

## Personal Statement:

I have long enjoyed making things with my hands, starting with helping my father build bookcases and beds for our house. This led into a full-scale interest in engineering, and I now wish to study the subject at university. Winning last year's lower sixth Technology prize, for which I purchased "The New Dictionary of Civil Engineering", confirmed my credentials in the subject, and my dedication to it has been deepened by a number of recent experiences.

For my AS level technology project, I chose to make a bicycle workstand. This allowed me to learn skills casting, finishing, lathing and fabricating aluminium. This year for my A2 project, I am making a squirrel-proof-bird-table, styled in the shape of a space rocket. I have also recently, for fun, made my own water rocket car. This I made using a Schrader car valve, an empty water bottle and some lego. I then pressurised it with my bicycle pump and allowed the water pressure to power the vehicle; I managed to video this and place it on the internet.

During my time in the sixth form I have taken part in a weekend Leadership and Management course and been elected for the sixth form council, becoming the secretary and making notes for the meeting available on the school intranet system. I am also an active member of the engineering society which meets at lunchtimes in school. Since September 2005, I have held a paid position in the school (five hours per week) helping to maintain the school computer network. This involves tasks such as helping with software installation, installation of hardware and peripherals, and locking up the computer rooms after school. During the school holidays I voluntarily helped set up a new computer suite within the school. Our school takes part in a competition called Greenpower, where schools build and race cars using an electric motor; I am a keen member of this team and helped to build and race a car which successfully made the final at Goodwood.

I have taken part in the Headstart scheme which offered me an opportunity to stay at the engineering department of a university to find out what it is like to study for a degree in science and engineering. During this course I dismantled and rebuilt an internal combustion engine, conducted experiments with fuel cell technology, attended lectures and learnt good team-building skills. This was a residential course at the University of Sussex that lasted for five days and provided a great insight and experience which further confirmed my passion for engineering. During the summer holidays I was able to get a one-day placement at Flakt Woods U.K. in Colchester. I was able to have a look at CFD (Computer Fluid Dynamics) and FEA (Finite Element Analysis) on the computer for jet flow fan. I was also able to see the whole process from the design stage to the testing of fans in the development laboratory.

Outside school I have many interests; I own a website, have successfully completed my Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and have almost completed my Gold award. Doing my Duke of Edinburgh has allowed me to meet new people, learn new skills, and even included for my service section being an 'Award Scheme Leader' which meant that every Monday evening for a year I was helping to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award for Bronze participants. Because of the Duke of Edinburgh Award I was able to go on a training weekend which enabled me to gain valuable skills in group work and management. I am a keen cyclist, and in turn this has helped me learn many useful maintenance skills. My enjoyment of outdoor pursuits goes hand in hand with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and I have planned trips away with friends camping during the holidays. I also enjoy motor sport, especially the motoGP. I have a full driving licence, and am currently reading "roadcraft" (the police drivers handbook); as well as practicing for my Institute of Advanced Motorists test to improve my driving skills and safety on the road.