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EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Economics and Maths)

Given the current economic climate, this combined course holds tremendous interest for me. We live in a time when we should be able to predict crises such as the recent subprime mortgage problem and the run on the banks; we were even given decades notice by Kondratieff and Ralph Elliot whose models predicted the boom and bust cycles that we have seen. I believe there is no better time for us to learn from these mistakes, how these were caused and how they can be prevented in the future. I have an overriding interest in Mathematics and feel the combination of my current knowledge of this subject and learning more about Economics would be of great value to me and my future aspirations.

I have seen Mathematics touch all aspects of my education and knowledge, providing logical foundations and proof of everything I have needed to investigate. Throughout my A level study I have found Mathematics a key element in all my subjects. It plays a major role in Physics, from its use in calculations of forces to sine curves in waves, which has helped me to apply mathematical skills to real life situations. In Biology, Statistical Mathematics plays a vital role in Ecology but more amazingly it can be found within nature itself. The Fibonacci sequence provides the backbone of spirals found in such things as shells, through which we can see the beauty that lies in this subject. Surprisingly, even in History Mathematics raises its head with Game Theory, originally designed for Economics, it grew rapidly and was put to use during the Cold War. History has provided additional and complementary skills. It too uses a logical process to apply evidence to support theory. Although it is not as pure a thought process as Mathematics, it has helped me gain skills needed to develop an argument, improve my essay writing ability, and has set a foundation for producing descriptive answers which should apply well to Economics. While gaining vital skills in other areas I have also broadened the scope of my mathematical understanding discovering new methods and ideas well outside the curriculum. It is this all-encompassing nature that intrigues me about Mathematics and drives me to want to apply this to understanding the economy. As part of my work experience I spent a week shadowing the Head of IT at Bank of America Meryll Lynch, which gave me further insight into the economic climate and the use of relevant mathematical and business skills.

Throughout my academic career I have demonstrated a keen willingness to further my knowledge. Under my own initiative I undertook an AS Level Further Mathematics course from home, starting in January and completing the 3 modules in half the normal time. Demonstrating an independence and ability to study on my own, much like the kind of study I will do at university. I also finished my GCSE Maths course within the first year and for the second undertook an Additional Mathematics exam as a precursor to AS Level Maths. Throughout my secondary school education I have been in a gifted class for Mathematics and as a result I have attended many 'Gifted and Talented' workshops and was chosen to represent the school in Maths competitions. I have also taken part in many school clubs and played for the 1st team in rugby, football, cricket and athletics. I feel I am able to apply this competitive trait to many of the tasks set out before me, striving to accomplish them as best as I possibly can. I spent five weeks with Far Frontiers providing community service for several Ecuadorian villages during summer 2010. This expedition helped me develop as a person and increased my awareness of cultural diversity.

I believe that I am a well-rounded person and thoroughly enjoy competition. I am driven by any challenge and have already demonstrated my ability to study independently. The prospect of applying Mathematics to such a diverse and unpredictable economic climate is an exciting thought and one I strongly wish to pursue.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Physiotherapy)

My decision to apply to study physiotherapy was inspired by what I feel was a key realisation: that by harnessing vital skills a wide variety of conditions can be treated, not only muscle injuries, but also severe mental and neurological diseases. I regard communication, a methodical approach to learning, and intuition as qualities essential to working within physiotherapy, which I believe is one of the most dynamic health professions. They allow relationships with patients to be formed to an appropriate level, so that with the application of training and insight suitable treatments can be undertaken.

At A Level I study Biology, Sports Studies and History. History has been a subject that I have enjoyed since I was young, (at ten I was reading 'Henry VIII's Wives') yet I feel this has become a subject that I would prefer to pursue as more of a hobby. My fascination with the way in which organisms operate lead to my interest in Biology, through which I have learnt to evaluate and apply knowledge logically to new theories, a skill that I find useful in other subjects, and one that I feel would aid me were I to become a physiotherapist. Sports Studies is a surprisingly diverse subject covering an assortment of biology, history and psychology. Physiotherapy attracts me for similar reasons - it provides treatment for all ages, and in all places, from patient's homes, to hospitals and private practices.

Away from academic work, sport is a major social interest that I find both relaxing and motivating. I have been a member of the netball, rounders, basketball and hockey teams, and captain of the tennis team, (in the latter two I advanced to county level) since the beginning of secondary school. This has taught me the value of teamwork and of learning to follow instructions as well as give them. I also play in a badminton league, and have helped coach tennis for young children. In studying English Literature at AS Level, I have grown to admire many novelists (from Jane Austen to Helen Fielding) and playwrights. I have taken part in various amateur Shakespeare productions which has given me the confidence to perform in front of an audience. For the past few years, I have held jobs within Waitrose and various restaurants, and during holidays have worked on a farm. My busy schedule has taught me to balance my commitments, and through my extra-curricular activities, I have developed a wide range of interests, social skills, and organisational abilities. I can also drive a tractor!

By recently spending a day at Cirencester hospital's physiotherapy department, I was able to obtain a further understanding of the profession and reinforce my opinion that it is the career which best suits my ambition and personality. In accompanying a physiotherapist around wards, I interacted with patients and observed a range of treatment mostly for the elderly. It was evident from feedback from the physiotherapists that the progress patients achieve is the most rewarding aspect of the job. In the 'No Falls' class, there was real satisfaction in helping the elderly to feel secure and make a positive difference, and I felt it tested my ability to communicate with people of all ages. I was greatly interested by the fact that physiotherapy is used to alleviate diseases and conditions in conjunction with other treatments, for example dialysis. I observed that physiotherapy requires continual adaptation of treatment to accommodate the lifestyle, and individual, as well as a total dedication to achieve rehabilitation. I have booked further work experience at Cheltenham General Hospital.

As an active and versatile individual, I am eager to begin a new chapter of my life, in which I can exercise my drive and personality to full advantage. I believe I can do this in physiotherapy, and look forward to becoming a member of a developing and dynamic profession.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(English)

Enthrall or repulse me. Either way, books never end with the last page - even the dreary give some space for reflection. Reading has always been satisfying; it is why studying English Literature at university seems inevitable for me - it already consumes much of my life. Studying English at A Level has never seemed like a chore - although the course has been challenging, I have never felt out of my depth, achieving full marks at AS. Covering a variety of texts from different genres and periods has allowed my individual tastes to develop, as well as helping me to build a bigger picture of English Literature. Last year, I was surprised to find how much I liked studying Thomas Hardy's poetry; at first a few of his poems seemed rather intimidating and perhaps too sentimental, but I discovered that analysing his poetry in depth brought out darker and more cynical meanings, which I could relate to. Although I thoroughly enjoy English lessons, I also find inspiration and learn about literature elsewhere. I relish the chance to go to the theatre; last year I saw *The Children's Hour* and an adapted version of Dahl's *Matilda* - both different but equally inspiring performances. I found it interesting to compare the book and recent theatre production of *Dorian Gray*; although the theatre adaptation did not live up to the book's standards, it was still useful to see how texts can be interpreted in a variety of ways. I also take pleasure in reading books that are not necessarily linked to my lessons. I have been absorbed by Maggie O'Farrell's novels, in particular *The Vanishing Case of Esme Lennox*, a book which challenges stereotypical views on mental illness. I found this book particularly illuminating after listening to Maggie O'Farrell at the Cheltenham Literature Festival.

Studying English Literature, French, History at A and Art at AS Levels has worked well as all subjects have complemented each other, enabling me to gain As in all four subjects at AS. Although acquiring the skills to speak French has been difficult, I find writing and reading French relatively easy. For example, we are studying *Les Petits Enfants du Siecle*, which has highlighted similarities in English and French literature. In History, we are concentrating on the history of Russia. The political and cultural differences between Russia and England have really fascinated me, encouraging me to read *Sashenka*, a novel about the Russian Revolution. Although I reluctantly dropped Fine Art after AS Level in order to focus on my other subjects, I liked being able to express my thoughts creatively - last year I produced a personal study based on Surrealism. This movement really appealed to me, not only visually, but also because the meanings behind each work of art were incredibly thought-provoking. My contributions in all my lessons have proved me as a reliable, intelligent and eager student.

Whilst my education has really sculpted the person I have become, I feel who I am outside of school is equally important in reaching my desired goals. I love socialising as it enables me to share and discuss ideas about everything, from social issues to music and fashion. In the last few years, I have matured into an individual who is both self-aware and sensitive to others: qualities which, I hope will make me a valuable friend, student and future employee. I am extremely imaginative and take delight in painting, playing piano, cooking and running a fashion and art blog. During my work experience in Year 11, I worked at a local PR company which I found exceptionally rewarding, helping me to realise that after university I want to work with and around other people.

As a determined and driven individual, I am keenly anticipating both the academic and social aspects of university life. Although at times I can be shy and unsure of myself, I hope that university will allow me to flourish.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(History)

I intend to study History at university as I have always enjoyed the subject and have found my interest has strengthened as I have studied in greater depth. The subject is exciting, as it is so broad, covering a vast range of different topics. I love to see historical documents and sources which have a direct link to past events and lives.

I had to analyse historic sources for my AS history course work where I studied America's involvement in Vietnam and the reasons why they lost the war; I found it interesting to learn about the military and social side to the war and came top in my year with an A grade. I am most interested in European History. In recent years, family holidays have given me the opportunity to explore the history of European countries, and I intend to have saved enough money by next summer to travel in Europe and visit more of the places associated with my studies. I will also enjoy experiencing the art, architecture, landscapes and cities of those countries. I am more and more aware of the connections and links of history as one travels. Driving from Calais, down through eastern France and over the Alps into Italy is a journey through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, through the Napoleonic Wars and into the 20th century. As I have gained more knowledge, I find I am beginning to understand better how today's world has come about.

I regularly visit museums and Art galleries. Recently I went to the Imperial War Museum, where I particularly enjoyed seeing the displays of items from the period of the World Wars, which brought the subject closer to home. I often visit the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, which is not far from where I live, where the artifacts and jewellery from past civilisations fascinate me; The Alfred Jewel, found in a field in Somerset, is a superb example of this. I enjoy my other A level subjects, Art and Geography, which both seem to me to be closely allied to History. I get great satisfaction from practical work in Art and have produced some large oil paintings, but I also love Art History and over the last year I have visited The National Gallery, Tate Modern, an Eduard Vuilliard exhibition at the Royal Academy and the Saatchi Gallery. Works of Art are such vivid reminders of history, and reveal much about beliefs and attitudes to the world in the past

It is important to find out about the ideas and techniques behind the works of art, as well as the social context in which they were created. For my AS Art Personal Investigation I produced an in-depth study called 'Visions of Nature'. I chose to look at the way in which some artists fill their work with decorative objects and natural detail whilst others keep their work logical and austere. This study led me to consider how Classicism and Romanticism are characteristics which appear, repeatedly, in the art and architecture of many cultures, throughout history. Art often serves an important public or political purpose, reflecting social conditions. Jacques Louis David's work can vividly bring to life the conflicts and ideas of the French Revolution.

A level Geography explores how human and physical factors affect the world we live in today and is perhaps a more scientific study than art or history and I relish the contrast. I am currently serving on the Sixth Form Council which works as a group and makes decisions that effect the whole Sixth Form; it gives me a chance to put the views of my tutor group, and to look after their best interests. I have always taken part in sports at school and have been a member of the hockey, netball, rounders and athletic teams. I would like to continue to take part in sport at university. Outside of school, I enjoy reading fiction, visiting the cinema and dingy sailing at the local inland club and on the sea.

I hope that my application is successful as I want to study History to further my knowledge and to aim at a rewarding career. I feel that higher education would benefit me - I am sure that I would contribute a lot to my university both academically and socially.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Law)

I am an enthusiastic, determined and well-rounded student who enjoys learning and loves a challenge. I have been interested in Law from a young age; I loved watching crime dramas while growing up, evoking questions such as 'How easy is it to judge the difference between murder and manslaughter?' I would eventually like to work as either a barrister or a solicitor, so seek to learn the skills necessary in order to achieve this goal.

I have also gained an interest through my studies; I really enjoyed studying the American Civil Rights campaigns of the 20th Century in History, learning about their use of Legal cases alongside non-violent protests (such as the Browder vs. Gayle case of 1956) which eventually helped to secure their freedom. As well as History, I am currently studying French and English Literature and Language. I consider English useful for a future career in Law, as I recently studied speeches and rhetorical techniques used, and I appreciate that these techniques may be needed for a career as a solicitor or barrister. Through both English and History I have learnt analytical skills, which have helped enhance my reasoning. As for French, I believe that it is always important to know a language, and that it is invaluable in Law as I may be required to communicate with others around the world. Throughout my studies I have learnt that I am able to successfully work independently or as part of a team, and am able to learn quickly.

At school I am known for being hard-working and organised, and this year I was elected by the staff to become Head Girl; I am required to write and give speeches to audiences of varying age and size. I am also involved in Staff and School Governor Meetings. I have made the most of my time at school, taking part in a variety of clubs including playing the Clarinet (I am currently Grade 7) in the orchestra, singing in the choir, taking part in many productions, playing for the hockey team for the past 6 years and also helping to coach a younger team. In Year 11 I was awarded the John Tame Shield for outstanding achievements and contribution to the school community throughout my time at Farmor's.

I also take part in a range of activities outside of school, which include playing hockey for a local team and acting in my local theatre group. I am a confident public speaker; I have gained this confidence through parts in various theatrical productions and singing regular solos in front of audiences of up to 300 people. This is an attribute that I think would be useful in many aspects of Law. As well as playing Clarinet, I currently have my Grade 5 singing with merit. I have sung in a church choir since the age of 10, and am currently Head Chorister; responsibilities range from being in charge of the choir once a month to looking after the younger choristers and teaching them music theory and skills. This summer I was given a place on the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir. I work in my local sweet shop and babysit quite regularly. These jobs are very different and have given me a range of skills, but both require me to be reliable.

Next summer, I am planning to gain work experience in a solicitor's office shadowing a solicitor, visiting the courts and learning more about what the job requires, as well as giving me a taste of what might be to come after University! Like many, I find leaving home slightly daunting, but at the same time I relish the thought of the independence that comes with University life. I look forward to immersing myself in new surroundings, making new friends, studying something new and challenging, and making the most of every opportunity that I am given.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Medical)

My pleasure in helping others started in primary school when I was asked to teach the recorder to younger children. Apart from developing my own communication skills, I enjoyed watching the children improve. By the age of 15, my love of science, problem-solving and interacting with people drew me towards a career in medicine. My year 10 work experience was in a GP practice. There I learned the importance of a good patient-doctor relationship and also of patients feeling relaxed and confident in talking to their doctor to aid recovery. I was moved by the fact that a good doctor can make a real difference to so many people's lives. This first taste of front-line healthcare confirmed my ambition to study medicine.

At A Level I am studying chemistry, biology, maths and physics and I am eager to develop my scientific knowledge in a medical career which demands life-long learning. I have been intrigued by recent research into using fMRI to communicate with patients in a vegetative state by monitoring their brain activity in response to questions. This opens up new possibilities and new ethical concerns.

My participation in the Observership Programme at Swindon's Great Western Hospital allowed me to experience a taste of many specialities, including gynaecology, gastroenterology, dentistry and radiology, and gave me a further appreciation of the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach within healthcare. I talked to junior doctors there and we discussed some of the challenges of working in medicine, including huge responsibility, exhausting hours and other stresses. Through this and my voluntary work experience I have gained a realistic idea of medicine as a career and the hard work and determination involved. To further my understanding of a career in medicine I attended Nottingham University's Medisix conference last summer.

I have since enjoyed different types of voluntary work including regular time spent in a nursing home and a week at Woodlarks Camp Site for disabled children. At the nursing home I learned that a small investment in time by health professionals can have a huge positive, emotional impact on the life of a patient even though little else can be done to help. It also showed me the importance of trust between health professionals and the need to work as a team to provide the best care for the patient. My week at Woodlarks involved me being fully responsible for a disabled child and enabling her to enjoy a host of activities. This highlighted to me the realities of caring for someone with disabilities and it gave me experience in dealing with vulnerable, young people. I was able to teach her certain life skills as well as giving respite to her family. This strengthened my desire to work in a caring profession and showed me how rewarding that kind of work can be.

I am a keen sportswoman and represent my school at netball, hockey, tennis and athletics. I also play netball (captain) and hockey at ladies club level. I relish being part of a team and helping that team to succeed which I think is a fundamental quality for a doctor. I am a member of the school social committee, giving me the opportunity to use my organisational and communication skills. I coach the under 12s at hockey (having gained a Level 1 coaching qualification), teach gymnastics to year 7 girls and have assisted children in years 7 and 8 with reading. I was a year 11 prefect and am now Head of House.

I am hardworking, efficient, articulate and compassionate. I am determined to study medicine because it combines the learning and updating of a constantly developing body of scientific knowledge with the use of analytical thinking and interaction with many people in a team, including the patient. I am aware that medicine is as much about understanding and caring for the patient as it is about the science of treating the patient's medical condition and I feel I have the academic excellence, self discipline and determination to succeed.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Outdoor Education)

After seven years at Farmor's School, I wish to continue my studies at university in the field of Outdoor Education. My most rewarding subjects have been Sports Studies and Geography which have given me a superb insight into the natural environment and the effects it has on human performance. Having been brought up to appreciate the outdoors, I have particular interests in climbing, mountaineering, kayaking and sailing and my recreation time is spent pursuing these interests.

As climbing is my main interest, I enjoy regular trips to local crags where I lead HVS 5a and at indoor climbing walls where I lead F6b+. I particularly enjoy teaching and encouraging others to climb. This is because of the satisfaction and achievement it gives me. By passing on the knowledge and expertise I now have, it enables me to see their improvement first hand and can follow their progression through.

Throughout my life, I have been proud of my mountaineering achievements, which include the two highest mountains in Norway, various 3000m peaks in the Alps and Pyrenees and most recently, four independently organised trips to the Himalayas. I have trekked in Nepal on three occasions, once in the Annapurna region and twice in the Khumbu region where I reached a height of 5,600m. This summer I went on an expedition to Ladakh in the Indian Himalayas for six weeks, which included climbing the 6200m peak Stok Kangri. Being in these countries hasn't only given me more experience in climbing and mountaineering, but has taught me to appreciate other cultures and respect their way of life. It has shown me how these areas are affected by outdoor recreational tourism and the impact this plays on the environment. I spent my Work Experience Programme at Bendrigg Trust in the Lake District which is an Outdoor Recreation Centre for mentally and physically disabled children. I thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the Leaders when taking the children on various outdoor activities, such as climbing, abseiling, canoeing and caving. On many occasions I jointly lead groups of eight children with their carers, the challenge and experience is never to be forgotten. Helping the children participate in various new and exciting pursuits, and seeing their enjoyment in the challenges put to them, lead me to realise that I wished to follow a career in leading others in the outdoors.

For the past two years, Cotswold Outdoor Limited has employed me as a part time sales assistant. I use the skills I have acquired in the outdoors to advise customers on their purchases. I find the job very rewarding, as it gives me the opportunity to interact with others who share the same interests. The staff discount is also a bonus!

My first step now is to take a degree in the subject of Outdoors and its impact on the environment. This will help me to learn the important aspects of leadership in the outdoors and the importance of maintaining and managing the environment. At University I also hope to gain SPA, ML and BCU National Governing Body Awards. I am confident I have the determination to succeed in these areas.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Politics)

Politics, Philosophy and Economics touch every aspect of modern life. Understanding the parameters in which we live is something both frightening and fascinating, although in the shifting economic and political climate it seems that a true understanding of the political, moral and monetary governance of our society is elusive. Nevertheless, my passion rests in pursuing such an evasive quarry, even if it is impossible to capture. In fact, the perpetual investigation necessary would stimulate my academic appetite.

My week at 10 Downing Street in 2009 confirmed my interest in PPE. My work experience was in the Direct Communications Unit; I attended a press conference, replied to correspondence on behalf of the Prime Minister, and met the PM himself. The mixture of tension, excitement and accomplishment I felt assured me that I am well suited to the political jungle. After meeting many MPs and talented Civil Servants, I was inspired to undertake an Extended Project on Democracy. I began by reading Plato, Machiavelli, More, Descartes and Orwell, and then interviewed two MPs, before interviewing and surveying the sixth formers at my school. Whilst this project uncovered more questions than it answered, I found the new questions the most exciting part of the process; the tangled web, which the moral and economic implications of politics spin, entices me to try and unravel it.

English Literature and History have enabled me to develop my essay writing skills and to be analytical. I was proud to earn full marks in my AS English coursework, demonstrating my academic ability. History also gives me the opportunity to explore the political and economic systems of the past. I am strongly of the belief that we should study history in order to not repeat the mistakes of the past; this applies particularly in a political and economic context. Studying Spanish ensures that I will be able to communicate with the many people of the world who also speak Spanish. Biology exercises my logic, as did my AS Chemistry. I especially enjoyed attending university science lectures, as it allowed me to experience education at a higher level. While I couldn't fit AS maths with all my other interests, I have followed an Additional Maths course to prepare me for Economics. The variety of ideas and topics offered by the combination of PPE, is very appealing to me; my eclectic choice of A level subjects reflects the desire for diversity in my studies. However, the complementary nature of PPE, also seen within my current combination, would allow me to refine my academic abilities in a field which I both admire and intend to pursue for the rest of my life.

My school career gives evidence of my dedicated, conscientious and ambitious attitude. I have been on the school council, a Head Prefect, and a Head of House (demanding my leadership and communication skills). Public speaking competitions, being a member of the school horse riding team, and partaking in a month-long charity trip to Ecuador, have demonstrated my ability to work independently and within a group. I work best when under pressure. Having upheld two part-time jobs during my AS year, caring for children and working at a riding school for disabled people (where my responsibility and reliability are essential), whilst studying 5 AS levels, I understand how to thrive on a full schedule. I feel this would help my life as a university student. I also regularly volunteer at village charity events, and am preparing to run in the 2012 London Marathon for 'Save the Rhino'.

Studying PPE will support my ambition of becoming a senior civil servant or an MP. The prospect of university life is very exciting to me: both the independence and the opportunity to be around people who are as interested in PPE as I am. I am confident that my dedication, motivation, and vibrant character would serve me well in bringing pride to my university, and succeeding in completing an exceptional degree.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Business)

Having completed my A-levels at Farmor's School I have embarked on a gap year with the aim of increasing my independence in preparation for life at university and beyond.

My interest in business and commerce has been fuelled by my A-level Economics studies. I became particularly interested in the practical aspects of the syllabus including the module covering the application of economic theory to the way firms function and behave. I also enjoyed examining the case studies in this section of the course as they brought the subject to life for me. Similarly, in my wider reading I found 'The Undercover Economist' very stimulating as it illustrates the links between economic forces and our everyday lives. I have travelled extensively in Asia and Africa and have lived in Taiwan and Hong Kong. This has given me an appreciation of other cultures and a sense of curiosity about how they function including the diverse ways in which businesses operate in different environments.

I am excited by the prospect of learning how to analyse businesses and expanding my understanding of the totality of the business environment. I am attracted to the diverse opportunities to specialise later in my studies both to match my interests and to focus on subjects relevant to my career plans. I also recognise that this qualification is well regarded by employers and is highly relevant in many career paths.

Whilst studying Economics has helped shape my choice of degree, it was also a personal challenge to study a completely new subject. I was able to utilise skills acquired in previous studies as a springboard for success in this A-level course. I believe that this experience and my determination to succeed will be an advantage in making the transition to studying a new subject at degree level. Geography A-level involved a great deal of statistical analysis, requiring me to think logically in order to interpret data accurately. I found the 'human' modules particularly rewarding as they provided opportunities to explore interactions between a wide variety of factors which impact our lives and businesses. The A-level Sports Science syllabus highlighted the key influences in sport today, from health and social policy to finance and profitability. I particularly enjoyed the study of performance management. I was interested in the measurement of performance and development of improvement strategies and in the potential application of such methods in a commercial scenario. I believe that the learning environment in Farmor's sixth form has helped me develop independent study skills that will be essential at university.

Away from the classroom, I am a committed sportsman. My passion is football. I have represented my schools and school district at all age levels. Most recently I played in the Farmor's School team that reached the last 16 in the English Schools FA 2010 competition. As a player and captain I have shown the ability to lead a team and to work flexibly as part of one. I was also proud to be selected as a Sports Captain in my final year at Deer Park School and enjoyed my responsibilities of assisting staff in organising extracurricular sport for the school and coaching teams in the lower years.

In my gap year I am getting involved in junior football coaching. I have also arranged work shadowing in finance and planning at Zurich Financial Services. At the same time I am working as a waiter to enable me to travel to Costa Rica as a volunteer football coach followed by several months of independent travelling in Latin America.

I am excited by the opportunities that studying business offers and believe I have acquired the necessary skills and have the determination to succeed at degree level.

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

(Business)

A Business Management degree appeals to me because I am passionate about developing and extending my business knowledge. I am thoroughly absorbed by the subject and feel that every day brings new business challenges and opportunities, keeping the subject fresh and challenging. I believe I have good business skills when it comes to assessing and analysing the position of a business as my written ability is put to good use. I enjoy evaluating all the vast concepts within a business as I am intrigued by how businesses operate and differ from one another. I also feel that Business requires opinion based answers which I am able to form logically and explain through my experience as a customer as well as a Business student.

I am a keen, organised and highly capable learner, always completing work to the highest standards and meeting deadlines. I feel this is reflected through the grades achieved in all assignments and examinations, not just in Business. I am self-motivated and use my initiative to go beyond what is expected. I feel I was consistently one of the high performers amongst the class, having earned Commendations in three out of four subjects despite the difficulties I first faced when trying to grasp new theories. A Level Economics has particularly enriched my understanding of business logic. I learnt in depth the reasoning behind last year's recession and what the consequences of the potential solutions would have upon the economy. Studying English Literature has enabled me to deepen my awareness of human nature and develop a wider vocabulary. This subject has taught me to write critically and analytically while increasing my written fluency and accuracy; an important skill for a Business Management student.

My fourth subject, Sociology, has been greatly enhanced by my participation in the Global Student Forum, extending my knowledge and applying what has been taught at 6th Form to current worldwide situations. With this information, I have reproduced enrichment activities for the school and educated my peers through giving a presentation and leading activities I have created. Being Co-host to this presentation allowed me to show that I am able to cope under pressure and take control of problems that arise, typical qualities needed of a manager.

I am currently taking a gap year and work part-time as a Customer Assistant for Marks and Spencer. This job has provided me with valuable experience within a highly successful company. I am able to employ my academic skills of business knowledge in a practical fashion, giving me a well rounded concept of the subject. Having such an interactive and busy role, has developed me personally as I have become more confident and am able to demonstrate that I can work under pressure and in a fast paced environment. Alongside work, I plan on re-sitting a Sociology exam to improve the grade I narrowly missed. The reason for this is that I constantly strive for the best and push myself to achieve the highest results I am capable of as I believe there is always room for improvement and to never settle for anything but the best.

As an eager and highly committed individual, focused on extending my knowledge of the complexities of Business, I believe I am a strong candidate and that my potential to succeed at such a highly regarded university will aid me in achieving my ultimate career.