“The best way to predict the future is to invent it”, computer science has always been a passion of mine and this quote by Alan Kay explains why. I believe that computer systems drive mankind forward and with them, possibilities are endless. From the age of 10 my interest for computers started developing; this came from watching my dad work with computer systems and troubleshoot computer problems. When I received my first computer at the age of 11 I immediately took it apart to see how the components worked, it was fascinating to see the complex architecture of a computer system and to know that someone had developed this masterpiece.

The year 10 CISCO ICT qualification provided me with an insight to what computing would be like, I excelled at this subject and enjoyed it greatly, and from this point I knew I wanted a job in the IT industry. My year 10 work experience was with the IT support team at Volac International; it gave me a feel for real world ICT problems and gave me an opportunity to share my knowledge with colleagues. Currently I find myself coming home and programming Python applications as a hobby, since taking the Computing A level I have found a new desire for problem solving and creative thinking, the rewarding feeling of debugging and finishing an application is what I love most about Computer Science. I have been practicing creating GUI with PyQt and have made various applications to help with my personal needs.

During year 10 I joined up with Kick Ash, an organisation to help young pupils stop smoking. This included teaching a class of year 6s the dangers of smoking and providing them with important knowledge on the subject. I also worked with the test purchase team which involved visiting various shops to make sure the correct signs and warnings were displayed and making sure that the staff wouldn’t serve anyone under the legal age. Overall this helped me understand real world dilemmas and gave me an opportunity to support other people with their problems.

In year 11 I was elected as a student leader which provided me with early experience of how to work well as part of a team and how to be an effective leader including talking to a large amount of pupils in assemblies. Organisation was also a key component for being a student leader; my role included working to deadlines as well as balancing this role well with my on-going studies.

My part time job at a Wetherspoons pub has been an excellent experience since it has taught me what a busy work environment is like and how to think independently to deal with any customer complaints. It also trained me how to communicate and work effectively as part of a team.

Sport and fitness is also very important to me, I have been a member of many different sporting clubs. For example I have played football for Over Colts since 2006; I previously did martial arts for 7 years and worked my way through the belts. I recently joined a boxing club to improve my fitness and go running every morning to keep active. Currently my biggest achievement has been climbing the three tallest peaks in the UK in 24 hours to raise money for the mental health charity ‘mind’.