**Applied for:** Product Design/Furniture Design

**Offers received:**

Bristol, University of the West of England – 112 points

Birmingham City University – BBC

Cardiff Metropolitan University – 96 points

My Higher Project helped cement my thoughts about a career in design. I decided to plan,  
design and construct a garden of reflection in my school. For such a large project a team was required and it was vital to communicate well to reach a consensus and prevent  
misunderstandings. We had to keep to budget, agree terms with the governors and keep to time. We presented the project to the whole school staff, and the experience helped me to  
communicate better with people and be mindful of deadlines. I loved the combination of  
designing and then building the final project; this is something that I would be keen to  
develop further at university. Skills from this were useful in my work experience with Quattro  
Design Architects where I undertook tasks with specific design briefs for a hypothetical  
client. It involved using my initiative to work with the CAD software that I had not used  
before and I had to work to very tight deadlines. I got a buzz from both these projects and my A-level in Product Design has convinced me that I have the skills and passion to study this further at university.

My coursework in Product Design is based around my passion for music. I am an accomplished drummer and percussionist; I have been part of many different bands in school, including The Senior Jazz Band performing at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival twice. My design for a snare drum lamp, is a drum with an LED light strip inside that is solar powered. The drum can be used as an instrument but also be a functioning lamp when not being played so a key design element in the room. Skills I have developed are the use of CAD design software for the shell, alongside use of the bandsaw and router to a much greater skill level than previously. My maths skills have been really useful in the construction of the jig and the methodical problem solving skills from maths have been used regularly in the project.

As part of a show band for The Sound of Music, I learnt for the first time how different  
percussion instruments have different effects and add to the overall performance. I also enjoy performing with my friends at the Christmas Sing-along every year with live music as well as open mic nights at a late night coffee shop. I am a regular drummer at church including for weddings and carol services. I have recently started to share my skills in drumming by teaching a younger drummer on a regular basis.

In July 2018, I volunteered for a charity with my youth group to go to poor areas in Bulgaria  
and assist with a mission team there. We spent 5 days helping at a youth camp in Dobromirka for children from all over Bulgaria, and then two days helping at a day club run in  
poverty-stricken gypsy villages. Fundraising £8000 in total to get there, required me to help  
advertise events to over one hundred people in my church. The trip developed my teamwork  
skills further as well as taking me out of my comfort zone; I appreciate not everyone lives in  
a country with a fair chance to succeed. At home I volunteer at a children's club and on a  
summer camp. At last year's camp I looked after a child who had severe Autism and Crohn's  
disease and struggled in most social environments. I had to adapt to his way of thinking to  
help him get as much as possible out of the week.

In my spare time, I enjoy being creative. I make things for my room, for example, I have a  
cabinet with fabric drawers. I also enjoy making things on wooden lathes, such as mushroom  
sculptures, candle holders, ornaments and light pulls. I am a keen photographer and have  
entered competitions in and outside of school. Long term, I want to help people in any way I  
can by whatever means, but particularly through design. I enjoy seeing how things work and  
putting my learning into practice. I believe this is an important factor in how successful a  
design can be. Design should be something beautiful and functional. I want to explore this  
more in different materials and mediums.