

# The Kent School Project 2023: Influencing our Future Generation:



## NHS England Workforce Training & Education Directorate

We work with partners to plan, recruit, educate, and train the healthcare workforce.





The project has brought together the two biggest public sectors; Health and Education, to deliver high quality, hands-on, interactive workshops promoting the NHS, Population Health, Health Inequalities, Greener NHS, and the Allied Health Professions. It has the potential to raise awareness and aspirations amongst children who may never have had an opportunity to know about these professions, therefore widening the participation and securing a future workforce that better represents it's local community. The Kent and Medway AHP faculty set up a steering group and a partnership between the Faculty and the Golden Thread Alliance was formed. The project pilot launched on Wednesday 1st March, and 24 children attend Canterbury Christchurch University, they each participated in four workshops delivered by AHPs from across the Kent & Medway integrated care system. Sixteen workshops were delivered during the day by ODPs, Orthoptists, Radiographers, Physiotherapists, Prosthetists, Occupational Therapists, Drama Therapists, Art Therapists, and Speech and Language Therapists. Each session was 30 minutes of high energy fun, each group consisted of six children and a teacher as well as the AHP. A workbook was co-produced that promotes all these areas but also aligns with the National curriculum. We had an opportunity to tackle health and future workforce supply as it meant children from areas of deprivation would be exposed to careers and opportunities to visit University, an exposure they may never otherwise have had.



To measure impact teachers conducted a survey on our behalf both prior and post event. Prior to the day, the children were asked 'What is the NHS?' 'What kind of jobs are in the NHS?' 'Would you like to work in the NHS?' 'What would you like to do when you are older?' The results revealed that no children understood what the NHS was, 13 of the 24 answered Doctors and Nurses, the remaining 11 did not know, making guesses that included cleaners, maths people and police, 3 stated they did not know. 11 said they might like to work in the NHS as a doctor or a nurse, the rest had various aspirations ranging from cleaner, working in a shop, groundworker, astronaut and pilot.



A few days after the event another survey was conducted, the children were asked 'What is the NHS?' 'What jobs are in the NHS?' 'Would you like to work in the NHS?' 'Did you enjoy your day at Canterbury Christ Church University?' 'Which was your favourite workshop?' 'What would you like to do when you are older?'. The results were all children understood what the NHS was, 21 children said they would like to work in the NHS, they all enjoyed the day. The most favourite workshops were those delivered by ODPs, Speech and Language, Prosthetists and Drama Therapists. The top three professions the children wanted to do when they are older were ODP, Speech and Language, and Drama Therapy. The results demonstrate this project had a positive impact in raising aspirations and inspiring our future workforce.





Next steps include the planning and delivery of a week-long larger scale event that could be delivered annually and promotes Allied Health Professions, Nursing, Midwifery, and Healthcare Science with all partner organisations and all schools across the system engaged; we already have the meetings scheduled and the people engaged!

Overall, the children had a fantastic day, but so did the teachers and the health professionals, there was a richness in learning for everyone involved. The success of the day demonstrates together, we can achieve anything and inspire our people, our future generations of Allied Health Professionals and help break down the barriers to accessing University and careers in Health.

Link to the video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYXcyMQVy\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYXcyMQVy_A)

If you require more information, please email [ahp.se@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:ahp.se@hee.nhs.uk)

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