

# Thornleigh Sixth Form Medical Society



## What is the Medical Society?

The Thornleigh Medical Society is an enrichment opportunity for students who wish to pursue a career in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Radiography or Optometry. The main purpose of the society is to support students throughout the application process onto a medical degree course and other related degrees, and to enrich their understanding of the profession.

## Who is it for?

All students who are studying A Level Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Applied Science, Psychology and Maths are invited to apply to join the Medical Society. Suitability for the Medical Society will be determined from the range of subjects being studied at A Level.

## What will the Medical Society involve?

Successful candidates will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from the medical profession, attend university lectures and participate in practical dissections, X-ray reading sessions and the possibility of first aid workshops. Members will meet weekly to discuss the latest in medical science and the NHS, participate in debates such as medical ethics, and discuss different university courses and how best to prepare for the UKCAT and BMAT (biomedical admissions tests). We will also endeavour to support and guide students in finding valuable volunteering and work experience and help them explore opportunities within society to develop their team work and leadership skills.

## Why join the Medical Society?

- Joining a Medical Society shows to admission tutors, and those interviewing you, that you love the field of healthcare and have shown initiative and desire to be part of the medical profession by becoming a member.
- You will be kept up-to-date with the latest in Medicine and related fields, which will be interesting but also an excellent talking point for any university interview.
- Joining the society could boost your opportunities and likelihood of being accepted onto competitive university courses.
- You will develop key skills that are crucial in the field of Medicine and related fields.
- You will have opportunities to extend your subject knowledge and collaborate with like-minded individuals.

## Career Opportunities

There are numerous careers available to students who have taken part in the Medical Society beyond the typical doctor, dentist and vet. These include Physiotherapy, Optometry, Radiography, Pharmacy, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences.



## Key Points for Applying for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science:

- Early application process
- Relevant, self-organised, work experience is essential
- The highest A Level grades needed – typically AAA (possibly A\*s)
- A Level Chemistry and (usually) Biology essential
- Excellent people skills and sound motivation are essential
- Selection interviews are important
- There are additional selection tests; either UKCAT or BMAT
- Lots of people apply – between 1 in 5 and 1 in 15 of applicants are successful (depending upon university)
- It takes 5 or 6 years to qualify
- Foundation year courses are available. These are intended for conversion from other disciplines rather than to supplement poor A Level grades

## Medicine – Medical Society Key Points:

- 29 medical schools to choose from for Standard Entry Medicine.
- A Level Sciences essential – details vary, but typically Chemistry + Biology with Physics or Mathematics.
- Typically grades AAA and often higher are required.
- An additional entry examination is required: either BMAT or UKMAT.
- Substantial work experience in a care/ clinical setting is essential pre-application (e.g. care home, hospital, St John ambulance, hospice etc.).
- Clinical work experience/shadowing can be very useful.
- Evidence of being up to date with medical and scientific issues as well as a good knowledge of the news relevant to the NHS is needed.
- Evidence of understanding of the role and career development pathways of a doctor is essential.
- Good health essential (declare anything serious).
- Medical training normally takes 5 years to complete.
- Training patterns and teaching styles vary by university: more universities are now integrating clinical experience at an early stage. Problem-based approaches are also becoming more common.
- Possible elective year (maybe abroad).
- Possible intercalated degree (you get an extra science degree by doing an extra year).

## Dentistry – Medical Society Key Points:

- 18 UK dental schools to choose from.
- A Level sciences are essential – check details at the site below.
- Typically, grades AAA and often higher are required at A Level.
- Good health essential (declare anything serious).
- Might need to do BMAT or UKCAT test.
- Pre-application work experience in a clinical/ care setting is essential (e.g. care home, assisting nurses, dental practice, hospice).
- Normally takes 5 years plus a year of foundation (practical/vocational) training.
- First 2 years of study are often preclinical – theory, case studies, relating to patients.
- Then 3 years of clinical training.
- Assessment by exams, coursework and observation of clinical examination.
- Possible Intercalated degree.
- Dentists are sometimes self-employed or work in private practice.
- Or you might work in a hospital or in a community health context (employed by NHS).

## Veterinary Science – Medical Society Key Points:

- 8 veterinary schools to choose from.
- A-Level sciences essential – check details with individual vet schools. Typically, grades AAA are required at A level.
- Good health essential (declare anything serious).
- Might need to take an aptitude test.
- Relevant work experience (with animals) is essential – see requirements of individual universities.
- Training normally takes 5 years to complete.
- First 2 year are preclinical – theory etc.
- The 3 years of clinical (medical tasks).
- Possible Intercalated degree (you get an extra science degree by doing extra year)

## Useful Links:

Dental Schools Council

Medical Volunteering

The Association of Veterinary Students

Medical Portal

Scrubbed Up

NHS England

Observe GP

