

## Spotlight on Year 13: The road to medical school

November and December has seen our early medical applicants receive invites to interview from some of the most prestigious universities in the country. Our focus has turned to interview technique and the tricky MMI's (multiple mini interviews) questions.

We are super proud to announce that **William Skelton, ex Rose Bridge** student has received not one but two invites for interview at **Oxford University: Trinity College and St. Annes**. This amazing achievement is brought into focus when you consider that over 2900 year 13 students applied, this number has been whittled down to 400 for approximately 100 places. Will has worked extremely hard over the last 18 months, culminating in some excellent predicted grades (A\*, A\*, A\*) and superb UCAT and BMAT (medical aptitude tests) that put him in the top 20% of medical applicants in

the country. As well as in class support from School of Medicine staff, Will has been partnered with an Oxford Medic graduate to support him through the process.

**The School of Medicine team and whole of West Lancashire College wish him the very best of luck!** All the students have been preparing for interview throughout the term, practicing how to answer the many and varied questions. Students have therefore been tutored on the common themes at interview such as the four pillars of medical ethics, data analysis and the qualities of being a

doctor. Many of our sessions have focused on the positive experiences and insights they gained during their work placement at GP practices around West Lancashire.



## Put yourself to the test... how would you answer these typical MMI questions?

Typically you would have 1 minute thinking time and 7 minutes to answer.

1. You are a recently qualified Doctor. You have prescribed a drug for severe back pain to a 30 year old male. He returns 2 weeks later and all his symptoms have gone and he thanks you, however you discover that you have actually prescribed him blood pressure medication by mistake. What would you do?
2. What is the role of the General Medical Council?
3. What are the qualities of a good doctor?
4. How would you weigh a mountain?



Throughout this term, our very own Dr Juan Bercial (teacher of A Level maths) has been delivering the **'b' mindfulness course** to ensure our students are able to manage the rollercoaster of emotions and anxiety associated with what can be a stressful time.

## Spotlight on Year 12



In early December we welcomed **Professor Brian Cox** to the School of Medicine. Brian joined us remotely from Portugal where he is filming his next series. Students participated in the lecture on 'space, time and blackholes'. Year 12 student, **Theo Beattie ex Shevington High School** student even asked him

a question he didn't know the answer to! We hope to invite Professor Brian Cox back to the School of Medicine in the summer as part of British Science week.

Year 12 students at the School of Medicine will have an opportunity to be involved in the Covid-19 vaccination roll out programme. In early 2021 it is anticipated that students will be put to work acting as Marshals, patient advocates and undertaking general administration. A perfect way to gain further insight into team work in the NHS, and during a pandemic too!



Next week, students will participate in a lecture from Dr Nigel Jones from Liverpool University. Dr Nigel is a leading expert in hereditary cancers and will discuss how his research may lead to potential cures for diseases such as Fanconi Anaemia.

## Looking to the future

Work has started on the state of the art laboratories and classrooms in our new STEM Centre, at a cost approaching £1.5 million, the bespoke fully equipped labs will allow students the space and facilities to continue their studies in style.



**Want to know more about the School of Medicine?**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or email us directly with any questions you may have.

## Common Questions of SoM

How are Oxbridge interviews different to regular medical interviews?



Oxbridge interviews won't spend too much time asking you the questions that most other medical schools focus on (for example, 'Why Oxford/Cambridge?' or 'Why Medicine?'). Instead, they're interested in how you think and how you approach problems, and especially how you cope with not knowing the answer immediately. SoM students are taught to focus on logical thinking, justifying their thoughts and adapting their ideas based on the discussion.

What is the benefit of having super curricular activities like guest lectures?

We believe that exposing students to a wide variety of research and academia allows the students to gain a broad understanding of potential career routes and interests. In addition, students will be able to speak with confidence in interview about current research and developments from a first hand perspective.

What makes the School of Medicine Unique?

- Guaranteed work experience
- Small class sizes, max 15
- Extra contact time, 33% more than local colleges
- Extensive support
- All materials inc text books, personalised lab coat and hoodie provided
- Lots of enrichment, guest speakers and superb links with local medical schools