

Getting my Black Belt is not the end of my journey, instead it is a door towards learning more. My Black Belt would not just be a symbol of commitment but also proof of my continuous learning and improvement. Achieving my Black Belt in karate would be such an incredibly memorable experience in my martial arts journey. It has involved all of the physical aspects included martial arts such as integrity skills and diligence but also the mental aspects too. It has shown me disciplinary skills and to hold myself to high standards, as well as communication with my peers and my instructors and lastly to have a sense of respect for myself and for those around me others. I have really enjoyed having a hobby alongside my education, it gives me something to look forward to other than school work and I wish it to continue, hoping to reach the 1st Dan and hopefully into the next. Something I didn't consider when I joined was the opportunity to progress alongside the people who are in my class, who eventually turned into good friends. This has been very rewarding.

This sport is something I take great pride in because I have done karate since I was 6 years old in 2013 when I joined Little Dragons. This means I have partaken in this sport for just under 10 years now. My amazing family has shown me unyielding support throughout my progress because they know how much this would mean to me. It would also mean a lot to my Dad too. I remember him always telling me when I felt like I wasn't good enough and I wanted to just give up, 'I would be so proud of you, son. You're still young, getting a black belt doesn't take 5 minutes, work hard'. So, my goal is to do exactly that.

I have taken the time and effort to sharpen and fine tune my skills both inside and outside of class. I have done this by using the techniques taught to me by my instructors and using their insight on what I need to improve on, whether it is about how to improve my side kicks or corrections on my katas. This is important because it demonstrates that I have the ability to be resilient, persistent, determined and hardworking. I have been progressing through each and every belt up until this one, and being able to come home to my family after each belt, to see them smile and praise me for my achievements is something I hold dear to me and cannot be replaced, I promised them that I will get my Black Belt. Just the thought of having a new belt is just incredible since I have had the 2nd Brown Belt for just under 4 years now. To have a nice, crisp, black coloured one would be awesome, I would stand out in the dojo and I would be setting an example as a student who meets the criteria for what is needed to pass a grading.

I would like to thank Master Wayne and his team for helping me achieve my dream.