

# Statement WAGOLL Booklet

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## Accounting

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Whether it is making financial investments or managing spending, accounting is something we do in our everyday lives; and you know that if you are spending more than what is coming in then it has not been managed well! I want to gain more understanding about the science of accounting and how it can benefit the economy. With my skills in Mathematics and my business acumen, I know that Chartered Accountancy is the perfect career for me. Therefore, studying Accounting and Finance will give me the perfect foundation on which to build my career. Overall, I am enthusiastic and passionate about studying Accounting and Finance as I am highly motivated to become a Chartered Accountant. I know that to be successful at university it includes hard work and dedication—both of which I have and I am ready to progress to the next level in my studies.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

I was selected to take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust mathematics challenge and I gained the bronze award. This made me realise that maths is not just about numbers but it involves logical reasoning and problem-solving. This led to my fascination for accounting as it is an application of Mathematics via business in a practical way. My chosen A levels have undoubtedly enriched my interest and knowledge to study this course. Mathematics A Level has taught me that there are various ways of solving a problem and this is important to adapt to different situations to make an informed decision. I am now confident in using summary statistics to analyse risks and summarise financial data. Studying Business Studies at A level has helped me to understand how businesses work and how finance departments operate within a business. Studying financial ratios has been useful to decipher the deeper meaning of business accounts and it really fascinates me how much valuable information you can gain from basic figures. As well as this, I have improved my analytical skills through analysing case studies e.g., for Scott Electronics I had to analyse their financial performance; this enabled me to link ratios to potential future investments the business could do. Additionally, in Psychology A level, analysing quantitative data and using data to back theories has strengthened my ability to use these skills in my further studies. Throughout my studies, I have come across Maslow's Hierarchy which made me understand the psychological state employees have to be in, in order to increase productivity in the workplace.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I enjoy reading business articles from the Guardian, this keeps me informed on current affairs in the world. I recently read that GDP has gone down which means that businesses need to be wary about investing, as it will affect their monetary funds. I have attended a conference run by PricewaterhouseCoopers, this played a key part in my interest for accountancy as they touched upon different areas such as strategic planning, and audit, and how you can travel and meet different clients. Talking to current accountancy students has shown how exciting and interesting the course is, especially the business law module which looks at the legal impacts of business decisions. My work experience at Interserve Healthcare included delivering presentations and running the virtual branch. I acted as the manager which gave me an insight into handling responsibility and communicating well in a stressful and pressured environment. Additionally, at Custom Pack, I gained more knowledge about how different departments work together and by shadowing an Accountant I learnt how to review capital transactions. This gave me an insight into what a typical day is like for a chartered accountant—even though no two days are the same!

## Aerospace Engineering

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Man-made birds of the 21st century move through the air, enormous lumps of metal 200,000 times heavier than the seagulls that inspired the idea. How? It's all down to today's engineers who have developed the fundamental ideas of flight first put forward by the Wright Brothers in 1903. At the age of 13, RAF Air Cadets left me longing for the next lesson to find out how powered flight has led to the luxuries we have today; rapid international delivery, worldwide flights to holiday destinations, quick response emergency air services and of course, the use of flight in military defence. It is the impact of flight that fuelled my natural curiosity and desire to study aeronautics. I think the experiences I have been through and the skills I have developed, along with my passion for aviation and engineering is what makes Aeronautical Engineering the ideal course for me.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Engineering is a combination of innovation and creativity, alongside precision and accuracy, meaning that my four A levels are a good platform to start me on my path. This, coupled with my studies of various subjects at cadets like principle of flight, pistons and other engineering based lessons, quickly led me towards engineering into the RAF. This work experience inspired me to apply for an Arkwright scholarship. After being successful in this application and also being lucky enough to be sponsored by the RAF themselves, I gained the opportunity to spend a week of work experience at RAF Cranwell. Here is where I recognised that I wanted to take the officer route into the RAF using my management skills and aeronautical engineering systems knowledge to manage teams of people and oversee a larger scale project.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I jumped at the chance to spend a week at RAF Cosford in a residential work experience for the WISE campaign. I began to see the obvious lack of skilled workers in the engineering industry, and more specifically the amazing career opportunity that women are significantly missing out on. I went through the week in awe of the airmen and women working on site. Through wider research, I have uncovered the development of unmanned systems which are being integrated for the use in a variety of uses. NASA have completed two stages for this, firstly for flight management and planning, navigation and surveillance and later using drones beyond the visual line of sight. This opens huge potential for both military and commercial application, possibly leading to much larger unmanned aircraft. This would make travelling safer to minimise the risks of a repeat accidents. As well as my studies, I work part time in Clarks Shoes in the Kids' department, which has greatly developed my interpersonal skills, both with colleagues and customers, as well as learning to reach targets and conform to rules. As a secondary part time job, I work as an AVON representative, running a local round in my area, as well as selling to family and friends. This involves me selling a variety of products including cosmetics, homeware, clothing and shoes and working on a commission basis. This has helped me work to target, meet deadlines, and take full responsibility myself. When I'm not working or studying, I have a number of hobbies that I like to pursue. Firstly, since the age of 9, and getting my own Canon DSLR on my 11th birthday, I have had an active interest in photography, in a variety of forms. This includes areas such as long exposure, fashion/make up and motorsport as well as many others. I also enjoy reading fictional novels particularly by Irvine Welsh and Stephen King. Photography also sits well alongside my passion for motorsport. I regularly attend amateur rallies in Wales, and plan to attend next year's World Rally Championships, where I will both take photos and enjoy spectating.

## Architecture

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

The opportunity to leave a lasting impact is a privilege, and architects are gifted with this in every building they design. This is why I want to study architecture: you have the ability to change the course of someone's life, purely with what you envisage. An article by Michael Bond discussed this. 'The hidden ways that architecture affects how you feel', describes how the design, space and presentation of a building can all have great effects on a person's mood and thoughts, looking at the Pruitt-Igoe apartment blocks as an example. Their demise was blamed on the architecture: the modernist, high rise, blank concrete blocks discouraged a sense of community and the large communal spaces quickly turned into the centre for gang crime. I was intrigued; I found it extraordinary the impact a person's setting can have on their neurology, as often the architecture of our local environment is overlooked and taken for granted in everyday life. A visit to Barcelona when I was younger leading me to discover Gaudi's work is probably what first inspired me to study architecture: the contrast between the order and rigour that can be seen from a birds-eye view compared to the intense detail that can be seen up close. I am interested in the designing of the Sagrada Familia and how you can see the different time periods and design influences as you walk around the cathedral. Structures like this can be so iconic and meaningful and can stick in the mind of anyone for a lifetime.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Art AS level taught me to look at structure and form, specifically in the statues of Matisse, where I found similarities in my sculptural style of life drawing and his 'Back Series'. It also really helped me to develop my own style meaning I explored lots of different avenues within the media I used and found I really enjoyed the sculptural side, creating many clay pieces as part of my project. Architecture is about solving problems: whether they be design, space, community or cultural, which is why I feel physics and maths have definitely helped prepare me for studying architecture as they are both centred around problem-solving. The move from GCSE to A-level has definitely been demanding for me but I've thoroughly enjoyed the challenge these subjects have posed. For my A2 project in Product Design, I am focusing on inclusive design and I am hoping that my final product will be a coping mechanism to help children with learning disabilities cope with stressful situations. To do this, I am working with my sixth form's SEN department and I have had to do a lot of research into inclusive design involving working with and interviewing people from charities that support learning disabilities.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I have completed work experience with three different companies. The placements were really provocative as they gave me three almost contrasting environments to work in with completely different types of people. I worked on Sketch-Up to complete a brief on a personal design project, giving me a good grounding in the software. I had to create a 3D plan of the Birmingham office for one of the company's future use, using a mixture of both CAD and Sketch-Up. I also had an opportunity to practise my sketching and technical drawing and find out about the historical design and architecture of the areas I was working in. I worked with the third company most recently and I thought my time here was very constructive, as I was involved in meetings with structural engineers who were working with the company as well as giving my opinions on some of the projects the company was bidding for. I found all the placements insightful and beneficial, and they definitely improved my understanding and technical ability when it came to sketching and designing. I am a form prefect for a Year 11 form for whom I mentor and provide peer support to. From this, I have gained great listening and intuitive skills as well as managing a position of responsibility and bridging the link between student and teacher.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

To enter a field of research, one in which I can aid in the search for cures and treatments to life-threatening diseases, I am able to quench my thirst for knowledge and help others in need. More specifically, I want to go into Breast Cancer Research. After seeing the damage it does to the world and the personal effect it has had on my family, I am passionate in putting all of my efforts into the eradication of the disease. This is why a Biochemistry course is a perfect fit for me. Not only will it allow me to keep learning about a subject I'm so passionate about at a higher level, but it will open the door to a world I am so eager to enter. The classroom is where I have found my desire in life, I want to face the complex questions we struggle to answer and provide the solution which right now may seem impossible. How better can I do this than by merging my goals and desires?

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Studying Biology and Chemistry at A Level keeps me curious, learning about the processes that shape the world we live in and make us who we are is something that continually keeps me wanting more. After completing the Biochemistry module in my A Level course, I felt a passion growing; for every fact I learnt I only had more questions. It gets to the point where the teacher can no longer answer these questions - in fact nobody can. I found myself looping back to a constant array of unsatisfactory answers. I have learnt vital skills from many years' participation in my school's debating societies, which have aided me throughout the difficult transition into A Level and which will continue to help me through future struggles. The perseverance I have is what makes me fit for the course. Once set on a goal, I am determined to achieve it which is why I know I am capable of succeeding in this Biochemistry course.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I've already started in my efforts as a member of the school's charity committee; we continuously raise money towards multiple charities including Cancer Research and Macmillan. I also work alongside Legacy 4 Lucy and WhizzKidz in the preparation and execution of an annual charity ball. Last summer we raised £9000 and I'm hoping to surpass this figure at next year's ball. As I continue to be full of questions, I carry on taking my learning outside of the classroom, this is why I take such pleasure in my extracurricular courses completed through Future Learn. After learning about the rapid progression in cancer medications over the past 100 years, I am amazed that chemotherapy once involved toxic mustard gas, especially considering we are now on the brink of using monoclonal antibodies for targeted therapy. This reminds me that whilst the science community faces extreme difficulties in providing treatment without damaging healthy cells, there is a solution to the problem - even if it is yet to be found. I know that a future in research won't be an easy future, but that only motivates me more because my thirst for knowledge compels me to rise to the challenge.



### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Health is the most important aspect of life; without health all else is useless. Although often unseen, biomedical scientists play an integral role in everyone's life. Scientists have influenced lives of people through researching, preventing and treating many different diseases, they also have the ability to change individual lives which is what pushes me towards the career. My curiosity in biology, in particular the mechanisms of the human body, ignited my interest to study Biomedical sciences. The fact that such therapies use the immune system to treat some diseases captivates me and is why I want to understand the depth of human anatomy to potentially help to cure life threatening diseases. As a biomedical scientist I would be involved in researching advanced solutions to health problems which make a difference to people's lives, something these projects have prepared me for. My keenness to research, expand my knowledge, and affect lives in a positive way underpins my decision to study biomedical science. I have the commitment and desire to succeed at university, and be an asset to the Biomedical science field.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Studying chemistry and maths has developed my analytical and problem solving skills. Chemistry helps deepen my knowledge of biology: interpreting spectra in chemistry in order to identify the structure of a compound is a skill essential for biomedical scientists when analysing tissue fluid and other samples. Alongside the study of microorganisms in biology, studying the complexity of the human body, from single cells to the way the human body functions is something that interests me. The immunology module I studied during my academic years is one that I find thrilling. I am inquisitive and meticulous in nature; therefore I am determined to carry out further research to extend my understanding of the subject.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I carried out work experience at a dental lab to experience the health sector at first hand. From shadowing laboratory technicians in conducting research and studies, I learnt the importance of ancillary staff, with scientists playing a vital role in innovating new treatments to improve healthcare. Biomedical Science plays a vital role for those that are dependent on drugs. I was fortunate enough to carry out a placement at a care home which gave me insight into the importance medicine has in the lives of elderly people. Speaking to people I found many cases where they had increased dosage or changed medication as the body had combated previous drugs, thus signalling the importance of continual research. I enjoy taking on responsibility such as House Captain at school, which taught me the importance of listening to peers and addressing issues. The Duke of Edinburgh award gave me the chance to face challenges and find creative solutions to them as I assisted a visually impaired group member. I relish the opportunity to face challenges and find creative solutions to obstacles which was shown when I successfully completed my award. A key quality for university is self-motivation. I developed this while undertaking the Envision programme. The objective was to choose an issue affecting my local community, I chose domestic abuse. As group leader, I developed my time and project management skills when producing a number of 'survival packs' for these victims. For me, the biggest reward came when we handed these packs to the victims. I am still involved with the charity we worked with. My experiences reflect my passion to contribute to science.



### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Science plays a vital role in improving living standards and is constantly transforming the way we perceive the world. It is a key player in the increased lifespan of humans due to rapid medical advancements. I have realised that with these advancements comes some drawbacks. As people are living longer, the effects of age-related ailments and non-communicable diseases become much more evident. This shows that biomedical sciences will always have areas to explore and contribute to. As such, my desire to contribute to this dynamic field has led me to want to study biomedical science and eventually add to its research field. The aspects of biology I find most interesting include the areas of biochemical interactions and anatomy because the phenomena of life and the evolutionary trajectory of humans is truly captivating.

**How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?** I am often driven to carry out independent research. The theories behind non-clinical medicine hold much to be explored for me. I've recently delved into the arguments in favour of stem cell research in preparation for an annual interscholastic science society debate. This enhanced my public speaking skills, debating skills, and academic writing skills. The reading I did for this debate furthered my understanding of the methodologies used for scientific research and the process of verification. I've also attended various university open days and taster lectures. One memorable lecture was about the complex biochemistry of a schizophrenic brain at the University of Oxford. The lecture explained the effect of dopamine on the brain and touched upon how excessive dopamine receptors may contribute toward schizophrenia. Hoping to further understand the underlying causes of reactions in the brain, I read the book "Why Chemical Reactions Happen". One key idea presented is entropy being the tendency of all closed systems to move towards disorder. New studies suggest that consciousness could be a mere side effect of increasing entropy levels in the brain. So by extent, decreasing levels of entropy in the brain could be a factor stimulating irrational schizophrenic thoughts.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

Something that really opened my eyes to the real-world application of science was a medical workshop run by Queen Mary University London. The science behind kidney transplant surgery and why it can be very complicated to find a match for some individuals was a particular focal point. I have seen, first-hand, the stress and devastation that my 5-year-old cousin and her family went through whilst waiting for a compatible donor. It's promising that, if approved for human use, desensitisation could be a much more convenient alternative to dialysis and immunosuppressants. Researchers haven't resolved exactly why regenerated antibodies are less likely to attack transplanted organs, but I would love to be knowledgeable with the field once this is further delved into. Biomedical science is becoming increasingly reliant on computers and programming for efficient data presentation, storage, and analysis. I am an avid programmer and have taught myself basic Python using Codecademy and other online resources. So I understand the importance of interdisciplinary reliance for biomedical science. For example, genomic data science is a very programming intense sector of biomedical science, without which analysis of genetics will be incredibly difficult and time-consuming to do. I have a passion to help people that struggle with health complications, so to make that dream a reality, I have acquired numerous skills that would make me a successful academic. This includes the resilience and patience that programming taught me, the ability to express complicated problems in a much simpler manner which I gained through tutoring maths students, and the team working skills I have accreted by partaking in various school drama productions.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

I have always been interested in the different ways businesses are managed and the reasoning behind why some succeed and others are forced to close within the first year, even if their product or service is seemingly a good idea. My interests within Business have grown with my knowledge of the subject and I have a particular fervor for the Marketing modules in a Management course: I especially enjoy analysis of consumer behaviour. It is both creative and technical aspects that appeal to me. Business Studies has a unique appeal for me. I would relish the opportunity of developing my skills through a Management undergraduate programme and satisfying my curiosity about this fascinating subject. My appreciation of the subject would make me an ideal candidate, since I would be truly committed and enthusiastic about every aspect of my learning and student life.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Studying Business has fine-tuned my judgement skills when writing proposals on which solutions would be better for businesses, and to craft words into advertising slogans; aspects I particularly enjoy, especially as an English student. Analysing real case studies has provided an opportunity to interpret data and examine how likely it is the company will be able to succeed, therefore giving me an understanding of what it takes to manage a business. Analysing data and statistics is also a major part of Psychology, not only allowing the use of the transferable skills between the two subjects, but also the opportunity to consolidate and perfect the skills in utilising them frequently. Links between the Psychology of the subliminal and subconscious, which can be manipulated very easily, and strategies used by corporations in their managerial schemes and advertising, fascinate me. Studying English Language has highlighted how linguistic determinism can also manipulate a person's decisions. Through my coursework I have seen how linguistic features can be used in order to persuade someone to do something, even if subconsciously they think they are making an autonomous decision, I find this particularly interesting, especially when studying marketing.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I acted as MD within the Young Enterprise team and was delighted when the team were awarded best company at the regional heats and best stall in the regional finals. The most important lesson I learned from the whole process, was how hard managing a team of people can be, but also how rewarding it is when you are successful. A part-time job at Boots has given me confidence as well as an understanding of the importance of good communication skills and punctuality. I am able to grasp the needs of customers and advise them accordingly; acting as a good listener is something I pride myself on. I have also been a member of a dance team for ten years, through which I have taken the opportunity to teach and help the younger dancers. This has developed leadership skills and proven my reliability. Indeed, my enthusiasm for Psychology and Business has led to research into personality types and in particular the way introverts can thrive in a business. Creative Writing enables me to deploy my words carefully, which is vital when composing advertisements. I am particularly interested in understanding the way the brain reacts to manipulation, enabling me to discern how managers can effectively motivate their teams, which is vital in a predominantly competitive market.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Learning about the many topics and concepts of chemistry engages me and leaves me wanting to know the reasons and mechanisms behind them. A particular topic I've found interesting is retrosynthetic analysis: working backwards from complex organic molecules and breaking them down into simple precursors and steps. This is something I find amazing as it's a subtle reminder that even the most complex molecules can have simple beginnings. Recently having read online that a chemist documented his synthesis of Daraprim from ordinary household materials with this technique was an inspiration to me and for that reason, I would love to obtain more knowledge of chemistry in general, but also learn more about organic chemistry and novel synthesis. I am particularly interested in the mathematical aspects of chemistry. It is hard not to admire beauty in the language of science: from proofs to complex numbers, A-level Maths has magnified my love for science. Seeing computational chemistry in action on a university open day, the code and the calculations being displayed in real time showed me a combination of my interests. I would therefore like to learn and develop the required knowledge of theoretical or computational chemistry for this area as it will have a strong foothold in the future of the subject. I am looking forward to being accepted onto a Chemistry undergraduate programme to learn more about this vast subject and to join and interact with the scientific community. It has been a dream to contribute to our grand but incomplete knowledge of science.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

At age eight, my interest in chemistry books caught my teacher's attention which led him to contact the local grammar school, allowing me once a week to join in the GCSE Chemistry lessons and carry out practical work - an opportunity I've been grateful for. Seeing reactions first hand from the synthesis of nylon, to the colours of transition metals in their various oxidation states left me craving for more. These experiences led me to use chemistry sets to carry out my own experiments for fun. My interest had recently taken me to a university taster day as well as competing in the regional 2014 Chemistry Salters' Challenge, where my leadership and knowledge led my team to first and second place in two separate challenges. A-level Maths has magnified my love for science. Computer Science has not only taught me how to code and solve problems logically, which would be important skills in a future scientific career, but it also has given me another perspective from which to look at chemistry. We are already seeing jobs being replaced by computers because of their efficiency and chemistry is no exception.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I have wanted to become a chemist involved in research and as such, I have experienced work at Systagenix, a biomedical research company. There, I assisted people in the laboratory and saw their work such as carrying out absorption tests and preparing agar samples with pathogenic bacteria. Seeing laboratory work done in a professional setting has opened my eyes and further developed skills required in the laboratory such as critical thinking. Alongside the skills I would develop in the final year of the degree, these experiences will be invaluable in a career in academic or industrial chemical research. Wanting to give back to the community of which I am a part, I've volunteered at Oxfam and the BHF for 18 months in total, thus showing I am a reliable person and this has helped me develop communication skills. Having achieved a merit in Grade 7 Piano alongside volunteering and maintaining a high academic record shows that I can deal with high workloads and manage time effectively.

## Civil Engineering

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Fascinated by how infrastructures, that were once design concepts, have become a reality, led me to choose civil engineering as my career path. By researching immense structural projects from The Great Wall of China to the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, I established my interest in civil engineering. Civil engineering is involved in more than just building construction. I am particularly interested in geotechnics and application of practical skills to make and test materials. The importance of this topic was demonstrated to me when I discovered that the geology of the earth beneath London prevented civil engineers from constructing tall landmarks. I'm also interested in structures, specifically the solutions to foundation problems in a family residence. As a determined individual, I am eager to solve such complications methodically and logically: I enjoy tackling mathematical problems and embracing challenges and so this topic appeals to me most. My career ambition is to become a structural engineer and in doing so becoming a chartered civil engineer. In today's society, civil engineering changes people's lives for the better and I want to be a part of that change. I strongly believe that my flair for science, combined with my enthusiasm for problem-solving and overcoming difficult challenges will allow me to excel in this course. I have confidence that engineering is a field where I can apply my skills best and fully realise my potential.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

I believe my strengths lie in mathematics. I have been taking extra maths classes that have improved my organisation and problem-solving skills. Trigonometry is the area that I enjoy especially because of the challenge of solving problems that incorporate identities, algebraic methods, and trigonometric properties. I chose physics because of its link to engineering and over time I genuinely started to appreciate the subject for its logical reasoning. My mathematical understanding of physics is enhanced by choosing the Mechanics Module. I engaged greatly with the simple harmonic motions topic, more specifically how resonance can affect bridges. Last year I visited the CERN labs in Switzerland, where my passion for physics flourished. This enlightening experience furthered my knowledge of physics and allowed me to communicate with world-leading scientists. The engineering required to build the particle accelerator is truly inspiring and showcased how broad the engineering industry is.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

My initial experience of design and construction came from the renovation of my house. I was given an insight into each stage, from the architectural designs to the final construction. This left me with unanswered questions such as what prevented a building from collapsing or how I can access clean water from a tap. These answers lie in civil engineering. I relished the opportunity to participate in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award where held a position of responsibility when leading my group on our two-day expedition. Motivation and the ability to communicate effectively was key. I also took part in the National Citizen Service scheme. Project management and critical thinking skills were put to the test when I organised a bake sale, contributing to the money raised for charity, which in total was £1,652. I volunteered to work with the Royal Voluntary Service, in the hospital shops which helped me to develop into a well-rounded person that enjoyed speaking with customers and helping others. I have gained transferable skills, such as responsibility, communication skills, and motivation, that are useful in civil engineering and many other industries.

## Computer Science

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

My fascination with technology was sparked when, as a child, I thought it would be a great idea to take apart my Playstation console. Aware of the danger, I was still eager to see how it all worked inside. I find it intriguing how fast society has been shaped and continues to be, by the influence of Computer Science. A few years ago, if someone were to have claimed that cars would become autonomous, people would have doubted them. Now we are at a stage where nearly anything is possible, and this is due to the relentless problem-solving of computer scientists. The latest software update released by Tesla Motors allows their cars to learn how to drive themselves and is an example of artificial intelligence, a sector which I am most interested in. I want to study Computer Science because I want to gain the knowledge needed to be able to help find solutions to world problems, with the efficient use of computer technology. With the knowledge and skills I will attain from this course, the creative ideas that I could bring into fruition would be endless. I hope to become one of the computer scientists who adapt technology to help the human race evolve. One possibility would be for artificially intelligent gadgets to recognise different people and adjust to their individual needs based on personal preferences.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

I understand that computer science is not just about programming and hardware but also about the ethics entailed in the process of a design as well as innovative thinking. Studying A-Level Philosophy and Ethics has given me an insight into many ethical situations that may arise around computer science, such as the creation of artificial intelligence. This raises controversy over whether or not we should be trying to create artificial intelligence, as people have different beliefs and faiths. One example of such controversy was during the development of Honda's Asimo robot when engineers had to visit the Vatican to seek permission to continue the project due to how human-like the robot was developed to walk.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I have been teaching myself Objective-C syntax in my spare time and have completed online programming courses, which have allowed me to explore the endless possibilities that computer science can bring to the world. I have also learnt to create a simple iOS game using Apple's syntax called 'Swift', in XCode alongside Photoshop. During a week of volunteering on NCS, I visited Wazoku, the creators of an idea-sharing software used by major corporations such as Waitrose and The BBC. I was given an insight into the working environment that I hope to join after completing my degree. I am applying for work experience at Wazoku, in order to learn about how the software industry can influence the progress of companies. I am constantly seeking to learn new skills and gain experience from various activities. I have been a member of the RAF Air Cadets for four years, where I have learnt many valuable life skills such as discipline, leadership, charity, and confidence. Alongside these life skills, I have gained various qualifications such as The St. John's Ambulance Youth First Aid qualification and Leading Cadet qualification. Being a cadet also involved doing charity work such as raising money for the RAF Benevolence Fund and the Poppy Appeal. Through all these experiences, I have learnt how to work with people from all walks of life, different backgrounds, and people who have different beliefs and ideas to the ones I do. This has enabled me to adjust my approach to solving different problems and situations. Technological advancements take place around us every day, from the evolution of bulky antenna phones into smartphones to the introduction of smart virtual assistants such as Apple's Siri, Google Now, and Windows' Cortana. I am inspired by the fact that computer science has become a fundamental element in the development of a better, smarter future for our world, and my goal is to be part of that development process.



### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Examining behaviour and the reasons people act in the way they do has always fascinated me, especially in regards to crime. From what I have learnt about in my research and wider reading, I know that I would like to work within this sector, particularly the criminal justice system. By studying Psychological sciences, I can gain an even deeper understanding of the cognitive processes behind certain behaviours, and this can provide a solid entry into the sector of work which I aspire to be part of. For me, doing a degree within the psychological sector is the most exciting thing that I can embark upon following my A-level studies, and I look forward to furthering my knowledge of the subject. I believe that this degree will provide a firm basis for pursuing a career in criminal justice.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

By taking Psychology at A-Level, this allowed me to investigate further into behaviour. Additionally, completing a Future-Learn course on 'Forensic Psychology' by the Open University gave me a thorough understanding of the aspects behind this part of Psychology, such as cognitive interviews and unconscious transference. This course gave me the opportunity to experiment with how I would fare identifying possible criminals from a line-up, giving me the chance to see if I could physically solve a crime. My EPQ was titled 'Does the CSI effect exist?' in which I researched how beliefs on crime from the media influence court proceedings and the effects that this has.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

During my time in sixth form, I have proudly been a leader of the 'Philanthropic Society' representing the whole school. This has involved arranging events to raise money for charities such as the 'RSPCA' and 'Mind'. Being a member of this society allowed me to view the psychology behind being better people. It has been fulfilling to be a part of the society as I know the hard work I put into creating events is for a good cause and that I could be potentially changing people's lives. I find it extremely gratifying helping people, and I had the opportunity to do this when I went to Nepal in the summer of 2017. Trekking 73Km around the mountains helped to improve my perseverance and endurance as the feeling of pride at the finish point was worth the struggle. I apply this to my school work, knowing that my hard work will pay off with success. In addition, it built upon my teamwork skills as guiding and motivating other people played a large part in reaching our destinations. We camped in a secondary school that was damaged in the 2015 earthquake, helping to repaint and rebuild the classrooms and teach English to the Nepalese children. This side to the expedition improved my communication skills, even though I already have experience with foreign languages from studying Spanish and being a Spanish prefect within school. This involves representing the subject to younger year groups and setting aside my time to help out the department in events such as open evenings and also mentoring other students. I completed valuable work experience in 'National Insurance Brokers' in London, which improved my punctuality and organisational skills. It gave me the completely new experience of commuting, and I organised many files daily, which if wrongly completed could lead to great problems for the company, so the pressure was very high. I was staggered to learn about Insurance fraud statistics in the UK as dishonest insurance claims are valued at over £1billion. My part-time job at a well-known restaurant chain, TGI Friday's, has helped develop my skills further. Since getting this job, I have vastly improved my confidence and listening skills due to engaging with guests constantly and making sure that all of their needs are catered to. I have dealt with professional complainers and shoplifters, which has exposed me to crime in the real world in the context of retail, which I am also interested in.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

To me, dentistry is about working respectfully and diligently, being able to take charge as a leader but also work within a team, in a paced environment. The profession is very appealing to me, as it not only combines my love of science paired with intricate manual dexterity, but you also have the chance to make a real improvement on the quality of life of your patients. I am a hard-working, enthusiastic and compassionate student with a huge desire to learn. I realise that a good dentist must be responsible, dedicated and ethical and believe that I am capable of that. Therefore, I will be able to fit into the social and academic aspect of dental school.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

I stay informed with the latest dental news by reading [dentistry.co.uk](http://dentistry.co.uk) news articles and journals for my EPQ topic, about forensic odontology. Outside of school, I am working towards my grade 6 Flute, which maintains my manual dexterity and is a source of relaxation. Having completed my silver Duke of Edinburgh, working towards Gold, I have learnt to be determined, adaptable and think on the spot. All my extracurricular activities have allowed me to develop a wide range of skills, which will help shape me into a conscientious dentist.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

After a total of 3 weeks at 5 dental practices, both private and NHS, I have learnt the importance of communication between patient and dentist and have gained a real appreciation for the hard work and dedication required in such a demanding profession. I particularly enjoyed engaging with a wide range of people and I believe that my self-motivation and nurturing nature are a great foundation. Last year, I spent 4 days at 2 private practices where I met an endodontist, prosthodontist and hygienist. I observed multiple root canals, learning how concentration and an eye for detail were essential for complex procedures. Whilst watching the prosthodontist, I observed veneer applications, composite fillings and crown preparations. I learnt about the need for adaptability and the importance of effective teamwork between dentist and dental nurse. I also was very intrigued by how the dental prostheses were made and arranged work experience in a dental laboratory, spending a day learning how porcelain crowns and veneers are made. This year, I arranged 2 weeks at 2 NHS practices, shadowing general dental practitioners and an oral surgeon. I observed amalgam fillings, denture fittings and wisdom tooth extractions, learning the importance of clear communication, being sensitive around nervous patients and fully explaining any treatments, as it means patients are more willing to be open and trusting towards you. I spent 2 days in another private practice, where a 'CEREC Omnicam' was used to take crown impressions. This taught me how new technologies are constantly being developed and how important it is to utilise them. This Easter, I travelled to Botswana, spending 4 days volunteering at a local primary school. I taught English, maths, science and art lessons to a class of 40 children, who initially spoke little to no English, developing my planning, leadership, and communication skills. I also spent a day planting trees near the local care home, teaching locals basic IT skills and visited the 'Smiles' Dental Clinic. I raised £200 for the 'Elephants without Borders' charity by doing multiple bake sales, after attending a lecture on the preservation of elephants in Botswana. I volunteer at my local care home, building relationships with residents by acting in an approachable and friendly manner. Last year, I volunteered at a charity shop for a year, allowing me to interact with a wide range of people, improving my interpersonal skills and I also volunteer at my local animal sanctuary, walking dogs, as I enjoy using the time to relax after a busy week. I ride horses and play tennis once a week to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Graphic Design is always around us, and learning how to communicate in a visual manner has inspired me to learn more about the subject. The words 'create' and 'design' have always sparked a sense of enthusiasm and excitement within me. For many years I have enjoyed designing logos, packaging and coming up with creative campaign concepts. Since learning that Graphic Design is something that I'm driven towards, I have gained an interest and spectrum of knowledge about graphic designers such as Milton Glaser, Herb Lubalin and Paul Rand. Their works have inspired me to develop my own skills and have given me an insight as to how to establish a creative mind-set. My enthusiasm for Graphic Design made me want to expand my knowledge, hence I took a Graphic Design course at Central Saint Martins. I try to seek all possible opportunities to help me advance my skills in Graphic Design, and feel that having the opportunity to take my admiration of design to degree level would be extremely rewarding. I'm self-motivated and eager to start devoting my time and attention to Graphic Design, and am positive university will help me excel in what I like doing best.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

During my placement at Imperial College, I learnt how fundamental research is and how it is conducted during the whole design process. After the placement, I was more decisive about wanting to delve into the world of Graphic Design. My second placement was at Virgin Media, where I worked with graphic designers and UX designers and was introduced to the field of digital design. I attended meetings where briefs were being discussed and was able to follow the journey of the graphic designers to witness how they went about delivering the brief; and helping design assets for the website. The placement allowed me to comprehend what digital design consisted of and learn about the works of alternative designers such as UX designers. The Graphic Design course at Central Saint Martins was completely different to my professional work placements. The course prohibited the use of computers and all artefacts were formulated from research trips and materials; making me realise the extent of graphic design. The manner in which I worked was refreshing from constantly collaborating with software. After the course, I was able to understand that there are various methods of communicating which do not involve software.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

Working within the Communications and PR, Film and Graphic Design Departments at Imperial College whilst on work experience, I was able to explore different ways of communicating through social media, film and print design. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Graphic Design team where I was able to see how various software's were used to develop banners for the university fair. In my free time, I self-teach myself Photoshop and Illustrator through tutorials. I also enjoy self-initiating briefs for myself, as well as briefs set by agencies such as D&AD, RSA and YCN which provide me with a creative challenge. For example, I have 'restyled street style' for ASOS, which was a brief set by D&AD. I also voluntarily design logos for businesses, go to contemporary galleries, the Barbican Centre, research trips for my creative briefs and work on my briefs. I also look forward to the annual London Design Week, where I have become educated about designers and new design processes and am able to draw inspiration upon. I have volunteered helping teach 6-9 year olds at my community art club, which I attended for 3 years. I have achieved the Bronze D of E, had a part-time job for one year at a high-end retail store and was part of my local netball club where I trained and competed. Completing these activities has enabled me to develop a strong sense of co-operation, teamwork, good social skills and commitment which would greatly benefit me whilst studying a degree.

## Engineering

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Engineers build societies. More specifically, mechanical engineers apply fundamental maths and physics laws to construct mechanical devices that we use every day, despite sometimes going unnoticed. For this reason, I would like to pursue a career in engineering, as it is such a key component in societies. It combines my fascination of how things work and the mechanics behind devices, with the ability to apply maths and physics concepts to real-life situations. Studying mechanical engineering will allow me to contribute to new life-changing technologies for numerous industries; including construction, transport, and health-care. My motivation and diligence along with my ability to study independently will make me as I believe it an asset to the course.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Studying Maths Mechanics at A-level has given me experience with calculus and more advanced mathematics, including differential equations, creating a firm grounding for the mathematics I should encounter at degree level. Physics has given me an understanding of fundamental notions and reinforced the mechanical aspects of maths, while through Chemistry I have gained hands-on practical experience through regular experiments. Economics at AS level allowed me to develop knowledge on economic practices, as I recognise that many engineers move on to positions involving management responsibilities. Being invited to partake in the A2 British Physics Olympiad enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of physics principles including Newton's Laws of Motion and the Laws of Thermodynamics, especially those entwined into everyday tasks. Participation in the Physics Olympiad also provided me with the means to develop my critical thinking skills, as there are usually multiple paths which can be taken to reach the same answer. In addition to this, it required me to think logically about a problem while also being creative.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

Over the summer holidays, I had the opportunity to undertake masterclasses offered by the University of Liverpool, where I was able to enhance my practical problem-solving experience and apply familiar concepts to strange and unfamiliar problems. One of the masterclasses was engineering movers & shakers, where we engaged in a group structure building task and learnt about the levels of stress structures can withstand. To broaden my engineering knowledge I conducted personal online research, with youtube channels Engineering Explained and Learn Engineering, partnered with regularly assisting my dad in repairing and restoring old Land Rovers providing a wealth of knowledge. Here I have been able to develop awareness of underlying concepts within motorised vehicles, such as the differential which allows the wheels to rotate at different speeds while transferring power to both wheels through the use of the spider gear. Allowing for two different types of rotation and so creating variable power output to the wheels. Last year, as part of the Welsh baccalaureate I volunteered at my old high school's maths department, where I tutored a group of year 11 students guiding them through the additional maths course. This was beneficial as it allowed me to develop my interpersonal skills, as I had to alter my teaching approach in order to convey the content as effectively as possible to suit each individual student. Completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award has meant I have gained valuable skills including teamwork, leadership and confidence, allowing me to work with a diverse range of people, this is useful as an engineer because you will encounter and have to work alongside various types of people to achieve common goals. In my spare time, I joined a rowing club for several months, demonstrating my commitment and organisation skills as we often trained multiple times per week including early mornings, together with communication skills as team cohesion is an important factor when being part of a crew.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Literature has a unique ability in gathering an array of emotions from its readers whilst revealing attitudes towards characters or time periods. A writer's ingenuity has always engrossed me, which led me to believe that English is the ideal degree to read at university. An insight into canonical literature truly developed a hunger for literature within me. I particularly found Austen's focus on the women of Georgian society to be amusing, notably the way that marriage was such a significant aspect of their lives. Her books seemed to remove excessive vulnerability from her female characters; they were thoughtful like Anne Elliot, intelligent like Elizabeth Bennet and imaginative like Catherine Morland. Victorian literature was also engaging in my eyes with Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" offering me a satirical outlook on the social hierarchy of the nineteenth century. I was intrigued by how the members of the upper class, such as Lady Bracknell, persisted to maintain their status and strived to have no association with those that they believed were of a lower breed. Over the years, my affection for English has only been elevated and my aptitude and diligence for learning will be of great service during my time at university. I view literature with unwavering zeal which will certainly permit me to relish the challenges ahead.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

My AS English Literature course was fundamental to me in developing my ability to critically analyse characters and ideas, especially in the novel "Frankenstein". I found it fascinating that Frankenstein's hubris leads to the creature's destructive nature and that Shelley questions humanity's desire to overstep the boundaries of science. Nevertheless, I found myself sympathising with Frankenstein due to his eagerness in pioneering a new path for mankind and found him comparable to scientists today. My own investigative approach was heightened by the study of Biology and Mathematics at AS. Similarly, Emily Dickinson's poetry taught me to consider what she was implying behind her stanzas and to contemplate the presentation of her themes. Her poem "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain" was poignant in the sense that it compared a mental illness to a death which I found harrowing. Recently, I have started to appreciate the finesse of close reading. I admired how the use of creative language in Arundhati Roy's "The God of Small Things", such as the capitalisation of words, accentuated meaningful events through the twins' eyes. The parallels were visible between their delight in the English language and my own when I had first began to learn English as a second language. Furthermore, close reading was vital in my comprehension of a governesses' life in Victorian England and aided me to differentiate between the romantic view that "Jane Eyre" portrayed as opposed to the mundanity that Anne Bronte depicted in "Agnes Grey".

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

What I found most gratifying outside of college was my development in communication skills, an aspect that is imperative for an English student. Participating in Model United Nations as a Syrian delegate was demanding during the peak of the crisis but it honed my capability to produce effectual responses. I volunteered at Marie Curie Cancer Care in order to give back to the community as well as it enabling me to work effectively in a team, which I find invaluable. I learnt to swim this year-a prospect that I had initially been fearful of. I also became a volunteer for the Summer Reading Challenge through my local library. It was beneficial in the sense that I was able to create a curiosity for unfamiliar stories in younger children.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

What we choose to wear mirrors how we wish to be perceived. Fashion is a continuation of personality; individuals can take the same item of clothing from a retailer and envision it completely differently, thus making it unique to them. Another aspect of fashion that I find interesting is its many forms of influence, such as culture. On their travels, buyers see something that inspires their trend board and feeds into the design process. This shows the power that buyers and merchandisers have in controlling what reaches consumers. The dynamic nature of the industry makes the risk taken rewarding when it's a success. It's this uncertainty that I think makes the roles of buyers and merchandisers so exciting. During my time at Debenhams, I realised the importance of having specialist knowledge of materials. This is why I believe that studying Buying and Merchandising will provide me with essential skills fundamental to working in fashion.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Studying Art has challenged me to take more risks in my work. It has also heightened my appreciation for different art forms, and has inspired me to visit more exhibitions. From engaging in the subject, I have good awareness of the formal elements, such as colour, texture and composition, which is essential when working in retail, from product design to marketing and branding. My decision to study Business has greatly broadened my understanding of commercial principles and practices, from regional to international scale. I have a good understanding of the functional areas and the influences of one on another, for instance, the effect of a business's financial performance on its marketing budget, or level of operations. Finally, from studying Psychology, I have learned how individuals often adapt their fashion choice in order to feel valuable within a group. This has heightened my appreciation for fashion as a way of expressing identity and its effects on confidence and self-worth. I feel that my chosen A-Level subjects of Art, Business and Psychology, along with my work experience placement and job are providing me with a solid educational background and the practical experience necessary to gain further knowledge and understanding which I hope to continue to develop at your institution.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

To gain a better understanding of working for a fashion house, I completed a placement at Debenhams Head Office in the Men's Footwear Buying department. I gained valuable insight into how the buying sector functions and the production process from beginning to sign-off. Having this opportunity confirmed my career aspirations in fashion. It also introduced me to the importance of merchandising, showing me how closely both sides work together to finalise a range. I also spent time with a design team, going through stages of product development, from identifying a potential trend to production and distribution, which greatly widened my understanding. Being a sales consultant at Next, I have a good understanding of in-store operations. One task I carried out is comparing the best and worst data and applying this to the store's layout. This shows the importance of visual merchandising, how the placement of certain products enhances sales. Another aspect of working in-store that I love is witnessing the change in stock overtime, and observing customer's reactions to this first hand. What fascinates me is how a design concept initiated at Head Office is developed into a range that evolves over more than one season. Having a job has helped me to better my time-management, as well as improving my team-working skills. I utilised these skills when my family and I organised a Charity Dinner and Dance in aid of JDRF (Junior Diabetes Research Foundation), seating 135 guests. We raised £10,000, which motivated us to continue fundraising, planning our next event for 2018.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Many cinema-goers and theatre patrons alike will state that drama, whether it be on the screen or stage, allows for the projection of imagination to transport us to a vast fantastical world of fiction. However, as an aspiring filmmaker, director and theatre creator, I disagree. Instead, cinematography and performing arts are inherently a vehicle for truth. Whether a film director's intention is to convey the verity of hope, as in Gina Prince Bythewood's 'The Secret Life of Bees', or a playwright's aim is to reveal the perils of insidious jealousy in Shakespeare's 'Othello', though scripts and screenplays may be fictitious, what is experienced by viewers is far from make-believe. What is created instead is a brilliant mixture of real thoughts, feelings and events experienced by all those who worked on the piece, from the casting directors to score composers. Whether on the big screen or on the most intimate of stages, truth shapes drama, and that is what electrifies me. However, this relationship is not unrequited; in turn, drama shapes truth. Performing arts have undeniably altered the human experience throughout the thousands of years they have been practiced. It is for this reason, I strive to study theatre and film. I want to not only further my experience producing and crafting art for the screen and stage, but also to widen my comprehending of human history and emotion, as I believe one cannot truly understand plays and motion pictures without first exploring the truth behind them. My appreciation and fascination with the creation and reception of theatrical art combined with my love of in-depth analytical writing, shaped by my enthusiasm for English literature, demonstrates that studying a film and theatre degree is the correct endeavour for me.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Upon entering Year 13, I chose not to continue studying Drama and Theatre Studies, as I had already encountered many of the Shakespearean and classical plays throughout my English Literature A-Level. However, this has not prevented my pursuit for education and creation of drama and motion picture. This summer, I took a week long acting and directing summer school at Guildford School of Acting, accredited by the University of Surrey. This intense masterclass enabled me to develop my understanding of how to approach texts, both scripts and screenplays, in order to truthfully project the writer's intention. On this course I gained insight into how to truly understand Shakespearean dialogue, as well as invaluable experience and confidence by being placed into a learning environment with people I had never met before. In addition to this, I also took a screenwriting course accredited by UEA and provided by Future Learn; this enabled me to cultivate my understanding of narrative development and story arcs, as well as how directors such as Alfred Hitchcock subvert these typical structures.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

When I am not busy studying, I work part-time at a local theatre. Not only has this job helped me to improve my professionalism, build my CV and gain valuable skills, it also provides insight into the inner workings of a theatre, from set construction to audience criticism. I also enjoy watching content created on YouTube, a platform where short films as well as film and theatre criticism thrive. Outside of my love for theatre and film, I greatly enjoy singing and playing guitar and have been part of choir tours performing in prestigious venues across Europe such as Disneyland Paris. For me, university would enable me to develop my critical and academic understanding of theatre and film (as well as their social and cultural contexts) and exercise my passion for performance and production. I look forward to broadening my horizons and pushing the boundaries of the two mediums, as well as working with like-minded creatives on group projects. Looking to the future, I hope to not only study drama and motion picture, but practice and create them too.



### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Studying finance has always been a goal for me as it consists of elements which I believe pertain to my current skills. Dealing with finances interests me, and I'm keen on finding ways to make money go further. Calculating profits and losses are important parts of finance on my course, and I have enjoyed making sure this is done accurately. This course has several units which have helped me to realise that I want to study finance at a degree level, units such as unit 3 and unit 5. These units deal with personal finance and business finance on a national and international scale, they are very interesting to me and are easy to understand. Within unit 3, I particularly enjoyed: forecasting cash flows for businesses, learning about break-even analysis, analysing statements of comprehensive income and financial positions. The creating and reviewing of these documents developed my enthusiasm for the topic and convinced me that finance was a field that I would want to be involved in.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Originally, I took AS level subjects at college, but due to extreme health conditions, I was unable to complete them. This didn't deter me from pursuing my educational aspirations; I transferred to BTEC Level 3, which was more structured towards my goals. During my educational studies, I have acquired important skills which would help me in higher education. For a lot of our presentations, we had to work together to contribute to the final work. These skills are applicable to higher education as we will be presented with many group presentations, and we will have to work together to be successful. Also, for coursework subjects, I have been provided with information I have had to evaluate and use to help me analyse a company's position and recommend improvements. This can be transferred to higher education as there will be considerable information I will come across and have to analyse independently.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This eagerness to study finance led me to carry out work experience in Barclays Bank PLC. As a supervisor's assistant, I was able to shadow the branch's head supervisor in his daily dealings such as: sorting out customers' queries, transferring money from accounts, cashing up tills, and several more things. From my time at Barclays, certain skills were taught to me, and others were further developed. When dealing with customers, we had to cater to their needs whilst following company regulations; this often required critical thinking as we had to analyse the issue in order to diagnose it. This skill will prepare me for the often demanding thought process which has to be applied when it comes to a degree in finance. I gained employment at Schuh kids at the beginning of the summer of 2017, and here I was thrown into a more independent role where there were financial targets set out for me to reach as an individual. I developed numerous skills such as time management. As the store was very busy, we had to make sure that we provide speedy service whilst still maintaining quality service. This skill will be applicable on a degree level as a lot of work will be handed out, so I will be able to keep on top of it and make sure it is of a good quality. During my college experience, I was one of the dance leaders for the dance society, and we were tasked with creating routines for the members to learn to perform at school events. This role instilled in me leadership and organisational skills as I had to make sure everyone was aware of the routines and comfortable with them. This skill can be transferred unto degree level as I will be able to take leadership in my studies and group activities, making sure all work is done successfully.

## Forensic Science

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

The intricacy of the molecular mechanisms required in vital life processes, such as metabolism and DNA replication, really appeal to my inquisitive nature. It intrigues me how a vast amount of these natural processes occur in a single organism, and how mistakes are not made more often. Learning more about the biological systems created by natural selection would be a great way to build upon my interest in bioscience. I tend to think of science as a jigsaw puzzle, complex but with a logical structure that can be determined through rationale and common sense. At the moment I do not have enough pieces of this jigsaw to satisfy my curiosity, but I know that a bioscience-related course will provide me with these pieces, and perhaps with them I will be able to create my own unique picture of the world.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

I decided to further my knowledge about genetics by reading 'Genome' by Matt Ridley. One chapter that caught my attention was about the genes involved in the development of fruit flies. Generally genes are distributed randomly on chromosomes, with no set arrangement. However, developmental genes are ordered in the specific sequence of the body of the fruit fly, to ensure that the correct parts form in the correct places. This in itself is fascinating because it builds upon our understanding of human development and promises a discovery of those same genes within the human genome in the near future. For me, some other intriguing genes include those that code for bioluminescent proteins. From DofE I also learnt how to work effectively as part of a team, which I frequently apply during lab-based activities. My role as a year leader, where I mentor a year 8 form group, and my running of Rubik's club have taught me how to plan sessions effectively so that the students benefit from them. I learnt to manage my workload more effectively due to the additional Russian homework that I was set, having attended Russian school until I was sixteen. This also helped me form more personal connections with others, as well as expanding my social circle.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

Having done work experience at a pharmacy, my curiosity was sparked towards pharmaceutical drugs and their interactions with the human body. I had a chance to improve upon skills such as time management and organisation, as well as building on my confidence by interacting with customers. I was encouraged to be independent, but to ask for help when I needed it. After really enjoying my time there I was offered a permanent job and now work at Sharmans every weekend. This heightened my appreciation for what is required in the workplace, and gave me the perseverance needed for pursuing a bioscience-related course. This in turn fuelled my interest for genetics since many drugs are used to alleviate genetic disorders. Bioluminescent organisms caught my eye because of the unusual nature of their biochemistry, which inspired me to learn about the reactions behind them. I researched this and found my answer, which was related to the reaction of oxygen with luciferin in the presence of the luciferase enzyme. This reaction releases photons of light that cause bioluminescence in certain organisms, creating the captivating visual phenomena that we love to see. The urge to act on my curiosity was influenced by my experience of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which taught me how to keep moving forward in the things I do. Our group often had to compromise when faced with unexpected obstacles, but we always came up with effective solutions. As a result I have more patience and determination to pursue the topics that I enjoy, as I know that only hard work can bring the best results.



## Geography

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

The immense size and complexity of the world has always fascinated me. As such, I have developed a deep appreciation of the rich interactions between the human and physical realms when studying Geography. Arriving at a shared understanding of the world is vital if we are to develop effective environmental sustainability to cater for the increasing population. New disciplines and applications of GIS and remote sensing have recently proliferated; both of which capture my attention. To be a part of this fast-paced, ever-evolving subject is the driving force behind my enthusiasm for it. A degree in Geography will allow me to explore beyond the confines of textbooks and gain a practical experience in understanding physical processes and developing deeper appreciations of contemporary issues.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Sociology has provided the opportunity for me to carefully cross-reference my learning through other subjects. Assessing different perspectives on the causes of societal issues and the political solutions required allows previously accepted models to be evaluated and improved over time. I relate this to my studies in Geography, where I am able to understand the reasons behind government actions and how these may impact society and the environment, both spatially and temporally. Chemistry has allowed me to understand the interactions between particles on a micro-scale and how they behave in dissimilar environments. Being able to appreciate how the latter arises with due regard as to why these changes occur has furthered my analytical skills. I now have a detailed comprehension of how seemingly small changes can lead to greater consequences. Topics such as 'Chemistry of the Air' provided deep insight to climate change and how the government are attempting to find alternative resources to minimise an ever-increasing problem.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I have participated in the Sutton Trust Summer School at Durham University, with a Geography focus. I developed a range of skills in peer collaboration and discussion whilst being challenged by exciting new material. The river exploration completed during the course provided a contrasting experience to my research completed previously along the river Grwyne Fawr, Wales. The latter experience developed my use of specialist equipment and data collection using technology in a higher risk physical environment. My exploration of the River Tee's, Durham allowed for a first-hand view of the social benefits of a river. Combined, these fieldwork opportunities enriched my prior understanding of both human and physical geography in two physically similar, yet humanly different environments. I have completed a two-week placement with Skanska: a multinational construction and development company. Working on the Cross-Rail Paddington Station Project allowed me to understand the associated environmental concerns and the precautions required to preserve the local area. Completing a variety of tasks within strict time frames enhanced my time management and self-discipline. It made clear to my manager that I have the potential to develop new abilities, as well as building on my communication skills and maturity. I completed my EPQ on the disaster. I intend to explore the causes and the effects of this tragedy enabling me to expand on my research literacy and time management skills, to prepare me for university.

## History

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

I am captivated by the ways in which History has moulded the world's leading economies and has set the standards for the social values that surround us; this shows the influence that history has on the modern world, in seeking a more prosperous future that allows us to thrive. History enables us to understand the foundations of modern societies and gives us an insight into the lives and philosophies of those who envisioned it. By studying these shifts in societal norms, I wish to advance my understanding of the concept of human error and how we can implement it into our lives, to ensure a secure future. The impact that history has on the world around us has always fascinated me and is why I wish to continue studying it.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

My visits and further willingness to seek knowledge has led me to pursue A-levels in; Classical Civilisation and History which have allowed me to extend my range of knowledge in both ancient and modern History. This has given me the ability to analyse changes in; trends and interpretations throughout time and in different regions of the world. In AS history I studied the conflict and change in 19th and 20th Century Britain and focused, in particular, on the changing role of women during this period. By researching this I was able to form an understanding of how various groups in society gained more social and economic freedoms, and the varying methods that they had to use in order to achieve them. In combination with History and Classical Civilisation, I am currently studying Mathematics through this I was chosen to represent my school in the junior and senior Maths challenges. My interest in Mathematics has provided me with a deeper understanding into further analytical and problem solving, which have aided my studies in History.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

My passion for History stems from my education and experiences. By visiting historical landmarks such as; Hampton Court Palace and St Pauls Cathedrals, I was able to enhance my knowledge beyond the classroom; this fuelled my curiosity in learning about different eras and the history of our predecessors. After studying Civil rights in the USA, I read, 'Better Day Coming' by Adam Fairclough in addition to watching documentaries on the topic in order to broaden my knowledge of historic moments and events, that have had major impacts on the world and still have relevance to today's society. One topic, outside of the school syllabus, that has interested me was on the ancient Chinese dynasties and has provided me with knowledge regarding the development of the Chinese culture up to, and following, the 1911 rebellion and has enabled me to form a stronger understanding of the motivations of later leaders such as Mao Zedong and Sun Yat Sen. My commitments outside of formal education, that include; being part of the National Citizen Service programme as well as my part-time job, have given me a wide range of skills which are beneficial in preparing me for university. In addition to this my work experience has given me practical skills and has allowed me to develop a broader understanding of the careers I wish to pursue. I feel that at degree level my knowledge and abilities will be challenged allowing me to strengthen my understanding of History. I hope that my enthusiasm and commitment will support me in securing a career in which I can implement the skills that history provides.

**Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Law is the foundation of our society and is found in every aspect of our lives. The diversity of working in law is especially appealing to me as the law deals with personal disputes but also political and international issues such as the high courts involved in Brexit. This diversity continues to expand in new emerging areas of law such as new risks of cybercrime and fraud as well as the increasing threat of terrorism. Studying law is, therefore, an exciting opportunity to study a degree that feels relevant and current in the changing world. Intrigued by law's ability to change, I read the work of Helena Kennedy who has explored changes in the law towards women in her book 'Eve was framed'. This demonstrates the fascinating ability to rectify and resolve issues in the law. But also highlights the vigour, even in our modern system, needed to ensure everyone achieves a fair trial.

**How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

As a Biology student, I have developed an analytical and factual thought process and the ability to deal with a large amount of information. While in English Literature and Modern History, I have developed the ability to cohesively express myself and gained crucial essay writing skills. In my study of the suffrage movement, I have explored how political and legal processes can implement change in society. Utilising this reading in my EPQ, I am engaging in the question as to if dress codes are an out-dated form of sexism and am exploring how further legislation can protect people from sexism in the workplace. Taking part in the extended project is developing my organisation and independent study skills and preparing me for study at degree level. Orientating my project around the law is also exposing me to legal terminology and the methods I would have to use to find relevant information in a law degree.

**What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I have gained valuable insight into the realities of a career in law through work experience programs at Ramsdens Solicitors and Pinsent Masons. Within these programs I worked closely alongside practicing lawyers, attending court and client meetings with them. While at Pinsent Masons, I took part in a mock employment tribunal, learning how a real court works and boosting my interest in advocacy. I enjoyed the busy office environment and observing the level of hard work and commitment the solicitors had in their jobs. These experiences have enabled me to recognise the difference between high street and corporate law firms and make informed decisions about which optional modules I may choose as part of my degree. Within college, I have been developing my confidence and communication through joining the college choir, performing in a number of concerts. I have also boosted my confidence through my college debating society in which I discuss topical issues. Debating, and being an elected tutor rep, has improved my awareness of how legal processes are involved in everyday life and has allowed me to recognise the difficulties involved in making a just decision. Outside of college, I have been a member of Girl Guiding for 7 years, having completed my Baden Powell award I now take on a more senior role of helping to plan and run activities for the younger girls; developing my leadership. Working as a volunteer at a local charity shop I have also gained crucial interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate with many different kinds of people. I believe these skills I have developed and my personal qualities equip me for university and the next step in my education.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Advertising and marketisation can be found almost everywhere today. From the glowing Times Square to a five second ad before a Youtube video. However more recently, there has been an introduction of a much more personal market where advertisements fit the criteria of what an individual may want based on their related internet searches. The idea of being part of such a fast developing industry has intrigued me throughout my education. I have a keen interest in the digital media side of the course. I thoroughly enjoyed aspects of my ICT course where I studied how current and future technologies are able to convey information to people such as through social media, newspapers and the future development of virtual reality. I also have a great interest in the marketing and general management aspects of the course, and have a large interest in key sociological and consumer behaviour theories covered within the course.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Within my ICT course, I was able to show off my creative skills by designing posters, PowerPoints, leaflets and video advertisements for an estate agency through desktop publishing and graphic application software. Here I will be able to transfer some of my own knowledge and skills I have gained from studying sociology at A-level such as Thorstein Veblen's theory of conspicuous consumption where an individual spends money on luxuries to display their economic control along with developing new theories and ideas presented to me.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

In secondary education I put myself forward as a candidate for house captain. This meant I had to use my persuasive skills and explore ways to market myself through giving speeches, creating propaganda and maintaining a respectful image. Winning the house captaincy helped me to become a good team leader, by ensuring everyone within my house was happy and involved. These teamwork skills are essential in the marketing industry as in any business working together as a team is necessary to ensure tasks are done promptly and in great quality. Singing has always been a hobby of mine which is why I joined the school choir. Reaching the final of a national competition and performing in front of large sums of people has significantly improved my confidence and communication skills, which I believe are crucial in marketing as constant communication is essential to ensure a good understanding of the consumer is built in addition to the wants of the client, as well as then being able to transform the needs of the client into a successful marketing campaign. Since a young age I've been involved in various eco-conservative groups, this has helped me understand various people's perspectives on issues affecting the world and appreciate listening to what people have to say. I believe this is very important in marketing as it is vital to understand what consumers want, as well as having the skills to adapt brand images to new markets. My experience of working at an accountancy firm has given me numerous skills such as managing a budget efficiently which is essential in marketing and business. Payroll had to be done on time to avoid fines, which meant working towards strict deadlines which will be crucial at university to ensure that I stay on top of all work and meet all deadlines required. Outside of work I enjoy keeping up to date with the world of marketing through business papers such as the Financial Times. I feel this has broadened my knowledge on contemporary issues and debates. I take an active role within my own community, and have even voiced my own views on the Bay radio and the Evening Mail. More recently I have spent my time volunteering at local festivals and events such as the Victorian and Dickensian festival. I often enjoy socialising with my friends, whether it be during football training, or going out and enjoying nightlife. I am able to achieve a good balance whilst ensuring that neither interferes with my studies.

## Mathematics

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Mathematics at times can be the most frustrating subject, the best feeling in maths for me is when I get the right answer to a very problematic question. Every mathematical problem is like a puzzle, at times it can be hard work but all you need is the right jigsaw pieces to fit the puzzle. In the words of Stefan Banach, it has made me realise that 'Mathematics is the most beautiful and most powerful creation of the human spirit.' This caught my attention because mathematics shows a solution to every problem for example, in my A level further mathematic studies I came across to a topic called 'Proof by induction' which has been the most alluring thing in my mathematic studies so far. Proof by induction is a challenging topic but the beauty about it has intrigued my love for mathematics even more. I have enjoyed all my modules for mathematics. My favourite area is Pure Mathematics because it focuses on thought processes and problem solving. Differentiation and integration is my favourite part of Pure Mathematics. Studying mathematics continues to be extraordinarily enjoying and the difficult task of trying to solve questions presented in a strange way is very pleasing. I believe that university education will not only expand my knowledge in mathematics but let me experience a lot of new things and meet people who have various interests.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

A level Chemistry is helping me strengthen my knowledge in mathematics because there are a lot of calculations you have to do for example: chemical equations, calculating molarity and speed of atoms. Studying Chemistry demands that I grip onto concepts and the application of mathematics helps me gain general solutions to problems. I have enjoyed studying my AS modules for Further Mathematics and it has given me a huge understanding which I will take forward to A2. For Further Mathematics I had to teach myself decision 1 in the few months leading up to the June examination and now during the summer holidays I am self-teaching Core 3. I enjoy working independently and pushing myself to achieve. I particularly enjoy trigonometry especially questions where you have to prove the left or right-hand side of the equation, it's almost like problem solving and trying new ways of approaching the question as there are more solutions.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I love working with young people because I take the opportunity of inspiring them to take interest in something that will be beneficial for them. Whilst on my work experience at Yew Tree Primary School I was a teaching assistant helping children out with their subjects, in particular mathematics. Throughout my work experience I gained confidence talking to others, problem solving for example tackling questions that students wanted help on and the teachers. I took part in the National Citizen Service challenge. At the start of the challenge I set goals which were to build more confidence and communication. My NCS experience has been amazing and I think by participating it has made me better as a person also improve skills such as communication. As part of my work experience placement, I was part of the finance team where I had to use my mathematical skills and problem-solving skills for the social action project. The social action project was to raise awareness about visual impairment, by doing this it made me a better public speaker. Sports has always animated my competitive nature and I've always wanted to strive to become better, be it mentally or physically. I enjoy playing for my local cricket club where in my first season I won an award for all round performance. I like to acknowledge the game of cricket, be it on-field or off-field.



## Media Studies

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

I have chosen this course as a pathway to my future career in Media; the next step on my platform. With this ever-changing world of technology, us young adults need to be ahead of the game, we need to constantly be updated with new equipment, with the news around us and with this know how to help make a difference to the world. I am a firm believer that media controls most things in the modern-day world. If one day all media disappeared from our lives how would we survive? From celebrity culture to politics: media has a front place in influencing consumers opinions and does so very effectively. This is what intrigues me the most about media, the theory side has always captivated my attention as I constantly want to learn more about how we as a society have let 'media' imprison us.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

My current college courses at Henley College have given me the opportunity to explore my future career options, I am studying Use of Maths, Biology and Media; three very vast courses, but all with the chance to explore, create and develop my knowledge. Media has been the subject that has opened my eyes to a new way of exploring, not only through media, but by looking into the background of it and how it is used in our everyday life. I've always been interested in technology, how it has developed throughout even my time and how it has evolved over the years.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I currently work part-time as a dispenser at a pharmacy, even though this job is not related to the course I want to study at university, I believe that it has taught me many valuable skills that I use within my everyday life. These skills include working in a set time scale, communication and teamwork. As I have developed these skills my confidence has also grown which has helped me flourish as an individual. In my opinion, these skills will help me immensely within my chosen course as if I cannot work within a team and use communication skills then I will never progress in my chosen field of work and within the course. Confidence is also incredibly important in media as if you do not have confidence you will not be able to put forward your ideas and make contributions to the course. Another passion of mine is music, I have played the drums for six years, during this time I have obtained my grade 1 drumming qualification, for me this was a great achievement as I worked extremely hard to gain the qualification, this shows I have a high level of commitment and love to be creative, which are another two skills that come in very useful within a university media course and daily life. Every day I strive to be the best person I can possibly be as I work to the highest standard I possibly can to achieve my goals. I hope my true personality, enthusiasm for the course and my potential has been portrayed by my personal statement as I truly believe I will be an asset to your course and I hope you believe so too.

## Medicine

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

I know that medicine will be a challenging career, but this is partly what draws me to it. Shadowing a doctor on a geriatric ward, I witnessed tears, arguments and security interventions. However, the patients responded to interaction. I realised that most of the patients wanted to be listened to and treated as people, not problems. Reading Gawande's *Being Mortal* made me reflect upon the difficulty of providing elderly care, how to look after someone who is in the final stage of life and the difficult question 'When should we try to fix and when should we not?'. Despite the prevalence of dementia, I knew little about it. Inspired by the patients I encountered, I carried out research leading to an essay where I tackled possible ways to help its sufferers in society. Reading Weston's *Direct Red*, I was forced to consider the unpredictability of disease. Reflecting on these, I realised that no human body is the same. Every patient encountered will be slightly different and every disease will manifest itself in a slightly different way.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

My study of French and interest in French culture led me to work experience with a radiologist in a Parisian suburb. Discussing the healthcare system I found that whilst different, it faced the same difficulties as systems elsewhere. Reading about the history of medicine, I prepared a French presentation on Louis Pasteur which gave me insight into some of his discoveries. I was able to use my knowledge about immunology and the practicals I had done in Biology. An online university course on nutrition and research into a number of diseases made me realise that so many of these were linked to poor diet. Even so, the purported link between diet and dementia for instance, is rarely taken into account in meals provided by public care institutions.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

Volunteering with St John Ambulance has provided me with invaluable first aid practice, experience in dealing with patients and working under pressure. The need for composure when working in demanding situations became particularly clear to me when shadowing a dentist and watching her interact with difficult patients and their families. Volunteering at a drug and alcohol addiction centre has made me increasingly aware of how destructive mental illnesses can be. For me, it has been rewarding to help these individuals and the importance of social interaction in their recovery processes. In addition, I have learnt more about drugs, particularly their effects on synapses and how this affects brain chemistry. I came across Bulgakov's accounts of being a doctor in the Russian countryside in the 1920s and his struggle with a morphine addiction. I reflected upon how despite his severe illness, he could still function and I was encouraged by how dedicated he was to his patients and how imaginatively he cared for them. When shadowing a cardiothoracic doctor, I was shocked by a young patient who refused to have simple and low risk surgery. This refusal would likely mean death. Despite the surgeon explaining the procedure and its benefits, he still refused. This allowed me to notice the important role communication had. Appearing in a play at the National Theatre and taking part in a French play competition have helped me to develop my ability to make quick decisions and view things from other perspectives. I realised that patients' rights always must be respected, we must accept that we cannot always do what we think is best. In reading Marsh's *Do No Harm*, I appreciated that success in surgery, despite planning and skill, is often down to luck.



### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Something that has always enthralled me about becoming a midwife is the emotional fulfilment that the role presents. The support that was given by the midwives who delivered my niece in 2015 inspired me in my desire to deliver the same high standard of care to future mothers, ensuring that each individual woman will feel as comfortable and secure as possible during their pregnancy. The role of a midwife is much more than delivering babies, and I look forward to providing attention and guidance to women in both antenatal and postnatal scenarios. The structure of the course attracts me as I will learn a lot from the intensity of the workload, as well as my attendance at placements in both hospital environments and community settings. If accepted onto the course, I would be able to develop my knowledge and gain expertise on home birthing, which I hope to encourage women in the future to consider as there has been such a huge decline in home births over the last 15 years, with a shockingly low 1 in 50 babies being born at home in 2016.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

I am currently studying an Access to Nursing and Healthcare course, which is providing me with a great basis for my education. I particularly enjoy Biology, as I love learning to understand the way that the body works. Before my Access course, I completed A-Levels in Psychology, English Literature and Business Studies. Studying Psychology has aided my education as I have learned of the mental illnesses that can easily affect mothers during pregnancy and beyond, such as depression and bipolar affective disorder. Studying English Literature has encouraged me to explore the effects of postnatal depression, which was stimulated by my reading of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. I am especially interested in the care of mothers after birth, in order to try and prevent or reduce any feelings of depression. I believe I will be able to overcome any obstacles I may face in my studies as I know how to manage my time effectively and prioritise work, which I have shown in previous education by submitting coursework before deadlines, alongside part-time work and my volunteer placement.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

In my spare time, I volunteer at Derriford hospital on a maternity ward. Whilst there, I help midwives and other healthcare professionals to care for mothers and their babies. I am based in Transitional Care, which has shown me the struggle that midwives can face as they look after women who have experienced problems before, during or after the birth of their child. This has prepared me for the variety of subjects and aspects that I will be taught about on my degree course as I have encountered several different aspects of what midwives do on a daily basis. My sense of empathy has also been demonstrated, as the ward can be an emotionally difficult place to be. When I am not volunteering, I have a part-time job in retail, in which I have met and engaged with a wide range of people from different backgrounds. This has enriched my communication skills, something that will definitely be of use in my studies and in my career. I work as part of a large team and I highly value my ability to work well with other people, as well as independently. I enjoy keeping myself updated with recent happenings in midwifery, in addition to other forms of nursing, as I find it invigorating to learn about what current professionals are experiencing. I subscribe to several newspapers and sites, such as The Nursing Times, which also provides me with insight into the lives of current healthcare students, helping to prepare me for what to expect at university. I know that I can succeed in studying Midwifery at university as I believe I possess the potential to be a strong student, fully committed to my professional study.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

After a series of illnesses and injuries during my early childhood, I was introduced to the role and care of Nurses. It was from here I became fascinated and realised this could be a satisfying future outlet for my empathetic self. I feel that nurses are truly inspirational professionals. They provide an inestimable service to society whilst working in a highly demanding and very challenging career, assisting individuals and their families through difficult times when they are at their most vulnerable. I feel I am ready to embark on this career and start to fulfill this ambition of mine to become a children's nurse. I believe nursing is a career in which I will excel because of my compassion for those who are at their most vulnerable. My ability to empathise with individuals would provide a positive nurse and patient relationship, putting the child and family at ease, allowing the family to approach me for support and guidance and therefore meet specific needs of the child and their family.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

My previous studies have hugely influenced me to pursue this career. Having completed 4 work placements in primary schools, preschool nurseries and children centres, I have worked with children and families from all walks of life. During my first two placements at primary schools I assisted children ages four to five who need more support with their education within the classroom. I worked with children who had intellectual disabilities and therefore developed slower than other children it was extremely rewarding to see them succeed. Having studied children's development within this placement has enhanced my own development of having the ability to provide a relationship based on trust; this being something I consider extremely important within the nursing career. I have dealt with challenging behaviour and have a clear understanding and respect of the needs and problems of each individual child. From this, I have been able to empower each individual child and their family to receive individualised care, which enables each child to reach their full potential.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

Placements have hugely influenced me to become a child's nurse because supporting children to do well and succeed has brought many rewards. To see their positive outlook and self-belief increase has filled me with delight and a sense of pride that I had helped children get to where they are now. My current placement is in a children's centre for vulnerable children and families. This has also inspired me because my role of supporting families is something I hugely enjoyed and seeing parents bond with their children, with my help and support, is hugely rewarding. Supporting vulnerable parents to succeed in their parenting role requires teamwork and adaptation, I have always been a strong team member and taking leadership has always been a strength of mine, I feel I thrive within this environment. Within my next placement, I will be working at the Megan Baker House, helping to provide conductive education to children with motor disorders, and help to offer independence to children with a wide variety of life changing disabilities, will open my eyes to the challenges both the individual child, but also the family, face on a daily basis. Being able to help and support each individual affected, through one to one work when each family is at their upmost vulnerable is something I feel will be extremely rewarding, and a dream of mine to continue and pursue into the near future. These experiences have given me a huge sense of satisfaction and reinforced my desire to become a children's nurse.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Pharmacy is an ever-changing profession, under constant development and therefore challenging, yet from these challenges arise rewards. The ever-changing and developing nature of Pharmacy is what attracts me to this field of work. To be a part of such a diverse profession and make a difference myself would be gratifying. I acknowledge the challenging nature of the degree, and the effort required to complete the course, but I would need to overcome these hurdles to qualify as a Pharmacist, be on the frontier of scientific development and help our population. And in my opinion, this is the ultimate reward. Studying Pharmacy bridges the gap between the subjects which I am currently studying: Biology and Chemistry. In Chemistry, analysing atoms and bonding groups in a drug, and in Biology, looking at how these drugs affect and are affected by the body, has given me a small insight into what studying Pharmacy may be like. In the long term, gaining a Pharmacy degree would lead to me becoming a Pharmacist and working in either hospitals or in community pharmacies.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Studying Biology and Chemistry has provided me with a foundational understanding relevant to Pharmacy. In Chemistry, analysing atoms and bonding groups in a drug, and in Biology, looking at how these drugs affect and are affected by the body, has given me a small insight into what studying Pharmacy may be like. In Year Eleven, I was selected to become a Prefect, which entailed maintaining order, providing directions, and assisting younger students. These duties gave me great responsibility and taught me how to handle my obligations fairly and justly. It also taught me how to work as part of a team and establish my role so as to benefit the team. I also worked in a group established to raise awareness of mental health in school. At the beginning of the process, my lack of knowledge regarding mental health was exposed to me, but after further research, using the Pharmaceutical Journal's online articles and other resources, I learnt that as little as £10 was dedicated per head of population afflicted with a mental health problem.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I completed a work experience week in a care home, where I observed how the carers offered clear and transparent instructions in regards to medication, for example, instructing the residents to eat a full meal before taking tablets. In instances where residents were unable to take medicine independently due to unstable hands or weak arms, the carers assisted immediately. The responsibility for medicines was given to the nurses; however, upon further research, I discovered that a beneficial and more efficient system would include a Resident Pharmacist, who is a part of the multidisciplinary team. The Resident Pharmacist could keep the resident's and patient's medical records up to date and provide pharmaceutical-based opinions concerning the medicines that they should take. In this way, I learned how pharmacy is interlinked with many other aspects of quality healthcare. I also completed work experience in a Community Pharmacy and whilst there, I observed the different roles and responsibilities which kept the pharmacy functioning, for example, the Resident Pharmacist who reviewed patients in a private room and the Technicians who organised prescriptions. Due to the ageing demographic in Britain, lots of the prescription medication needed to be delivered to patients and taken out of its packaging beforehand to provide easier access for elderly patients. Be that as it may, these methods have also helped young adults afflicted with conditions that could deter them from taking drugs out of packaging independently. This taught me how rooted and integral Community Pharmacies are and how their services are catered to fit the local population.

## Philosophy

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Plato said that 'wonder is very much the affection of a philosopher, for there is no other beginning of philosophy than this' – which I believe to be very true. I think that most philosophy students would say that they had a curiosity within them to know more about the meaning of life, justice, morals, religion and so on. It is because of this curiosity, this 'love of wisdom', that philosophy ever came about. My mother started practicing yoga when I was very young, and later grew to teach a course that involved the philosophy of yoga. She would talk to me about Eastern philosophy and through this, I grew thirstier for answers and knowledge. I think that my mother's beliefs and open mindedness helped me to discover my passion for all aspects of philosophy, and thus I decided to study it as an A Level. I hope that I can develop all of the attributes I already have through studying philosophy in university, and that I can learn, write, discover and think about as much as I can in the short life I have. As Socrates famously said, "The unexamined life is not worth living".

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

In college, I studied fine art and photography, which I also used to explore and express my love for philosophy. I entered a competition with the Bluecoat gallery in Liverpool, surrounding the theme of 'identity'. My work was selected and displayed at the gallery as a part of an exhibition surrounding this theme. At the time of the competition, I was studying the mind and the soul as a part of my philosophy A Level. I think that this really tied into my artwork and gave me an advantage over others. I was able to think about the theme 'identity' from a different perspective and relate it to philosophy in a unique way. During my A Levels I have learnt many key skills, which have helped my study in philosophy. In all of the subjects, including the arts, I had to study independently and conduct a lot of personal research. In my first year of A Level philosophy I studied Plato's debate of the mind and body – whether we have a soul – as a part of my personal investigation. Studying and researching this subject individually was very rewarding, it made me feel a close connection to Plato's ideology. I can see many aspects of his theory of 'the cave' in my life and interests, for example human rights, justice, feminism, society and the government. I am able to spot the 'shadows' and 'puppeteers' that Plato describes in all of these things.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

After leaving college in 2013, I decided to take some time to think about what I truly wanted to do with my life. I worked full time, first in a coffee shop and then in a call centre. I found these jobs very mundane – I felt as though my life had no meaning, and throughout this time I would ask myself more philosophical questions than I ever had before. I felt as though I needed to know more, I wanted to look for answers and take in as much knowledge as I can. Studying philosophy has helped me to analyse situations, it has given me a sense of logic but also broadened my mind and ideas. It's helped me to see things from all perspectives, as we have studied theories that involve strong religious beliefs and claims, and also ideologies that completely rule out any sort of deity. Considering all of these arguments during my studies has helped me to enquire and to think critically. I learned to think with a clear, rational but open mind, which I believe is key to being able to fully embrace the study of philosophy. I am very passionate for this subject and believe that this passion would only evolve with my knowledge, or 'wisdom' as I study.

## Physical Education

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

I enjoy working with people, encouraging them to participate in physical activity, helping to promote a sense of confidence, well-being, and achievement. An active lifestyle has fuelled my passion for Physical Education (PE). Physical activity has played a large part in my life, from dancing to competitive swimming. I have always enjoyed taking part in sport and the feeling of well-being it brings. This year, I have had the opportunity to take 1st and 2nd Year PE classes each week. This has allowed me to put into action the skills and experiences I have in the environment I want to work in—a high school sports department, planning and delivering lessons. These experiences have reinforced the passion I have to work with young people.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

To help achieve my ambition, I have sought to learn as much as I can about sports coaching both academically and practically, taking a Higher in PE and taking part in activities to help build leadership, life, and technical skills. I am also an Active Schools Young Sport Ambassador for my school, specialising in Basketball. The Young Ambassadors programme has led to me attaining qualifications in First Aid, Disability Inclusion Training, Young Sports Leaders, and Child Protection. I have been trained to handle the day-to-day situations I may find myself in when I am working in schools as a coach. I am a school Prefect, taking a lead in school activities and acting as a role model for the other pupils in the school. This role brings a lot of responsibility and allows me to provide and demonstrate leadership in a variety of situations.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I volunteered at my local YMCA from age 13 to 16. As a Youth Worker, I ran the gym for young people (aged 12 to 18), providing inductions, demonstrations, and developing personal fitness plans. I've run drop-in sessions providing counselling and support, helping young people with some of the issues they faced in their day-to-day lives. For my work, I was awarded the Saltire Award from John Swinney MSP for 500 hours of volunteering. I coach Netball for 1st to 5th Year after school as well as running the Basketball club during lunchtime. Whilst this is done in my own time, it is very rewarding. I have experience in promoting sports and awareness as part of community charity work. I organised a netball match between pupils and teachers for the benefit of St. Andrews Hospice (one of our school charities I am an ambassador for). This was a great event promoting awareness of netball and our school team, whilst raising funds for a very worthwhile cause. Outside of school, my hobbies are physical fitness and music—playing both the guitar and bagpipes. I have had the privilege of being part of the North Lanarkshire Schools Pipe Band and playing at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow and taking part in the World Pipe Band Championship (achieving a first place for our grade). I also work part-time for Greggs. Working in a fast-paced retail environment over the past year has helped me to develop good organisational skills, work with others to achieve goals, and develop my customer service skills (I have won several mystery shopper awards for my work). In conclusion, I am a confident and hard-working individual. I have worked hard to amass the academic, technical, and life skills to achieve my ambition to attend University and get the opportunity to pursue my ambition to teach PE. I believe I have both the attitude and aptitude to thrive in a vibrant university environment.



## Physics

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

The varying scale of physics study is what most excites me: from the universe down to small scale particle interactions, it fundamentally governs all these areas and the many unknowns still existing, which I find fascinating. I want to develop my knowledge through further study of physics to be part of modern day research, which has such a huge impact on our lives. Overall, I am looking forward to furthering my physics ability at university and believe I display inter-personal and time management skills essential for this challenge, with the prospect of a career in the aviation or space industries adding to my motivation to study the subject.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Alongside my studies, I have been involved in many projects in and out of school to further my interest in physics beyond the A Level course, most recently on Oxford's UNIQ Physics summer school. In advance of this, I read Feynman's 'Six Not-so-easy Pieces'. While I found many of the concepts discussed initially challenging (mainly time dilation, length contraction and curved space), I enjoyed Feynman's clever analogies to explain these concepts, such as through bugs and hot plates. Study of these topics at Oxford developed my understanding of and interest in relativity, with the opportunity to have intellectual conversations with leading academics being most beneficial and enjoyable. Using the Michelson interferometer to measure sodium emission lines was a session that I particularly enjoyed due to experiencing the university approach to practical work and using equipment that I had only read about, and wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to use. I've also read 'The Last Three Minutes', in which I found Davies' links between astro-, particle and quantum physics particularly interesting. However, one of the most interesting points for me in both books was not the content but by how much our knowledge has advanced during my lifetime, with discoveries such as the observation of gravitational waves (which Davies had only predicted), especially as this was performed on a somewhat enlarged version of equipment I have now used.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This year I was selected to join Project Horizon, my school's near-space programme. Over the year, we planned the launch of a payload into the stratosphere, where I led a small team of engineers building and soldering the flight computer and the payload. We had a number of sensors to capture data including temperature, humidity and UV and IR intensity, which was interesting to analyse and compare to expected trends. The payload reached 37864m, capturing spectacular footage from three cameras, which we are hoping to use in a series of outreach lessons in local primary schools. Over the past year I have also mentored a Y8 pupil in physics, as well as assisting in one lower school physics class every week as a STEM Ambassador. This opportunity to have my own basic physics knowledge questioned was extremely beneficial, while also giving back to my school community. I've learnt Mandarin Chinese for the last 5 years and see this as a great benefit to my future career prospects due to the global nature of modern science. Playing the piano since infant school, now at ABRSM Grade 6 level, shows my commitment and I am also proven to be a strong leader: being Vice-Captain of School I work with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure the smooth running of the school on a weekly basis, while also leading and organising the largest RAF Air Cadet section in the country as the Cadet Warrant Officer, and being part of a Cub Scout leadership team to run a weekly programme of activities for 8 to 10 year olds. These all show my willingness to take up the leading role of a university society or in the local community, as well as my ability to

communicate with all ages, from young children to peers and staff, and to be adaptable and innovative when things don't go to plan: all making me suited for group work and the practical side of the course.

## Physiotherapy

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Physiotherapy is vital for the re-establishment of a patient's quality of life; I have personally had life-long support from physiotherapists. Growing up I had physiotherapy to re-align my hips and feet after having a breach birth. This was a lengthy, but worthwhile experience; which has led me to be passionate about studying physiotherapy. I realise the importance of rehabilitation and seeing how someone's quality of life can improve due to small changes in their lifestyle recommended by physiotherapists and healthcare professionals. I have reached the point in my personal development where I know Physiotherapy is the career I want to pursue. I am enthusiastic about my future, physiotherapy is an important career in the care for patients, and to be involved is an honour.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

Studying PE, Psychology and Business at A-level, has given me the foundation knowledge to study Physiotherapy. Psychology prepares me for the neurology and mental health modules of the course, whilst PE covers the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular respiratory, anatomy and physiology sections. Alongside my academic subjects, I have completed a community sports leadership qualification (CSLA) which required leading voluntary sports sessions for younger students. I am aware of the demands of physiotherapy within the NHS, and I am ready to take the challenge of continuous learning and progression.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

During a week of work experience on musculoskeletal outpatients at a community hospital, I observed physiotherapists and ESP's carry out new patient referrals, follow-ups, steroid injections and ultrasound treatments. I attended an osteoarthritis clinic where I learned about different treatments. I was able to talk to patients and listen to how each patient perceives their pain, enabling the physiotherapist to make an appropriate treatment plan for each patient. I have also observed physiotherapists in an acute hospital trust, working in various different wards; a stroke unit, musculoskeletal outpatients and orthopaedics (including trauma). I witnessed a wide range of people with injuries from common to trauma and learnt new techniques such as hydrotherapy and how to interact with people both in pain and with speech impairments. I met the multidisciplinary team who worked together during an emergency cardiac arrest call. My time here made me excited at the thought of studying physiotherapy. Being involved in competitive swimming from a young age I have experienced leadership and teamwork in different situations, therefore I can adapt to different circumstances. The high physical demands of swimming means injuries are a regular occurrence, so I have experienced rehabilitation myself and through the experiences of my teammates. I understand the importance of Physiotherapy, how muscle strengthening can prevent injury and how healthcare professionals need to work as part of a larger team. Competing in swimming since I was eight, training nine hours a week involves commitment and dedication. I have competed for Cambridgeshire and qualified for the East Regionals. I have been club captain for the past two years, as I am a positive role model to younger swimmers. I also volunteer to coach younger swimmers, passing on my experience. This has increased my confidence, improved verbal communication skills and the ability to lead whilst passing on my experience and knowledge within the sport. My part-time job as a pool lifeguard requires responsibility, acting quickly under pressure and allows me to gain a good rapport with members of the public. This also involves me partaking in monthly training to keep up to date with the latest technology and techniques. Good time management skills are something I had to develop: balancing studying, training, a part-time job and social time, has given me transferable skills for my future roles.



**Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Coming from a developing country to an advanced world at fifteen made a big impact on how I see the world. My attention was drawn to dissimilarities of welfare, social peace and economic growth. I read once how Mexico is happier even though it has a lower GDP than the UK, and this contrast has made me want to understand more about the correlation of soft measures like satisfaction with hard measures like wealth. I find it fascinating how such factors can diverge, producing unpredictable and, indeed, volatile outcomes. This has encouraged me to look for solutions to the many economic problems we currently face. After I moved to England, I realised how corrupt societies could be as I was able to comprehend the practices in business and politics that comply legally but fall short of moral ideals. I began to read 'The Economist' but it was 'Nudge' by Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein that revealed the barrage of corporate influence steering consumer choice – how we are all unconsciously 'Nudged'. The link to politics was now clear: the Private Sector and the Government incentivise us indirectly and directly by using small factors. Societies are different, and it makes me interested in finding a way of helping people, communities and societies to become stable and sustainable.

**How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

My A-Level choices have proved to be very rewarding, especially Economics as it has not only taught me how economies function but also how the world is governed. I find it fascinating how it is applicable and relatable to everything from prehistoric societies to our own. Spanish has taken my learning to another dimension as part of the course relates to key topics in my other subjects such as immigration, as most financial disputes these days are related to it. It has also developed a range and sophistication in my arguments and ideas. Taking Business Studies for A-Level was a natural decision for me. Watching the American version of 'The Apprentice' every week at the age of 9 provoked my interest. Something about Donald Trump's ambition to create an empire to my young eyes gave a first insight as to how some industries might succeed and how others might fail depending on not only strategy but passion and determination.

**What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

But having the opportunity to travel to Asia, Europe and America was what gave me an insight into the reality of countries and not merely how the media portrays them. The contrasts I perceived between Europe and Latin America compelled me to explore the different factors that drive both economies. This broadened my perspective on culture, and in particular the way economies evolve and the role business and politics play in that change. This was reflected while I was at school debates such as TECMUN (Tec Model United Nations) as we analysed differences between conditions in developing countries and long established economies. During the summer I gained valuable experience by working in a business-coaching firm as a marketing assistant. This involved many tasks such as generating leads and attracting consumers and key knowledge I had gained in business studies I now saw work successfully. In my spare time I compete in triathlons, which I not only enjoy, but give me strength and confidence in my daily life. These competitions have also given me greater self-motivation and discipline. I also enjoy reading books such as 'The Undercover Economist', 'Velocity' and 'The Goal'. These introduced me to a new perception of daily life and reasoning. But what left me perplexed was 'Start With Why' by Simon Sinek as it triggered my passion as it gave answers to my questions but also showed me how to ask the right ones. This threw me into a spiral of why's and how's and I look forward to finding an answer in my further study at university.

## Psychology

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

The dynamics of psychology affect our everyday lives and behaviour which is why I have become drawn towards it. Although we are all made of similar basic genetics, why are people so different from one another? This question is what drives me to studying psychology and using each different aspect, whether it be social, cognitive or biological, to help answer my question. I am particularly fascinated by the way the criminal mind functions and what drives people to commit atrocities such as genocide. Due to this, I am considering a future career which involves criminal psychology, however as I am passionate about all areas of psychology, I believe higher education will help me find the most suitable path for myself. Overall, I am an ideal candidate to study BSc Psychology because I am not only enthusiastic about the subject but also curious to find out more about how the human mind works and affects our behaviour. I firmly believe that higher education will provide the opportunities to gain the professional experience and knowledge needed for a future career in the field of psychology.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

During my time at college, I have become progressively ambitious about the way the human mind works through my study of psychology. I have grown to understand the scientific basis of the subject and become very intrigued with past psychological studies as well as carrying out my own. For example, Milgram's famous study of obedience to authority figures fascinated me due to the shocking results of what well-educated individuals were capable of doing under moral strain. During my study of law, I have looked at many aspects of both criminal and tort law but was primarily fascinated by the criminal aspects. In particular, looking into the past developments of the law over time. For example, the process of including defences for psychological issues that the defendant may be suffering from, as this hasn't always been considered. Also by looking at how further laws might need to be eradicated to become fairer for society, my analytical skills have been improved. Furthermore, as law requires me to write essays to a high academic level I have become successful in doing so through spending a majority of my free study time practising this in the library. Within sociology, we've looked at many different beliefs within society and how they explain aspects of human behaviour and interactions. Sociology will help me with my study of psychology as they go hand in hand as the scientific study of people, helping to understand the dynamics of emotions, relationships and behaviours. Additionally, many theories and studies overlap between the two subjects such as the self-fulfilling prophecy and its effect on human behaviour.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

For my second year of college, I have begun an OCSL sign language course which I will be qualified in before university starts. I have always enjoyed learning new languages as it provides an opportunity to communicate with more people around the world. As a result of studying sign language, my communication skills will be broadened as I will be able to communicate with not only people who are hard of hearing but those who are unable to speak English but can sign, this will aid me not only in life but also in a career as a psychologist when speaking to a wider range of clients. Outside of my studies, I have become thoroughly intrigued in documentaries into the criminal mind as well as fictional programmes or books of the same nature e.g., the 'Snapped' TV series which follows American murderers and tries to explain what drove them to commit their crimes, particularly women or couples who kill. Also, 'Witness for the Defense' by the forensic psychologist Elizabeth Loftus, examines the human mind and how memory can implicate eye witness testimonies, leading to implications for the criminal justice system. This has added to my knowledge of psychology as well as providing an advantage in essays and debates and will continue to do so.

## Social Work (Social Sciences)

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Human behaviour is complex and constantly evolving. Since studying A level Psychology, my fascination with human nature and the way we behave, both in a group or as individuals has grown. I want to be able to understand how and why individuals behave the way they do and I am eager to develop my understanding of the two disciplines at university. What intrigues me about psychology is the idea that one answer is not always possible, each theory adds a piece to the puzzle. I am captivated by Milgram's work on obedience and the idea that individuals gave up their autonomy in order to carry out immoral acts. I am interested in studying various aspects of individuals in order to understand why phenomena such as the atrocities of the Second World War occur. The fluidity in the discipline allows for various theories to be explored in order to understand and prevent such things from occurring again. I enjoy studying Psychology with such passion because of the way it helps people to understand themselves; Psychology helped me to cope with my difficult childhood experiences. Facing those challenges with a greater understanding of myself allowed me to overcome them and reach my goals. Most of all, it offered me an insight into other people and allowed me to help them face difficult periods.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

The study of group behaviour led to my interest in sociology as I enjoy exploring the way society has the ability to affect our behaviour. Each of the subjects varies greatly in approach, but it is that variation that I relish. I have increasingly noticed how society also is a major source of influence on an individual's behaviour. Having recently started studying sociology, I find it extremely interesting. It has changed my way of thinking about society through making me reflect on the way people's lives are affected by the social structures around them. Mike Savage's work on the fragmentation of social class highlighted for me the different levels of discrimination, and to a certain degree, oppression, present within our society. The Marxist explanation of how capitalism seems to be the root of evil and inequality is a view I had not thought of. Each perspective has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of social problems and what is necessary in order to help prevent such inequalities. It has also encouraged me to think more carefully about the importance of politics and social policy; I now have a greater comprehension of how the subject disciplines of Sociology and Law link up in the implementation of social policies. Studying psychology and sociology has offered me the opportunity to gain a profound understanding of the society I am part of and I hope to continue to explore these captivating disciplines at university.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

In 2013 I was awarded a black belt in karate. It is not just about being physically active, it is about pushing the limits as well as committing time and effort to classes. Karate is about being patient with the grading process, showing respect and having a good understanding of the strong mental attitude needed for success. Being a language prefect in my sixth form offered me the opportunity to develop my communication and organisation skills as well as assisting those who required extra support in the French department. I developed these skills further in the summer of 2013 when I volunteered for a week in Morocco feeding the homeless and providing them with activities. It allowed me to gain an insight into how culture affects norms and values. Until the age of 11, I lived in Switzerland and looking back now, I notice the differences within the different social systems and people's attitudes. My experiences in both countries made me realise the extent to which people's life chances are affected by where in a country, or the world, they are born. I never fully understood social contemporary problems until I began studying sociology and I find it fascinating.

## Sociology

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

Sociology is a subject that will always be around us, will always be relevant and I love being able to understand it. I strive to further this knowledge and to have a much more in-depth understanding of the diverse and fast-changing society we live in. By studying Sociology at Degree level this would be enabled. It is a subject I know I would be more than happy to dedicate all of my time to. Furthermore, studying sociology would open up a variety of career opportunities for me. My interest initially sparked from the start of learning theories, seeing all these conflicting ideologies, questioning the way we live our lives and why we are so heavily dictated and influenced by society. This sparked something inside of me, something that wanted to know more. Whilst I have enjoyed all parts of A-level Sociology, the areas that interested me the most are Religion and Class and how these can be used by those more powerful to serve the interests of only themselves or how it is a necessary institution of society to maintain stability and solidarity. I know that Sociology is something I want to pursue in the future as I truly believe it is what I want to use for the rest of my life as it will give me a range of skills beneficial for all areas of work I am interested in. I want to be able to help those who are unable to help themselves and Sociology will present me with the comprehension needed to identify how to help others.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

By taking A-level Psychology my comprehension of society's structure has been extended. For example, Zimbardo's study into social roles showed how and what impacts people's conformity and to some degree shows how institutions impact and explains the functioning of human society. Further to this, my understanding of the fundamental laws and social relations is expanded upon by my studies in A-level Government and Politics and has also helped with analysing some fundamental critical theories such as Marxism which is also studied within Sociology. As well as this it allows me to have a better understanding of the way in which the world works on a global and national scale. Sociology is a subject which I am dedicated to and enjoy all parts of enabling me to fully indulge in the content and reach my full capability. I am a hard worker, passionate for the subject and will only accept doing my best. Also, I have a proactive mindset that is always able to understand both sides of debates and find it easy to elaborate on arguments, thus demonstrating my suitability for the course.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

During secondary school I held many positions of responsibility the most prominent of these was being made a prefect in year 11. As well as this, in college I was the student representative for Psychology which I enjoyed as I was able to represent the views and opinions of my peers during meetings and giving everyone a voice is something I believe to be necessary and will fight for. Voluntary work I have partaken in includes being a young leader for scout and cubs which helped me to become a more confident person with leadership characteristics. Secondly, I took part in NCS which enabled me to increase my independence, whilst helping others by spending two weeks during the NCS period dedicating my time to my local community and helping raise money for local charities.

### **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

I have always immersed myself fully in the world of sport, whether that be through playing it myself or keeping up to date with developments, results and inquests through news articles. The sporting world is an exciting yet demanding aspect of today's society, with the ability to unite nations by providing a global language which everyone can understand, regardless of nationality, ethnicity or religious beliefs. Its importance can be appreciated through observing its valuable contribution to communities and the economy, as well as to the individuals who participate. Sports science has the capacity to push an athlete's body to the limit both physically and through the use of technology. My interest in the science of sport started at a young age when I became intrigued by how the body works during exercise. The way the Olympics has united countries and their motto- 'citius, altius, fortius' or 'faster, higher, stronger'- has encouraged people to strive for their full potential. I look forward to studying and researching ways to drive athletes to achieve their maximum performance.

### **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

My A-Level subjects of Biology, Physical Education and Business Studies have further fuelled my interest in this area, allowing me to extend my scientific understanding of how body systems operate, as well as introducing me to the commercialisation involved, and the relationship between the media and sport. Studying PE has allowed me to develop a deep understanding of the theoretical underpinning of sport, ranging from sports psychology, to the biomechanics of musculoskeletal movement. Biology has allowed me to become more confident with practical laboratory work and mathematical skills, as I have gained experience of devising and carrying out investigations and using statistical analysis to assess the significance of my results. Many of the areas covered over both of these courses intertwine with one another, meaning I've been able to reinforce my knowledge in areas such as the anatomy of the human body and physiological processes, such as those involved in the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. In particular, I enjoyed investigating ways in which the human body responds to exercise and ways in which injuries can be prevented or rehabilitated.

### **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

I have been involved in a host of sporting activities ranging from an inter-school downhill skiing event, club football, and school rugby matches, which I have played competitively for 5 years. After studying the muscular system at A Level, I took up weight training to aid my performance in my main sports, which are rugby and football. I am determined to pursue them further in the future and I am looking forward to playing sport at a higher level at university. I have always believed sport to be a positive challenge and a chance to socialise and meet new people as well as the chance to be part of a team. With rugby being my chosen sport in PE, I have been involved in a volunteering programme at my school. This has allowed me to work alongside teachers to enthuse and encourage young children in the hope that they too will share the same passion for sport. This experience has developed my leadership skills and I am often required to demonstrate the correct technique for certain movements. I have assisted in developing a programme in order progressively to build on their confidence when performing and to educate them on the rules of rugby. This has allowed me to advance my communication skills and understand the importance of simplifying key ideas into smaller components to aid understanding. I have developed my teamwork skills through decision making and problem-solving in group situations. With this in mind, I feel I can positively contribute to lab work and discussions surrounding sport. I am also a self-motivated person with an ability to persevere without necessarily needing encouragement from others.



## Examples of Cover Letters

### Project Management

I am determined to achieve a degree level Construction Project Management apprenticeship so that I can continue to combine theoretical study with practical hands-on experience, as I believe learning is best consolidated when applying knowledge to real-work projects. From studying A levels whilst managing a part-time job, I have developed key skills that Buro Four will value. Meeting every deadline and completing school work set to the best of my ability, along with arriving to every shift at work on time and covering for staff at short notice, I demonstrate reliability and pride in everything I do. I have become a confident and independent learner from having to research independently, communicate ideas clearly and consider other perspectives to complete my A levels. I am competent in all Microsoft packages and confident using IT, so I can adapt to specific packages quickly.

I possess problem-solving skills from studying Product Design A level. Experiencing the whole design process, from working to specifications, creating plans and models, selecting appropriate materials, considering costs, I can anticipate problems and offer effective solutions before they arise. I feel my fundamental knowledge of design principles will help me to understand how my role as an apprentice Project Manager fits into the wider aims of the business to deliver affordable and cost-effective projects. I can not only offer the company problem-solving skills but also creativity. For example, I had to design and produced a sweet dispenser that worked efficiently as well as looked aesthetically pleasing; I had to carefully select materials and think creatively about how both functions could be served whilst still looking like a product someone would want to buy.

Studying for a Chartered Surveyor degree during the apprenticeship will provide me with the most up-to date knowledge in all aspects of costings and calculations that are essential for projects to be viable. The degree apprenticeship with Buro Four would enable me to combine academic learning with an opportunity to apply what I learn every day in a working environment. I feel this is the best way to gain the experience required to become a successful Chartered Surveyor and Project Manager. I am excited by the prospect of learning from experienced staff within the company as well as from leading experts at the University, which will develop both my knowledge and skills required in a future career with the company. By gaining insight into the wider aims of the organisation during the degree apprenticeship, I will be better equipped to develop my career within the company as it will give me an understanding of the different roles and responsibilities of different divisions.

Working for a hospitality company that caters for large corporate events, I have developed highly effective communication skills as I have to speak to people at all levels and work in a team to deliver an efficient service. Therefore, I am able to work in a fast-paced environment and will be able to work with internal and external stakeholders confidently. It has also definitely given me insight into how team work and communication is integral within the working environment, as this is the only way customer needs can be completely met. I enjoy working in a team in a fast-paced environment, and it gives me a great sense of satisfaction when the events I work on have been successful and customer leave feeling happy. It also demonstrates my reliability and a can-do attitude in all I do.

In short, I am striving for a challenging yet brilliant career in construction, and I am confident my experiences so far will prepare me for the next steps involved in achieving this.

## Property Surveying

I am eager to secure an apprenticeship within the Property Surveying industry due to my interest in business and the prospect of being involved in a project from conception to development. My family have experience of property development and this sparked my initial fascination with how the industry works from a young age. Being able to start and progress my career with Savills would be a fantastic opportunity as I recognise that it is a company that values the development of its staff as well as its business strategies. Therefore, I feel I would benefit from the best standard of training in the sector and as someone who strives to be the best they can be, and this is something I would value. I also feel excited by Savills entrepreneurial approach to business as I see a potential opportunity to be involved in generating and developing new ideas and approaches to property development.

Studying business, applied law and sociology at A level has given me some understanding of the main issues surrounding the property business sector, and I feel this would prepare me for the academic aspect of the apprenticeship programme. I strongly believe a degree apprenticeship is the most effective way to become a surveyor within the property development industry as it combines learning on the job from people who have professional expertise, with learning in an academic environment where underlying principles can be understood and issues can be discussed.

As well as gaining the relevant academic skills that will help prepare me for this apprenticeship from school, I have gained transferrable skills from outside activities. From working as a waitress in a busy fast-paced environment, I am used to working under pressure and within a team. This has also developed my communication skills as I have experience of dealing with people at all levels from a range of different backgrounds. Therefore, I have become a confident young person who feels able to present information clearly to others and deal with all levels of people within or outside of the company. I also recognise the importance of working as a team to achieve specific business aims, which is something I feel would be important to succeed in this industry, especially as there will be specific targets and timescales to meet when working on different projects.

Having to divide my time between school studies and part time work has instilled in me the importance of responsibility and effective time management. I have learnt how to organise and balance my time so that my academic achievements and performance at work were both successful. I have always been on time for both school and work, have excellent attendance records and results. Therefore, I have learned time management is central for success and feel well equipped to juggle the demands of the degree course and day-to-day duties required by the job. As I have worked for some time now, I have a strong work ethic and am willing to participate in any training or development opportunities that will allow me to continue to progress within the company. I am also willing to travel and experience working in other aspects of the business if required. In fact, one of reason why I am so eager to complete an apprenticeship with Savills is due to the scope of the company with its different strands of expertise.

I feel I would bring enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a commitment to hard work to this position. Therefore, I feel I would also fit the friendly, fun and community culture Savills promotes, should I be given the opportunity.

## Legal Sector

I am driven to pursue a career within the legal sector as I want a career that is challenging, requires paying close attention to detail, and allows me to use my communication skills by working with many different people. My passion for debating and challenging ideas stemmed from frequently spending time with my grandparents; I recognised how their societal ideas differed to mine, which led me to discuss and challenge viewpoints. From then on, I became more interested in the idea of pursuing a career in law due to my advocacy skills and an innate desire to better society.

After studying A level Business, I became aware of the complex legal frameworks that businesses and organisations have to navigate, and was fascinated to learn how many organisations are at risk by not properly protecting themselves. This led me to completing some online legal activities via MOOC where I learnt more about the wide range of specialist legal services offered by law firms from property, immigration, probate and marketing. As I realised that law involves working in a wide range of sectors, and I am someone who is always eager to learn and challenge themselves, I feel law will provide me with a varied, interesting and fulfilling career.

Furthermore, I believe my personal qualities of being able to work effectively with others, research independently, and pay close attention to detail, are essential to being successful within the law sector as I will be working with different clients who all have different needs and interests. Having studied Business A level, my understanding of different business functions will also provide me with the contextual awareness that should prove useful in my career within law. In short, a career in law will allow me to capitalise on the knowledge and qualities I already possess, in a varied and interesting context I will thrive in.

Extracurricular experiences have also moulded me into a person suitable for a solicitor apprenticeship at Browne Jacobson. Being a member of the head student team for my sixth form has developed my communication skills, as it involves listening to student concerns and demonstrating empathy towards them, advocating successfully on their behalf, and negotiating with the school senior leadership team. I am proud of being able to negotiate whole school improvements, such as securing a supply of free female products in all female toilet facilities, through this role. I also have a part-time job within the hospitality sector. This demands both organisation and communication skills as I have to ensure orders are placed in advance for the right quantities, liaise with the general manager for staffing and table requirements, and discuss menu options with the chef. I therefore believe I have the necessary academic and personal attributes to become a successful solicitor.