I still remember my dread during the months leading to my tenth board examinations. I felt the weight of my whole life and career during the two weeks of exams in the month of May 2015. But despite the unimaginable pressure, I managed to successfully pass with good grades in the end.

I was tired of hearing teachers tell my parents that I had the potential to do extremely well but that I never worked it hard enough..I’ve always dreamed about being powerful enough to make an enormous impact on the world around me in some way or the other. My dreams have always morphed and shifted from imagining myself as a Lawyer fighting for justice, to a prime minister who works hard to develop her country. However, at the very core of my dreams is the main factor that has never changed: The will to be in control of my own self and to be conscious of my own capabilities so that I can positively influence the lives of others around me.

In order to achieve my dreams, I had to work very hard. I understood this and came out of my dream land. I pushed myself beyond my limits and work hard which paid off as I managed to turn a C grade in international Maths to an A\* in my final exams. I have always heard that pressure can make even the toughest people to lose confidence, however, in my case; pressure acted as a stimulant and helped me take the first biggest step of my thousand step journey.

When I attended a summer at Yale University as a part of a Business and Entrepreneurship program, I realised that I wanted to pursue business studies deeper. I love communicating and making connections with new people, creating and marketing innovative ideas and these are the basics of learning how to manage a business.

By the time I returned from the summer program, I had a fresh perspective and a determination to work hard. I have always needed that extra dire push and the remembrance of my goals to work even more hard to achieve my goals. I believe that the competitive atmosphere at Penn State is what I need to push myself further and empower myself with the required knowledge and education to make it big in the business world.

**“When we long for life without difficulties,**

**Remember that oaks grow strong in contrary winds,**

**And diamonds are made under pressure.”**

**Peter Marshall**