

## Personal Statement: Medicine

I have always found the human body mesmerising. It is an extraordinary mechanism that can accomplish feats that still amaze the most profound medical professionals on a daily basis. I have known from a very young age that I wanted to become a doctor, and feel that a degree in medicine combines an exciting mix of the theoretical and practical. I am an extremely hard working individual who relishes the opportunity for a challenge, and know that whilst studying medicine will be one of the most significant tests of my life, it will also be one of the most rewarding.

Science has always been my favourite subject, with both biology and chemistry helping me further understand and appreciate the power of the human body and how it works. At A-level, I chose to combine biology and chemistry with religious and ethical studies, as I feel that it is crucial for a doctor to understand the moral implications of the decisions they make. Helping people is the primary goal of a physician, and I want to ensure I am fully invested in order to make the best decisions for individuals who need my assistance.

Medically, I have a particular interest in dermatology, and hope to specialise in this discipline after foundation training. I believe that dermatology is an often-overlooked specialisation, but it has always enthralled me. The skin is the largest organ in the human body and can host the greatest number of diseases, many of which are life threatening. In addition, dermatology can make a significant difference not only to a patient's physical wellbeing, but also to their psychological health. Many dermatological maladies have very visible symptoms, such as alopecia, psoriasis, and eczema. I am driven to help people overcome these illnesses and provide them with the self-esteem that may have been waning due to these diseases.

For the past year, I have spent weekends working in a local residential home for patients with physical and learning disabilities. I had the privilege of reading to them, playing games with them, and providing basic care. Last summer, I was also asked to accompany a small group on a weekend away. This was an eye-opening trip for me during which I gained a vast amount of hands-on experience, as well as honing my communication and caring skills.

I have spent time shadowing many doctors at work over the last two years. I have sat in with a GP at both their practice and on home visits, and have also spent time working alongside a pharmacist, where I was able to experience first-hand the science behind

drugs and prescriptions. This time working with medical professionals helped to provide me with significant insight into what it is like working in a medical setting. I was also able to build my confidence and communication skills when speaking to both patients and doctors.

When it comes to extra-curricular interests, I have several passions. One of my favourite hobbies is representing my school and county as a hockey player. As the captain of my team, hockey has provided me with an outlet to remain healthy and exercise my body, as well as showing me what it means to work as a team and be a leader, which I believe translates well into my future career as a doctor. I've also completed Gold level DofE, am a Sixth Form prefect, and am President of my school's Science Club.

I am an avid reader, and find that literature is a welcome release after a busy day. I have an affinity for gripping thrillers, including my recent favourites *Girl On The Train* and *I Let You Go*. However, I recently read Paul Kalanithi's memoir, *When Breath Becomes Air* – a book that has profoundly changed my perspective on life and death.

I'm enthusiastic, engaged, hardworking and committed. I'm curious about people and the world around me. I care deeply about others and want to make a difference. I love meeting new people and building lasting friendships. Most importantly, I have a will to help others improve their lives and rebuild their health. All of these factors have strengthened my desire to pursue a degree in medicine and become a doctor.