

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

During history at GCSE level, I remember a particularly distressing image, which at the time was beyond my comprehension. The image was of Kim Phuc, a young North Vietnamese girl, running whilst on fire, due to a South Vietnamese napalm bomb. Stunned, I could not fathom how South Vietnam could resort to such brutal means. This draws me to International Relations as it is the opportunity to study in-depth, motivations behind political leaders and how their actions can have such a profound effect on others.

Haiti is recovering from the catastrophic earthquake that occurred in January 2010. Being one of the western hemispheres poorest countries, their recovery will rely almost totally on the response of other nations and what is pledged to Haiti in the form of aid and relief. It is in devastating crises such as these that countries are forced to depend on international relations in order to restore stability to shattered nations. This reinforces the reasons why I want to pursue a degree in International Relations as when I envisage my future career, I would find nothing more challenging or rewarding than becoming involved in charitable organisations, allowing me to have some input into aiding those in need.

I am currently studying English Literature, History and Psychology. With English, I have created an enthusiastic and confident style of writing. I have learnt to analyse in depth and originally, whilst remaining focused. I found English most inspiring as at AS, we studied a favourite novel of mine, 'The Kite Runner'. Studying this novel in such depth was fascinating to me as the novel reveals the daily struggles of innocent civilians brought about by war and a regime of terror and oppression. I have always been passionate about History as from a very young age, I learned of my Grandmother's experiences of WWII. Subsequently, her stories brought history alive to me, sparking my growing passion for the subject. Studying the escalating tensions towards war, due to foreign policies of the European powers was of particular interest. This was my first insight into international relations and I have enjoyed developing the evaluations and judgements involved in writing essays, strengthening my ability to write in an analytical and evaluative style. I feel psychology will be beneficial when learning of the morals, ethics and motives of war. Psychology has not only broadened my perceptions and knowledge of others but myself, too. I have found that Psychology has nurtured my analytical skills due to studying a vast range of theories and ideas.

During sixth form, I have enjoyed my role as senior prefect, enabling me to become actively involved in decision makings for my peers, giving me invaluable experience of working with responsibilities and as part of a team. I participated in the production of our annual sixth form show which was particularly fun as well as taking part in the organising of fundraising events, benefiting not only sixth formers but the entire school community. I participated in Childline's CHIPS scheme which was very rewarding for my empathetic self as it was an opportunity to connect with the younger pupils and I enjoyed being available to support them. In 2008 I took part in a two week exchange, improving my French language. Also, during my studies I have maintained a part-time job as a waitress in a lively local pub/restaurant. This will benefit me whilst living in university as I am no stranger to independence.

Once my studies in sixth form have ended, I plan to embark on a year out to travel, volunteer and pursue different experiences, feeding my hunger for adventure. In this productive year I aim to submerge myself in the diversity and ways of other cultures, granting me varied perspectives which will undoubtedly aid my potential studies of international relations.