

Politics and International Relations PERSONAL STATEMENT

Since visiting Zuccotti Park in New York City, in October 2011 and witnessing the Occupy Movement at its origin, I was inspired to learn more about the reasons why people protest. Returning to the UK, I read 'Occupy', Noam Chomsky, and started to discover the political mentality of Americans who abandoned their comforts to make a difference. The nature to protest has been instilled in me from an early age, as at a tender age of 6 I attended the UK's largest demonstration during my lifetime – the march against the Iraq war in London. In all of my A Levels I have relished the opportunity to weigh up situations, present arguments and analyse concepts. Geography has enabled me to confidently present my ideas using high-level ICT resources, whilst embracing my analytical skills. Units such as Culture, Superpowers and Globalisation have fuelled my desire to extend my study of Politics and International Relations. Philosophy and Ethics has encouraged me to formulate arguments, allowing me to debate, defend and embrace ideas. The most beneficial skill I have gained is the ability to open my mind and accept other ideas, as well as questioning my previous beliefs. This is something I look forward to developing at degree level, with Politics offering controversial and engaging ideas that can be analysed and questioned in detail. The study of English Literature has further refined these skills, whilst studying contextual issues such as Thatcherism, Second Wave Feminism and Communism. Communism has captivated me since the age of twelve when I found myself in the Ho Chi Minh museum in South Vietnam. This interest spread from Vietnam to South America, and the study of Hugo Chavez's presidency in Venezuela. I watched the documentary 'The Revolution Will Not Be Televised (2003)', focusing on the Venezuelan coup of 2002. The admiration shown for one's president intrigued me, as the passion demonstrated by Venezuelan citizens is something I had not come across before. In my lifetime, a defining moment of British history was Thatcher's death, which sparked national analysis of her time as Prime Minister. When watching 'Thatcher: The Downing Street Years,' as well as 'The Iron Lady', I could not help but draw comparisons between each nation's reaction to Chavez and Thatcher, observing how easily a Prime Minister can split a country. I look forward to furthering my knowledge of political leaders and nations reactions to them. I have always had a strong desire to be involved with decision-making at school. I was an active member of the Student Leadership Group, culminating in my appointment of Head Girl – a prestigious position in my school. One of my duties is to attend the Parish Council meetings and be actively involved with political decisions at local government level. As well as doing a lot for my Sixth Form and school, being Head Girl has done a great deal for me - enhancing my personal development as a student and a member of the community. My desire to study Politics and International Relations prompted me to attend the Human, Social and Political Sciences Masterclass in April 2013 at Cambridge University. A lecture about the demographics of voting in the UK inspired me to research further, and I discovered a Guardian 'Datablog' entitled 'Women know less about politics than men worldwide.' (July 2013) At some point in my lifetime I hope to see this statistic equalled, or even reversed, and my first step is to gain a Politics and International Relations degree.