

Planning to study medicine?

Having met and spoken to about 2/3 of year Y11 this term, it is clear that Medicine is a popular career choice. Many of you are planning to take subjects to facilitate this (Biology, Chemistry at A level) - as you are very well aware, 3 A levels in the 'right subjects' at the right grades (generally AAA or higher¹) is the first step in your application.

However, studying medicine requires more than just A Levels, it requires a real desire to work in the medical profession.

Medicine is very competitive, there were 4 applicants for every place in the UK this year², pretty much every applicant will have at least the minimum A level grades predicted. To become one of the one in four, you need to be able to demonstrate your commitment and interest in the medical profession in an interview.

Becoming a doctor requires a range of skills, not just an interest in human biology.

It requires team work, a desire to help others and a commitment to work hard during medical school and then into your specialist training as a doctor. Without a clear passion and purpose, you will not succeed.

Studying medicine is not something you do because you can't think of anything else, you have to really want it.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

If you cannot answer this, then think twice. Do not get stuck with A levels that you would not have otherwise taken. If you have a desire to help people, then ask yourself why medicine, why not a police officer or a nurse or a teacher or a politician or a human rights campaigner? If you enjoy Biology/Chemistry, then why do you want to apply it to medicine, do you enjoy working with people and helping others? Really understand your motives and your own strengths, they have to be strong enough to get you into medical school, out the other side and through your training.

If you would like to speak to me after Christmas (even if we have already met), please do contact me by email kwray@reading-school.co.uk and we'll find a time.

Karen Wray

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¹ [entry-requirements-document-2023-entry.pdf \(medschools.ac.uk\)](#)

² [Statistical Overview and Process of Applying to Medical School in the UK - Education Projects Group](#)