

BIOLOGY

From a very early age I have been captivated by all scientific subjects, but biology in particular stands head and shoulders above all others as the area in which I am most interested. What began as a childhood fascination with the natural world has developed and matured over my secondary school years. I have found that as my knowledge and understanding increases, I become ever more motivated to delve deeper into the subject. What thrills me most about studying biology is discovering things that amaze me, over and over again. The notion that life has taken material that would otherwise make up something as commonplace as a rock and combined it to create incredibly complex living, breathing organisms inspires me greatly. I love the fact that things we take for granted such as the power of thought or the many processes required just to keep us alive are in fact masterpieces of natural engineering and it is thoughts such as this that drive me to pursue a career in biology. The enjoyment and enrichment I gain from watching scientific documentaries and reading publications such as the New Scientist, to which I subscribe, has fuelled my enthusiasm for the subject even further as well as expanded my knowledge far beyond that which I have learnt in school. In my mind, understanding biology is without doubt vital to human advancement and the most important field of science. Advances in genetic engineering and its applications to solve real world problems for example, never cease to impress me and I would relish the chance to further my understanding of this and similar subjects. I would also like to develop my scientific and analytical skills in order to pursue a career in biology. It is my fascination with all biological topics that leads me to apply for biology rather than a more specific bioscience course. The opportunity to deepen my knowledge while taking a broad approach to the subject with like minded people at university would be extremely fulfilling. If given the chance, I hope to go on to postgraduate studies also.

I am a mature, dependable student and have been chosen to be a sixth form prefect, a position of responsibility. Over the last few years I have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, currently I am seeking the gold award which I find extremely rewarding, requiring commitment and perseverance. At my local sailing club I enjoy helping to train young sailors and I am often on the safety boat, responsible for their welfare.

I like a challenge and enjoy sports such as rock climbing, running and sailing. I would seek to pursue these interests and others through university clubs and societies. I regularly climb the sea cliffs of Pembrokeshire near my home with the local climbing club. As well as the physical challenge and the thrill of ever present danger in an extreme environment, I also enjoy the teamwork involved in assessing risk, problem solving and being responsible for my safety and that of others.

Last year I took part in a yacht racing week organised by the Tall Ships Youth organisation in which I, along with eight other young people, crewed a high performance racing yacht. This involved excellent communication skills, good organisation and the ability to work extremely well as a member of a team. I was subsequently asked to write an article for a local newspaper.

I am a responsible, self motivated and hardworking individual and I look forward to the academic and life opportunities that university will bring.