

Support your child to enter to Step into the NHS secondary schools competition



National winner of the 2021-2022 Step into the NHS secondary schools competition

Why we need you!

As a parent or carer, we'd like you to encourage and support your child's entry into the [Step into the NHS](#) secondary schools competition so they can learn about the wide range of career opportunities in the NHS.

We are inviting Key Stage 3 students (ages 11 – 14) across England to submit a fun and lively job advertisement on a chosen NHS career by **30 April 2023**. They'll be joining us in celebrating the NHS' 75th birthday in 2023.



Why we need you!

We understand that families at home have a huge influence over a child's ambitions and what they think about jobs and the world of work. Your support at home can contribute significantly to your child's education and aspirations.

Your child will have started thinking about their entry and their teacher would have shared the relevant resources with them, but there are lots of ways families can help.

How do I support my child's entry?

1. Visit the Step into the NHS website (search 'Step into the NHS') to help them explore over 350 jobs. You can both:
 - Explore a 'day in the life' of different careers with our [careers A-Z](#)
 - Watch our [new career videos](#) to hear from people in the NHS
 - Take the [careers quiz](#) on the website which suggests NHS careers based on their skills and interests
2. Use the conversation starters below if you cannot access the website.
3. Encourage your child to be creative!
 - Which NHS role appeals to them the most? It doesn't have to be one they want to do; it could be one they want to learn more about or that they think they could create a great advert for.
 - What are they best at? Drawing, making videos, playing games, building things? Can they incorporate these skills into their entry?
 - Their entry can be made using materials around the home – paper, colouring pens, news clippings or paints.
 - If your child chooses to film a video, they might need your help. Try to film in a space with lots of light, like near a window or a lamp.
4. How can they show in their entry what skills, qualifications and experience their chosen role needs? How can they put this information in their advert in a creative way?
5. Help your child send their entry to their teacher before 30 April 2023

Conversation starters

Here are some questions to help your child identify which NHS careers they might take interest in. Use positive language and take your time when exploring your child's answers.

- **What is your favourite subject? Could an NHS job involve it?** (Prompt: how about pharmacist or accountant for maths, or paramedic for science?
Physiotherapists and porters use P.E. skills, and there are plenty of jobs in IT!)
- **What do you think you're best at? What job could you use this skill in?**
- **Do you prefer working with your hands or doing lots of reading and sums?**
(Prompt: jobs like electrician and dramatherapist are hands-on, but a librarian or HR manager might be less-so)
- **Would you like your job in the NHS to involve meeting lots of people?**
(Prompt: roles like radiographers and receptionists meet lots of patients)
- **How do you think an NHS career could have a positive impact on people?**
(Prompt: helping them get better is an obvious way, but how about roles such as estates manager, porter and IT officer? How do they help?)
- **What jobs are you already aware of in the NHS?** (Prompt: think of any job – most likely you can do it in the NHS!)
- **Do you know anyone that works for the NHS?** (Prompt: do any of their friend's relatives? Or any NHS staff they have met, like at their GP surgery?)

Remember, the NHS employs over 1.3 million people in England alone and there is a breadth of roles available – not all of them mean working with patients or being good at science. Roles such as finance manager, gardener, chef or art therapist are needed in the NHS.

Spreading the word

Do you know parents of young people that go to other schools than your child? Do you think they would like to take part in this competition? Share a copy of this guide with them or tell them to search 'Step into the NHS' and talk to their child's teacher and help raise aspirations of young people nationwide!

Handy weblinks

Video introducing the competition

<https://www.stepintothens.nhs.uk/secondary-schools>

Careers A-Z

<https://www.stepintothens.nhs.uk/careers>

Careers quiz

<https://www.stepintothens.nhs.uk/careers/take-the-test>

Careers videos

<https://www.stepintothens.nhs.uk/careers/videos>

Thank you and good luck with your entries!