**Personal Statement Plan**

As a software development student, I am enthusiastic about technology and its potential use for social good. I have interests in cyber-security and cryptography, in which attending university will provide a platform for me to increase my knowledge and turn my hobby into a career.

My desire to study computer science stems from my fascination in the underlying systems of the world-wide-web. From this, I was led into exploring the role various protocols (such as HTTP and TCP/IP) played, in protecting sensitive data and routing data to its appropriate destination. As a result of this, I became intrigued in understanding the wider web and found a true appreciation for the importance of secure data encryption. Since then, my desire has evolved into a deeper and more meaningful interest that I aim to pursue at university level.

My current course has made me more committed to attain a degree in computer science- due to many of the units I undertake contributing to my knowledge of computing. Undertaking units such as: Software Design and Development has consolidated my existing knowledge of programming whilst Systems Analysis & Design has improved my analytical skills- allowing me to spot problems and come up with a solution for them. In essence, undertaking my current course has allowed me to discover wider aspects of computing that I had not looked at before. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the core concepts of subjects such as object oriented programming, web development and procedural programming- but I endeavour to learn many more topics at university that will challenge me and allow me to develop new skills. Through my current studies, I have been able to improve my logical reasoning skills and enhanced my ability for creative thought.

Nevertheless, my interests in the subject has not been restricted to academic study. In preparation for my undergraduate degree, I have been watching CS50 lectures in order to familiarise myself with what it would be like to study computer science at degree level. From this, I have been able to explore and understand the concepts behind specialist fields such as AI, Machine learning and Neural Networks and have derived a detailed overview of how these fields can be used to improve our lifestyles. Exploring these topics early on, has confirmed my desire to study Computer Science and has served as further motivation to study at university, as these lectures have provided me with insights into what computer science lectures are like. Being responsible for my own learning is one of my key strengths- a skill which will no doubt, serve me well at university.

Furthermore, I have actively contributed to the school community throughout my time at college and sixth form. I am a member of the Eco group and part of a team that built a pond to encourage wildlife. I am also a senior prefect and heavily involved in the student leadership team. Outside of my studies, I have attained the NCS certificate which was signed by David Cameron, the prime minister at the time. Through my completion of NCS I was able to improve my team-building and communication skills. Overall, these hobbies and interests have made me more effective at communicating and a better team leader.

Reflecting my hardworking and determined nature, I have excelled throughout my studies. This is evident in several of my academic results in which I achieve maximum grades- such as in my current course where I completed the first year with the maximum grade: Distinction\* Distinction\*. Furthermore, I have attained my A-level qualifications a year ahead of my peers. This is in vast contrast to the fact that I will be the first in my family to attend a university. Despite these factors, I am resilient and remain motivated- with a deep-rooted determination to work to the best of my ability.

The prospect of studying at university is one I view with great optimism and I believe that a degree in computer science is the right step for my future.