Inspiring the next generation of GPs

Two local GPs (General Practitioners) found that it is never too early to start planning what you want to be when you grow up, when they visited Kenningtons Primary Academy in Aveley, as part of a drive to help the older children to start thinking about career options when they leave school.

Dr Vaiyapuri Raja, Governing Body member of NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Dr Manjeet Sharma, both local GPs, were invited by the school as part their ‘The World of Work’ activity to show the children the many different opportunities that they could aspire to, including joining a career in General Practice to become a GP, nurse or practice receptionist to name a few.

The GPs shared with the assembly of more than 300 pupils why they wanted to be GPs and the qualifications they needed to achieve this. They were also keen to highlight to the children that with perseverance and hard work anyone could aspire to become a GP.

The year six children in particular were very keen to find out exactly what it takes to become a doctor and had a number of questions to ask the GPs. Abigail asked: “What skills do you need to be doctor?” To which Dr Raja replied: “Compassion, determination and good communication skills to interact with patients”. He also added the importance of being able to write well and using maths daily which would help with prescribing medicines and the paperwork involved with being a doctor.
Elvina asked: “What advice would you give to anyone who wanted to become a doctor?” Dr Sharma encouraged the pupils to work hard at their studies and attain good results. She also told them to be ambitious, but also reminded them that everyone had different strengths and qualities and most importantly, that everyone has something to contribute to society at large.

Encouraging people to pursue a career in General Practice is very topical in Thurrock at the moment. The CCG, the organisation responsible for the planning and buying of local health and care services, is currently promoting a General Practice in Essex booklet which highlights a career in General Practice as being extremely rewarding for anyone who is passionate about making a real difference.

Dr Raja, who features in the booklet, said: “A career in General Practice can be very gratifying. There is a wide range of clinical and non-clinical career opportunities that people with different skills and qualities can pursue. I encourage anyone who wants to make a difference in a fulfilling and rewarding career to consider a role in general practice.”

Visit the CCG website to download the General Practice in Essex booklet: www.thurrockccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/have-you-considered-a-career-in-general-practice

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For further information about Thurrock CCG, visit our website at: http://www.thurrockccg.nhs.uk