

# Personal Statement

Rowan Edlington

Stars have always fascinated me. Those pinpricks of light in a vast sea of darkness are a constant reminder that the world is much bigger than our comfortable, familiar existence on Earth. Thoughts and theories of beyond our home have captivated my mind for as long as I can remember and my interest has only grown through years of staring down telescopes, hoping for a glimpse of something out of this world.

Over the years, I have indeed found magic through the lens of a telescope. My secondary school's astronomy club built the first observatory in our local area, allowing young astronomers such as myself to observe wonders such as NGC3034 the 'Cigar' nebula, or NGC1952 the 'Crab' nebula, or Jupiter and it's four distinct moons. This helped me to learn about astronomical software and gain a wider understanding of space. And it doesn't stop there; In July 2017, I passed my GCSE Astronomy qualification at age thirteen and went on to lead classes at local primary schools as Head Girl of Sharples School and a science ambassador to (hopefully) inspire future young astronomers.

Studying astronomy at GCSE Level was quite exciting as it is an opportunity that not many pupils receive, it opened my eyes to the physics and maths behind the subject I had come to love. My secondary school often held 'star parties' with the local astronomical society. I would sit in the observatory and help to show the general public the images taken through our telescope on clear nights - or days since we actually spotted a large sunspot that made national news! I was then fortunate enough to attend many university events such as conventions at Liverpool University and a meet-and-greet where I got to chat to Tim Peake at the University of York. It was fascinating to hear about what space was truly like and how he completed his journey as an astronaut. Events like this helped me to decide upon choosing both A-Level Maths and A-Level Physics at Runshaw College, especially as Runshaw offered the astrophysics unit within A-Level Physics. Along with these, I am aiming to complete an EPQ involving physics and an AS-Level in Further Maths to develop my science and maths skills.

During the summer before college, I spent my time watching videos and listening to lectures about astronomy and physics such as a series of lectures on YouTube produced by the University of Stanford in America. I also spent time reading up on Einstein's General Theory of Relativity in its entirety as the concepts within it truly fascinate me - I love hearing theories and ideas that many different people have as in physics, there is so much to learn that even the world's top scientists struggle to comprehend.

As for my third A-Level subject, I chose Computer Science as it is another particular area of interest for me. I enjoy the problem solving within coding along with learning how electrical components and circuits work - right down to the atomic state of the electrons. I think it complements my other subjects quite well as it gives another insight into the wonders of physics. I'd be interested in learning more about the possibilities of quantum mechanics within both physics and computer science and have spent time researching this and reading 'Quantum Computing since Democritus' by Cambridge's University Press.

Outside of college, I am an avid reader and a competitive figure skater! I have worked with Girl Guiding groups as a young leader and completed awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh and Bolton Young Achiever's Award. I dedicate lots of time and effort into the things I enjoy and am frequently pushing to be the very best. I have a strong will and determination as well as the enthusiasm needed to succeed in whatever I do, which will hopefully be astrophysics in the near future. People say the sky is the limit, but don't tell me that when there are footprints on the moon.

## Interest / Personality

Education

<< Four key aspects to write about!

Extra-Curricular

Academic Content

