



## MOCK MULTIPLE MINI INTERVIEWS

Last Saturday Downside staged a 'mock' MMI (multiple mini interview) event.

Over 30 students from local independent and maintained schools came to the School to take part in this invaluable interview experience. Indeed, with an increasing number of medical schools moving to the MMI (multiple mini interview) format for potential students, it is important that pupils have the opportunity to practise for this type of interview.

Downside took the initiative four years ago to offer a 'mock' MMI event, as it can cost upwards of £130 to enrol for a practice morning with many companies. The Downside MMI event has steadily grown, with about a dozen students in 2015 to over 30 this year from both the independent and maintained sectors.

The format is not dissimilar to a speed-dating event, with a bell signalling that applicants should move from one station to another every ten minutes. At each station, they are confronted with a different scenario or focus, with little or no time to prepare. In order to give the students as much exposure to different types of question and scenario, this year they were partnered with another student and went through two circuits of interviews, one as an observer, one as the candidate. Students thus faced questions ranging from predictable areas, asking about their work experience and motivation, to areas of ethics, the Mental Health Act, 'hot' topics within the NHS, teamwork and data analysis; they were also asked to deal with difficult situations, from instructing someone to complete an apparently routine task to telling a patient that they are obese and, therefore, are not suitable for surgery.

The feedback from students and interviewers alike has been immensely positive, and it was clear that the event afforded very realistic preparation for what students may face at their medical school interview. The students received immediate feedback, both verbally and written, from each interviewer, with advice on what they did well and where they could improve further.

Of course, an event such as this relies entirely on the generosity of the interviewers, all of whom gave freely of their time and expertise. We would like to reiterate, therefore, our thanks to Mrs Damaris Hobbs, Sister Michelle Pye, Dr Marcella Leatherbarrow, Dr William Bruce-Jones, Mr Mark Grinsell, Mr Shaun Barrett, Dr Justin Weir, Dr Vanessa Wilkins, Mr Michael Randall, Dr Rebecca Anderson, Dr Patrick Magee and Professor Mary Jane Platt.

The schools which took part were: Downside School; The Blue School, Wells; Clayesmore School; St Bede's Catholic College; Bristol, King Edward's School, Bath; Clifton College; Rendcomb College, Cirencester; St Gregory's Catholic College, Bath; Wellington School; Prior Park College; St Laurence School, Bradford Upon Avon