

LAND ECONOMY

With the world's natural resources diminishing and the population ever increasing, an understanding of the way the world functions, and knowledge of the underlying processes are vital in solving global problems. Growing up on a farm in rural Wales I have become aware of some of these issues, for example, the need to balance productive agriculture and protecting the natural environment, whilst feeding the rapidly growing population. Furthermore, I began to realise that the macro policies of governments hugely affect the livelihood of the individual micro farm unit.

This spring, I was fortunate to participate in an undergraduate Shadowing Scheme at the University of Cambridge, and shadowed a Land Economist, which gave me an insight into the complexities of law, economics and the environment, and a realisation that I wanted to pursue my studies in these areas.

My A level choices reflect my broad interests; Geography captivates me, in trying to put mankind's relationship with the Earth into the context of long term sustainability. I relish exploring the social, economic and environmental issues as well as the scientific study. In particular I have enjoyed learning about the dynamics of the environment and development, especially concerning the growing demand for energy coupled with an increased awareness of climate change. History has taught me to think analytically and recognise the concept of causality, a key idea when developing arguments. There is no period in history that has not been shaped by influential legal issues, policies and the intricacies of treaties and agreements. Finally, Maths and Physics have presented opportunities to think logically, apply formulae and methods to approach specific problems. Maths has given me a good statistical grounding. I am replacing Physics by studying independently for an AS in Economics, being inspired by my experience at Cambridge, and by reading about the sheer breadth of economic analysis as illustrated in 'Freakonomics' and 'SuperFreakonomics' by Levitt and Dubner. For my WBQ investigation I explored the EU's CAP reform, in particular the Single Payment Scheme and studied how the different approaches to the subsidy affected the farmers. From this, I now understand more about the rural economy and the implications of the old 'trade distorting' subsidies.

Indeed, although I welcome the challenge of all these subjects, increasingly I find myself relating my skills and knowledge back to the central problem of how we live in this world. Consequently, I have secured an additional placement with the new local Power Station's Environmental Department, looking at their policies, balancing the need for power sources, local employment and sustainability within the rural community.

Work experience with the National Trust enabled me to understand the scale on which the Charity works and the immense organisation that is needed to run it efficiently. I was particularly interested in the problem solving issues which surrounded each individual property gift to the Trust and was impressed by the environmental conservation and preservation work performed by the Trust, but questioned the lack of agricultural outputs. I am fastidious in my work and feel this is reflected in my GCSE and AS level results. The ability to organise my school life and study has allowed me to take part in many activities. I have represented Wales in Pony Club Tetrathlon, Pembrokeshire Schools in cross country running and regularly compete in Horse Trials. I play the flute in School and County Orchestras and I am leader of the School Wind Band. As a Senior Prefect, I have been involved in an anti-bullying scheme, the lower school environment club, and charity fundraising, which have enhanced my communication and leadership skills.

I look forward to furthering my education and to tackling the challenge that the relationships between resource and demand, mankind and nature, will present in the future