



## Khizrah - my learning journey

I have always known that I wanted a career in Optometry. From the careers work we did throughout my lower school years and from always wearing glasses I know it is the career for me. Whilst at SP I have completed work experience in Year 10 at a Pharmacy and in Year 12 at Specsavers where I worked in all departments, this confirmed my future pathway choice. I achieved 5A\*s, 3 As and 2 Bs at GCSE and am currently in my final year of A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths. I chose these A levels as I love Maths and problem solving and I had sat down with my tutor to find out what Russell Group universities offered Optometry and what qualifications I would need to meet the entry requirements.

The teachers at SP are very supportive of my career choice and challenge and support me to achieve the best grades possible. In Year 12 I was accepted onto the Realising Opportunities scheme as neither of my parents had gone to University. I have completed online modules on university skills, attended RO conferences and have 2 undergraduate mentors who help me with my personal statement, and with my Extended Project Qualification and exam techniques. I had to work hard in Year 12 to achieve A grades in all my AS levels, it does take commitment and drive but the teachers at SP made sure I was thoroughly prepared for the exams.

My Head of Year offered me the opportunity to apply for a research placement at Warwick University this summer. I have just spent 5½ weeks at the university in the School of Life Sciences completing research into genetics. This has involved conducting experiments in the genetics laboratory, learning how to reference articles, working alongside PhD students and being supervised by a Cambridge University student. Optometry is only offered by 11 universities and with help from my tutor I have decided upon my final choices for my UCAS application. Being part of the RO scheme means that when I have successfully completed the course a number of Russell Group universities will offer me lower entry requirements, making my chances of going to a prestigious university higher. For now, I need to focus on revision and recall of the work in Year 12 in preparation for the examinations this coming summer and in the next couple of weeks I will complete my UCAS application and personal statement. I am excited about my future.