

This is a genuine personal statement completed by an ex- Rosshall pupil. Treat them with respect and sensitively- do not share these via email/ social media and do not share outwith Rosshall groups. DO NOT copy these- they are meant to inspire your own statement and give you an idea of structure. Your statement will be unique to you.

From the invention of the wheel to interplanetary travel; from heliocentrism to the pursuit of quantum gravity - advancements in science and technology have landscaped the history of the human race. In the last century alone, technological innovation has progressed drastically, reaching an inconceivable level of intricacy and ingenuity. And there's no sign of it slowing down. As an aspiring student of STEM it is my goal to help further this progress.

For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by how things work, and over the years have developed a huge interest in engineering and physics. Learning various physics principles and applying them in unfamiliar contexts to solve problems is something I excel at. I discovered this during my recent experience at 'Scottish Space School', an engineering-based programme run by Strathclyde University in association with NASA. It began as a week-long event in June 2018 in which 100 S5 students from across Scotland were selected to take part in a series of engineering workshops and challenges following a rigorous application process. Upon arrival I was placed in a group with nine complete strangers, and throughout the week we were pitted against the other groups to solve tricky problems and design tasks. My outgoing personality helped me develop good relationships with my teammates, which made working in the group much more enjoyable. Being a keen leader, I volunteered to lead certain tasks I felt confident in, while also taking a considered step back in others. It was very refreshing to be surrounded by people who shared my interest in STEM, and we all became great friends. Following that week, I was fortunate enough to be shortlisted to 10 'stand-out' candidates; which culminated in a trip to visit the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. This took place from October 19-28 - and I can confidently say it was the greatest experience of my life. It truly was the opportunity of a lifetime: seeing the ins-and-outs of NASA HQ, meeting leading engineers and receiving talks from NASA legends including Flight Director Gene Kranz and Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise. I was utterly enthralled by these 'greats' and made a real effort to question them and others we met about their careers and experiences, so that I might be inspired to follow a similar path to them. Safe to say, it worked. I am now determined to work for NASA; but more specifically, I want to help send men to Mars. Just like Gene Kranz personalised in my copy of his book: "Aim high". I intend to.

I have started looking into books to help further my knowledge in physics. For example, I recently read 'The Quantum Universe' by Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw. This was a fascinating book that opened my eyes to the world of quantum mechanics, and I look forward to studying it in greater detail.

With regards to hobbies, I am a very active person who loves to keep fit. I am a keen footballer, having played for various clubs since I was six years old. I love the competitiveness of football, and I find it to be a great outlet from the demands of school and exams. I am also a regular gym-goer, and go several times per week with friends or my elder brother.

My family and I enjoy the outdoors, and we climbed 'Ben Nevis' during the summer of last year. I learned some valuable outdoor skills while doing my 'Duke of Edinburgh' Bronze Award in 2016 also, such as navigation and outdoor first-aid.

I am also an avid reader, and find reading an essential means to help me 'switch off' in the evenings, and overall in maintaining a healthy mind. Some of my favourite reads include: 'The Book Thief', the 'Harry Potter' series and 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'.

To conclude, I believe I have the academic ability as well as the right drive and commitment to study this course at your University. Achieving a degree in this field would take me one step closer to achieving my goals in life and establishing a successful career in STEM.