths my lessons have been with the year above, meaning that a lot of the time I had to work independently. Entering year 13 I am now with the year 12 Further Maths students and I feel that this is further helping me with my communication as I am often explaining ideas to the younger students. Growing up with an artificial leg has also given me plenty of problem solving to do as I have never allowed this to restrict my ambition and am keen on adventure sports. An example of an issue that had to be solved is with karting. Until recently I raced karts competitively in the National Schools Karting Association, as I was unable to use a foot pedal with my right leg I worked with other members of the school team to design and build a hand controller to solve this problem. I still kart but as a hobby only, due to my school commitments. I also have several PADI scuba diving qualifications, the most recent of which is Rescue Diver, which requires not only a technical understanding of diving but also the ability to think clearly and critically. The need to both task load in a crisis and also 'plan a dive and dive a plan' are key skills I can transfer over to other fields. Skiing is another long term interest of mine. I started skiing at the age of six and despite often having to apply quick repairs to my leg on the slopes, I ski at a high level having skied many black runs in the past. I am now working towards my gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and I do not envisage any problems with this as I was in the scout movement from a young age and have done many challenging expeditions in the past. During this period I also worked with some of the younger groups in the scout movement. I have been playing guitar for around 7 years now and enjoy doing this in my spare time. I also worked as a kitchen porter at a local pub for a few months before deciding to focus on my studies instead. I feel this helped to develop my responsibility and punctuality. In the long term, I hope to use my degree to go on to do further research in either mathematics or theoretical physics. This would really be a dream come true for me, as I would be working towards solving problems and making my contribution to science and technology on a day to day basis.

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# Maths

Mathematics is exciting because it is surprising. Although much of its aesthetic appeal lies in order, logic and symmetry it is the unexpected quirks which I find particularly endearing: the seemingly random nature of the distribution of prime numbers, and constants such as  $\pi$  and  $e$  which appear arbitrary to the uninformed observer, yet are elegantly united by Euler's identity. This illustrates the remarkable connections which exist between different areas of mathematics, which range from the simple, such as when a geometry problem translates to solving a quadratic equation, to the very complex; the link between imaginary and prime numbers suggested by the Riemann Zeta Function, for example.

A-Level has allowed me to flourish mathematically. I particularly enjoyed the calculus found in the Core 3 and Core 4 units, and was intrigued by the application of this apparently abstract concept to the kinematics studied in Mechanics and Physics. For this reason I am especially interested in the analysis unit of the course, which offers the opportunity to investigate these topics further. I have sought to broaden my understanding of mathematics through a variety of study beyond the A-level syllabus. Books such as Stewart's "17 Equations that Changed the World" opened my eyes to a wide range of applications of mathematics: from the physical, such as the wave and heat equations, to the role played by the Black-Scholes equation in finance. Hitchcock and Zawaira's "Primer for Mathematics Competitions" introduced me to new areas of maths such as number theory, as well as sparking renewed interest in familiar topics such as geometry, and providing proofs of all theorems discussed. Proof is one of the features of degree level Maths I await most eagerly, and in order to expand on the concept I am currently reading Allenby's "Numbers and Proofs". In addition, I have represented my Sixth Form in the UKMT team challenge, which developed my problem solving skills and teamwork. Building on this, I plan to sit STEP I and II this summer, in order to stretch myself and as preparation for reading Maths at university. As part of my Advanced STEM Leaders award I have volunteered weekly in Year 7 Maths lessons. Being reminded of the basics of mathematics has led me to appreciate a key facet of the subject: that even the most complex theorems are derived from fundamental axioms, which highlights the importance of rigorous proof. If an error or contradiction exists in the foundation, an entire mathematical edifice can come tumbling down.

I never miss an opportunity to get involved in the mathematics around me, from regularly attending Maths Club, to learning Pi to 100 decimal places to celebrate World Pi Day! By working towards the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, after completing Silver, I have acquired valuable time management and organisational skills and applied them effectively to my studies. As Deputy Head Boy, I play an integral role in the school community which has helped to develop me personally: speaking at school open days in front of large audiences has improved my confidence, while one-to-one discussion with teachers and parents has had a similar impact on my conversational skills; both have been enhanced by my involvement in the Sixth Form Debating Society. It has become clear to me through my reading, as well as personal experience, that maths is often a sociable subject involving a great deal of collaboration and discussion, so I feel that my communication skills are very applicable to mathematics in this respect.

I feel strongly that a Mathematics degree is right for me; it offers a vital opportunity to study something that I enjoy both as an academic subject and as a form of recreation. I also feel strongly that I am right for university Mathematics: an enthusiastic, organised and highly motivated individual with an insatiable appetite for proof, problem solving and mathematical understanding.

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# Medicine

My curiosity for science, in particular the mechanisms of the human body, can be fulfilled by many different career pathways, however, the great diversity that medicine offers, along with the ability for patient interaction and ever changing situations has led me to the firm conclusion that medicine is the career I am determined to pursue.

To further my insight into the medical profession I attended the Medlink conference and obtained work experience at two hospitals. I initially spent time in Neo-Natal Intensive Care. Seeing babies in their incubators was an incredibly sobering experience and really highlighted the huge responsibility and trust that comes with being a doctor. I was moved by the compassion displayed, not only towards the babies but also to the emotionally fragile families who represented a diverse range of social and ethnic groups. It was particularly interesting to see how the medical staff adapted their approach to each consultation; allowing all to be fully informed.

Spending time in A&E emphasised that patient care involves both emotional and physical well-being. This was accentuated after shadowing a doctor and recognising the importance of approaching patients in a non-judgemental manner. I felt that this enabled the formation of a strong relationship, a bond that is important for good communication and to create a sense of individuality. Whilst in Theatre, the need for multi-disciplinary teams became clear when I observed a complex ankle operation. During the procedure I saw the importance of effective communication and efficient team work, attributes that are vital for providing safe, high quality care. Moreover, in the Outpatient Clinic, I observed a consultation with a patient suffering from Coeliac Disease. The doctor spoke in a caring yet professional manner, allowing him to formulate an accurate assessment for a future treatment plan. To further my knowledge I read 'Trust me, I'm a Junior Doctor' by Max Pemberton. I was struck by the intense commitment and pressure that comes with being a foundation doctor when making the transition from student to professional.

Regular volunteering in a care home as well as a cottage hospital has given me a further perspective on the role of a medical practitioner. Visits to both have required me to converse and interact with patients, a task which is usually challenging, requiring patience and comprehension due to the nature of their conditions; exacerbated by vision and audioception deficiencies. This experience has helped strengthen my interpersonal skills and reinforced the fact that medicine is also about social care and supporting those at vulnerable stages of their lives.

I have been able to observe pre-hospital care as a St John Ambulance cadet by participating at public events such as a Disability Awareness Day. Through this, I have learnt the significance of delivering first aid, and as a result, I am currently spearheading a campaign to acquire a defibrillator for my village. This project has involved presenting to the Parish Council and liaising with the Ambulance Service. Funding has now been authorised and I intend to raise awareness and organise training. In 2013, I participated in the National Citizen Service programme helping to fundraise, design and decorate a sensory room for disadvantaged children. In addition to this I am a member of a youth club and the Sixth Form council, enabling me to help organise events for fundraising as well as providing enjoyment for others. I am a keen tennis player and golfer and am working towards my Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, all of which have contributed towards my time management, leadership and problem solving skills. Entry into medical school is the start of an extensive journey that requires commitment, empathy and passion; being a responsible, hardworking and versatile person, I believe that I have the skills and attributes in order to become a valuable addition to the medical profession.



# Medicine

My ambition to study medicine stems from a great respect for the achievements made by doctors and the opportunities the profession gives to work closely with people. A challenging, rewarding career is what makes medicine so appealing to me and I relish the demands it holds. I have always been drawn towards science and studying it at A-Level has inspired me to gain a greater understanding of the complexity of the human body. A-Level study has helped me develop the important skills of self motivation, time management and coping with pressure, which are essential for a medical career. A Medical taster day and Medsim course at the Universities of Liverpool and Nottingham have provided opportunities to talk to medics as well as experience simulated medical situations, giving me a greater understanding of the different aspects of medicine. Whilst undergoing work experience in General Practice I was able to gain an insight into Primary Care; I later spent time in Paediatric, ENT and Emergency departments. Assisting with baby checks and witnessing various surgical procedures reinforced my understanding of the huge responsibilities bestowed upon doctors. Attending team talks prior to operations and listening to how doctors decide upon treatment plans illustrated to me the importance of good team work. The media frequently issues negative reports in relation to the 'struggling NHS'. My perception was not of this, but appreciative patients and hard working doctors determined to deliver a high standard of care. My passion for medicine has been greatly fuelled by working weekly as a health care assistant at a specialist dementia unit attached to a nursing home, as well as volunteering at my local cottage hospital. Being responsible for patients' care is immensely rewarding and talking with them has helped me to understand their physical and emotional needs. I have worked as a kitchen porter for over a year; being in this high pressure environment has enabled me to build upon my interpersonal and time management skills and instilled in me a good work ethic. Being trusted to babysit for children in my village has given me a greater sense of responsibility and allowed me to experience a role of caring for a different age group. In school I am involved with running the Table Tennis Club, coaching younger students to improve their game. I am a Peer Mentor and work weekly with Year 7 students who are struggling with the transition to high school. Both roles are immensely gratifying and confirm to me that a career providing such opportunities, where a real difference can be made to the lives of individuals, is what I aspire to. Further volunteering opportunities have presented themselves at my local youth football club, where I have assisted with training the younger players. Observing the adult leaders, I have gained additional knowledge of teamwork and teaching skills. I thoroughly enjoy the challenges of Rugby, being selected to tour Italy with my school team and winning the North Midlands Plate with my club, Whitchurch. I have also represented my school and Cheshire in the javelin at the Mason Dean Trophy and currently hold the school record. I am a keen tennis and badminton player and regularly play at my local clubs. Since completing my Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award I have commenced working towards the Gold Award, whilst for relaxation, I enjoy listening to music and socialising with friends. Through experiences in my community and school, I have matured and developed valuable qualities that will help me as I embark upon the rigours of studying at university. I am approaching medicine in a thoughtful manner, with a broad understanding of what both the course and the career entail. I am a conscientious, outgoing individual who is keen to learn and test myself. I am confident that I have the determination and ability to succeed and am keen to embrace the opportunities that university life offers.

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# Medicine

I met Phoebe and Declan at a camp for disadvantaged children this summer. I was there as a team leader and during one challenging afternoon each poured out their difficulties to me. I saw first hand how health issues could be linked to poverty and lifestyle. This experience confirmed my career choice as a doctor as I made a small contribution to their lives by building trust and then simply listening to and encouraging them. Moreover, this event helped me realise how the importance of continued care; working with patients and teams of talented and dedicated healthcare professionals towards one united goal, and holding the ultimate responsibility for the team, excites me. My interest in medicine began when age eleven I was diagnosed with asthma. I learned about the condition and soon became fascinated by the entire human body, its weaknesses and how to address them.

The combination of working directly with people and solving challenging problems involving the workings of the human body is a vocation I am passionate about. In time this interest led me to actively seek and gain opportunities to learn about the medical profession. I attended Medlink at Nottingham University, and 'So you want to be a doctor?' at Leighton Hospital. These courses gave me some insight into the ever changing medical profession, as well as experiencing life as a medical student. Encouraged by these experiences I successfully applied to shadow doctors in two Cheshire hospitals over 5 days, giving me a perception of the work of a practicing doctor across many areas and specialities. One consultation from the orthopaedic clinic stands out, when a patient demanded that the doctor issue certain treatment that conflicted with his long term welfare. The doctor displayed medical knowledge with insight into the character of his patient to effectively manage him, employing communication skills successfully. I also attended a discharge meeting, where I found myself enthralled at the prospect of joining similar multi-disciplinary teams. From my studies in Chemistry I was particularly fascinated by our reading into optical isomerism and the problems associated with the drug thalidomide, and how minute chemical change can have catastrophic consequences for the body as a whole. Furthermore, I was also extremely excited whilst studying the controversial topic of stem cell research in Biology, and was inspired to read further and into this revolutionary area of medicine.

As captain for both school and club in cricket, football and handball I demonstrated and developed leadership and teamwork skills among my peers including the ability to communicate and direct whilst remaining calm under pressure. Furthermore I have represented England in handball at U18 and U16 level. Acknowledging my dedication and success, I was given the award Chester and Cheshire West's Young Sportsman of the Year 2011. I have achieved grades 5 and 3 in alto saxophone and piano respectively and I currently play in a church band, enjoying not only the music but also the opportunity this provides to interact with people from across the community - something I also enjoy as a weekly volunteer at the local hospital where I serve hot drinks. I particularly enjoyed volunteering at the week long Rotary Camp for disadvantaged children. Gaining trust from both leaders and children was challenging but rewarding. I experienced the physical and mental fatigue of long hours coupled with high levels of responsibility - something prominent in the life of a modern doctor. I am passionate about the opportunity to serve the community as a doctor; work directly with individuals and groups; use intellectual ability to solve challenging problems and contribute to a coalition of healthcare specialists striving to a common goal. I am committed to the hard work this will entail at every stage of the journey and hope I will have a positive impact on many people's lives; people like Declan and Phoebe.

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## MFL

Time spent with Isabel and Marion, the school's MFL assistants, discussing anything from Kastner poetry to French stand-up, from Weiberdonnerstag to the mixed reception in France of Cotillard's Piaf; this is what I love about languages. I find exploring the life, literature and humour of their cultures a truly exhilarating experience, and feel that through studying French and German further, this deep affiliation can only grow. Having been immersed in the surreal pathos of 'Die Verwandlung' and intensity of 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses', I am excited at the prospect of studying as an undergraduate not only renowned works, but an array of lesser known film and literature that can capture the thoughts and ideas of a time. The history of the DDR is particularly fascinating; for me, Von Donnersmarck's 'Das Leben der Anderen' gives a dark yet poignant portrayal of life under an oppressive regime. The fall of communist East Germany is also chronicled in 'Goodbye Lenin'; having visited the DDR Museum in Berlin, I have found the film evocative both of the hardship endured and the stoicism and sense of community engendered in its people by this political ideology. With so much more to discover at university, from this recent history to the time of Goethe and the French troubadours, I relish the chance to broaden my knowledge and discuss and debate the merits of writers, directors and artists with those who share my passion for languages. As my 'Extended Project Qualification' focuses on the Vichy Syndrome, I have also developed a keen interest in philosophical ideas and the less documented aspects of French culture. Using Rousseau's 'Le Syndrome de Vichy' as a research platform, I have explored late 20th century French film, archive material and the coverage of this complex issue in the education system. The level of independence awarded through this research has whetted my appetite for similar study at university. AS level Maths Mechanics has led me to think logically and find alternative routes to seemingly impossible solutions, in my mind not dissimilar to the discipline needed to finding just the right phrase in translation. My study of Latin has equally developed this dedication, while opening my eyes both to the enjoyable intricacies of grammar and remarkable power of language; the simplicity of Martial's 'Contradictions' was for me especially illuminating. At present I teach year 7 students German, and am thrilled at the idea of imparting my passion for this language, particularly the quirks of syntax that make it the wonderful challenge it is. I am also undertaking a 'Community Sports Leadership Award', which I find hugely rewarding, while regularly playing the piano for carol concerts and school productions has reinforced in me a strong sense of responsibility. Having recently gained my Grade 7, I am enjoying experimenting as much as ever, becoming more creative as I build my repertoire with Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and Michael Jackson! In my spare time I enjoy reading, watching English and foreign language films and socialising with friends; waitressing in a village coffee shop for two years has given me the invaluable opportunity to meet and work with a wide variety of people. I am also a keen traveller, having recently visited Paris, Rome and Krakow with my family, and am planning an inter-railing trip across Europe in August. I am excited at the prospect of experiencing a multitude of cultures first hand, before embarking on a new chapter of my language study at university. The academic and social aspects of student life make it a thrilling prospect, and I am keen to embrace the opportunities that will be open to me; representing the university in a sporting or musical capacity would be a real privilege. For me, a career on the international stage, in education or further study are all appealing prospects, and I hope to approach them equipped with the skills and confidence that a degree from your university can offer.

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## MFL

Being selected by Stars Group as one of sixteen students from Cheshire to go to Valencia for two weeks work experience last October proved an invaluable experience. Whilst there, I found myself absorbed in Spanish culture. I coached sport to children who understood little English and taught English to classes while completing my Foreign Language Leaders Award on top of Level Two Sports Leaders Award. It quickly became apparent how essential it was to express myself effectively and the need for language knowledge in order to truly get the most out of such challenges. This rewarding trip cemented my decision to continue languages to degree level. The skills I gained were greatly beneficial and once back in school I was able to apply them further by running a break time Spanish Club for Year 8 Gifted and Talented students. This combined active games with basic Spanish so that the pupils learnt a new language without it seeming like extra lesson time. As well as this, I was involved with helping to lead a languages day at a local primary school, teaching me the importance of communication amongst the fellow leaders. Additionally, A level studies have given me the opportunity to explore the French literature piece 'L'etranger'. Alongside this, I have enjoyed immersing myself in a book of famous Spanish stories and numerous foreign films, including 'Volver' and 'La Vie En Rose' in my spare time. In particular, I was fascinated by the opposing portrayals of Paris in 'Amelie' and 'La Haine', where modern day racial segregation stands in contrast with the stereotypical Parisian eccentricity often represented in French film. Embarking on my Extended Project Qualification, I hope to gain knowledge about Franco and his effect on contemporary Spain; I have read 'Franco's Spain' and am using it as the foundations for my study. My ability to research information independently will be a great asset at university and has been further developed with A level English Language where I have also become proficient in the analysis of a multitude of texts. More recently, when school offered extra curricular Italian, I felt it would be the perfect opportunity to learn another language, especially having visited Italy and regretted not being able to fully appreciate the culture due to my inability to communicate. I thoroughly enjoy travelling; having visited places including Costa Rica, an educational trip to France and this October a week spent in Tenerife will allow me to improve fluency in the language and spend valuable time in a school. Next summer, I am also planning an intertravelling trip across Europe to involve myself in the cultural diversity of this continent. Outside of my academic studies, I love playing sport. Regularly representing school, club, county and North of England at hockey shows that I am comfortable working within a team, as well as taking my own initiative as last year I had the larger responsibility of becoming my club ladies team vice captain. As a volunteer, I have coached juniors every other Sunday for the past three years. This year, I received the Ladies Young Player of the Year Award. Over summer, I planned and walked Hadrian's Wall with friends for 'Make A Wish' and together raised just under 2000 pounds. Reaching grade 5 flute required great independence, while my job as a waitress in a restaurant has developed my ability to deal with a variety of situations and people, capabilities that I feel will be integral for a languages degree. The thought of using languages in a future career is hugely motivating. I am exhilarated by the prospect of gaining life-long transferable skills which will allow me to have a choice of pursuing a profession from a whole spectrum of fields. As a self motivated, conscientious individual, I very much look forward to exploring the new academic challenges of degree level French and Spanish as well as playing a full part in University life and the opportunities it will provide.

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# Spanish & English Literature

Nothing is more compelling than the study of language and literature and their ability to evoke emotion, define who we are, and make us question the way we look at the world. The prospect of combining English Literature and Spanish is an exciting one as I believe both will complement each other in their richness and diversity.

My love for literature centres on the discovery of new and exciting texts from across the literary canon. Taking part in a literature debating group led me to explore Samuel Johnson's 'Rasselas' which was fascinating both in terms of its neoclassical focus on morality and its presentation of the futile pursuit of happiness. This ignited my interest in dystopian literature as I am intrigued by the ability of writers to convey a world disturbingly similar to our own. Texts such as Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty Four' and Huxley's 'Brave New World' fascinate me, firstly as political commentaries and secondly in the way they explore ominous projections of the future through totalitarian regimes. My interest in Orwell led me to explore his political essays, particularly 'Shooting an Elephant' where I was struck by his portrayal of the tragic consequences of imperialism.

Furthermore, literature in its original language is particularly enlightening; I was fascinated by the domestic turmoil presented in Lorca's 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba' which reflects a country on the brink of Civil War. Lorca's tragic portrayal of the consequences of repression is absorbing and I am eager to explore further literature that stems from Spain's tumultuous history. Similarly, after reading Suskind's 'Perfume' in translation, I was captivated by its sonorous prose and how the presentation of the human obsession with sensuality resembled that of Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'. Gothic romanticism appeals to me in terms of its focus on the sublime, reminiscent of Romantic texts, notably Shelley's 'Frankenstein'.

Currently as part of my English Literature Independent Study, I am enjoying comparing the struggle for identity in 'The Bell Jar' with 'The Handmaid's Tale' and I am eager to apply a feminist critique to Duffy's 'The World's Wife' collection. Elsewhere in my studies, Maths provides a juxtaposing lateral perspective to the interpretation of the world. My study of Spanish has been further brought to life through the links made in Geography at AS Level, in particular, the impact of Spanish Immigration. Exploring the vibrant nature of the Spanish arts has led me to delight in films such as Almodovar's flamboyant 'Volver' and his portrayal of female empowerment. Similarly Marston's 'Maria Ilena eres de gracia' opened my eyes to the reality of drug trafficking in Columbia, whilst I found the opposition between the horror of the civil war and the power of imagination in Toro's 'El laberinto del fauno' thrilling.

Alongside film I love to see literature come to life and enjoyed an unusual performance of Stevenson's 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde', where the setting of the Blackwell's bookshop in Oxford created a gothic intensity. More recently I enjoyed Maxine Peake's subversive portrayal of 'Hamlet' at the Royal Exchange in Manchester. My experiences of foreign exchanges and trips to Spain have allowed me to hone my Spanish conversational skills and appreciate diverse Catalan culture. This has driven my ambition to explore the Hispanic world further and has made the prospect of learning additional languages ab initio exhilarating.

As a keen clarinettist and pianist, I have performed as part of the Cheshire Youth Orchestra alongside supporting theatrical productions in school. Working part time in local restaurants has helped me immeasurably to manage my time and work efficiently under pressure.

Ultimately, I am excited at the prospect of exploring the ways in which literature and language intertwine both critically and culturally by reading English Literature and Spanish at undergraduate level.

# Nursing

The Nursing Profession is an incredibly challenging and worthwhile career that I aspire to be part of. Its role within the NHS is changing as the focus has shifted to more community involvement and home based care. This would involve forming good relationships with patients and their families, which I believe I would be extremely capable of.

Having had two part-time jobs one of them being at an ice cream farm which is the second biggest attraction in Cheshire. I am constantly in contact with the public within my role, so I have developed strong communication skills and have also completed a customer services course. I am aware of how body language, tone of voice and attitude all affect the response you may get from a person. Through this I have become confident in handling and speaking to the public. I am also a relief milker on a dairy farm which involves working unsocialable hours and have done both jobs for well over two years and managed to successfully balance these with school and extra-curricular activities. This requires dedication, commitment and flexibility which are essential to nursing. This shows how efficient I am in managing my time effectively and my work ethic as a dedicated, hard working individual.

The A-levels I am studying have given me many skills, such as logic and problem solving, which are required in nursing, as well as a deep scientific understanding into the way the body and drugs work which is a necessity to nursing. I am a very helpful person and I like to get involved in activities. I have contributed to school life throughout my time there. I am compassionate and supportive, recently I gave up a Saturday to bag pack to raise money for my friend's chosen charity, I also helped to organise a charity fashion show. This shows my involvement in my community and caring attitude towards others. I am committed to activities I am involved in; I have played in the school teams for netball, hockey and rounders for five years. Additionally, I completed my Junior Sports Leadership Award this helped develop my confidence in leading groups of people, working independently as well as working in a team which I believe is essential to nursing. It develops empathy and the ability to be supportive. I am a highly motivated and outgoing student who contributes a lot to school life. I have been to both France and Italy with school and since the trip enjoyed learning the basics of Italian this year at a lunchtime club. I love new experiences and challenges and I am very open to change and willing to adapt to new situations, which will be very appropriate to nursing as every patient, their needs and illness can be unique. I participated in the Cambridge Shadowing Scheme, this gave me a useful insight into University life, as it was a three day residential trip and I went to lectures, seminars and tutorials in biology and chemistry. So I know what to expect lecture wise with nursing. An Allied Health Professions taster day inspired me to look into nursing thoroughly, the experience has made me even more determined to go to University and made me passionate about the right University course for me; nursing. I have chosen to study the adult nursing branch as my ambition is to join the RAF as a nursing officer once I have qualified and gained experience as a registered staff nurse. I understand that to do this would need lots of experience in critical care, trauma wards and accident and emergency. As there is an ageing population in the UK, to get a greater perspective of nursing I am volunteering at a cottage hospital which cares mostly for elderly people and offers palliative and respite care. I see nursing as a great challenge and one that I want to be involved in and conquer, as I feel I have all the fundamental skills ready to be developed into an efficient nurse.

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# Orthoptics

I have always been fascinated by how we perceive things through one of nature's great works, the eye. Orthoptics delves into this area yet presents the opportunity to help others too influencing my determination to pursue this course. This was brought home to me by an incident with a close friend as it was through Orthoptics that a problem was diagnosed and treated. From this encounter I researched more about this course by reading NHS booklets and website, even managing to gain a day's work experience at a local hospital. This is why I sort out a days work experience at Chester's Orthoptics. I observed a typical work day for an Orthoptist involving a variety of patients with the use of modern technology. I look forward to learning more about how intricate and fascinating the eye is and helping others to see correctly again. Throughout my school career, I have taken on responsibilities from peer mentoring as part of our Amicus programme to the school council and representing the student voice. Later I became a prefect as I matured through school; I found Amicus and senior training to be of a valuable in helping guide lower years through problems and school life. I also involve myself fully with the school Swing Band, having joined in year 7 I am now looked upon to help others who have recently started. Outside School my music has flourished, with over 10 music exams on the flute, cello and theory, my latest being my grade 6 flute. I now aim to achieve the highest grade, grade 8, in order that I am able to teach others in the future. This October I travelled to Tuscany on an art trip to learn new art skills and indulge into some of the most famous art culture of the world. This was a great achievement for me as I was selected for my skill over others for this experience. Art has always been one of my fortes in life, having won several school awards for art and attained full marks in my GCSE. The trip also provides an opportunity to travel to somewhere new, something I have been doing since I was very young and I enjoy. Seeing new cultures through my own eyes has increased my awareness of the world, especially after visiting places such as the Gambia and New York. Placements within the course intrigue me as in the future. Although I enjoy travelling, I have also completed many walks for charity within Britain itself, which have taken me to many unspoilt areas in Britain. As a family we completed the Coast to Coast walk in 2007, raising over GBP 1,200 for a family friend who contracted MS several years ago. In addition I have completed the Sandstone Trail, Quantock Way, Dale's Way and now Hadrian's Wall twice (the latter raising over GBP 1,500 for Make a Wish charity). This has increased my determination and awareness for charity and is another reason why I feel that Orthoptics would be a course for me, as it gives me the opportunity to help people on a daily basis. Outside of school, I have a part time waitressing job. This has enabled me to work more fluently in a team and to communicate effectively with different members of the public. My faith is important to me and I take an active role in my religion which involves speaking to people from all walks of life. Currently I am studying History, Art and Biology at A2. In year 12, my As subjects were English Literature, Psychology also, however after becoming captivated by orthoptics, I have endeavoured to change my subjects in order to meet the requirements of the course, I now aim to complete the full Biology A-level in one year. Biology has inspired me to delve into research about the human body in particular, but has presented new challenges for me where other courses hadn't. The course will give me the necessary skills to work this course and understand fully the biology behind the eye. By taking these A-levels, I have a broad spectrum of skills which are suited to the Orthoptics course.

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# Paramedical Studies

Being a paramedic requires extreme dedication and responsibility; to be a part of this profession would be a true privilege, coupled with the opportunity of a stimulating and worthwhile career where each day presents a different challenge. A paramedic's role is essential to the initial primary care of the patient, which is a vital aspect in the overall care provided by the health service.

Recently I was selected to attend Liverpool John Moore's Summer University, not only did this give me an insight into university life but participating in the Health and Social Care course gave me an insight into paramedical practice and the different modules, such as the role of a health care professional and an awareness of clinical skills. The opportunity to talk to trainee paramedics regarding distressing scenarios encountered, along with other modest aspects of their work was really motivational to me and has cemented my desire to succeed and become a part of this challenging profession.

For the past year, I have volunteered weekly for St John Ambulance and am currently undertaking First Aid training. This has allowed me to assist Advanced First Aiders at numerous events such as Chester Races and a number of football matches, where I have witnessed first-hand the treatment for wounds induced by falls and the management of patients under the influence of drugs and alcohol. This has given me a sense of the personal satisfaction obtained from helping someone, even if it is only for a minor incident. Additionally, I have gained a further insight into first response medicine by assisting the first team doctor at Port Vale Football Club on many occasions, which has given me a valuable awareness of emergency medical practice within sport and the treatment of severe sporting injuries. I am looking forward to furthering my knowledge and experience within accident and emergency medicine during a forthcoming work placement at Chesterfield Royal Hospital's A&E department. This will enable me to acquire a greater understanding of how different medical teams work together to provide the best care possible for a socially diverse group of patients and also emphasise the need for good communication skills as well as the ability to work in a large team in stressful environments.

My passion for the caring professions has been further fuelled by visiting weekly a care home with a specialist dementia unit. I quickly ascertained an awareness of residents' physical and emotional wellbeing as well as the importance of treating residents with the utmost respect. A sense of humour and a kind and calm manner are essential.

A-level study has helped me develop the important skills of self-motivation, time management and coping with pressure, which are essential for a career in paramedical studies. I am enjoying Biology, particularly the human anatomy side of the subject and have benefitted from studying myocardial infarction and respiratory disease. Both Maths and Geography have provided me with analytical skills to interpret data, to work concisely and problem solve.

In my spare time I am a member of a local tennis club where I participate in regular singles and doubles matches. I enjoy music and play the guitar, piano and clarinet and am working towards my grade 4 clarinet exam. I also help at a local Cub Scout group where I lead activities and help the Cubs with different challenges. This improved my communication skills with children and my ability to support them if they have issues that need resolving. Currently I am working towards my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, having completed both Silver and Bronze. The expeditions have improved my teamwork skills and also helped me to motivate those in my team to succeed and persevere when struggling. I hold a full UK Driving category B licence.

I am confident that I have the determination and commitment to complete the course to the best of my ability and will embrace every challenge that I am faced with.

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# Physics

Last year, Physics and I clicked. My decision to study Physics at University was not arrived at without thought. I realised that this is the subject I have a flare for, one I wish to understand more and one I hope to base my career upon. Physics forms the foundations for understanding everything that surrounds us. I am in pursuit of this knowledge. In choosing my AS subjects I selected subjects that I believed would keep my options open. The enjoyment I received from studying Physics made me aware of the passion I had for the subject. This is why I have decided to complete the full Maths A level in one year. I see now that Maths compliments Physics like no other subject can. Nevertheless, studying a range of subjects allowed me to expand my academic skills in various areas. Studying history has improved my competence in developing an argument and writing in a sophisticated, lucid manner. Studying Italian has allowed me to develop my linguistic skills. I am bilingual as I speak both English and Italian which enhances my ability to learn other foreign languages. Outside my studies I also have a keen interest in Physics and especially Astrophysics. I enjoy reading the monthly edition of 'The Sky at Night' magazine and read updates on the Hubble Telescope website. This builds my appreciation of what current and past astrophysicists have discovered and what so far they understand, demonstrating how much there is yet to discover. I hope one day to have the skills and knowledge of Physics and Astrophysics to be part of such research so I may contribute to the growing realisation that exploring the universe further is crucial for our future. Over the summer I spent three weeks at Nanoco Technologies. Most of of time I assisted the Physics team conducting research on the application of Quantum Dots to photovoltaic cells. Not only did I construct parts of photovoltaic cells, but I was also given the task of using a computer programme to test the cells and later was able to help analyse the data. During my time there I greatly advanced my laboratory and investigatory skills. I also had the chance to be analytical and was able to exercise my research skills as I wanted to understand how the PV cells worked. The work experience gave me a realistic idea of how Physics is applied to everyday life. I have been asked to return to Nanoco next summer. Further to my academic studies at sixth form, I have participated in a range of extracurricular activities. During year 12 I was part of the Peer Mentoring scheme where I supported a pupil from year 7 who struggled at high school. I also mentored a group of high achieving year 11 students who sought advice about GCSE exams. Consequently, my inter-personal skills and my confidence have improved when speaking to a variety of people. Throughout year 12 I was 'Vice Chair' of the Sixth Form Council. This year I have taken the responsibility of 'Chair' and I am very excited to pursue this role. So far I have lead Council meetings and delivered assemblies to feedback what has been discussed. This has reinforced my confidence when speaking publicly. At age 8, I moved over from Italy where I was born, which has contributed to my love for travelling and to discover new places. I believe that gaining an understanding of different places and cultures is very important in life. I began playing the piano a couple of years ago and am working towards my grade 2. The enjoyment I receive from learning and playing music is complemented by the fact that I am able to exercise my skills of logic. I also enjoy keeping up to date with news and am very interested in politics. From studying Physics at University I wish to gain a solid grounding in the subject and develop a wide range of skills which are offered by such a degree. These skills do not only lead to a career in Physics but also open the doors to a vast range of diverse careers. This is a very exciting prospect for me.

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# Physiotherapy

The chance to be accepted into a profession whose role is to maximise function potential in a multitude of capacities; from orthopaedics, sport and mental health, to the recovery of stroke patients and care of the elderly, coupled with a variety of other areas, is surely an ambition to strive for. A multifaceted occupation in which one is able to work with a diverse range of people in a career where no two days are the same, will provide a meaningful and rewarding vocation in which there is an opportunity to have a positive impact on patients' quality of life and wellbeing.

My desire to study physiotherapy has been compounded by a recent work placement shadowing a physiotherapist at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield for two days. I was struck by the profound impact physiotherapy has on a patient's health and I realised that it is integral to the holistic treatment of a patient whilst they are unwell. It was an insightful experience to view the process of rehabilitation; aiming to improve quality of life. I recognised that good communication skills are essential and the manner in which the physiotherapist approached the patient was one of calmness, encouragement and respect whilst inducing a sense of trust and safety. I was hugely influenced by this practice. Furthermore I enjoyed a work placement at a local primary school working with children aged 4 to 7.

Additionally, I gained an opportunity to shadow physiotherapists at Port Vale Football Club. This was a valuable experience as I had the chance to observe the application of physiotherapy on elite sportsmen before and after physical activity; it was interesting to compare this to the role of the physiotherapy offered at the Hallamshire Hospital. My knowledge has been enhanced further after being accepted onto a Physiotherapy Awareness Day at The Countess of Chester Hospital. Here I received hands-on teaching in the various forms of physiotherapy and learnt the basics in paediatrics, musculoskeletal, respiratory and women's health physiotherapy. This was an illuminating experience which reinforced my aspiration to study physiotherapy and reassured me that this is the career path for me.

My study of Biology at A-Level has provided me with an insight into human anatomy and physiology and encourages me to explore further the mechanisms of the human body, whilst Psychology allows me to understand cognitive reasoning and mental health issues. All of which impacts on my own cognitive and thinking skills and furthers my ability to utilise specialist knowledge, which, combined with my English Language studies, means I am able to analyse and interpret data whilst taking contextual factors into account in order to reach a concise conclusion.

Having volunteered for the past 4 years at my dance school teaching children aged 3 to 11, I have developed strong communication skills as well as reinforcing my leadership skills by choreographing and teaching dance routines. Combined with this I volunteer at my local hospital, which involves assisting elderly patients, serving tea and helping them to feel at ease.

I love the creativity of dance and the ability to be expressive; I attend weekly classes and will continue this at university. I also love music and play piano and flute. Currently I am working towards my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, having completed Silver and Bronze. This has improved my teamwork skills and taught me strategies to problem solve and motivate those in my team to persevere. Moreover, I am visiting China in 2013 for the residential aspect of the Award and am looking forward to experiencing a different culture.

Hard working and reliable, I would relish the opportunity to study physiotherapy at university. I understand the demands of this position and would welcome the autonomous nature of the role contrasted with multidisciplinary team perspectives. I am excited to take the next step to university and to explore and embrace all it has to offer.

# Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE)

Economics is like a Rubik's Cube. It is an interconnecting puzzle where a single change establishes a chain of reactions with factors such as politics and philosophy frequently altering and further complicating conditions. I enjoy the challenge of applying formulaic and theoretical analysis to outside variables to develop a greater comprehension of how economics, politics and philosophy affects us on a local and global scale. Discovering more about each of these parts and how they fit with the complex and sometimes irrational behaviour of humans fascinates me and drives my desire to continue studying these subjects to degree level.

Recently, I volunteered as a student ambassador at a UN conference focused on the Sustainable Development Goals; the follow up to the Millennium Development Goals. It was fascinating to understand the views of people from different cultures on subjects such as the role religion plays in achieving these targets. The conference considered the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs together with the measures needed to make the SDGs both ambitious yet achievable. I contributed to discussion forums which assessed the goals and was stimulated by the debates which combined morals and politics with economic reality. An example was; how do we keep governments committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions when doing so may be perceived to worsen their economic position? By participating in the conference my confidence to articulate views in a public forum improved and I learned a valuable insight into the complexity of socio-economic issues in a world with diverse political systems and ethical beliefs. I believe that this was exemplified in Sen's 'Development as Freedom', where his idea that poverty is the deprivation of basic capabilities not just low income, contradicts some of the SDGs.

To further develop my knowledge I read 'End This Depression Now' by Krugman; his reasoning for an anti-austerity agenda was interesting as it contradicted the views of a large section of the media and the government. This reinforced my notion that no political decisions can be made without economic reasoning and vice versa and has inspired me to start an EPQ on 'Is austerity needed to improve the UK's economic position?' As part of my initial research I attended The People's Post public meeting in Manchester to hear Corbyn speak on austerity. To gain an opposing opinion I closely follow the extensive coverage of the views expressed by the current government.

I run the Sixth Form Debating Society in which we discuss and form reasoned arguments on a wide range of topics. Reading Wolff's 'An Introduction to Political Philosophy' as well as sources of current affairs such as The Economist and Krugman's blog allows me to acquire a broader understanding of different perspectives. By learning about economic and social issues from a variety of viewpoints I am able to debate and critique concepts using my logical, statistical analysis skills.

Achieving a Distinction in the Advanced STEM Leaders award involved volunteering to help those struggling in Maths. It was extremely rewarding when the students understood the method that I taught them and I gained insight into how to explain concepts in a cohesive way. In gaining my National Citizen Service award, I volunteered for Dravet Syndrome charity by raising awareness and funds. This positive experience of teamwork motivates me to continue volunteering.

Sciences and social sciences are in many ways very similar, they help to solve fundamental questions. Science often explains how something happens whereas social science explains what the implications are on our society and challenges our perceptions of the world. By furthering my skills and knowledge I hope to be able to answer some of the questions about how our modern day society functions and what would be the ideal. I look forward to embracing the opportunities that university will bring, both academically and socially.

# Politics

I first became interested in studying Politics and political based issues when I commenced my A level courses; since then, Politics has truly fascinated me in terms of how ideologies can shape present and future events in all of our lives. In History I have studied both Russian and British political History, learning about government structure and the philosophy which governments have based their manifesto and party ideology on. This has inspired me to read further into some significant texts which have altered the course of history, including 'The Communist Manifesto', 'Mein Kampf', and 'The Motorcycle Diaries'. These books have enabled me to comprehend and interpret key events in twentieth century Politics. Not only have these works informed my own views, they have given me a keen insight into twentieth century Politics, such as Hitler's views on Anti-Semitism. My study of A level Economics has also increased my knowledge of issues faced by governments and their reasoning behind passing legislation and intervention in markets, such as the current rise in university tuition fees and the subsequent macro-economic benefits which they bring. This has encouraged me to research various theories of economics, such as Keynesian and neo-classical economics and the role economic theory plays in modern Politics, both being prerequisite to one another. My study of English Language at A level has enabled me to clearly and concisely structure arguments and essays, giving my work clarity and quality.

Due to the level of interest and enthusiasm shown in my history classes I have been selected to participate in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, which I feel is a privilege. I will be able to see first-hand the major persecution suffered by minority groups under the Nazi regime. This will be an invaluable life experience, especially as I hope to meet a holocaust survivor, something which later in my lifetime will no longer be possible. This will further enhance my understanding of the deadly consequences of certain political regimes, allowing me to see first-hand the darker side to Politics and the consequential effects of anti-Semitism. This aspect of political regimes is something that truly fascinates me and is an area that I wish to pursue much deeper at degree level, especially government backed genocide, such as the actions of the Khmer Rouge regime.

In addition to my studies, I have represented the school in basketball and athletics. The team aspect of basketball greatly developed my leadership and motivational skill as being supportive to the rest of the team was always a key role of mine. In sixth form I have gone on to officiate basketball games for lower school fixtures, improving my communication skills as I have had to be able to converse with those younger than myself. I have also taken part in Jiu Jitsu for the past four years, making me more disciplined and focused in life due to the hard work and determination needed to progress. Weight training has always been a great passion of mine, ever since I first stepped foot in the gym. Through weightlifting I have gained confidence and a great degree of respect by interacting with a vast array of different people. Having played guitar for eight years, I thoroughly enjoy music. Over recent years my favourite genre has been Australian roots bands, a style of music that is rich in cultural history.

I believe I have put myself in a very good position to study a Politics degree. I have acquired and honed skills key to study for a degree in Politics including data analysis and interpretation, evaluation of arguments and resolutions and structuring responses while considering multiple viewpoints. I have a real passion for Politics and a desire to delve into many areas of the subject. I look forward to the many benefits which University study and University life will bring and recognise the opportunities which studying for a degree can offer.

# Psychology

Psychology is an endlessly evolving science with many prospects and applications as there is still so little known about the full complexity of the human mind. No other subject is so filled with possibilities and ideas or allows us to explore and compare varying theories. I love the opportunities Psychology provides to not only learn about proven knowledge, but to also construct my own opinions on developing theories. It is difficult to not find the study of people and behaviour completely captivating, as it is these things that make us essentially human. Studying Psychology will allow me to pursue a specialty area that I am passionate about and make a difference in people's lives, hopefully by becoming a Clinical Psychologist. At Sixth Form, I have gained important skills from each of my subjects. History has helped me with my analytical skills and to interpret the world around me, Biology has opened my mind to complex scientific ideas and doing Psychology at A-Level sparked a keen interest in all things psychological, leading me to do a vast amount of reading around all aspects of the subject. As an avid reader, I am a subscriber to the Psychology Today magazine and have also enjoyed many psychological books, including fictional novels, explorative theory texts and collections of pioneering psychologists' essays. Some of these I discovered upon further research into the absorbing psychological experiments covered during my A-Level studies, like Dr Zimbardo's "The Lucifer Effect" and "Making & Breaking of Affectional Bonds" by John Bowlby. I have delved into fascinating topics outside of the set curriculum, such as the development of early psychology and psychiatry, for which I read "A History of Women and the Mind Doctors from 1800" By Lisa Appignanesi and "Bedlam: London and its mad" by Catharine Arnold. It was this exploration of further fields of psychology that led me to realise that mental health fascinates me greatly, and is an area that I hope to pursue professionally. Alongside A-Levels I am also doing an Extended Project Qualification, in which I will examine and explore the experiences of those suffering from mental health problems, including the stigma still surrounding mental illness. As part of the research for this, I have arranged to visit several psychologists at the centres where they work, as full work experience directly linking to Clinical Psychology is very difficult to organise due to confidentiality issues. I am thrilled about the opportunity to talk to them, as I know I will gain invaluable understanding and insight to what I hope will be my future career. I have always demonstrated a high level of responsibility and willingness to help others. At High School I was an Amicus and then a Senior, whilst in Sixth Form I was a Peer Mentor, working with Year 7 pupils experiencing difficulties in school life. I always aim to achieve very highly academically and I received a GCSE English Headteacher's Award for a piece of coursework and a Key Stage 4 Science Award in Year 12. Outside of education, I am a first-aider for Saint John Ambulance, a fantastic life skill in itself, which I am also using as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. For this I am also incorporating volunteering for the local Brownies group and the Zumba classes. Aside from this, I perform with Tarporley Amateur Dramatics Society and enjoy playing the piano, for which I had lessons until I achieved Preparatory Grade 1. Now, having gathered the basic skills, I continue to play the piano on a self-taught basis. This is an example of the excellent independent learning skills I have, which are key to university study. Knowing the many experiences and possibilities that lie ahead, I am extremely excited at the prospect of studying Psychology at university and cannot wait to seize every opportunity that it brings. Wherever it takes me, I will face it with unrivalled enthusiasm.

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# Psychology

Having spent nine years at International Schools in South East Asia, I have been exposed to diverse cultures as well as many varied values and attitudes, arousing my interest in psychology. This has spurred on my desire to study it in further depth, exploring human interaction from a progressive and alternative angle. My passion for Psychology developed firstly from taking it at A level, where I found the Stress and Anxiety module particularly appealed to me, I was interested as to how this could affect an individual's wellbeing and stability. Having had to deal with major changes of lifestyle and personal circumstances myself, this struck a significant chord with me and urged me to discover more. The A level course allowed me to question events which up until now, I had taken for granted. In addition to studying Psychology at A level, I feel I have gained a number of transferable skills from my other subjects, specifically English Language which aids analysis of texts, thinking critically and writing effectively. Carrying out an investigation as part of my English coursework has allowed me to work independently on a hypothesis and collect and examine primary data to support the study. Additionally, Biology has helped with planning and carrying out experiments as well as analysing data in many different forms. In addition to my academic studies, I am investigating child Psychology as part of my Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The aim of the study is to investigate at what age children are able to identify different emotions as I found it intriguing how a young child was able to recognize for example, positive emotion from a smile and was interested in studying this in more depth. This strongly supports the heavily weighted practical component of the Psychology course at university. In terms of contributing to the school community, I have developed a significant role working with younger students as a peer mentor, helping year 7s adapt to a new environment, as well as involvement in the safeguarding team, a student body ensuring younger students feel safe in school and to voice concerns and improvements to the school board. I have been selected as a sixth form ambassador, representing the school at induction evenings, the school partnership meeting and the Deputy Headmaster interviews. I am involved in the African twin schools student body, communicating with students and fundraising to help improve their quality of life. I plan to take part in these societies and fundraising events at university, as I think it is a satisfying way to give something back. Outside school, I achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, participating in badminton and becoming qualified in First Aid. The skills I have gained from participating in the award such as leadership and working as part of a team are valuable in working with people. I have always engaged in sport, specifically football and I enjoy the competitive atmosphere associated with it. Having enjoyed playing football at school, I decided to challenge myself by becoming a coach, completing FA courses to level 3 and gaining the JSLA qualification. Furthermore having coached a boys' squad for a year, I took on the challenge of coaching girls' squads, and am currently with the Vicars Cross U14 girls. Being a coach, I encountered difficulties such as giving team talks to motivate children and learning how to reprimand yet still maintain a positive relationship with players, exposing fascinating features of human behaviour. I believe that a Psychology degree would allow me to combine my interest in the subject with the experience of cultures I have had personally, as well as skills I have developed. My personal experience allows me to contribute not only to the Psychology course but hopefully also to the people around me.

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# Speech Therapy

Since the average adult has a speaking vocabulary of 50,000 words it is easy to understand how debilitating it must be if one is deprived of this vital means of communication. Being able to help people who find their verbal skills compromised in this way is a worthwhile and rewarding career which I would like to pursue.

Speech is free for all and is the most important means of communication, something we all take for granted on a daily basis. I learnt this at a very young age when my grandfather suffered a severe stroke to the left side of his brain resulting, most devastatingly, in the loss of his speech. This childhood experience has given me a true insight and understanding into the effects of partial or complete loss of speech which can be immensely frustrating, challenging and isolating for the individual and those close to them. It is this experience that has spurred me on to help others who have similar challenges related to aphasia.

My desire to work as a speech and language therapist has been fuelled by my work experience placement at a special needs school where I participated in classroom lessons. Moreover I was fortunate enough to observe speech therapy group sessions where I gained a true insight into the work involved. It made me feel that this actively encouraged the children's development and that it was something really worthwhile. I have also volunteered at a stroke association group which provided me with an insight into the variety of problems which a speech therapist may encounter. Speaking to a local speech therapist at a GP practice has further increased my desire to study speech and language therapy at university after she outlined fully the ways in which language acquisition is attained. Additionally volunteering at a local care home which specialises in dementia patients, whereby I communicated with residents who have speech impediments, has required patience, consideration and a great deal of respect.

The voluntary work I have done and continue to undertake has allowed me to develop many of the skills necessary for a speech and language therapist, including communication and interpersonal skills, patience, commitment and dedication. It has also given me experience of working with people of different ages and from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, in July 2011, I worked as a volunteer at the International School of Monaco for one week with children of several nationalities aged between 6-12 years, in a new, challenging environment. At the end of the week I was awarded a voucher as an expression of the schools appreciation.

My choice of A-level subjects provides a good grounding for this particular course. English Language requires me to apply analytical theory to a wide variety of both the written and spoken word. A topic which I have taken a real interest in is child language acquisition. I have found this so fascinating that I have chosen to do my investigation on it and am excited to further my knowledge. Cognitive psychology has broadened my knowledge of mental processes such as memory, whilst studying schizophrenia has enhanced my understanding of how irrational thoughts can alter an individual's behaviour. Looking at famous case studies such as 'Genie' has shown me the importance of children being raised in speech nourished environments. Furthermore, Geography at A level has enhanced my organisational and logical thinking abilities.

In my spare time I enjoy horse riding and travelling, having travelled extensively across the south western states of America. I am also a member at my local gym and enjoy spending time with friends and family.

I am excited at the prospect of studying a course which will lead me into such a rewarding career as speech therapy. I consider myself to be conscientious, caring and enthusiastic and believe that these qualities, along with my background experiences and motivation, make me an ideal candidate to be a speech and language therapist.

# Speech & Language Therapy

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The gift of speech shapes our identity. The ability to explore and utilise our vast and ever-developing language should be available to all, however, this is not always the case. Being able to communicate through speech is a natural ability which many take for granted. It is hard to comprehend just how debilitating and frustrating it must be when one does not possess this basic capability. Having the opportunity to help those who find their verbal skills compromised impels me to aim to study Speech and Language Therapy, as I believe everyone deserves access to treatment to enable them to communicate independently.

Meeting with my school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator provided me with an awareness of the various degrees of impairment that can be diagnosed, coupled with a fascinating insight into speech therapy as a career. I was also provided with the opportunity to work closely with a young boy who suffered a range of difficulties, and consequently introduced a small programme to help strengthen his receptive language skills. This gave me a true insight, not only into the frustration caused by such difficulties, but also the sheer importance of communication at a young age. This has motivated me to organise weekly volunteering from December at my local primary school, where I plan to read with the children and help them with any other comprehension tasks they may struggle with. Moreover, I was fortunate enough to observe a speech therapy session and discovered both expressive and receptive speech difficulties which may be encountered by young children and which further confirmed my ambition to pursue this career. In addition, volunteering at a residential care home has allowed me to meet people who have lost their speech to conditions such as aphasia; further enhancing my wish to help those who have experienced such misfortune. By observing the staff in the care home, I understood the need to remain patient, considerate and respectful.

Realising that speech issues can underpin various social, emotional, cognitive and literacy difficulties, I believe that my aspirations are complemented by my choice of A-level subjects. English Language requires me to apply various analytical theories to both verbal and non-verbal communication. It has provided me with knowledge of the origin of English, as well as how we come to acquire it. I took particular interest in this topic and have chosen to explore it further by investigating language acquisition in depth for my English coursework. Having the opportunity to listen to David Crystal talk about both prescriptivist and descriptivist ideas presented language in intricate and inspiring detail. Psychology has allowed me to understand cognitive functions as well as emotional and social influences on behaviour. Famous case studies such as 'Genie' highlight the importance of children being raised in speech nourished environments. Additionally, Biology has developed both my analytical and interpretation skills, as well as supplying me with a rich understanding of bodily mechanisms and the human anatomy.

Through my role as a Sixth Form Ambassador, I am able to represent both the English and Biology faculties at various Sixth Form open days. This requires me to describe subjects in depth; improving my confidence when speaking publicly. Moreover, mentoring younger Biology students during lessons has reinforced my knowledge of the subject whilst assisting others.

I believe that my long-term ambition to become a speech and language therapist combined with my conscientious and attentive nature makes me an ideal candidate to pursue this course. My part-time job as a waitress, has allowed me to develop the essential skills for speech and language therapy, including communication and interpersonal skills, patience, commitment and trust. I am ready to embrace the academic challenges that university will provide, and am excited by the prospect of working within this rewarding field.



## Sport

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It is difficult to remember a time when I was not involved in sport, whether that be attending tennis and badminton lessons, playing golf, managing a sporting team or coaching the skills I have acquired as a performance badminton player to younger children. The government has used the legacy of the 2012 games to 'inspire a generation', something it will, in my opinion, do successfully and I relish the opportunities that will appear in sport as the country aims to identify and nurture new elite athletes. I attended a Sport and Exercise Science Conference at Chester University which gave me an insight into the biomechanical, psychological and sociological aspects of a sport science degree whilst also furthering my decision to study a sports related course.

By playing badminton and handball to county level and tennis, golf and football to club level, I have developed many sporting attributes. To me, discipline is one of the most important skills; implementing this into everyday life has resulted in me being a punctual individual with good attendance and attitude within the classroom. In 2012, I captained an under 18's tennis team in a national competition, enabling me to develop essential leadership skills. Furthermore, as a Level One qualified tennis coach and a volunteer badminton coach I have many opportunities to lead sessions; teaching techniques with the main aim of making the session beneficial. This has made me keen to learn new ways of engaging and teaching different age groups and genders. Currently, I am in the process of completing my Level Two badminton coaching qualification allowing me to lead groups as a head coach as well as offering better technical knowledge in the sport. Whilst managing an under 14's tennis team, under my guidance they won the Chester and District League 2012. My work experience with Cheshire's Badminton Development Officer developed my skill in promotions of badminton in schools and clubs.

Through my study of A Level Physical Education I have learnt about the social, psychological and physiological aspects of sport, something that has been interesting and beneficial to me as I have been able to implement this knowledge into my coaching work. There are elements within Psychology that are transferable to the Physical Education course such as sport psychology, memory and information processing. I understand that Sport Science involves looking at the psychological and physiological aspects of sport, for example kinesiology and sports biochemistry as well as the sociology of sport. Throughout my school life I have had to balance my studies with my sporting commitments. In 2011, I qualified for the Welsh Junior Open Golf Final at Celtic Manor Resort where I won the under 18 'Nett' category, competing against other junior golfers from around the country; I regard this as one of my greatest achievements. My involvement with golf resulted in me being appointed Junior Captain of Vicars Cross Golf Club 2012, which involved leading the junior team and becoming a point of contact for the junior section. This is a role I have thoroughly enjoyed and it has given me the opportunity to gain a part-time job as a barman at the club. I am in the process of completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which has expanded many different skill areas. When in the Scouts I achieved the Chief Scout Gold award which involved travelling abroad and completing many different challenges. Finally, having passed my Grade 6 Trumpet exam, I continued to play in and enjoyed being part of the school swing band and I now play for pleasure. Having been thoroughly engaged with my study of PE as well as my part time work as a coach, I am looking for a career in teaching, coaching or sport therapy and therefore I feel a sport related degree would place me in an ideal position for this in the future. To me, equipping myself with the knowledge and skills learnt in university will be the key to my success in my chosen career path.

# Teaching

My passion for primary school teaching comes from my desire to inspire younger people to fulfil their true potential. I wish to share my knowledge and experience to help pupils achieve their best and provide a platform from which they can build a successful future. Through the subjects I have studied at AS level, I have developed an understanding of education, I particularly enjoyed the education unit we studied in Sociology. I learnt about the key differences in the way people learn, succeed and what they need for a good future and I feel I could apply these to the way I teach. I also study English language and art, which I purposely chose, not only because they interest me, but because the skills I acquire will help me with my future career as a teacher. I have thoroughly enjoyed all these subjects and found have them fascinating. Studying English Language has helped me to develop my communication skills which I feel will be essential in my work with students, parents and colleagues. Art has developed my creative skills which I feel will broaden my abilities in the classroom. Through the course of my school life, I have acquired many skills including organisation, initiative and drive. I also have received an award in ICT for my work and progress at GCSE level, which I feel will benefit me greatly. For work experience, I helped out in my local primary school, I found this to be an enriching experience as it gave me a realistic picture insight into the world of education. I was trusted with both small groups and individuals and conducted activities to help them with their work. I enjoyed the challenge when asked questions as I found a positive solution. I feel I was able to demonstrate my patience and I developed an excellent rapport with the students through the different year groups. I found this experience to be rewarding and it increased my desire to teach. For the past two years, I have been working at a local restaurant as a waitress; this has helped me develop more confidence and improve my communication skills, with people who are more experienced than myself, customers to whom I am giving a service and my fellow colleagues. I am seen as a reliable character as I am trusted to take orders, take money and regularly take on extra shifts. Working at the busy restaurant has also helped me organise my time wisely, as I have a good balance between school, work and my social time. I was a member of my school's netball team for 4 years, which developed my team work skills, shows commitment, determination and organisational skills as I had to ensure I didn't overlap my commitments. These commitments both inside and outside of school have improved my time management skills and I have learnt to prioritise between them. I have recently enjoyed taking part in voluntary work. My proudest voluntary achievement has been designing and painting the bathroom for a local nursery because I saw the development from the old to the new and I saw the appreciation of the nursery workers. This task involved lots of imagination and tenacity. In addition to this, I have also recently helped out at a local charity event the 'Midnight Walk'. Here, I gave motivation and handed out medals when the walkers crossed the finish line. I found this rewarding as I love to see a person achieve something which is personal to them for a selfless, charitable act. My desire and aim in life is to become an outstanding Primary School teacher. I aspire to be a good role model for the students and inspire them to enjoy school and try hard. I believe that studying primary education at university will equip me to reach my goal. It will further my knowledge and heighten my understanding all in aid of becoming the best teacher I can possibly be, and I look forward to learning new skills and putting them into practice when working directly with other local schools. I feel my enthusiasm, reliability and caring nature make me an ideal candidate for this course.

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# Teaching

From my first role as a rat in the Pied Piper in my first year of primary school, I knew that I would pursue a career in the arts. My passion persisted as I participated in many school productions and attended drama groups where I continued to develop and enjoy this art form. My A level subjects have enabled me to acquire a substantial amount of skill and understanding of the territory I want to associate myself with. Taking drama at GCSE and A Level has enhanced my understanding of the subject, enabling me to gain accurate background knowledge on theatre, for example focusing on a range of practitioners: Artaud, Brecht and Stanislavski. I am able to simulate a distinct acting style, reflecting both my understanding and personal interpretation of drama. Also, having the opportunity to attend numerous productions in the theatre has enabled me to observe several acting styles, dramatic techniques and visually stimulating interpretations, all of which have contributed to transforming the way I observe theatre. An example of this would be when visiting the Royal Exchange Theatre, Liverpool, to watch Simon Stephen's "Punk Rock". The way the piece remained current in language and direction made it extremely accessible for the audience to relate to. It also highlighted the technique of 'alienation' at the end of every scene as loud music was projected, with blinding lights. In Sociology, I was entranced by the unit on education. I discovered key differences in individual student lives, how hierarchy is still sustained in the 21st century and that in nearly every situation in teaching and learning, each child will have an opportunity, a chance, which is an unquestionable principle of mine and one I shall always embrace. In Media Studies, I am given the opportunity to express my creativity. This heavily links with Theatre Studies as both subjects consolidate my creative personality, allowing me to experiment continuously. English Language has also heightened my knowledge as it has given me the ability to identify with language used in the past, for example, focusing on the language of Shakespeare, it has allowed me an insight into the modern day equivalent or interpretation. The subject has enabled me to appreciate the way we address people and how to aid those who struggle to comprehend language, which I believe will help with education studies as the process of communicating with students is a vital requirement. An interest I particularly excelled in was when I initiated a weekly 'drama club' for year's 7 and 8 as requested to do so by my drama teachers. This was extremely enjoyable and a huge learning exercise. I was presented with the opportunity to focus on drama, teaching younger students, which is my ambition. This gave me my initial example of the environment I will be associated with and really consolidated my desire to teach. Witnessing the awareness and dedication of the students and their desire to learn and progress really made it clear for me that this is what I want to do. Furthermore, I am a representative of the Sixth Form council and have been asked to represent Sixth Form in the role of a Sixth Form ambassador for various events and I have enjoyed being able to assist others and mirror the advice I have previously been given and which has resulted in a successful year at AS level. I am excited to experience University life by joining committees and clubs, meeting new people who have the same ideas and interests as me which will continue to develop my own personality, prepare me for my career in education and will turn me into the person I want to be. My desire is to become a secondary school teacher as it embraces both my passions and ambitions in life; to teach and to continue embracing drama and I believe a combined honours course in drama and education studies will further extend my knowledge and understanding. It will also enable me to realise a successful and rewarding degree at University.

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# Computing

Throughout my teenage years I have had a growing interest in the world of computers; I am fascinated by how they work, their many uses and how they will continue to be a major influence in the changing world we live in. I feel that studying Computer Science at university would be a most rewarding opportunity for me, as my ambition is to be a computer scientist using cutting edge technology to find new ways of making people's lives better. Programming is of particular interest to me and I recognise that it lies at the very heart of the subject. I am looking forward to learning more about it and as part of my Extended Project Qualification I am studying HTML and hoping to learn CSS and some JavaScript in order to create a website. Project work is another interest of mine. Undertaking a Computer Science degree will help me to achieve a real understanding of the subject and build upon key skills. This is a very exciting time to be a computer scientist as new developments are constantly being made and this is something I wish to be a part of. I look forward to deepening my technical knowledge in the subject.

My A Level subjects include Maths, Further Maths and Physics, all of which I really enjoy. Throughout the past year I have gained a greater perception across the breadth of Maths, including calculus, mechanics and statistics. This, I believe, will aid my understanding of Computer Science as well as maximising my enjoyment of it. Maths enables me to approach tasks in a logical way and has allowed me to use systematic methods to obtain valid results. In Further Maths, I especially enjoy the problem solving elements of the discrete maths module and recognise its importance to studying Computer Science. I am looking forward to future modules which will provide me with new challenges. As well as academic study I have participated in the Senior Maths Challenge, achieving a Bronze Award, and will be taking part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge for my school later this year. Studying Physics at A Level has also been enjoyable and rewarding. The individual nature of practical assessments has enabled me to gain more independence. In contrast, many of the experiments done on a daily basis are performed in small groups, allowing me to work as part of a team. In addition to my studies I am employed part time in a local farm shop. This job has enabled me to develop my communication skills as dealing with customers is a major part of the job.

Throughout my first year of sixth form I took part in events for various charities. Participating in a valet day helped raise money for the school and baking and selling cakes raised money for the people of Haiti. I also represented the Maths department at the sixth form open evening encouraging year 11 students to remain at school to study A Level Maths. Scouting has been an interest of mine from an early age, having been a member of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and now Explorers. As an active member of these organisations I have taken part in a number of camps and in summer 2007 I was privileged to take part in a visit to Norway. Last year I completed a 3 day expedition as part of my D of E Silver Award which I have recently completed and I am currently preparing for the Gold Award. Recently I took part in a Young Leaders Course which instructed me in how to manage young people and certified me as an official Young Leader. In this position I now assist the Leaders of 1st Tarporley Cubs. Presently I am working towards my Queen's Scout Award, having already obtained my Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2008, when I also took part in the Essex International Jamboree. In my free time I play tennis and golf; I am a member of local clubs for both and have enjoyed taking part in tournaments through a golfing academy and the under 16s league for Tennis. I am looking forward to studying at university and embracing all it has to offer. I hope it will help me to achieve my goal as a computer scientist.

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