



Charlie Edleston, 2018

What Career are you in, and what sort of things does this entail?

I'm currently doing a PhD in medicinal chemistry at the northern institute for cancer research, with the hope to pursue a career in drug discovery.

What inspired you to go into your chosen career?

Honestly, it all started with my Year 10 English teacher (Mr. Kilkenny, now in religion I believe) who wrote at the bottom of a piece of work 'Beautifully written - have you considered an application to Oxbridge?'. The answer to that question was no, definitely not, and definitely not for English, but it got me thinking. 8 years later, it's safe to say my life trajectory pretty drastically changed with that one comment. The access to HE work that I first started alongside my degree was motivated in part by the knowledge of how impactful those small things can be and a desire to potentially be for others what that one teacher was for me.

What advice would you give to anyone interested in working in your career area?

Don't get bogged down thinking about the odds of it happening - there have been so many points where I've applied for things 100% expecting rejection and then ending up being successful. With almost all of those things, I was close to not applying because it was unlikely to give the result I wanted, or because someone else told me it would be a waste of time. Speaking of which, don't let anyone else put you off - you're the one whos going to be living with your decisions, not them.

What do you know now, that you wish you'd known when you were leaving Malbank?

That your career plans will likely change, and that's okay, they're still useful to make to help you get to the next step. If you make a step by step plan of what you need to do in order to get to where you think you want to be, you're not committing yourself to that goal forever. Once you get to step two of the plan, you'll very likely come across opportunities you never considered before and its definitely okay to change your plans accordingly.

If you would like to get in touch with Matt to find out more about careers like this, please contact Mr Batty in the Sixth Form Office, or via Teams