

## Finance/Economics

I developed financial awareness from an early age. My mother, who was unfortunately widowed when I was young, taught me the crucial importance of monitoring outgoings and ensuring they were always proportionate to income. When the international media exposed the true extent of the financial crisis, I was left puzzled and curious to discover how supposedly practical banks run by expert financiers in economically developed countries could possibly have racked up multi-billion pound deficits.

My A-level work on the Wall Street crash coincided with revelations in national newspapers regarding British banking and I instinctively drew parallels between the past and present. The current rise in unemployment and social unrest in Britain, Greece and Italy to name but a few countries facing economic downturns echoes the economic freefall and rise in criminality that stemmed from the Great Depression of 1929. Similarly the national debt that France had to combat in the nineteenth century led to social unrest that bears a marked resemblance to the recent summer riots. Through studying History I am beginning to master how to map multiple factors that lead to political and social change. By applying historical knowledge to my study of economics, I am able to gain an appreciation of how interrelated economic and social triggers can be in the build up to a single significant event. This will undoubtedly aid my future study of economics, business and management, as analysis is essential to in-depth investigations of company and team performance.

I do not need to look far to see the domino effect of economic and social decay; Bombardier, one of Derby's major employers, recently lost out to a contract against a foreign competitor, Siemens Mobility. This decision will set my city back both collectively and on an individual basis as unemployment in the community will now increase. This has broadened my understanding of how local economies can contribute to one large economy, helping my understanding of micro and macro economics.

While carrying out media case studies on the euro zone crisis, I have become hooked on the urge to debate the impact of recent socio-economic issues. I am confident this interest will continue to grow at university through reading economics. Studying ICT has allowed me to recognise the pivotal role technology plays in the running of businesses. In lessons I have demonstrated my ability to solve problems, and have honed my organisational skills by working to strict personal timeframes. Learning about ICT in depth has fuelled my interest in the digital divide our world faces, with less economically developed countries having poorer access to new technological advances, putting them at an economic disadvantage to wealthier nations.

I successfully sought a formal work placement in summer 2011 with Lloyds TSB head bank, London. I gained an insight into a corporate workplace and helped scrutinise business plans to measure their economic viability. I coped well with the pressures of a professional environment and worked alongside members of senior management in strategy meetings to ensure that risk-assessments for multi-million pound loans were thoroughly executed.

I am a charismatic individual who loves working within a team. I have developed my communication skills and am now seen as a natural leader within large groups. I am honoured to captain both my school and Sunday football teams where I act as a role model taking responsibility for the actions and performance of my team mates. I have been elected by members of staff as a sixth form ambassador, and also peer-mentor younger pupils within my school. Most recently I have been elected for prom committee head co-coordinator by my fellow pupils, a role I am particularly proud of.

I firmly believe I have the experience, commitment and ability to overcome the challenges of degree level study and I look forward to embracing the opportunities available to me.

## Pharmacy

Pharmacy has progressed from using simple remedies such as honey by the Ancient Egyptians for the treatment of infections to using chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer. My ambition is to be a part of this ever changing scientific discipline. I want to explore the different opportunities offered by Pharmacy, to find cures, treat people and alleviate their problems. It is my desire to be considered a credit to this profession and a credit to society. It is for these reasons I wish to pursue a career in Pharmacy.

Studying chemistry has helped me develop my analytical and problem solving skills in the classroom as well as my practical skills in the laboratory. I am interested in the practical uses of compounds in industry and learning about the synthesis of medicines such as Aspirin. I find it fascinating how subtle changes can completely alter the dimensions of a compound, for example modifying the potent drug morphine to the illegal drug that is heroin. Studying English at A-level has helped me to develop a variety of skills from essay writing to creative thinking. I do not take things at face value, by analysing texts I explore underlying concepts not just literal meanings. In biology I have learnt about how systems work in the body and the role of medicine in treating illnesses. Psychology has taught me the basics in ethics. Considering the economic viability of treating a patient with an expensive drug, yet taking into account its life-saving effect can be a difficult choice to make.

Working in a community pharmacy has helped me to be respectful, improve my organisational and time management skills and become more professional. Working alongside the pharmacist and seeing him apply his medical knowledge was motivating. I found that even treating a common illness, such as a cold is complex as one has to consider age, prior illnesses and allergic reactions. Giving sterile needles to drug users has been a questionable act in the eyes of the public; however I have learnt there are many benefits of this service as it helps to reduce crime and the spread of infection. It is encouraging to have seen recovering addicts taking methadone to ease their opioid dependence, one of many services provided by the pharmacy. The experience from working at the pharmacy has taught me not to be judgemental, but to help people with their problems. Not to be feared by them, but inspired to take action and help. As a member of the Equality and Human Rights Youth Network, I led workshops on Human Rights at a local school. This involved interacting with young students, having them participate in exercises used to build on their existing knowledge and get them thinking about problems people of different cultures and backgrounds face in society. I helped to organise activities for the European Week against Racism and raised awareness about the problems people with disabilities face in the UK and in Palestine. My 150 hours of voluntary work has allowed me to apply for and achieve successfully the V50 and V10 awards; which demonstrates my ethos and commitment to helping others. In my spare time I like to watch films and play a variety of sports including cricket and badminton, which are great stress relievers and a lot of fun when playing with friends and family.

I am highly competitive, with a strong determination to succeed. Actively pursuing things that interest me and being inquisitive are skills I have always had and will help me throughout my Pharmacy course. This is more than a career path, it is a chance for me to use my empathetic qualities and productive skills to help others and enjoy doing it. My innate thirst for knowledge, hard-working nature and high attainment in academic subjects make me a suitable candidate for this profession.

## Geography

Being from a culturally diverse family, I harbour an interest in the world - different places, cultures and peoples. Hence from a young age, learning about geography was a natural process of growing up. Holidays and family visits abroad nurtured my enthusiasm in the environment and the vast array of animal species within it. Being well travelled has given me a small insight to the biological and geographical world - its wonders and its beauty.

My passion undoubtedly is geography. It is a compelling subject, as I enjoy learning about the planet and how physical features and processes are interlinked. I have learnt how to link theoretical ideas and models to practical, hands-on investigation. A-level Geography has furnished me with the ability to justify my ideas. I believe this is a valuable skill for undertaking any degree, but especially one that involves opinionated discussion and analysis such as geography.

Biology is an intricate and inspiring subject, which has taught me to examine processes and systems in depth to gain a firm understanding of topics. The main skill I have developed from A-level Biology is to apply the knowledge that I have acquired to different circumstances. This ability will transfer well to this degree because I will understand knowledge to the point where I can relate it to other situations. Geography and biology have both given me practice in evaluating the link between cause and effect. I believe that knowing why occurrences result from certain events is a critical skill when wanting to pursue a career in geographical and biological concepts.

Maths and statistics greatly compliment my other two subjects, as I have been able to analyse results from investigations and present data without difficulty. From this, my critical analysis and data manipulation skills have been developed and refined, which will be useful for this course. From maths I have learnt to prove identities and formulae because I like to know how and why things occur. This approach to learning continues to deepen my understanding. Taking on the responsibility and commitment of a degree requires particular skills that I picked up on work experience at a local primary school. I had the opportunity to communicate with people of varied ages - staff and pupils. It was important for me to be attentive and sensitive to the needs of children whilst making sure they were keeping 'on track'. From this, my patience has grown considerably; it is a characteristic that I feel very fortunate to possess. The sign language course I completed for my enrichment project was fun and rewarding. This experience allowed me to communicate (with relative proficiency) with a deaf family friend and I felt very proud to be able to do so.

Outside of school I spend a considerable amount of time looking after my horse. The daily responsibility and genuine hard work both physically and mentally has shaped my personality over the past four and a half years. The reality of the dedication and organisation needed to have my own horse has taught me to plan my time with great efficiency. I am confident that this ingrained practice will be of huge benefit to me, with regards to always being on time and meeting deadlines. Aside from my devoted attachment to my horse, I have other interests that I indulge in. One of which is Plantagenet and Tudor history. I research the era and travel around the UK with my family visiting National Trust properties relating to this time period. I am also a member of the 'Friends of Markeaton Brook' and 'Friends of Allestree Park' associations. I try to take an active stance when combating environmental concerns.

I am prepared for and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. I believe that I have the diligence and intellect to succeed. My enthusiasm for the study of nature and the environment is complimented by my keen desire to learn and work hard throughout my degree.

## Medicine

"Medicine heals doubts as well as diseases", (Karl Marx), summarising for me the great attraction of Medicine; a vocation combining academic ability and working with people through challenging situations to improve their lives and gain their trust. My experiences have dictated my ambitions to work in a profession requiring lifelong dedication and learning, demand and professionalism.

My academic and enquiring demeanour allows me to thrive on the challenges that science presents; this rewarded me with the GCSE Biology award. Through the study of science I have acquired many transferable skills. I understand that successful outcomes in enzyme, titration and enthalpy-based reactions are based on accuracy, precision and cleanliness in addition to temperature and pH. Physics has broadened my understanding and application of theory to solving problems associated with unexpected practical outcomes. History has developed my literary analytical skills and critical thinking when reaching a balanced judgement on evidence. All of these skills were utilised in my dissertation entitled "Nanotechnology: A future in Medicine?" I researched golden Nanoshells in targeting and treating cancerous cells, in addition to the ethical issues raised at the Cambridge master class. Being the recipient of the GCSE English Literature Award indicates my wider academic abilities.

Work at a primary care substance abuse clinic allowed me to develop empathy, as I noticed patients often had personal or social issues linked to their addiction. I learnt to appreciate that gaining a patient's trust and empathising with their situation can be more important than prescribing medicine. This experience taught me that successful diagnosis can be obtained by taking a patient's history, communicating clearly and listening attentively. During other shadowing opportunities, viewing procedures from knee replacements to catheter ablation in surgery reinforced the need for professionalism, dedication and multidisciplinary teamwork. Volunteering on the trauma and orthopaedic wards; encouraging patients to eat, exposed me to conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. This indicated to me the skilled approach healthcare professionals have with respect to communication thus making patients feel at ease; attributes I incorporate when undertaking my duties. My experiences have given me a realistic understanding that sometimes the most a doctor can do is make a terminal patient as comfortable as possible, which is a skill in itself.

My dedication and commitment to the school community is unquestionable, having participated in many events and forums, ranging from the chairman of 6th form school council to the mentoring of younger students. These positions affirm my willingness to take on responsibilities and my ability to listen and work with the opinions of others. Tutoring GCSE students in Mathematics was extremely rewarding. Seeing them develop into competent students allowed me to build a relationship with them and gain their trust. Working with the Voice UK charity as a team leader in a multidisciplinary team allowed me to listen to other people's perspectives and manage challenging situations. Leading the interviewing panel for the new head teacher was a tremendous opportunity that proves my maturity when taking on such a great responsibility, as well as the trust my teachers had in me, ensuring it ran smoothly. I am also an integral and passionate member of my local cricket club, illustrating my commitment to regularly working as part of a team.

My enthusiasm, exceptional work ethic and devotion to learning, integrated with my commitment to science, my caring nature and desire for challenge express why I am an appropriate candidate to study Medicine. I am eager to devote myself to a profession of great tradition and lifelong learning. I believe all my experiences within my community as well as work experience will allow me to flourish and succeed in a career in Medicine.

## Physics

Physics for me is quite literally everything. From the tiniest particles to the wonders and unknowns of the universe, physicists have sought and found the answers - but not all of them. Physics has changed my perception of our existence in the universe, and believe it is key to greater knowledge.

I have a particular interest in quantum Physics, the mechanics of our planet, how the universe works, and things which are just beyond the scope of the human mind to understand. An example of which is the dimensions in which we live. I am intrigued to find out what lies past the 4th dimension, as now there are believed to be many dimensions, around 10 or even more. In the past year I completed a very Physics oriented Extended Project, which I wrote a dissertation to answer the question "Is time travel possible? And if so what is the most viable method" which furthered my love for Physics. I found out about numerous theories which I would like to study further, string theory, wormholes and travelling up to the speed of light, also an interesting idea is that of particles travelling faster than the speed of light, yet to be proven but still a possibility. These areas are particularly interesting because the concept of time travel could change the world around us, for better or for worse. During my Extended Project I obtained very strong independent research, time management, organisational and presentational skills, as I had to present my findings to an audience. My love for Physics also comes from the idea that nothing is for certain, we can only provide theories to provide the best models for situations. I attended numerous master classes, in Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Maths and Mechanical Engineering, also completing a week long summer school studying Physical Sciences. This experience was very positive, only serving to reinforce my desire to study Physics.

I have achieved numerous certificates for high achievement in my subjects over the years, gaining 5 UKMT Maths challenge certificates, 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze, a merit in the Computing Olympiad, and competing in the team maths challenge, representing our 6th form. Mathematics, being the language of physics is another subject which I have a definite enthusiasm for; my logical mind craves for the challenging problems that Maths has to offer, combining its beauty with the world of Physics drives me to become a physicist. I enjoy applying Maths to Computing, another of my A-levels; I am an enthusiastic programmer, with the aid of which I can use computers to process complex problems, and constant numerical sums to come up with an answer which I can put into context. Chemistry is essential for physics, as it provides the fundamentals, down to the particles that everything is created from, providing insight into the different materials and chemical reactions that fuel Physics.

Outside of academic study, I enjoy tennis, table tennis, badminton, trampolining and origami, each in their own way stimulating my brain to the Physics around us. I enjoy computer programming and animation as hobbies. Animating is very physics oriented, creating physics engines, and working out the path of light. Modelling gravity is also a challenging concept to overcome, all for added realism. I also enjoy playing chess, the thought of thinking many moves ahead of when they're actually played is perfect stimulation for my thoughts. I have work experience in the sales and marketing department at TGB learning, giving me vital interpersonal skills, highlighting my punctuality and reliability.

My thirst for knowledge drives me to aspire to new heights, to discover the inner workings of the universe around us, building up the foundations to our current understanding of the laws of Physics. As I learn more about this fascinating subject, my excitement grows exponentially. Hence the prospect of studying Physics at degree level is something that I would find particularly rewarding.

## Law (with French at some choices)

Law is order in liberty, and without order liberty is social chaos; without Law where would we be? It is an essential component of our society and shapes many current political, economical and social issues thus making it the basis of everyday life. Law is a subject that is ever-changing and always adapting to our society. It has a massive scope for interpretation, argument and discovery which has attracted me to the challenge that it poses.

I am particularly intrigued by the subject of Jurisprudence and how it relates to current controversial issues such as euthanasia. I am fascinated by the power that law has over our minds and how it can dictate right and wrong; I love to explore different interpretations of moral issues and the thinking behind the laws that exist today. I have completed work experience placements with 2 different Law firms which only served to confirm my desire to study and work in this area. I also took part in Law Challenge Day and relished the opportunity to put myself forward as a barrister in a mock trial.

My desire to combine French with Law has stemmed from my interest in other cultures and societies. I believe that studying French alongside Law adds another dimension to my studies, therefore improving my understanding of the law works in different situations and nations.

This relates to my interest in law in other cultures, for example, how can the wearing of a burqa be prohibited in France yet in the United Kingdom this would be seen as a violation of a person's human rights? The two languages I am studying are so diverse and I firmly believe that language skills are a necessity in the modern world. I plan to put this theory into practice by working in France for 6-9 months and completing volunteer work for the remainder of the year before starting my degree studies.

The study of A-level history has greatly improved my analytical skills and ability to form a focused argument effectively, taking in other perspectives. This close analysis of texts and their meaning is an essential skill needed to study Law at degree level. In English Literature, I learnt the importance of weighing up different interpretations of texts to come to a well-balanced conclusion; I am particularly enthused by the prospect of studying my own choice of literature and applying various criticisms to them.

I enjoy undertaking a broad range of reading from 'Pride and Prejudice' to 'Steven Hawking: A brief history of time' to newspapers in French and English. I pride myself in my interest in a variety of subjects; I am fascinated by astrophysics, enjoy the analysis of classic literature and am intrigued by the oddities and links between different foreign languages. My enthusiasm for investigating these subjects outside of my studies illustrates my inherent desire and drive to expand my knowledge.

Outside of sixth form, I participated in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, demonstrating strength of character, determination and teamwork skills; I am also currently fund raising for a World Challenge expedition to Morocco. In addition, I work in my community volunteering at Brownies and I have demonstrated my long term commitment through my devotion to the Guide movement over the past 13 years. I am currently employed at Primark where I work on the Customer Services Desk; this demonstrates my communication and people skills and also my decision making skills. I have an excellent work ethic which allows me to prioritise my work-load and manage my time effectively.

I am the sort of person who relishes a challenge and has an inquisitive mind, I have thoroughly enjoyed my education this far and I have been inspired by experiences relating to Law and languages both inside and outside of the classroom. The prospect of continuing my studies in these subjects at a top university is something that genuinely excites me; I believe that my gap year will help prepare me to make the most of the opportunities that this will offer.

## **Sport (with Btec)**

Sport defines me. If you were to ask my family and friends to choose a word that describes me, they would simply say "sporty".

My passion for sport started when I was 5, at primary school, when I first started playing football in the local community and school leagues.

During 5 years of Secondary School, I represented my school at matches and tournaments across the Midlands Region, winning many trophies. I was recruited into the Derby School's Football Association playing as Goalkeeper at representative level and attended Derby County Academy in their development programme for 18 months.

During my secondary education I tried various sports and found I had a natural talent for most - Basketball, Athletics, Swimming, etc.

I attained 1st Goalkeeper position for Derbyshire County FA and represented the county at trials for England Schools Football Association U18's in both 2011 and 2012.

My past achievements and passion have steered me to study a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports and Exercise Science at 6th form, where I have been introduced to new aspects of sport including Anatomy, Physiology, Biomechanics and Psychology which have helped me gain the skills, insight and better understanding of sports in general and helped me to coach others and to reach my sporting goals.

This new found knowledge is underpinning my new approach to sport and the science that can help improve performance and will give me a good base for the future university courses I am interested in; Sports and Exercise Science / Strength and Conditioning. .

As a person I am disciplined, confident, contribute often, participate wherever possible and enjoy practical and theoretical learning and try to maintain a high level of fitness and well being. My week consists of 2 football/goalkeeping training sessions, 3 sessions in a gym and playing for Derbyshire County and a local FA reserve team. To support my local community, I am a volunteer Goalkeeping coach for Derby School's FA. I hold both JSLA and CSLA and I am currently completing the HSLA, qualifications and experiences I have used to help me deliver fun, inventive and educational sports sessions to a wide range of children and young adults of various backgrounds and cultures in and out of school and I am a qualified National Pool Lifeguard at the local community sports centre. Later on this year I am taking part in a World challenge expedition in Morocco where I will help in restoration projects in the villages in the Atlas Mountains. The trip will introduce me to new situations, it will encourage me to work in a team using the various skills I have learned through sport; teamwork, communication, perseverance, etc. The trip is being funded from money raised in both team events and independently by me. I believe this challenge will help me develop character, a better understanding of others cultures and lifestyles and money management, all of which are important in helping me become a more responsible person in the future. My proudest moments during my sporting career so far have been attending the England Schools FA under 18 trials, the England Basketball trials and being awarded the sportsman of the year award in 2010. I was first selected for England Football trials when aged 16, 2 years below the age group. At 17, the year after, I progressed through to the second round of the England international trials becoming one of the 8 best goalkeepers in England. For Basketball, I reached the final 20 at the age of 15. To overcome the challenges faced in these trials I had to push myself both mentally and physically beyond my normal level to achieve my goals. These experiences made me realise the need to train harder and eat properly encouraging me to create my own training programmes and diet plans. I can be independent and work alone and I can be a team player strongly believing that together and with support of others a team can achieve more.

## **Sport (with A Levels)**

Sport has been a big part of my life since a very young age. I started playing rugby when I was 7 and my love for the game has led to an interest in many other sports including football, swimming, cricket, athletics and basketball. Physical Education has been a key part of my life both academically and socially. I have previously played rugby to a representative level, playing for county four years, have played at Twickenham three times in the Club County Championship final and have represented my school in multiple sports. Studying a Sports Science Degree would give me the opportunity to gain an in depth understanding of this fascinating subject and I look forward to representing university in sport and experiencing the many challenges and opportunities that university will offer.

A-Level PE is not just based upon practical skills but it also includes a very high degree of theoretical knowledge, for example the bio-mechanics behind how a tennis ball spins off the face of the racket creating a different movement pattern through the air, hitting the ball in a low to high motion creating top spin means that the ball will dip earlier in its flight reducing the horizontal distance covered. Friction then opposes the bounce of the ball making the ball accelerate off the surface which in turn makes it harder to return the shot. The Magnus Effect is just one of the many interesting things I have learned in these lessons. I have always had a keen interest in P.E and Sciences and I take great enjoyment in learning about how the two supplement and compliment each other. I look forward to furthering my knowledge and understanding by studying a Sports Science related degree. Studying Biology at AS Level has given me an insight in to how the body functions which has helped aid my Physical Education theoretical studies. Business has given me the confidence to deliver presentations and communicate effectively to teachers and students. Time management is a skill that I have developed through this course as well as essay writing techniques, both of which I will be able to apply effectively to a Sports Science course.

Rugby is a sport that has many transferrable skills, such as being a good team player and being able to listen and communicate effectively. These skills can be used in coaching, teaching and mentoring are evident in the role I have taken on in my free periods at school, helping to coach a large class of students in football lessons. Over a six week period I was responsible for doing skill orientated drills with the aim of improving passing and first touch. I later assessed whether the students could transfer these skills into a match.

Having loved swimming from a young age, I was keen to develop this interest and recently passed my Level One Teaching qualification. This has given me the opportunity to have a part-time job in something I enjoy. In my desired career as a PE teacher I will therefore be qualified to take students swimming as part of their lessons. I have also volunteered at Ivy House School which is a school for children with severe learning difficulties. This experience made me appreciate how much time and effort teachers put into their students.

Throughout my time at school I have always been supported by great teachers, especially in P.E. I would like to provide students with the same opportunities I have been given. This is what inspires me to become a teacher so that I can give the same experience to my own students. In the future after gaining a degree with honours in Sports Science I hope to go on to do my PGCE and become a PE teacher in a secondary school. I believe that this career is perfect for me.

## Engineering

Out of all my interests, it is the dams, buildings and bridges around me that I'm fascinated by most. Having the opportunity to design and create these structures, to have them built my way is the thought that entices me towards civil engineering. I have big aspirations, and so much eagerness to begin studying as an engineer.

Academically, I'm a highly capable student, always willing to accept new theories. The fact I like a challenge and have this positive attitude is the main reason I've always enjoyed maths and physics. Throughout my life I have excelled in both subjects, and it's often been said a career in engineering was destined for me. Resolving forces and learning about moments this year has been great fun for me, as it gives me a better understanding of the requirements when designing complicated structures. Taking Product Design has been useful to my aspirations of becoming an engineer. It gives me experience of applying my knowledge to real life problems, and also the satisfaction of seeing my ideas providing a solution. The confidence I gained from seeing I am capable of being original and thinking 'outside the box' is another assurance that I am heading in the right direction, and the high mark I achieved in my end of year exam is evidence of this.

The Arkwright Scholarship that I was awarded in year 12 is probably my proudest achievement to date. I feel it is testimony to not only my ability as a student, but also my hard work and passion for engineering. I hope my commitment and dedication will lead me to become a chartered engineer one day, which is something I believe they liked about me in my interview. I spoke of the depth of my knowledge, and how engineering suits me down to the ground. They saw I am not only interested in just one aspect of civil engineering, but that everything from transport links to sewage systems appeals to me. Overall it was my enthusiasm that helped me most, something that's only grown as the year has gone by.

During year 12 I took part in the Education in Engineering Scheme, where I formed part of a team that was joined with JCB power systems. We were asked to design a jig that would aid in the installation of thermocouples, a task that required us to be innovative and resourceful as a team. To gain further experience in engineering, I did a weeklong work placement at Advanced Group Composites in Derby. They produce excellent quality carbon fibre products for high-end customers, so being on site and seeing the workplace in action was very exciting. I feel looking back at my time there, I developed useful knowledge of my desired field and got a real taste of what it's like being an engineer. To build on this, I have lined up another work experience placement with Derby City Council, where I will be working alongside experienced civil engineers. This will hopefully give me a further head start for my university studies, and also provide a constructive use of my time during my half term break.

My main hobbies outside of school include playing sport, in particular football and cricket. Being a team player is important to me, and understanding the responsibilities of others is something I have a natural talent for. Playing for so long has helped me a lot in other aspects of life too, particularly in gaining leadership qualities. My years of captaining in both sports have made me a much more confident person, and this has shown in my time at school. Taking the lead in a project and ensuring I put my skills to good use is something I am highly capable at. I feel it has helped me to get the best out of others too, making me a productive member and an efficient leader.

It is these experiences that have led me towards civil engineering, the prospects of changing the world around me and knowing I could actually make a difference. I want to leave a positive mark on the planet, and feel that a degree is the first step towards achieving this.

## **Business**

The world of business is fundamental to the prosperity of the future. Business Studies opens multiple doors to a variety of future career prospects. In the future, I see myself being an integral part of a successful business as a result of the skills I would gain on this course. This future prospect is what is driving me now to enable me to achieve my goals in both the near and distant future.

I have conducted a week's work experience at the Financial Service Centre of Rolls Royce. This experience has enabled me to develop my interpersonal communication skills, as well as giving me a superb awareness of how a global business operates on a day to day basis. It was intriguing to see a business of that calibre and magnitude in action, and I thrived on the pressure the experience entailed. I received first-hand experience of the work involved in various aspects of the finance and operations side of Rolls Royce, such as sorting out expense claims and forecasting the cash flow of Rolls Royce in various countries. Working alongside experts in finance has only added to my desire to study Business.

I am currently studying for four A-Levels, all of which have contributed to increasing the range of skills I possess. I have particularly enjoyed studying Business, where I have learnt about the components which ensure the success of an organisation. It has also raised my awareness of the complex nature of maintaining a competitive edge over a company's rivals. In addition, studying both Biology and History has improved my analytical skills, a key component in making any business decision. History requires you to analyse a variety of sources and incorporate your views with elements of your own knowledge into an essay based answer. A highly demanding subject like this has led to an improvement in my organisation skills as it involves lots of self-reading around the course. Also, General Studies has enhanced my ability to use fact and opinion to reach a decisive conclusion. I believe that the skills I have gained will allow me to be successful in studying Business at a higher level.

The world of business needs not only strong individuals but people who are capable of working effectively with others. These skills have been demonstrated by me through the completion of a Level 2 Community Sports Leadership course. I visited an advanced stage learning school and conducted one hour sports sessions for the following 3 weeks. This experience has improved my ability to adapt towards a range of audiences, which will benefit me in the world of business, as I will have to adjust to the ever-changing environments I encounter.

Since May, I have been a Sales Assistant for Sports Direct. This role involves working on the tills, sorting out stock and maintaining the appearance of the store. My experience fulfilling these tasks has developed my ability to work both successfully in a team and also individually when performing specifically set tasks.

My ambitious nature and dedication makes me an ideal candidate for a course that is constantly subject to change as the world economy evolves. Perseverance, patience and my desire to succeed are key attributes which give me the potential to excel in the business world.

## Fine Art

I revel in the mystery of Art; it consumes me and I love to be immersed in the process of resolving individual pieces or an overall project. It is rewarding to produce an individual and personal composition that a viewer will respond to, interpret and judge. The concept that everyone is a critic, who scrutinises, praises and contextualises intrigues me as even though it is complete in the artist's eyes, the process continues with the viewer. Portraiture has been a genre that I have enjoyed exploring, as the subtle process of investigating expression and self image has been both challenging and rewarding as I have sought to push the boundaries of alternative techniques and conceptual ideas.

During my A-level study I have enjoyed the rigour of analysing artists, their concepts and contexts and how this has an exciting impact on my own making. I have been keen to identify artists, both traditional and contemporary that will help to enhance my own skills further. I regularly attend exhibitions and enjoy visiting the Tate Modern, Tate Britain and the National Portraiture Museum. I have recently found a new appreciation for conceptual art, including cynical realism. I would relish the opportunity to explore this further through learning new processes, techniques and working with various media. I am also studying History which has helped me profusely when completing the theory side to my study; I then have an extra insight to the historical context when I've been previously taught the topic 'World War 2' and 'Degenerative Art'. History has also taught me to be analytical, extract key and relevant information and to write to exact points. Moreover I am studying Psychology which has also helped me further my projects such as Phobia whereby I used Psychological theories to produce artwork. Psychology has also taught me to view complex theories and issues in a mature and open minded way.

I am a young ambassador where I have to sit in on form times with the lower school pupils and help them during form activities or in independent study. I also presented a presentation about sixth form life and what it has to offer. I have helped out with the green council an organisation made within the sixth form which focuses on making the local area a pleasant place and I have taken part with flower planting with 'Littleover in Bloom'. I do 'In class support' with year 10 Art students. This is because I am interested in teaching and experience in this field is relevant and will help me achieve. I help them develop skills such as decision making and leadership as well as developing these skills within myself. I try to take advantage of every opportunity and I have assisted with set designs and painting for school performances. During the Sixth Form Open day I also introduced new students to the course they would be undertaking and showed them what would be expected of them.

I completed Work Experience at Griffie Field Primary school and nursery where I taught the children independently in a range of subjects and created art lessons. I've also worked with others in the community by volunteering at Oxfam and each year I volunteer at Toc-h children's camp. I volunteer because I feel strongly about the work both organisations are doing and I want to give my time to help these worthy causes.

Creativity in art is heavily influenced by the state of mind of the artist and I am aware of what is needed to achieve the best results at University. I love obtaining new skills and knowledge as I'm determined to do so.

## Foreign Languages

'All the world's a stage', but few know how to perform. With "Parlez-vous anglais?" as the universal opening, the need for language skills has never been greater. Given that 75% of the world is unable to speak English, effective communication with the global community can only be achieved through the learning and speaking of foreign languages. A language is more than just words, phrases and grammatical structures; it is a living and constantly changing reflection of culture and society.

Studying French and German in tandem has proved beneficial in gaining a greater depth of understanding of both languages, especially when learning grammatical structures and tenses. It is this appreciation which inspired me to begin a BBC course in Italian, highlighting my desire and ability to learn independently. I have relished the opportunity to apply my language skills in numerous debates within my A-Level subjects. The eagerness with which I put forward my arguments helped build up a degree of fluency in my spoken language, sparking a passion for defending my point of view confidently and eloquently. I have pursued this passion in many ways outside of school, such as attending the European Study Tours Conference in Paris this year: an opportunity to contextualise languages in the wider world and spend time with people with similar interests and thoughts. I also participated in a Languages Taster Day at the University of Nottingham, which gave me an insight into what to expect at degree level and allowed me to explore the basics of a new language, Dutch. It was a fantastic opportunity and confirmed my desire to pursue my language learning. Recently, I independently arranged a visit to the University of Salford for a Translating and Interpreting Event, which gave me the chance to explore new aspects of languages and investigate options post-university. The opportunities opened up by language learning are immense: whether it's the latest phrase coined by the youth of a society, or an age-old idiom returned to widespread use, there will always be something emerging into, or regressing from, a language that can be learnt and explored.

As a pro-active, keen linguist, I am taking a year out before university so that I can travel and explore new countries, improving my language skills in the process. I plan to spend a large part of my GAP year working abroad in Europe, immersing myself in another language and culture. I believe that this will be invaluable preparation for my studies. In July 2012, I am undertaking an expedition in Morocco with World Challenge, and the hard work, responsibility and maturity required for this experience will be of paramount importance in preparing me for my GAP year.

I am a well-rounded individual; my extra-curricular activities highlight this and have enabled me to develop many skills, notably those of communication, organisation and the ability to communicate and work with a variety of people. These have been honed through my participation in the Peer Mentoring scheme and in being a young Sports Leader and Co-Leader of the Gifted and Talented Discussion Group. I have also taken lead roles in school plays and the school choir, as well as being a keen athlete, having represented school, city and county at cross country running. My Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award has also played a huge part in helping to make me more organised with my time and responsibilities, and in developing my leadership and teamwork skills.

I have always been outgoing, confident and enthusiastic in everything I do, and my academic success and ability is clear to see. I was awarded the 'Academic Excellence' award, achieving the best results in my year. As well as this, I also received the GCSE award for French and the Creative Arts award. The prospect of building on this by studying the subjects I love at a top university is something that genuinely excites me and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that this will present.

## Maths

Mathematics is of fundamental importance in everything we do, what I find most amazing is how thousands of different mathematical concepts and ideas have come together to create this technically advanced world. The skills and characteristics that mathematicians possess work together wonderfully; being tenacious, observant, and accurate whilst always presenting answers in a structured manner. Through my work and world experience I believe that I have developed the same skills that make me a suitable candidate for a degree in Maths and Statistics.

Maths is a subject I have always been good at and I have enjoyed the process of maturing my skills through my A Level studies. The most enjoyable aspect is seeing how a basic principle can develop; differentiating simple equations in Core 1 quickly turned into finding the derivative of complex fractions in Core 3. It is fascinating how much can be learnt. My ability to be concise and to retain information has definitely been developed through my studies in History, Biology and Business Studies. I am hopeful that my current and future studies will lead to me becoming a Chartered Accountant; a career suitable for me as I possess both analytical skills and a committed attitude to work.

I have always gained great excitement when solving a problem correctly and quicker than my classroom peers, one of my characteristics has always been my eagerness to learn and develop my knowledge. I have always been interested in learning about the applicability of each unit, whether that is through talking to my teachers or outside reading. Rob Easterway is undoubtedly one of my favoured authors. I liked how the connections between maths and sports were illustrated throughout 'How to Take a Penalty: The Mathematical Curiosities of Sport'. In my free time I help tutor numeracy to children at a primary school. Through this my communication, leadership and fundamental maths skills have improved significantly. I also take part in the Millennium Ambassador program; joining a Year 8 class weekly and aiding the teacher host quizzes and games, all of which help develop the students as individuals. For two summers I have worked as a football coach for an U12 Malaysian team, where I helped develop the football skills of players from all over the world. These experiences have helped me become both independent and responsible.

From 2008-2010 I lived and studied in Kuala Lumpur. This brought me knowledge of different cultures and helped me develop great interpersonal skills. For example, I took a lead role in a Model United Nations Committee, in the USA's perspective. I wrote, presented, submitted and debated a resolution regarding disarmament of nuclear weapons. I developed invaluable skills suitable for my chosen career; writing concisely, debating a point and presenting information are just a few.

Through playing sports all my life I have gained great communication, team working and leadership skills. I have represented the Alice Smith School in various football, softball and athletics tournaments in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia. I have a level 4 snowboarding award and ended my last football season with the coach's Player of the Year award. I am currently fund raising to pay for a World Challenge trip to Morocco, where I will be doing charity work, long treks and camping. I thrive on making the most of my opportunities without compromising top grades in school, always showing commitment and managing time well. Mathematics is a topic where the amount you can learn is truly limitless; the prospect of continuing this study to a new level excites me immensely. My experience of education thus far has been incredible and I now am ready to face the challenges of degree level maths. I want to develop myself academically, making the most out of every opportunity university will offer. A degree in Maths and Statistics will be pivotal in making my hopes to become an accountant a reality.

## Product Design

Design is the make-up of our society and world; it defines us as individuals and allows us to express our personalities through our possessions, which is intriguing to me. I am very interested in design, as I have always been very conscious of my surroundings; everything you see has been designed at some point by someone, leading me on to the importance of individualism in design allowing for fresh and unique ideas which people from all over the world can appreciate, regardless of background. It is something in our world that is constantly changing, much like a trend which our culture lives and is influenced by. Attractiveness in design is important, allowing for a stimulating way to live instead of our environment being bland and boring; yet at the same time serving a purpose by meeting the needs of the user through a mixture of simplicity and innovation.

By far the subjects that I have most enjoyed throughout my school and sixth form life have all been design based, whether it's Graphics, Resistant Materials or Product Design, they have all provided me with a sense of reward and satisfaction. The reason I want to study design is because of its fun yet challenging nature, allowing me to express myself creatively and create products that are more interesting than the more obvious concepts; In this respect I aim to create something which makes somebody step back and appreciate it rather than dismiss it. I particularly enjoy the final design stages as this is the point I can be most innovative and personalise something whilst keeping it appealing from another person's perspective, using new and exciting concepts. Next would be the manufacture stage, the practical approach to design where precision and skill are essential. This is the most challenging part, to achieve as close to perfection as possible, but also the most rewarding part as I see what I have designed come together and hopefully surpass my expectations. However what I think will keep me interested in this are the constantly changing problems and situations to tackle, and always developing yourself to think outside the box and innovatively. I also enjoy Psychology as I am intrigued about different people's perceptions of the world, I think this ties in with design in helping me understand how another person may view something and therefore create things which appeal to others, not just myself. Maths has given me the necessary skills to accurately and confidently calculate sizes or structure of an object so it will function well. It has improved on my problem solving skills to help me think logically about a situation. I will be a valuable member to the wider university community due to my keen interest in sport, music and ambitious yet at times competitive personality. I believe this has made me strive to do my best and work hard at my hobbies and interests. I have always been interested in sport; mainly football, which I had played in a team for the last 10 years up until recently and would quickly take this up again. I would be a valued member of the football community at university because of my commitment, leadership and constant motivation not only to me, but my team mates too; assets that I believe have become strong from my time at Air Cadets. I'm keen on skiing and would love to get involved in some of the opportunities available to me at university and perhaps gain qualifications such as instructing. I'm determined to broaden my horizons and experience amazing things by trying out new activities ranging from skydiving to ice hockey. I hope to be able to bring my interest in music to the community by joining clubs or societies. Being in a band and performing in front of audiences has given me the confidence to present myself in front of others and taught me to value the input, qualities and ideas people can provide. It has built on my communication skills; which is an undoubtedly crucial attributes to any team sport or event and most areas of life.

## History

The first thing to really excite me was reading about history. As a child, I was fascinated with the medieval period, and spent much of my childhood travelling to sites of interest with my grandparents. This love of history has carried forward to this day, and the same delight that I found as a child in those tales is still very much alive. It is my intention to continue to expand my knowledge and formally examine historical nuances locally, nationally and globally through the opportunities of university study.

My skills are as diverse as the periods that appeal to me. Throughout my Sixth Form education I have attempted to maintain broad academic horizons. This has led me to undertake the AQA Extended Project Course, which has been especially beneficial in preparing for further academic study. The course allowed me to develop research and written communication skills, already of importance in my A Level courses, to a more refined degree. The experience of a more independent academic study has been insightful and thought-provoking, and has allowed me to explore different subjects; theology and its socio-political impact. Moreover, my more conventional A Level choices have allowed for academic development, with a key focus on debating and close analysis skills in both English Literature and History allowing for a more complex style of written argument. My science based subjects, whilst not directly linked to my primary interests, have been beneficial in providing a differing view and approach to study; namely one which is more empirical and logical. This differing view point has led to a more logical and methodical style and been helpful in understanding the views of others; a critical skill in any matter. Ultimately however, my diverse range of studies has produced a flexible and diverse skill set which I previously did not have.

I have managed to make myself a valued contributor to the community at large. The best example of this is my running of the school's war-gaming club. Throughout my time as a member of the group, I have been pivotal in making it more popular and well recognised. I also take pride in my co-operation with the staff of the school in this, dealing personally with staff for administrative reasons. In later years I have also broadened my skills, dealing personally with member concerns, and taking an active role in managing the finances. I feel it has been beneficial to take a more managerial role, as it has made me more organised, and allowed me to shoulder more responsibility. Beyond the school community I have also taken part in the Derby Museum Youth Forum. Having spent a good deal of time in the Museum in my youth, I am both enthusiastic and determined to help the group as much as I can. The Forum has allowed me to interact with others who share my passions, across all ages, and has improved my communication and team work skills, whilst presenting a practical way for me to influence the local community at large. I feel that educating the members of the Forum is a key principle, especially with regards to History; it allows our collective experiences and knowledge to reach other generations. I am also pleased to have been allowed a greater role in the conservation of the collections. I feel that it is important that the collection, much of which remains unseen or undocumented, is appreciated by as wide an audience as possible. I hope to apply this long standing passion, determination and skill set to a fulfilling university life. Beyond my long standing love of History I am equally as enamoured with study of other fields, principally exploring the social and political wider world. Most significantly, I enjoy the diversity this offers me. I also make every attempt to improve my community, applying my passions directly, and hope to do so at University. Ultimately, it is a long standing desire to study history to a professional level, and applying this knowledge to the field in the future.

## Psychology

I know my own mind, and I want to know everyone else's too. I'm interested in psychology, because I'm interested in people, the human mind is one of the most complex and misunderstood parts of the human body and of the natural world, with so little known about its innermost workings or about the concept of conscious thought, memory and perception- which are the crucial building blocks of what makes us human. I think psychology is a fascinating subject that is ever changing and evolving with new theories and debates that have the capacity to affect us all.

I took psychology at GCSE and loved it, the new angle of looking at things and the topics that were so transferrable to everyday life. But most of all it made me eager to learn more and gain as many relevant skills as possible. By taking counselling enrichment classes in sixth form I learnt about body language and improving my communication skills. Similarly, I did in-class support with a psychology teacher enriching my knowledge by aiding others with their learning of the subject, showing my enthusiasm and dedication, and making me want to pursue psychology further and eventually as a career.

I have also enjoyed reading around the subject, such as the case of Clive Wearing whose illness of the brain caused him to be left with a seven second memory and an inability to form any new memories, as well as George Orwell's novel 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' with its infamous line 'Big Brother Is Watching You' depicting incessant public mind control as a result of surveillance and forced ideologies both of which hugely inspired me. As did my voluntary work at the mental health charity 'Mind' in their charity shop and my fundraising for Voice UK of which both strengthened my sense of empathy, open-mindedness and compassion for others. Studying psychology at A level only cemented my resolve to do psychology at university and as a career, as we looked into topics in more depth, analysing and evaluating approaches in psychopathology, cognitive, biological and social psychology. It really enriched my knowledge and helped me develop many practical skills in analysing and applying research to real life situations. A level Sociology also aided my knowledge of the psychology of societies and different groups of people, helping me learn to write up other people's theories concisely, interpret results from experiments and draw accurate conclusions as well as evaluating the usefulness of the findings and the practical implications in society whether culturally, politically or on an individual level. Furthermore, A level Biology helped my comprehension of the physiological components of the human behaviour and psychological problems in areas like brain structure and neurotransmitters, stress, genetics and hereditary diseases that affect the brain. With biological treatment for these such as electroconvulsive therapy and medication like antidepressants and antipsychotics I learnt more about these when doing work experience at a pharmacy which increased my time management and confidence in all areas.

I want to do psychology at university as it has such a varied content, and I believe I have the qualities to aid me in each aspect; I am used to working with a variety of people which I believe is important within the social sciences- with voluntary work at Gayton Junior School and Arboretum Infant School working with children of all ages, abilities and nationalities in art and sport activities. Not only was it fun and rewarding in itself, I gained my Junior Sports Leaders Award and won The Thompson Sports Leaders Award. Also through my part time lifeguarding and sales assistant jobs I learnt self motivation and how to balance work and my social life, which I think is very important (for my own mental stability if nothing else.) So for these reasons I believe I will be an asset to the university primarily because I possess qualities that are necessary to succeed.

## Law

There is little that is more important to a civilised and healthy society than a fair and just legal system. Law is the bedrock that our community is built on, protecting our individual liberty, our basic human rights and facilitating a respectful and productive environment. When visiting a Solicitor with my mum I saw the fundamental role a Solicitor plays within our society, aiding individuals to have their side voiced and highlighting the equality we all deserve. This is what fuels my ambition to become a Solicitor, a respected career which constantly involves interacting with those relying on you to bring the truth to light and to keep law and order.

The different approaches to learning I have gained through my A level subjects form a strong foundation for the more advanced skills I will need whilst studying law at a higher level. Studying History has enabled me to improve my analytical skills when interpreting different sources of information, formulating an argument and reaching a clear judgment. When discussing Philosophical and Ethical issues I have been able to debate with those who have alternative views, allowing me to acknowledge a viewpoint and to argue against it successfully. As many of the debates argued are current legal issues, I feel that having this experience will aid me when joining Mooting Societies. My English Literature course has also aided me in writing concisely and reading and understanding texts, and improved my essay, research and time management skills.

When volunteering at the Citizens Advice and Law centre, the enjoyable experience involved me meeting people of all backgrounds, allowing me to utilise my communication skills and expand my awareness of the kind of problems people face everyday. Experience within the office of an Advice Bureau has helped me keep up with the current legal and social issues. The experience increased my confidence when dealing with a broad range of people and legal scenarios; this increased my passion for Law and desire to be actively involved with the legal system. The Cambridge University Law Conference I attended gave me an insight into degree level law, which reassured me that Law is the subject for me. My favourite experience, a thought provoking debate on whether prisoners should be allowed to vote at the Cambridge Union, was very stimulating. It involved hearing a diverse range of views and I was given the opportunity to voice my opinion. Attending Master classes gave me an insight into university life and the opportunity to work alongside a diverse range of people. Away from the classroom being a Millennium Ambassador has enabled me to work with students applying for sixth form and colleges. Within the scheme, I worked with groups of students giving advice and information of my experience at Sixth Form through a presentation which received a good response. Having taken part in a Literacy Leaders scheme, I worked in a group to plan an English lesson for primary school children. As well as it being a very enjoyable experience, I also developed leadership skills when working with the group to produce resources and a lesson plan and delivered it well. Away from my studies I enjoy baking, decorating and ice skating alongside working within my community. To improve the lives of others, I have been a member of a Youth Network where I have contributed my ideas for events and charity fundraisers.

I understand that studying law is a demanding field however I believe I have the motivation, determination and the ability to rise to these challenges. The prospect of pursuing a career as a solicitor is something that genuinely excites me as I firmly believe that I will be able to use the skills and education to help people in need and make a difference.

## Primary Education

"Education means inspiring someone's mind, not just filling their head." Katie Lusk. Having been fortunate enough to have been taught by people who perpetuate this truism, linked to my belief that Primary Education plays a crucial role in grasping the basics, I have decided to choose Teaching as my vocation.

I feel that my A Level subjects are extremely relevant and varied enough to enable me to become a proficient teacher. Social sciences have helped me to express myself in a concise, precise manner. Psychology has taught me about cognitive development and the way in which children learn and develop as they grow. Religious Studies has also highlighted the wide range of cultures in Britain today, and the need for educating children about the diverse population in order to preserve racial and cultural harmony. Geography has also taught me about the world around us, and how it is changing and developing, and the need to protect and value the environment in which we live in. I feel that all of this knowledge forms intrinsic strands of the National Curriculum and will certainly be beneficial in my teaching career.

I have accrued a wide range of work experience in the last 3 years, across the Key Stages 1 and 2. I particularly enjoyed my first placement as a Year 11 student working with Year 1 and 2 classes at a Catholic Primary School where I assumed the duties of a Classroom Assistant; leading activities, assisting the children and preparing resources. I felt that this opportunity was vital in securing my firm belief that this vocation was what I wanted to pursue in later life. I was particularly fortunate to acquire work experience at Ivy House Special School; where children have physical and/or mental disabilities and special needs that require constant, one-to-one care. Initially I was allowed to participate in group activities and later, individual work with some of the children. This placement highlighted the complexities of some children's needs and the creative ways in which they were met. A placement as a Year 6 Classroom Assistant at an inner city school exposed me to children from a diverse range of backgrounds; some also had learning and/or behavioural issues. This experience presented a different set of issues and again I observed innovative solutions to them. I am currently working, one afternoon a week, at a Private Day Care Facility that caters for children aged 3 months to 8 years old, where I assist with children in each of the age ranges. Similarly, whilst in sixth form, I've been a 'Literacy Leader'; planning and delivering a series of 20 minute Literacy lessons to Year 6 students from a local school and a 'Millennium Ambassador'; leading a Year 8 class' activities and prompting discussions.

My family and I have been closely linked, in various capacities, for over 25 years, with Derby Congregational Cricket Club, myself as scorer. In 2010 we helped organise a successful Charity match that raised money for the British Heart Foundation and, of personal relevance, awareness of the proposed closure of the Children's Cardiac Unit at Glenfield Hospital. In 2006 and 2011 I also ran the 'Race for Life' raising funds for Cancer Research. These attributes linked to my vast experience I feel equip me for a degree in Primary Education.

My experiences have afforded me a privileged insight into teaching, confirming that this is the career for me. I am highly organised, capable, and fully committed to pursuing my ambitions. I would relish the opportunities and challenges that studying at undergraduate level would bring. To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you." I try to live by this quotation believing that making the most of myself could, in turn, play a vital part in developing the lives of so many others.

## English

My passion for literature began when I was young, thanks to the story CDs I listened to before going to bed, with novels such as 'Around the World in 80 Days' showing me how exciting literature can be. Fogg's travels are exciting to read, but also shows that through hard work, you can achieve anything, a view I agree with. Creating vivid pictures in your mind, simply through word choice is mesmerising and this is why I endorse the reader response theory. I try to read books from various times, such as 'The History of Mr Polly', which captivated me due to the insight it gave into life in the Edwardian times and modern novels such as 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time'; the narrative used by Haddon is impressive as it gives an insight into life as an Asperger's syndrome, but I feel the plot is unrealistic.

German is also a passion of mine; I take pleasure in learning languages, as they help broaden your horizons and open the doors to countless opportunities in future life. It annoys me when I see English people abroad refusing to learn any languages yet have the arrogance to expect everyone else to speak English. In my free periods I have been visiting lower school German classes in order to pass on my skills as well as promoting the virtues of studying a language. I have helped the students with writing and grammar as well as reading to them in order to progress their listening skills. I have been reading 'Die letzten Kinder von Schewenborn' (Pausewang), which has helped immensely by increasing my vocabulary. The grammar is quite complex, however, once understood, I have been able to notice parallels with English and incorporate such knowledge into my essay writing.

The application of my A-Level subjects; English Literature, History, German and Maths make understanding each other easier. Language is an ever evolving medium and understanding History helps me to comprehend this, as modern texts are full of language born out of the past. My knowledge of historical context also helps make understanding literature easier. Similarly, the problem solving ability in Maths helps me in other subjects as the logical approach to a challenging equation mirrors the planning process that takes place before writing an essay.

My aim is to become a journalist; due to the exciting and varied nature of the work, and the thrill of seeing my use of language shape people's understanding of current affairs. I have completed work experience in the University of Derby's press office, shadowed the editor of the Burton Mail for a day and visited the Midlands Today TV studio; I am about to undertake work experience as a marketing assistant for Derbyshire County Council. The experiences gained through these visits gave a valuable insight into the world of the media. The pride shown reporting a good news story showed me the excitement and pleasure that can come from journalism, as has the book 'Searching for Heroes' by Ian Wooldridge, the sports journalist. My work on the successful LCS Express (For the TES Newsday Competition), offered journalistic experience, my interview with Olympian Ross Davenport being a highlight. The thrill of turning notes into a fully fledged story and the buzz of seeing your work published in a paper was fantastic, as was winning one of the 2011 Derby Learning for Living Awards, as a result of my poem campaigning for the rebuilding of my school.

I would describe myself as committed and organised, shown by my ability to manage studies whilst playing for a senior hockey team, umpiring and fundraising for a World Challenge expedition to Morocco. I believe that the future prosperity of the world is reliant upon written and international communication. This is why I'm driven to develop my skills in these fields and I would relish the chance to show you this.

## Sociology

Humans are complex beings and without effective communication societies wouldn't exist. I am fascinated by the evolution of behaviour and technology; humans have developed from living as primitive beings to creating civilisations and controlling each other in many ways. It is in our nature to live in communities in order to survive and I am eager to continue my studies and develop a deeper understanding of the ideas that seek to explain our complex world.

Studying Sociology has encouraged me to take a more mature interest in current affairs and try to establish possible Sociological, Psychological and Historical connections to particular events. For example, the summer riots of 2011 could reflect issues that arise in the Crime and Deviance module; perhaps the economic crisis resulted in people taking their anger out through crime or the negative portrayal of youths encouraged them to comply with this stereotype. In different cultures and in different periods of history the actions that are defined as criminal or deviant and their consequences vary. This could be reflected in the debates about the punishment a person should face for committing serious or petty crime in those riots.

Studying History alongside Sociology enables me to use the content of each to support my understanding in the other subject. It has been intriguing to analyse America from its emergence as a new country and revolution and to consider the successfulness of the policies which helped America create new societies and cultures and become the most powerful country in the world. Through continuing to study History I have improved my critical thinking and analysis skills, moreover I am more able to select relevant material to support my arguments. I am confident at presenting material to different audiences using traditional methods as well as using new technologies.

Psychology and Sociology also complement each other. I found it extraordinarily interesting to explore possible explanations of how an individual conforms as illustrated by Zimbardo's experiment where individuals act with the group to be accepted and may possibly internalise the group's beliefs. Social Psychology attempts to explain the actions of Nazi soldiers in which they dehumanised victims in the concentration camps.

Visiting the Auschwitz concentration camp through the Holocaust Educational Trust was a fantastic but emotional experience; the contrast between the ordinary buildings and the horrific acts committed against humanity was unimaginable: seeing a corridor full of shoes, including those of small babies, and masses of blonde hair affected me deeply. In the lesson I taught at school and the work I produced for the University of Hull, I tried to use my experiences to show the effect these horrific events have had on future society's views on discrimination and equality.

Working part-time as a lifeguard is a huge responsibility and a commitment. I train each month with my team. I come in to contact with members of the public from all ages which has heightened my communication skills and self-confidence. Taster sessions at Ambitions Nottingham were fascinating and improved my debating skills and ability to consider other views on current political issues; such as immigration, the current economic situation and the decline of the Western economy. Societies are influenced by each other and must adapt in order to survive, if they don't civilisations can be lost. I consider myself to be a good citizen.

Throughout my secondary school life have been a Peer Mentor and Student Ambassador; supporting younger student's transitions from primary school and helping older students prepare for exams.

University will allow me to indulge my growing interest in Society and how individuals respond to the changes caused by nature and technology.

## Geology

"I am here tracing the History of the Earth itself, from its own Monuments." (Jean André Deluc) This quote embodies my fascination with the study of Geology. Studying Earth's geological history via the fossil record and by sedimentary and igneous structures present today are critical to finding resources essential for industry and manufacturing. I find this expansive area of study intriguing and valuable.

During my time studying Geology, I have visited several places of geological interest - including Ercall Quarry, Wenlock Edge and the Isle of Arran off western Scotland. There are many interesting geological features in and around Ercall Quarry including the symmetrical ripple marks, dipping beds of orthoquartzite, a granite intrusion and some rhyolitic lava flows near the entrance to it. At Wenlock Edge there is highly fossiliferous limestone which has a large variety of sea creatures held within it. Seeing geological features within actual outcrops helped further my understanding of the processes that went on to form them. Similarly, it gave me a chance to apply the knowledge which before had only been used in classroom situations. Seeing the fossils at Wenlock Edge really helped visualise continental movement which in turn increased my insight into different depositional environments and what rocks form in specific environments.

We visited Arran as part of our Geology coursework which is titled "The Nature and Occurrence of Igneous Intrusions on Arran" so we studied the two main igneous features on Arran; the significant dyke presence on the south side of the island and that large granite batholith on the north section of the island. Studying the granite gave me an idea of the sort of size that intrusions could reach and how they vary next to the country rock. When studying how the dykes varied in composition it showed me how things on a local scale can vary quite significantly - and as a geologist you have to work out why. I can see how all aspects of Geology work together to help confront any geological problem you could get and solve it appropriately. After undertaking fieldwork I have seen how vast the study of Geology is and how it relates to real world applications.

I am currently finishing my Duke of Edinburgh Gold award after having previously completed the Bronze and Silver awards. As part of the award I have completed 6 months of skill, 12 months of physical recreation and 12 months of service. For my skill, I took part in the Engineering Education Scheme which is a national scheme that gives an engineering problem set by a company to a group of four young people. As a group we had to design, build, test and evaluate the project including making a full written report - all of which was submitted back to the company. As part of the project, our team completed a residential weekend at Loughborough University where we built our product. To conclude our project, we presented our product to a board of head engineers where our presentation skills were assessed. For my physical recreation I chose to do a mixture of mountain biking and cycling. For my service section, I worked at my local Oxfam store every week. I do a variety of different jobs, mostly centred on sorting stock and moving to where it needs to be. Doing this regular voluntary work has really helped with my team working skills along with independent working skills. It has also given me an idea of how a working environment would be. Along with those commitments, I also undertook a four day, three night's expedition in Wales. This was planned independently by my group and I and once we were out walking we were completely self sufficient from start to end.

Along with my passion for the outdoors and my hunger for knowledge, my enthusiasm for Earth's ancient past and the resources found within it leads me to want to study for a degree in Geology. Completing a degree will help satisfy these needs and lead onto a prosperous career in field.