

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

1 November 2022

Dear Headteacher,

Support for aspiring nurses and midwives of the future – South East Region

As the NHS struggles with capacity shortages, growing the nursing & midwifery workforce is a massive national priority with huge potential for sustained employment growth in roles that span the worlds of science, technology, and innovation through to leadership, management, and collaboration.

NHS England recognises that its workforce needs to reflect the diversity of the population it serves, so we have created an exciting project to entice more young people from across England into fulfilling NHS careers through an exclusive series of eye-opening, expert-led, insights & virtual work experiences.

The programme – known as NHS NextGen Nurse is underway throughout this academic year and will continue annually, facilitated locally by our NHS Regional teams. It is freely available to any 14-19-year-old who attends a UK state secondary school or college.

What will the sessions focus on?

Ask most young people what a nurse does, and they will have a rough idea, but they will not necessarily appreciate the huge variety of roles available or the flexibility and opportunities for career progression that nursing allows. They may also harbour some unhelpful preconceptions around who can be a nurse.

The NHS NextGen Nurse programme aims to address these gaps and/or misconceptions by providing educators with a selection of easy and accessible options:

- 1. Virtual Nursing Insight Days** – Young people get the opportunity to hear from nurses working across a range of nursing fields, learn what key skills are needed in the workplace and find out how you can get started in a nursing career.

2. **Pathways into Nursing** - The full-day 'Pathways into Nursing' workshop for Year 12 or 13s provides students with accurate information about study nursing, informs them about how to make their application stand out and inspires them to study nursing.

3. **Nurse Led Short Session** – Ideal for assemblies or PSE slots. One of our 'Nursing Ambassadors' work with you toward a face to face or virtual session with young people interested in a Nursing career. The nurses give a genuine insight into the career and an opportunity to find out about what a nurse REALLY does.

4. **Healthcare Community Sessions** – We can organise for all elements of the healthcare community to come to you! Our healthcare community session model brings NHS educators (local universities) and NHS Providers seeking a future workforce (apprenticeships & post grad.) together to present the career pathway.

5. **Virtual Work Experience** - A longer virtual placement lasting 2-5 days that provide a deeper dive into the nursing profession where they can explore a wider variety of specialities.

To make sure no one ever misses out, the various types of sessions are repeated at select intervals throughout the year. This means that there is plenty of capacity to accommodate your students.

To allow you and your colleagues the opportunity to coordinate careers education activities with other key dates in the curriculum, there are also opportunities to join **Themed NHS NextGen Nurse sessions** that coincide with Black History Month, National Apprenticeship Week, International Women's Day and many more.

Finally, to support your workforce in holding up to date information on the routes into nursing, we intend to hold several Careers advisor/Teacher Lead sessions throughout the year.

If your school would like to engage with any part of the programme please express your interest by filling in this online form <https://forms.office.com/r/0S2iERvmej> no later than 12 noon 18th November 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Vaughan

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NextGen Nurse, Nursing Directorate, NHS
England.