

Will String Theory lead to a unification of the forces within the century or is it just a mathematical mirage sidetracking a generation of physicists?



## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

ALICE - LOWER SIXTH

String theory has been a topic that I was vaguely interested in for a while after reading some popular Physics books, so when the opportunity arose to research a topic of our own choosing I grabbed it. I don't really think there was any doubt as to what I was going to research! I take Maths and Further Maths at A-level (as well as English and History) and, despite it actually being a Physics topic, it is largely maths so it fits in well with my subjects although it may look odd with my intended university course of Philosophy, Politics and Economics!

When I started the research I wasn't really sure what I was going to find other than a lot of hard maths that I had to somehow understand. String Theory is such an odd concept and it has so many strong supporters who have devoted their lives working to the theory but then has a huge number of advocates against the theory, so I had an idea from the outset that a conclusion would be based largely on personal opinion. Despite the extremely technical resources (not how I was planning on spending my GCSE summer!) I found researching String Theory really interesting and most of the time found I had to stop myself from delving into another hole in order to stay in some way on the horizons of the essay word count.

I was really grateful for Maynard offering an EPQ as I knew that with four A-levels starting in September I wouldn't normally be able to do it.