

Hi Ken,

I hope you have been keeping well, I was just sending a message as the academic year comes to an end to thank you for your support this year and update you on all that has happened. Since I last emailed you, I have thought through my next steps more and I am now almost certain that I will go on to study medicine at University. However, I am still fascinated by the bioengineering aspect of medicine: the problem solving, the creative way of thinking and the amazing ways our bodies function. I am now looking around universities and trying to find work experience.

An amazing part of the Arkwright scholarship has been that I have had the chance to talk to a mentor who is currently at university, he was able to give me lots of great advice on applying. I have also been able to use the financial support as part of the fee to gain further experience in the area of biomedicine by applying for a Medicine InvestIn course run by UCL and Oxford this summer. This will give me the opportunity to experience what being involved in clinical medical science would involve and look like as well as hopefully picking up some great advice. In addition to this I have applied for summer work experience at the Royal Free Hospital which should be a great opportunity.

Another opportunity is that I have started an EPQ (extended project qualification) on the use of natural genetic engineering (CRISPR-cas systems in bacteria) as an alternative anti-microbial as a way of avoiding antibiotic resistance. I have become specifically interested in the delivery methods and hope to be able to explore phage editing and horizontal gene transfer as methods. I have really enjoyed the research involved in this project and the challenge of narrowing down a question from a very broad idea of antibiotic resistance. I was also chosen to be a part of the senior student team at my school where we meet regularly with the Head teacher and have enjoyed working as a team. In addition, I achieved a Gold award in the intermediate maths challenge and have recently started playing the Guitar (in addition to the piano) which has been a great way to relax.

Again, thank you for your and the Worshipful Company of Needle makers' continued support,

Best Wishes,

David