

New show inspires next generation of allied health professionals

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The valuable work of allied health professionals is being showcased in a new broadcast designed to inspire thousands of children to consider a career in the health service.

The half-hour programme, commissioned by Health Education England (HEE), follows diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers, an occupational therapist, dietitian, podiatrist and operating department practitioners at work in real-life hospital and community settings.

It explains the roles of physiotherapists, orthoptists, prosthetists and other allied health professionals, reveals students' views on training and offers practical advice.

More than 1600 schools across England were invited to a livestream launch of the programme on June 26, followed by a Q&A featuring health professionals and children around the country. Many more schools are expected to watch the show over the coming weeks.

Beverley Harden, HEE's national lead on the AHP programme, said: 'Allied health professionals are one of the largest and most vital professional groups within the health service and the career rewards are immense.

'We want to show students what it's really like behind the scenes and help them explore the pathways to a whole range of fulfilling and exciting careers.

'With so many entry paths and such a variety of options, there really is a role to suit everyone.'

The broadcast, 'Making a Difference: Careers in Healthcare?', is available now to view on demand via the WOW Show YouTube channel.

Teaching resources to accompany the programme are available free on the RSA Academies website [6].

Schools can also invite an Allied Health Professional ambassador to visit and advise students by registering with the Inspiring The Future website [7].

AHPs form a third of the NHS workforce. The new broadcast features all 14 of the professions, but concentrates on those where recruitment is a priority.

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Links

[1] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work>

[2] <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

[4] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/news-blogs-events>

[5] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/about>

[6] <https://www.rsaacademies.org.uk/projects/the-wow-show-health-careers-special-making-a-difference-teacher-resources/>

[7] <https://www.inspiringthefuture.org/>