

## **Dr William Ansley MBBS BSc(Hons)**



It's always so exciting to see what our past students get up to, and today we have a wonderful update to share! Back in 2018, Will Ansley left QE to start his journey studying to become a doctor. Fast forward to today, and he is officially Dr William Ansley!

Dr William Ansley is currently working as a Foundation Year 2 Doctor, and things are moving fast as he has just accepted an exciting offer to start as an ENT-themed Core Surgical Trainee this coming August!

We are so incredibly proud of him. We caught up with Will to find out what life is like for him now, where his medical career has taken him, and to look back at his time at QE.

### **Please provide a brief overview of your role and the primary activities that make up your average workday?**

My day-to-day role is very variable depending on the rotation I am doing, though it always involves patients. Currently, I am non-clinical on my 4-month academic block, where I am doing ENT-themed research. I am currently doing projects on smell and taste disorders, as well as head and neck cancer diagnostics. My previous clinical rotation was ENT (what I want to do for the rest of my career!). I had a mix of:

- 1) Ward days: where I would do the ward round seeing all ENT inpatients, then carry out the jobs for each of them, such as requesting and reviewing bloods and scans, updating families etc. These days are 08:00-17:00.
- 2) On-calls: where I hold the on-call phone and take urgent referrals for patients from A&E and GPs who need same day ENT review. These days are longer – 08:00-20:30 or overnight from 20:00-08:30, when I'd be the only ENT doctor on site.
- 3) Theatres: days where I would be in the theatre assisting with operations, usually for head and neck cancers or thyroid problems.
- 4) Clinics: where I would be seeing patients in the outpatients department, normally in the emergency clinic for things like recurrent nosebleeds, foreign bodies in the ear and difficult to treat ear infections that the GPs need hospital input for.

### **Could you provide a brief overview of the qualifications and career path that led you to your current role?**

After leaving QE in 2018, I went to St George's in London and studied for my medical degree (MBBS), graduating in 2024. In those 6 years, I took a year out to get a BSc in Anatomy (this is called intercalating and is unique to medical degrees).

After graduating, I started work as a doctor. The first 2 years are called Foundation Year 1 & 2, where you rotate around 6 different jobs. I have done Thoracic surgery, Neurology, Geriatrics, Acute Medicine, ENT and am now on a research block. The research block is not part of the 'normal' Foundation Programme, but if you're interested in research, as I am, you can apply to do Academic Foundation Programmes where one rotation is non-clinical and focuses on research.

At the end of Foundation Year 2, you apply for specialty training (though are definitely not guaranteed a job!). I applied for Core Surgical Training (CST), which is the initial training to become a surgeon. The job I have

accepted for August is ENT-surgery themed. I now need to revise for and sit my postgraduate surgery exams (MRCS).

**Which teacher or subject had the biggest impact on you, and why?**

A-level Chemistry springs straight to mind! It taught me that something hard and (at times) frustrating can be enjoyable and rewarding, and this taught me resilience – a key skill for the job I now do. My teachers were Mr Leake and Mr Larter, who through being approachable helped me learn all sorts of interesting facts – this is an approach I have since adopted when it comes to teaching medical students and more junior clinicians. The (at times otherwise useless!) facts have also been a huge help in pub quizzes!

**Are there specific values or habits you learned at school that you still use in your job today? (e.g., resilience, teamwork, curiosity).**

Organisation and efficiency are key attributes I developed at school that have helped me massively in my career to date. Juggling all the content and skills I had to learn at medical school, and now juggling multiple clinical tasks, research and revision for postgraduate exams, as well as having a life and time to relax are only possible due to clear organisation and efficiency when completing tasks. When I did my GCSEs and A-levels, this looked like timetabling my revision (including breaks and social activities) and has since progressed to keeping my

**What do you think is the most important skill for a young person to develop in 2026?**

Having just completed CST interviews, which like so many job interviews nowadays, are held online, I would say learn to have formal discussions both face to face and online. Looking at the camera, speaking clearly and presenting yourself well, even though you're doing an interview in your bedroom is really important!