

ANIMAL SCIENCE/STUDIES

My sole infatuation has always been for animals. The opportunity of dedicating my time to study the physical and biological aspects would be a fascinating experience. I possess an inquisitive mind for science and I am inspired by the physiology and mentality of organisms and wish to take this asset to a higher level. Attending the Vet Med Link course at Nottingham University confirmed that animal science was a study suited for me.

The three subjects I am studying for A level are science based. Biology is a fascinating course with enthralling contents from a microscopic to macroscopic parallax, asserting my appreciation for organisms and the desire to understand and answer questions. Chemistry is mentally challenging but the foundations to my scientific knowledge allowing me to understand biochemistry, making reality of biological processes as well as improving my practical skills. The varied subject of Geography amazes me by the natural architecture of the land and on my Duke of Edinburgh hikes the ability to appreciate and share with my team the evolution of the land was a credit to my enjoyment.

A weeks work experience spent at Cotts Equine Hospital, and Tenby Vets were unique experiences. I observed consultations and operations on a minor and major scale. This was a medically stimulating insight into the diversity of cases and care needed for different species. Lambing was a brilliant sense of achievement helping ewes lamb both normal births and breeched, as well as being able to observe behavioural patterns both pre and post lambing and adoption techniques giving me an insight into the psychological side of animal science. I was fortunate enough to land a placement at a farm that hand rears calves under a New Zealand method, being able to observe how the calves cope with substitutes to milk and being orphaned. I also had to fill out over 300 passports giving me an insight into the livestock monitoring system. A week spent with the County Council Animal Welfare department enabled me to understand the Animal Welfare Act of 2006, and the regulations and actions taken to prevent the spread of disease after the Foot and Mouth Epidemic. The duration of my time there, helped to develop my opinion on current ethical debates on going in society, such as the badger cull proposals in Wales.

I have worked in the summer for a local riding centre gaining certificates such as, BHS Horse Owners Certificate Level 1, ABRS Stable Certificate, Teachers Assistant Certificate and up to Equitation Three. The benefit of dealing with the public has increased in my confidence and improved my communication skills. In my spare time I am an active member in the local Pony Club participating in activities from cross country training, to rallies obtaining a silver award in the progression tests and various achievement badges.

My responsibilities in school include a role as a CHIP peer mentor in which I'm trained to support lower school students who have problems or are being bullied. The scheme has encouraged my articulation and ability to listen and provide sympathy and resolution. Also I have taken part in fund raising activities holding stalls for charities developing my organisation and dedication to tasks. I am a committed member of the school orchestra representing the school in music festivals playing the violin. I am most proud of completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award. This has developed my teamwork, determination and problem solving skills. For the award I volunteered in a local Red Cross charity shop, which increased my capabilities in dealing with the public, presenting me with a Certificate in retail skills.

I would find studies in animal science stimulating and challenging and look forward to expanding my knowledge and furthering my education.