

VETERINARY MEDICINE

As I am constantly driven towards moments of insight through an innate need to understand, the lifetime of questioning Veterinary Medicine offers through the complexity of the discipline is both an exciting and inspiring prospect which motivates me to study veterinary science. Another satisfying aspect of learning for me is the moment of epiphany when you not only comprehend how something works, but also how it fits into a broader picture. By combining the three sciences and mathematics for my A Levels, I repeatedly enjoy these moments when making links across subject areas, such as molecular structure in Chemistry and biological molecules. Equally, witnessing embryo transfer while whilst on work experience at Cotts Farm Equine Vets brought my biology theory to life.

Relocating with my family to rural Pembrokeshire from London in 2006, gave me the opportunity to recommence horse riding, and for the past four years I have cared for my own pony. My need to know more about my horse grew, from wanting to understand digestion and the basics of correct nutrition to a fascination with anatomy and physiology. My studies in biology complemented this, but what gave me a specialised insight into equines was my afore mentioned week at Cotts Farm Equine Vets, Robeston Wathen. Accompanying a vet on call to a case later diagnosed as Grass Sickness, and following the case up afterwards demonstrated to me the uncertainties this profession provides and made me realise that reducing this by carrying out research in the future is a prospect that I definitely aspire to achieve.

In order to explore animal husbandry of more exotic beasts, I undertook a summer placement with Manor House Wildlife Park. I found it particularly interesting to see the way exotic animals were cared for and how this differed from native animals and livestock who provide a farmer's living. My experience with farming has included regular milking at Little Pencoed Farm, Lawrenny, along with assisting with TB testing. Coming from an area where TB is such a controversial issue, I found it fascinating researching the topic for my Welsh Baccalaureate individual investigation and remain interested in the outcome of the cull debate. I also completed two weeks of work experience in two mixed practices, Fenton Veterinary Practice, Haverfordwest and Tenby Vets. At both practices I found it eye-opening to see how at practices in a rural community both the large and small animals play such a large part in practice life. So that I may observe a very different aspect of the Veterinary profession, I spent a day at Maddock Kembrey Meats Abattoir, Maesteg. Seeing each role the OV performed was outside my academic studies I have participated in Youth Speaks, a national team debating competition. Each year my team and I have discussed topical science-based subjects, such as Gene Patenting and "Whether Science Belongs in the Media". As a team we have won the first round each year, and been successful in the regional competition, placing second on the two more recent occasions. In addition to these team awards, I have won three individual awards for best opposer.

In sixth form I act as one of a team of CHIP's, part of a Childline initiative, helping and mentoring younger students with problems they encounter in and out of school. This has given me greater insight into how to help people effectively and I believe this experience contributed to my successful election as a senior prefect. This role has taught me about responsibility and listening to people, two qualities I see as imperative to a successful veterinary career.

I have enjoyed further developing my understanding of all aspects of the sciences and mathematics, but would like to expand this further by studying the anatomy and biochemistry of the wide range of species covered by the subject. I hope that by studying Veterinary Science at university I could achieve this, as well as gaining many more invaluable life experiences