

11 March 2024

Big Think Competition | University of Oxford

The annual Big Think Competition is back for 2024! This is a great opportunity for your students.

We are inviting students to tackle one of our tutors' 'big' questions. These have been specially designed to challenge pupils beyond their normal school curriculum and get them thinking about their subject and what it might be like to study it at university. They simply record a video of 5 minutes or less presenting their arguments, research, evidence, or opinions. This can be filmed on their phones, and as fancy or as simple as they like – we won't judge based on presentation but on quality of argument and research.

This competition aims to:

- Support students in developing their super-curricular activities, giving them material for their personal statements
- Help them to practise vocalising their thought processes and justifying their arguments, mimicking the tutorial system and Oxbridge interview process.

This opportunity is for students in Years 11-13. Applications are now open! The deadline to submit is Wednesday 1 May.

Prizes are up for grabs:

- £100 first prize
- £50 second prize
- £35 Subject Commendations

All winners will also be invited to Oxford for the day, where they will get to discuss their entries with subject tutors, tour round with current students and enjoy lunch in our Wolfson Hall.

I have attached materials including posters to print and wording to share with students, but more information about the questions, our tutor judging panel and how to enter can be found at: <https://seh.ac/bigthink>

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Work Experience Opportunities – Medical Career

Work experience is a crucial aspect of a student's journey into a medical career. Not only is it beneficial to observe doctors or dentists in action but what sets someone apart is truly understanding their roles, decision-making processes, and the dynamics of working within a multidisciplinary team.

I'm excited to share the new rotation of our Virtual Work Experience (WEX) is now available. This month, your students have the opportunity to delve into Obstetrics & Gynaecology or Paediatric & Dental Surgery, gaining invaluable insights into these specialised fields. The medical programme spans over 6 months, while the dental is 4 months, offering a wide range of specialties for them to explore.

More details can be found here:

<https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

To ensure your students don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity, they need to attend our upcoming Get Into Medicine or Get Into Dentistry conference, granting them IMMEDIATE ACCESS to the Virtual Work Experience programmes.

Students and parents can register for free at these links:

Medical: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shry7MZYtt3MGpjvO>

Dental: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shrBuiR7SBAC19kE>

If your students haven't attended a Get Into Conference but would like to join the Virtual Work Experience, they can sign up for the next upcoming conferences on these dates:

For aspiring Doctors: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Medicine conference dates:

Saturday 9th March from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Sunday 17th March from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Sunday 24th March from 9:30am - 3:30pm

For aspiring Dentists: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Dentistry conference date:

Saturday 23rd March from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Throughout these conferences, students will have the opportunity to interact directly with doctors, dentists, and medical and dental students. They'll gain critical information on deciding if a career in dentistry or medicine is for them and how to make a competitive application to study at university.

Students aged 14 - 18 are invited to attend with a parent or guardian, equipped with a working camera and microphone.

Medical Registration Link: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shry7MZYtt3MGpjvO>

Dental Registration Link: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lw6/shrBuiR7SBAC19kE>