

Medic Mentor Personal Reflection – From a Year 12 point of view.

Coming from a normal south of England state school and college I was apprehensive of the day ahead. I felt inquisitive but also cautious. If it were anything like previous events I attended the room would be filled with 300 people who already seemed super prepared for journey into medical school! Feelings aside, I settled down to listen to the first speaker, a year 12 student, like me. She was passionate, motivational, inspiring, and I found confidence build inside me as I realised her own action plan and lifestyle was not far from my own, we shared experiences such as D of E and extra curriculum activities and I found, even having had less external support in the past, it wasn't unrealistic to be applying for such a competitive course. Comparatively I did feel a sense of intimidation from the achievements of her and the other speakers that I do not yet have under my belt. Although I took this as a plus point, a fuel for motivation, a pointer of self-improvement and I set about scribbling down notes from all 16 informative students and medics that spoke.

There was a specific part of one presentation that I felt was particularly beneficial for me. A medical school student who had entered medicine on his forth attempt though a biomedical degree was addressing us. He spoke about how he felt great frustration working with test tubes when all he wanted to be doing was at the forefront with patients. This struck a chord with me, as it made me realise this is not the route I personally want to take, I am strongly connected to people contact and listening to his own experience made me realise how important this is to me. Along with other speakers from the day, the network of clouded pathways in my head was slowly becoming a more direct route. This is largest plus point that I would recommend to anyone thinking of attending the event. Having expressed interest in medicine at 16 you tend to get a lot of options, continuous questions such as 'are you sure you don't want another similar career?' It's talks and events, such as Medic Mentor, that helped me to filter though ideas and find a set of workable directions to follow in order to achieve my goal.

If I were being analytical of my experience, I would say that the reason the speakers' information felt so crucial to my learning is because before attending I lacked confidence that I could achieve this aim of getting into medical school. My newly acquired information led to a valuable Q+A session at the end of the event in which I had my own concerns about personal statement writing addressed by two consultants, a junior doctor and an oncology registrar. Not something I was expecting to receive! I felt involved and informed and is the reason I find myself reflecting on my experience, a new skill I wouldn't have thought I would need to enter the medical profession.

To conclude I have to say the day was invaluable. My initial apprehension about the organisation was void, as it had become apparent to me that they were there to open a medical career to everyone interested, a core concept of the day I found very impressive.

I know exactly what to do to progress myself as an applicant in this process and will continue to keep in touch with other events Medic Mentor hold in the future. Being in the middle of AS level mocks along with many other year 12's has already become a tight packed stressful schedule and I have found the only antidote to this issue is a clear sense of direction. All I can do is thank Medic Mentor for this opportunity.