

Nia Owen

CJ Littlejohns Health Prize winner 2024



My name is Nia and I have just finished year 13 at Gowerton Comprehensive School.

My sister has severe cerebral palsy, and growing up I had many questions about her condition: why couldn't she walk? Why couldn't she talk? These questions founded a more profound interest in the field of neuroscience in recent years.

Having just finished my A levels at Gowerton Comprehensive School, next year I wish to study neuroscience at King's College London to further such an interest in the field.

What fascinates me so much about the brain is its ability to change and adapt throughout its lifetime. The brain's ability to rewire itself due to neuroplasticity offers the potential of many different treatments for conditions like Traumatic Brain Injuries, Neurodegenerative disease and psychiatric conditions. Such an interest in neuroplasticity is what motivated the topic of my essay for the CJ Littlejohns health prize: 'Applications of the Understanding of Neuroplasticity in the Advancement of the Treatment of Neurological Conditions.' Researching this topic furthered my interest in the potential of neuroplasticity to offer new advancements across the field of neuroscience.

We may never understand how all parts of the brain work and are linked, but I am excited by the prospect of working in the field of neuroscience and being even just a tiny part of new discoveries.