Mathematics has always fascinated me from an early age. I enjoy the problem solving aspects such as having a set answer and then using knowledge, trial and improvement to find the most efficient way to get an answer. Taking GCSE business and communication systems first sparked my love of maths in a career pathway. It wasn’t until I took business and economics at A-level that I discovered what a rewarding career accountancy and business management could be.

Over the last few years, to widen my knowledge on the world of economics and finance, I started reading newspapers such as the Guardian and Telegraph to further my knowledge on UK affairs. However, I soon expanded this to magazines such as the Economist and newspapers like the Financial Times to extend my knowledge to the wider economy. This has developed my knowledge of financial and economic events occurring outside of the UK. From researching the low levels unemployment in China and their effect on growth levels to negative externalities from drug cartels in Mexico, I have developed my ability to look at a wide range of sources critically and summarise my findings. I look forward to looking at many more topics like these and in more detail at university.

My A-level choices have given me a wide and firm basis to study Accounting at university. Business and Economics has provided me with a passion for these subjects and an understanding of the course that I look to further build on in order to succeed. For instance, topics such as taxation and how economies are something I am looking forward to studying in further depth at university. I have been fascinated by topics such as global business affairs and how exchange rates and inflation affect the wider economic environment. I have also had a wide interest in new business enterprise ever since I stepped into the classroom at AS level; the idea of creating my own business excites me. The heavy essay basis of the subject has also enabled me to improve my written communication skills. Maths has helped me to improve my analytical skills, as part of the coursework involves analysing data in order to come to a conclusion. By doing so, this has improved my insight on how I look at data and how I deal with it; something that is needed in accountancy. My coursework has helped me get to grips with programs that will be integral for the course, for instance Excel. Biology has helped improve my analytical skills, the regular practical work having enabled me to observe experiments, record results accurately and then analyse what is happening in the practical and interpret the patterns being shown. Statistical tests, including chi squared and spearman’s rank, have also added to my skills as they have enabled me to analyse results to test the significance of data. These will all be useful at university.

Outside of school, my part time job at Trespass, a retail company has helped me in many aspects. Firstly it has helped me to grow my confidence significantly as before I was quite shy, which I have overcome by having to speak to customers in a busy retail atmosphere. This has helped my ability to work as part of a team, which will be very useful in the world of economics. It has also enabled me to gain a basic understanding of how the tertiary sector works - a major part of finance. I have also developed basic money handling skills; something that will help in the world of accountancy.

In my social time I enjoy playing football, whether it is for school or in Sunday league and I plan to carry on sport at university. To relax I enjoy listening to music and socialising with friends. These give me an excellent work life balance, something I can carry into the future.

The enjoyment that I gain from economics and maths, combined with my ability to work both independently and in a team mean that, I feel, a course in accounting and finance or business management would be the right direction for me.

Maths sparked my interest as a child and I have always asked for extra work in lessons, pushing myself to understand topics in detail. I have worked in various teams from a young age, taking on a range of roles resulting in leadership being a strong area for me. Using organisation skills, time management and being able to approach situations in different ways have all allowed me to develop my ability to lead. My recent work experience allowed me to experience real accountancy work from balancing actual accounts whilst selecting key information from large stacks of paperwork. Longer term I picture myself working my way up in a company and doing a management course will assist me in understanding the career progression within a business. I would love to be able to combine further study using maths with developing my leadership skills and broadening my knowledge of the roles of a manager by studying accountancy and business management.

A-level maths opened my eyes to a more logical way of thinking and tackling problems. In addition, it fascinates me to see it play a part in other areas of my life, such as sport and music, alongside my academic studies. It has links to both chemistry and biology; I am confident in statistical tests in biology such as chi-squared and standard error calculations and finding concentrations of substances from titration calculations in chemistry. Maths in sport is certainly an important aspect of my netball life inside and outside of school. We use statistics in order to help improve our technique and I can see it whilst playing, be it the timing of every explicit move the players make or the patterns of arrangement that we take as a team. Netball has also helped me develop key skills involving teamwork and communication as well as perfect timing in the execution of tasks and working under pressure. Numbers are used all the time in music too, playing the guitar, ukulele and sometimes the bass, I can see that there are so many patterns across these instruments and how well thought out and executed their designs are. Open mic nights that I often attend have given me the confidence to stand up in front of people and express myself; this is a useful skill used on the course, meaning I can embrace the challenge of a presentation.

I tutor a student in Year 9 in maths and currently help weekly with the STEM club that runs at school. Both of these activities have allowed me to develop skills such as simplification of an idea to help someone understand and modelling different ways of explaining a concept. This will help me throughout my studies at university and future career.

Accountancy interests me as I adore working with numbers; recently Excel has become my best friend when completing my maths coursework and I know that Excel is used heavily during the course. In my coursework I compared different methods of finding roots of an equation. The processes I went through in order to contrast the methods I found was very stimulating. Finding the most effective method and the 'comparison of methods' write up at the end were the most entertaining. These skills are similar to those I will need to use when communicating my research and ideas at university. Finding the most effective way of completing a task is a skill and display of perseverance that I will bring to the course with me.

Talking to a former teacher about jobs in maths and colleagues from netball who are managers within their company confirmed my interest in accountancy and business management. The authority and responsibility that came with their jobs is a challenge that I would love to tackle and experience. I want to have a future career that enables me to use my love of maths in a business environment. I believe that studying this course will equip me with the right skills and tools that I need in order to make this a reality. I look forward to taking a full part in studying whilst also contributing to extracurricular life at university.