

Colin Pond Scholars 2019 -2021

Year 12 in their own words

Iretomiwa

Over the last three months, during the lockdown, I feel that I have grown a lot as an individual, as it gave me time to complete different tasks as well as explore an interest in various activities. I admit without the structure provided by going to school, it is hard to keep on track with school work but with the help of my teachers, I got the work done. With my current subjects; biology, chemistry and maths, constant revision is required thus in addition to the work set weekly, I've been making revision notes to prepare for my A-Levels and going over topics I'm unsure of. I'm not a fan of flashcards so I have a revision notebook instead. In terms of the non-academic activities, I've been attempting to get into a workout routine as swimming pools are currently closed, not very successful but I'm trying. As well as taking the time to learn Spanish with the Duolingo app and spend time with my family.

Post sixth form, I am looking to enter university to study Medicine with Biomedical Sciences as a backup. During the lockdown, I've been researching several universities to see where I feel is most comfortable and best for me and the different requirements for my chosen course.

With the money from the Colin Pond Scholarship, I've opened a savings account hoping to use it to pay for the BMAT and UCAT exams I'd have to sit as well as go towards my provisional driving licence.

Andreia

During my GCSE's I had a great interest in science, specifically chemistry and biology. Consequently, I chose to study both, alongside psychology, at A-level. Despite the major jump from GCSE, I've been determined to keep up with my workload during the entirety of year 12. Lockdown and being taught remotely has posed a slight challenge to my studies, however the support from my teachers has allowed me to keep motivated and persevere.

Although I'm not 100% certain, I intend on studying biomedical science at university. Human biology has always fascinated me so this course would allow me explore further into the subject. I'm aspiring to get the best A-level grades possible so I'm able to go to a high ranked university.

I have yet to spend the money I received from the Colin Pond Scholarship. I aspire to travel to many parts of the world and learn about different cultures so the Colin Pond money was a great addition to the money I already have saved!

Clare

Year 12, whilst a significant step-up from GCSE level, has overall been a very positive experience and I have largely enjoyed my subjects (English Literature, History and Psychology). Additionally, I completed an Extended Project Qualification alongside my studies about British Sign Language (BSL) and its impact in society today. This enabled me to research an area that I was interested in, as well as developing my independence and other academic skills, such as referencing.

Since lockdown, although it has been challenging at times, I have generally kept to a routine, meaning that I have been able to complete all my work, including two history exams. I am sure that the independent learning throughout year 12 and especially over this period, will help me in my further education as I hope to go on to university. I am currently in the process of deciding which subject to opt for but nevertheless, I know that the skills I have developed over lockdown will be very helpful in the future.

Finally, I have not yet spent the money from the scholarship as I have decided to save it for the future – I aim to use this money at university, or for extra-curricular activities in future years.

Maisie

Throughout year 12 my studies have been quite the roller coaster. From changing subjects early on to teaching myself during lock down, it's certainly not the year 12 I had expected to have last year. Despite this, I would say overall my studies have been enjoyable, whilst challenging at times, I have found a new interest and passion for my subjects that I had not expected and going to events based on science and seeing so many like-minded people has strengthened my passion even more this year.

After sixth form I intend to go to university and study Biomedical Science then hopefully go into a career in medical research or enter into graduate entry medicine to become a doctor.

Originally, I had used the money to fund my trip to Vietnam and use it to buy equipment, however now I have used some to subscribe to an online post-mortem series of videos and the rest I will likely save for when more of these come out or to pay for travel to more science/medicine events or save the money for driving lessons. This money has

enhanced my life as it has allowed me to take part in events and online series that interest me and help me learn more about what a future career in science will be like.

Abigail

Since the honour of receiving this award, my studies in year 12 have gone well. There have been many challenges as the shift from GCSE to A-level is not an easy one and this was not helped by the disruption of Covid-19. However, I have been able to stay motivated in doing all the work I need to by staying in contact with my teachers but also by doing independent revision.

During lockdown, I have been able to put some of my time towards researching different universities and courses and I have an ambition to go to a Russell Group university. Namely, I have been looking at University College London, Queen Mary's and King's College London. In order to achieve this goal, I have continued to work hard in my studies and tried to not let Covid-19 prevent me from achieving my goal.

In terms of the money that was given on behalf of the scholarship, I decided to put this money into my savings account which I intend to use when it comes to housing and perhaps other things in the future such as driving. I am very thankful for this scholarship as it has encouraged me to strive to achieve and pushed me to continue to work hard.