

My passion for studying medicine

Psychology, Success



My passion for medicine stems from a long standing interest in genes and genetic disorders. This interest was increased when I attended a 'Biology in Action' event and heard a compelling talk exploring how early detection of oesophageal cancer is enabled by genome sequencing and how this can result in life-saving treatment. I would very much like to put my love of science to good use in helping people to overcome illness through studying for a degree in Medicine.

Work experience at a local hospital showed me the vital role of teamwork in the multiple disciplinary situation. I also saw how stressful the hospital environment can be for both patients, doctors and other staff. I witnessed bowel surgery where complications arose causing pressure as surgeons battled with an unexpected occurrence and the anticipated length of the surgery increased dramatically. However, I also got to see the gratitude and admiration patients extend to doctors and was particularly moved watching a baby being born via caesarean section as it really made me appreciate the care and dedication doctors put into life-changing situations. Attending a pre-med course, I vividly remember one doctor describing the emotional turmoil faced when having to inform family of a close relative's death. This opened my eyes to the range of challenges that doctors face and how important it is to show integrity and take an honest approach. Listening to a BMJ podcast on medical ethics, I was especially challenged by a discussion titled, 'Infanticide is sometimes justified'. Initially, I was mystified by the title. However, as the discussion progressed, I was able to recognise the range of factors that can lead doctors to advise the termination of pregnancy

and saw that in coming to a medical decision, it is vital to have a clear prior understanding of the diverse range of positives and negatives.

In order to improve my approach when being presented with ethical situations, I completed a MOOC on Bioethics. Here, I learnt to discuss, with others via a forum, the key moral and ethical objections towards a topic. Studying Biology at A-level has opened my mind to the complexities of the body, especially the circulatory and nervous systems where specific sequences of events result in the most minuscule of actions. My interest in human anatomy and physiology led me to conduct independent research linking the topics I was learning in lessons to Medicine. For example, research on how benzene is carcinogenic. Studying Chemistry has developed my problem-solving ability and shown me the vital importance of paying close attention to detail.

Through volunteering with disabled children, I have gained experience in putting my empathy to best use. Receiving training in how to understand and communicate with the young disabled people, has been immensely valuable and inspired me to learn Makaton sign language. Through this training, I also appreciate and understand the importance of confidentiality. Playing chess, I enjoy the opportunity to quickly identify and manage complex strategies and situations. I am also self-taught in playing the piano and driven by a determination to improve my performance. Achieving a bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, required me to work closely with a team to overcome obstacles in order to reach a common goal. I gained practice in goal setting and becoming adapted quickly to new environments. At school, I

have a role as a prefect; through this, I have developed strong time keeping and communication skills. I have particularly enjoyed listening to the concerns of younger students and learning how to show concern without always being able to offer solutions.

Medicine is emotionally and mentally challenging; my passion for science and helping others only drives me to meet these challenges head-on. By studying Medicine I aspire to gain a deeper knowledge of genetics and inherited disease in a way that will further shape our community and make a positive impact on people's lives.