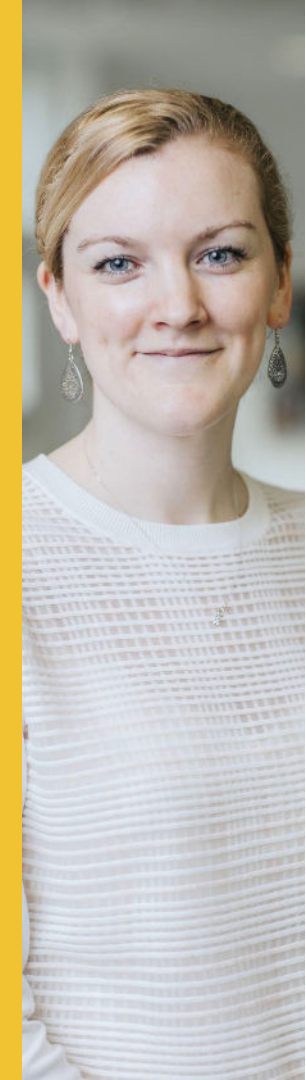


# Ashbourne Medical School Programme (AMSP)

Amy Youngman

*Teacher of Biology, Head of Faculty  
and Head of Sixth Form*



# Amy Youngman

## Head of the Medical Programme

Amy only joined Ashbourne in September 2015 but has spent the last eleven years working with medical students, guiding them through the application process.

She is Head of Faculty for the Natural Sciences and teaches biology in addition to running the Medical School programme.

Amy runs the medical sessions each week, and will be the first point of contact for all students wishing to apply to medical school.

By having a member of staff dedicated to all medical students, it ensures each student receives individual attention and assurance that they are supported throughout the entire application process. Amy is also an interviewer for UCL Medical School.

# Students will be provided with:

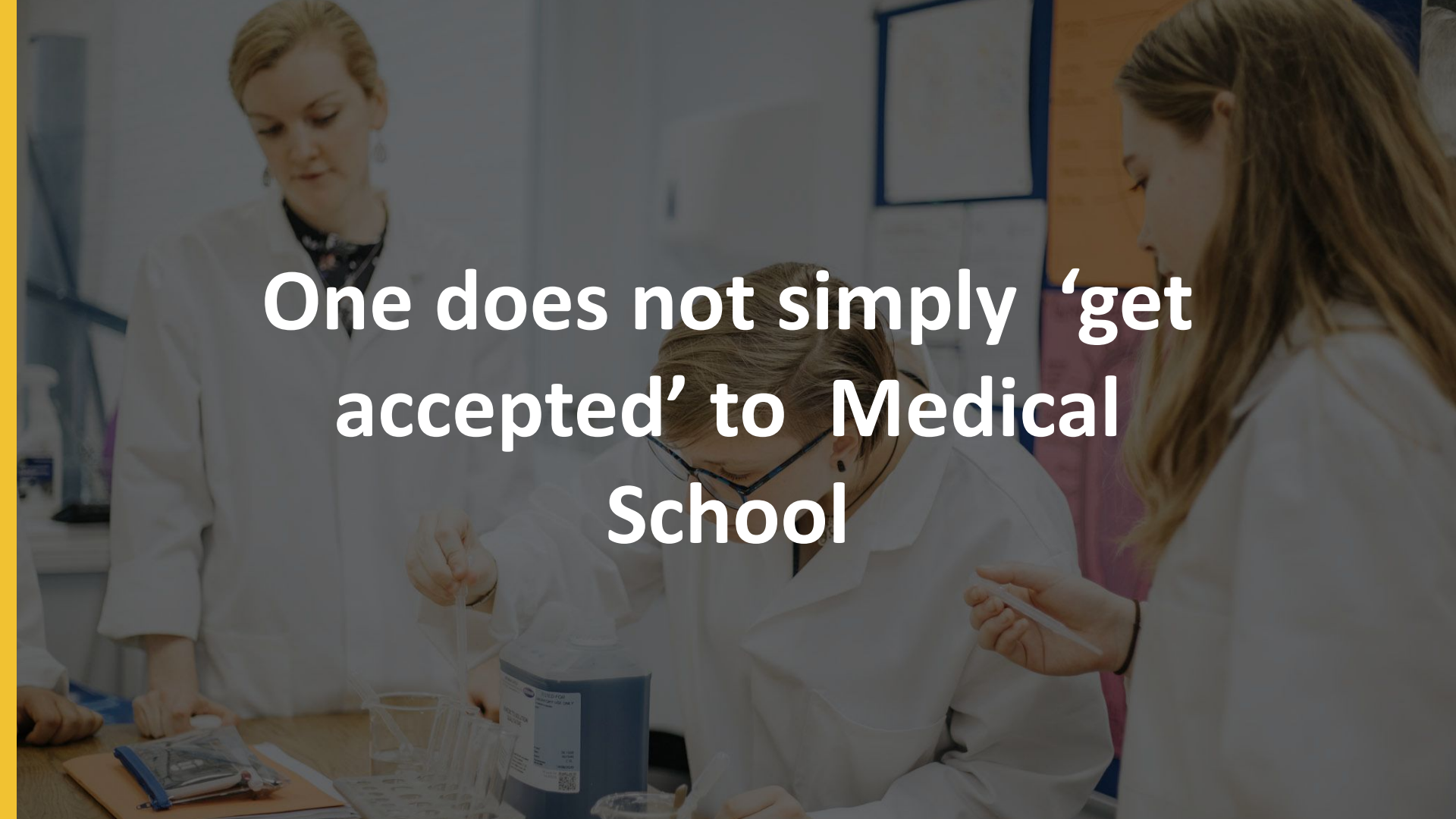
- ✓ A thorough understanding of what a medical career will involve
- ✓ UCAT preparation
- ✓ Interview preparation: both traditional and MMI's
- ✓ UCAS help: The personal statement and how to know where to apply
- ✓ Assistance in securing work experience placements
- ✓ The opportunity to discuss medical ethics and current medical issues with other prospective medical students during weekly meetings
- ✓ The opportunity to talk to current doctors and Ashbourne alumni who are now at medical school

# Can the AMSP help students considering Dentistry?

- ✓ Yes!
- ✓ Although less common, we still get a small handful of students wishing to apply for dentistry each year.
- ✓ These students will attend all the AMSP sessions and will also need to keep up to date with what is going on in the world of dentistry.
- ✓ In 2019, we have had 3 students who applied and secured their places for dentistry

# Why are so many applicants unsuccessful?

- UCAT scores may not be high enough
- Not enough work experience
- A poor interview
- Weak personal statement
- Applying to the wrong universities
- Lack of extracurricular activities



**One does not simply 'get accepted' to Medical School**



# How can the AMSP help?

- ✓ By attending weekly sessions, students will be provided with all the information necessary for a successful application.
- ✓ All potential medical students are identified when they interview at Ashbourne. This ensures that they are given guidance right from the start.
- ✓ The AMSP guides students through the entire application process, from drafting the personal statement to accepting an offer.

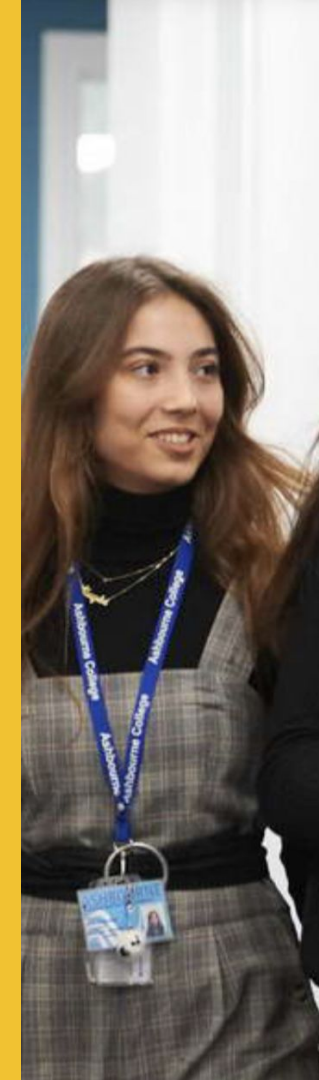
# Weekly sessions





# Typical timetable (weekly sessions)

Week	Topics discussed
1	Introduction to Medicine
2	How to write a powerful Personal Statement
3	Where will the NHS be in 5 years' time?
4	How to decide which medical schools to apply to
5	How to secure work experience
6	UCAT preparation
7	Previous successful applicants: how did they do it?
8	Advice from real doctors
9	The Traditional Interview: typical questions
10	Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI's): typical questions
11	The 5th choice: how to make it wisely





# Benefits of weekly sessions

- ✓ The weekly sessions give students the opportunity to improve their non-academic skills.
- ✓ Debating current medical issues allows students to consider arguments from both points of view.
- ✓ Presenting information about important topics such as euthanasia or abortion also allows students to improve their public speaking.



# Work Experience

Work experience is absolutely essential.

- When to apply
- DBS check

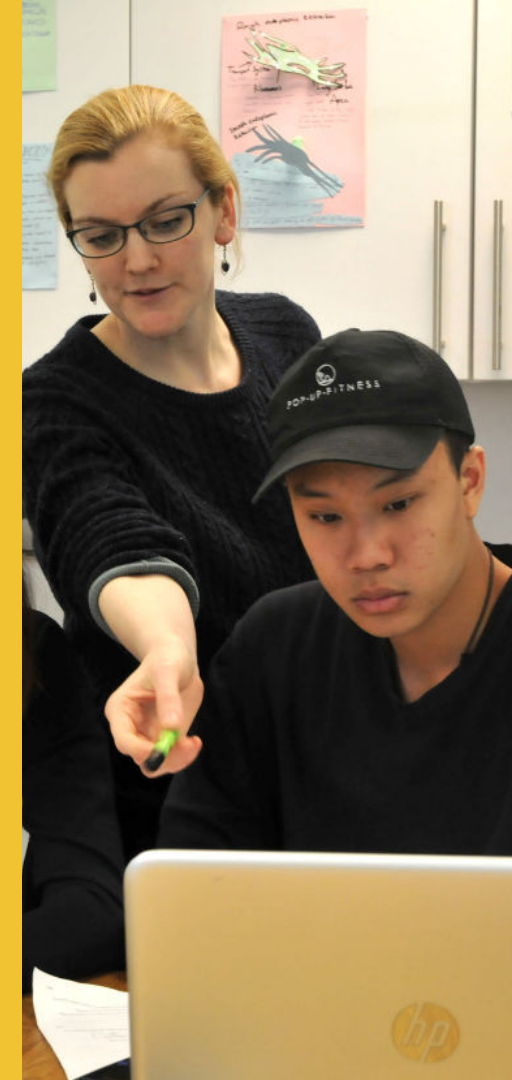
# Volunteering

*“In addition to high academic achievement, medical schools look for applicants who are genuinely concerned for others. Some time spent volunteering is not only a good way to enhance your experience, but it also demonstrates your empathy and committed to a career in medicine.”*

NHS consortium

# Admissions Test for Medicine: UCAT

- **UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test):** It helps to ensure that candidates selected have the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviour required for new doctors and dentists to be successful in their clinical careers. It is used in collaboration with other admissions processes such as the UCAS application and academic qualifications. The UCAT does not contain any curriculum or science content. It focuses on exploring the cognitive powers of candidates and other attributes considered valuable for healthcare professionals.



# UCAT:

## Sat at an external centre (July to September)

UCAT Subtests	Questions	UCAT	UCATSEN
<b>Verbal Reasoning</b> Assesses the ability to critically evaluate information presented in a written form.	44	1 minute instruction section. 21 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 26 minutes 15 seconds test time.
<b>Decision Making</b> Assesses the ability to make sound decisions and judgements using complex information.	29	1 minute instruction section. 31 minutes test time.	1 minute instruction section. 31 minutes test time.
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b> Assesses the ability to critically evaluate information presented in a numerical form.	36	1 minute instruction section. 24 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 30 minutes test time.
<b>Abstract Reasoning</b> Assesses the use of convergent and divergent thinking to infer relationships from information.	55	1 minute instruction section. 13 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 16 minutes 15 seconds test time.
<b>Situational Judgement</b> Measures the capacity to understand real world situations and to identify critical factors and appropriate behaviour in dealing with them.	69	1 minute instruction section. 26 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 32 minutes 30 seconds test time.

# Universities requiring UCAT for 2024

University of Aberdeen

Anglia Ruskin University

Aston University

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

Brunel University  
(International students only)

Cardiff University

University of Dundee

University of East Anglia

Edge Hill University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Hull York Medical School

Keele University

Kent and Medway Medical School

King's College London

University of Leeds

University of Leicester

University of Lincoln

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

Norwich Medical School (UEA)

University of Nottingham

Plymouth University

Queen Mary University  
London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of St Andrews

St George's, University of  
London

University of Sunderland

University of Warwick



ASHBOURNE  
Kensington, London

# Academic Requirements

It is no secret that the entry requirement for Medicine is high.

- Typical offers range from A\*A\*A to AAA.
- It is absolutely essential that students achieve all A grades at AS in order to guarantee that they are at the academic standard required for medicine.
- With such small classes and individual attention at Ashbourne, this is perfectly achievable with complete dedication and hard work from the student.



# Different medical schools use different teaching methods

## The Traditional Approach

- Long-established
- Lecture-based style
- Becoming increasingly less common
- A definite pre-clinical/clinical divide
- Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews

## PBL (Problem Based Learning)

- Problem-based learning
- Becoming popular
- A patient-oriented approach
- From year 1 onwards, students are heavily involved in clinical scenarios, with the focus on the student to demonstrate self-motivation and proactive, self-directed learning
- Designed to get away from previous, traditional spoon-fed' approach.

## The Integrated Approach

- A compromise between a traditional course and a PBL course
- They have patient contact from the start BUT there is a huge variation in the amount of contact from school to school
- Basic medical sciences are taught concurrently with clinical studies

# Knowing where to apply

- It can be overwhelming for students when deciding where to apply.
- The AMSP talks students through all the different teaching methods medical schools use in order to help them make their choices.
- It is also crucial for students to look carefully at the entry requirements. For example, some medical schools require students to have a minimum score of 600 for the UCAT. This is why the AMSP ensures students feel thoroughly prepared for this test.
- Attending open days is also crucial.

# Preparing for the different types of interview

## The Traditional Interview



## Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI's)



# The Traditional Interview

- Typically lasts between 20-30 minutes
- There are usually 3 members of staff on the panel and occasionally a medical student. Typical questions include:

“Why do you want to become a doctor?”

“I notice that you spent two weeks at Hospital X. Tell me something about what you did there?”

the NHS will be in 5 years time?”

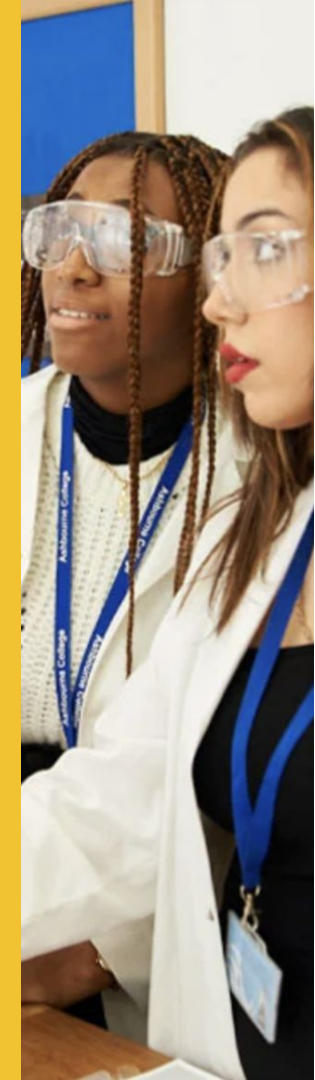
“What do you think makes a good doctor?”

“What have you done to show your commitment to Medicine and the Community?”

“Why have you applied to this medical school?”

# Multiple Mini Interviews

- A multiple mini interview consists of a series of short, structured interview stations used to assess non-cognitive qualities including cultural sensitivity, maturity, teamwork, empathy, reliability and communication skills.
- Prior to the start of each mini interview rotation, candidates receive a question/scenario and have a short period of time (typically two minutes) to prepare an answer.
- An example of an MMI question “Tell me about a time where you later regretted a decision you made. What would you do differently?”



# Interview Practice on the AMSP

- All students will be provided with both a mock traditional interview and a mock MMI interview during their AS year. This allows them to see how they are able to cope under pressure and which areas they need to improve upon.
- Upon being offered an interview in their A2 year, students will again, be offered practice interviews with both Amy and other members of staff in order to fully prepare them for the real thing.
- This crucial practice can make the difference between an offer or a rejection.



# Extracurricular Activities

- Medical Schools like to see that students have interests outside of academia.
- Luckily, there are various extra-curricular activities students are able to get involved with at Ashbourne. This will not only make their application look more impressive but will also demonstrate their ability to work as part of a team.

# Advice from the Experts



**Dr. Laura**

*Medicine, Imperial College*

working in the States



**Dr. Rebecca**

*Medicine, Imperial College*

working as GP in  
Birmingham



**Dr. Charlotte**

*Medicine, King's College*

working as an obstetrics  
registrar in the midlands



# Advice from the Experts

“ Sadly a career in medicine is far from the glamour of ER, Gray's Anatomy and even Scrubs (although that's probably the closest). If you are prepared to sacrifice nights out to study, your weekends and nights to be in the hospital dealing with blood, poop and pee, spend half your days telling people to stop smoking, drinking, doing drugs, reassuring them that their pain does not need narcotics because it's being caused by constipation, and live for the few moments of glory when you do make a difference, then sleep for a few hours before you have to get up and do it all over again, then you might just be able to make it as a doctor (or a nurse, pharmacist, physiotherapist, social worker).

There are several great books you can read to find out more, "In Stitches" by Dr Nick Edwards, "Confessions of a GP" by Dr Benjamin Daniels, and a quick search on Amazon will find many more. Anything written by Atul Gawande is worth a read too. Try and get some experience in a GP office or a local hospital. Volunteering at a nursing home is good for you too and looks great on your application.



**Dr. Laura**

*Medicine, Imperial College*  
working in the States

# Advice from the Experts



**Dr. Rebecca**

*Medicine, Imperial College*

working as GP in  
Birmingham



I would advise people to think about where they want to study with regards to how they teach the course as this can make a lot of difference in the university experience.

I think the important thing is to be prepared for the fact that it may be challenging and different from a typical student experience.

However the overall experience is rewarding, you come out with an almost guaranteed job at the end and you get to make a difference to people's lives.

# Advice from the Experts



You need to do medicine because you really want to, not because your parents think it's a good idea or you have the right grades. Gone are the days where it is really easy to make a lot of money and you are the most respected person in the town. It involves a lot of hard physical and mental work, there is no overtime pay, you will finish late a lot, patients shout, relatives can get angry, and I'm not sure how much longer we will have the NHS as we know it now for.

However, it is such a rewarding job, it's incredibly social (I feel like my day is one long social event) and offers so many diverse careers - there really is something for everyone. Medicine also offers the opportunity to work abroad so is not limiting to the UK. I don't ever remember a day where I've woken up and thought 'I don't want to go to work today' - mostly because I don't really think of my job as work, it's part of my life and I love it.



**Dr. Charlotte**

*Medicine, King's College*

working as an obstetrics registrar in the midlands



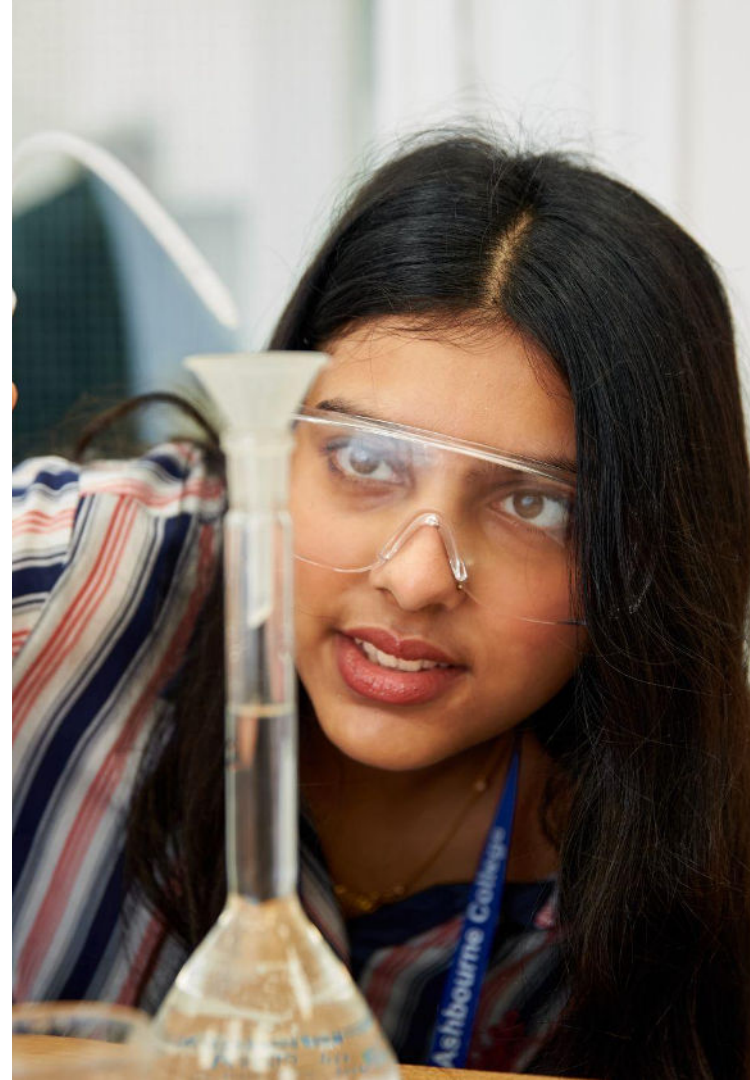
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Kensington, London

# To do list for prospective medics

- Book a meeting with Amy to discuss all things Medicine.
- Sign up to the medic portal for lots of free online resources for medicine:  
<https://www.themedicportal.com/sign-up/?reason=portfolio>
- Securing work experience is vital but it can take months. Start contacting local hospitals for availability ASAP.
- Make sure that you are up to date with what's going on in the world of medicine. Start with the BBC News, The Guardian Newspaper and New Scientist.
- Look at the UCAT websites and start having a look at past papers/practice questions.
- Start looking at the websites of the different medical schools in order to gather more information.
- Look at the specifications for all your A level subjects. Start looking at the recommended books in order to make a head start.

# Ashbourne's Statistics:

- In 2023, **80%** of Ashbourne medical applicants were offered a place.
- From 2016-2022, **76%** of Ashbourne medical applicants were offered a place.
- Our students have gone onto study Medicine and Dentistry at: **UCL, King's College London, University of St. Andrews** and **St. George's Hospital Medical School**, amongst 13 other UK and international Medical Universities.



# Tomi

Received offer from King's College London for Biomedical Science.

*Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2023.*

Biology A\*

Chemistry A

Psychology A

Reading Medicine at University of Central Lancashire.



# Kian

*Graduated from Ashbourne Summer 2023.*

Biology **A\***

Chemistry **A\***

Maths **A\***

Persian **A\***

Reading Medicine at Keele University School  
Of Medicine.



# Baseera

Received offers from University of Bristol and St.George's Hospital for Medicine.

*Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2022.*

Biology A\*

Chemistry A

Psychology A

Reading Medicine at St.George's Hospital  
Medical School.



# Kenny

Received offers from UCL, Queen Mary, and Birmingham University.

*Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2022.*

Biology **A\***

Chemistry **A\***

Maths **A\***

Currently reading Medicine at UCL.

# Hanna

Received offer from Imperial, UCL and UEA for Medicine, and Kings for Biomedical Science.

*Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2019.*

Biology A

Chemistry A

Maths A\*

Currently reading Medicine at Imperial College London.

# Lilian

Received offers from King's and UEA for  
Medicine, and Kings for Biomedical Science.

*Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2019.*

Biology A  
Chemistry A  
Maths A\*

Currently reading Medicine at King's College, London.

A photograph of several young women in a library or study area. One woman in the center is smiling and looking towards the camera. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at books or laptops. A dark blue banner is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

For any queries, please contact us at  
[admissions@ashbournecollege.co.uk](mailto:admissions@ashbournecollege.co.uk)