

Having grown up surrounded by doctors, I know the rewards and achievements to be found in having a positive impact on people's lives. I have also seen some of the lows doctors experience and how things don't always go according to plan. My desire to become a doctor was strengthened when my best friend's father fell ill with a brain tumour. His family has suffered as their father slowly became permanently mentally handicapped. The entire experience has shown me how the interpersonal skills and expertise of the doctors helped reduce the pain for all the family. It showed me again the satisfaction doctors can gain. After witnessing this illness I began voluntary work at a local charity, Mind, where they care for mentally handicapped people who are also deaf and/or blind. I helped the carers tend for the patients by performing tasks such as helping a patient write a letter or reading to a blind man. Through this I have seen the challenges that the patients and their carers face every day. I was immensely proud of a particular friend of mine, a deaf man called Rob, when through a great deal of using sign language, told me about the mother bird and her chicks he had seen on a recent trip into the local town. This really brought home to me the patience and communicative skills required but also showed me again how rewarding it can be to help someone in this situation and see their joy as a result. I felt I needed to reinforce my insight into medicine as a career at a higher level by working for three weeks at the University of Manchester Hospital. Here I shadowed consultants and junior doctors in three specialties, HPB, Neuro and Orthopaedic Surgery. The need for them to work together was most apparent to me in the operating theatre where I observed many operations. Watching Mr Jones, a Paediatric Surgeon and Mr Taylor, an HPB surgeon, combining their extensive knowledge to remove a tumour from the liver of a 4 year old child was quite simply an incredible event. It showed me the teamwork, trust, resilience and the determination required by doctors. I also recognised the huge importance of being able to listen and speak to patients. I saw the distress of a patient whose doctor would not listen to his problems; the doctor simply would not take on what the patient was saying, and the patient's pain relief and treatment was not forthcoming. My voluntary work at Newtown Scouts and Newtown Rugby Club has allowed me to obtain not only strong communicative and interpersonal skills but also showed me how to positively interact with and support the local community. Sport is an extremely important part of my life. I was captain of my rugby team last year and play for the club and school teams. Whilst captain, I needed to develop the ability to lead with confidence, work with my team and remain strong under pressure, especially when not performing well. Alongside this, I sail regularly at Newtown Sailing Club and I walked the Blue Hills expedition in the 35 and 45 mile teams, an event held every year where teams walk set distances (35, 45 and 55 miles). These sports allow me to push myself beyond the norm, as I have to work very hard for the achievements I gain through them, showing my ambition and determination. Having seen the stresses put on doctors, I believe I will be able to cope with the intense demands of Medicine helped by the stamina and strength my sporting activities have given me. I am a highly driven individual who wishes to rise to the challenge and enjoyment presented by university and more specifically by a course in Medicine. I realize the extreme demands made on a Medical student and Practitioner but believe I possess the qualities and skills to become an excellent Doctor.