
A LOVE OF THE SCIENCES AND MUSIC LEADS HENRY TO TOP UNIVERSITY SUCCESS AND AN EXCITING NEW ROLE

Henry Yates graduated in the Summer of 2021 with an MSc (first class) in natural sciences, specialising in biochemistry, from Churchill College, University of Cambridge.



While at school, I always enjoyed science. I studied biology, chemistry, maths and physics to A-level and also regularly read the New Scientist to keep up to date. Initially undecided which path to go down, I liked the Natural Sciences course as it was broad for the first two years, which gave me the opportunity to study chemistry, physiology and pharmacology, before choosing to specialise in biochemistry for the last two years.

I particularly enjoyed the research, which was a large part of my third and fourth years. This year, I began to classify the specific activity of an enzyme family involved in plant cell wall synthesis, a process which we still know relatively little about. Further down the line, knowledge like this could lead us to design plants with certain properties for sustainable alternatives to fuels, plastics, and textiles for example!



Alongside my studies, I have always been involved in music and while at school became interested in jazz. I played piano in Back-in-Black, which I led for my final year, and also in school productions - Singing in the Rain was a particularly fun one! While at college, I played with two big bands and had a weekly jazz show on the student radio station, CamFM. With this experience, I helped set-up Cotswolds Radio and bought my jazz show to the local station!

Now I've finished my degree I'm starting a job as a graduate scientist at food science start-up Supplant, back in Cambridge. Using the biochemical properties of plants, they have developed a low GI, low-calorie sugar replacement made from plant fibre. It is currently only launched in the US, but I'm excited to be involved in bringing it to the UK and figuring out other areas where this technology could be used.

