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Medicine is advancing rapidly and is a key interface between the science of treating diseases and having clinical involvement with patients. Through practical work experience and visiting open days I am aware of the challenges and rewards this profession holds. My chosen subjects at school, especially biology, and work experience motivated me to choose medicine as it is a field where I can apply my knowledge of the human body to help patients and potentially cure diseases.

The complexity of the brain fired my interest in neurology, leading me to research the topic further and attend many insight events across Scotland, where I witnessed a brain dissection at Edinburgh Science Insights. I saw the realities of life in neurology as well as the wider medical field when I shadowed a paediatric neurosurgeon. I was able to observe first-hand busy wards with members of the multidisciplinary team contributing to patient care. Even when I observed x-rays and an endoscopy, it was clear how emotional this profession can be as nervous patients were treated with warmth and care.

As well as experiencing healthcare in the UK, I shadowed surgeons in Pakistan hospitals where I discovered the key differences between the NHS and Pakistan services. I witnessed the variations in technology and care given to patients as well as the inequality. This experience showed me the hard work and dedication given by doctors whilst treating patients with the equipment available as I participated in ward rounds, theatres and consultations. As part of the Reach programme, I was able to experience life as a medical student which gave me a thorough and detailed insight into medicine. I took part in lectures, practice PBL sessions, discussing ethical issues and participated in clinical skill sessions such as measuring blood pressure and history-taking. I have taken part in Medic Insight and gained familiarity with the range of medical and surgical specialities. This showed me how broad medicine is and how wide the spectrum of opportunities the degree holds.

My weekly commitment volunteering at a local school for children with additional support needs helped me develop my communication skills and build positive relationships with young people. Communication is vital for a doctor to interact effectively with patients, providing the best care possible. I displayed my empathy by assisting these pupils at their own pace and many children felt comfortable talking to me about their worries showing I am trustworthy and approachable. These skills help build patients' trust with doctors and ensures all information is shared with confidence. Volunteering here helped me maintain a positive work-life balance with my school work and extracurricular activities, whilst developing my abilities in organisation and prioritisation.

Throughout my time in school, I have demonstrated the qualities necessary for a doctor and achieved the Proxime Accessit award. My maturity was shown as I was elected school captain and pupil council member whilst buddying vulnerable pupils by helping them adjust to school. As part of my school's debate team I am involved in events for wider growth, gaining university level debates experience, allowing me to develop my confidence in presenting my opinions and consider the views of others. I now help run the debate league for younger pupils where I prepare topics and assess the debate with my team. Working cooperatively as a group helped me strengthen my team working skills, which is necessary as a doctor of any speciality. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking as I am able to express my creativity in the food I make. I played the violin which allowed me to relax my mind which helped my concentration during exams. These experiences helped confirm my ambition to be a doctor.

A career in medicine certainly seems challenging, however, the skills and successes I have displayed highlight my passion, desire and suitability to study medicine.