



Working Together to Inspire Future Healthcare Heroes!

Welcome to the Northumbria Healthcare Widening Participation Team newsletter for school careers advisers and career leaders. This newsletter is your go-to place for the latest opportunities, events and resources to help students explore the exciting world of healthcare careers during the new academic year.

Who are the Widening Participation team?

A big hello from your Northumbria Healthcare Trust Widening Participation team. As a major local employer, we want to do all we can to support the future Northumbria Healthcare Trust stars of tomorrow. We're all about providing advice, guidance and help in supporting people into careers within health and care. We're particularly passionate about supporting under-represented groups into work.

Wonderful Work Experience – 2026/2027 update!

Work Experience Programme 2026/27 Now Open

Last year, Northumbria Healthcare provided 163 work experience placements across a wide range of areas, including:

- Medicine
- Estates
- Adult nursing
- GP surgeries
- Physiotherapy
- Digital services
- People services.

With over 600 applications received, we are committed to continuing to offer valuable placement opportunities in 2026/27 as part of our Community Promise and Corporate Social Responsibility commitments.

Click [here](#) for the application form.

To make applying easier for students and departments, we have introduced a simplified application process. We will share further details in September/October. Applicants are encouraged to choose a specific area of interest and explain their career goals in their personal statement. This helps us match them to the most suitable placement opportunities. Those unsure about which career path to follow can explore the [NHS Careers Quiz](#) to discover the wide range of opportunities available in the NHS.

See below for the student application process. You can find a higher resolution version of the infographic under the 'Application process' tab on our [website](#).



Key Information for Work Experience Applications 2026/27

- Applications must be submitted at least 12 weeks before the requested start date. Early applications are encouraged, as placements cannot be guaranteed.
- Students should carefully select their preferred placement area and dates. We can only consider the information provided on the application form.
- Some departments have age and year-group restrictions. They may have changed since last year. Please check our [website](#) for the latest guidance.
- We aim to provide an outcome within 4 weeks of receiving an application.
- Successful applicants must obtain Occupational Health clearance before their placement begins. This includes evidence of either:
 - Two MMR vaccinations, or
 - Two single measles vaccinations.
- Clinical work experience placements are not available between November and February due to increased winter pressures across the NHS.

- Students who secure a placement will receive a Candidate Information Pack with all the information they need. This will include placement details, our Code of Conduct and Public Liability Insurance information. As all required information is included in this pack, we are unable to complete external forms, including Unifrog.

Empowering Career Leaders

At Northumbria Healthcare, we're delighted to be hosting our Career Practitioner CPD day at our state-of-the-art Health and Care Academy in Cramlington on Wednesday 30 September (9am to 3pm).

Whether you're a newbie to being a career lead or you're a seasoned pro, we want to welcome you all. This is your chance to meet with other school career leaders, regional career advisors and employability specialists. You will also meet our Northumbria Healthcare career ambassadors, and network with like-minded people. We want you to leave the day enlightened by some of the 350+ careers we have available within the NHS, to then allow you to impart this knowledge onto your students.



This event will give you fresh insight into the varied careers available across clinical and non-clinical areas in the NHS, with presentations, career spotlight sessions and opportunities to meet our career ambassadors. You'll also be able find out more about our widening participation offering including:

- Schools outreach
- Work experience
- Technical and vocational pathways, including apprenticeships and T Levels
- Experience the impressive MELISSA Bus in action.

This is a brilliant chance to connect, learn and bring new knowledge back to your students.

Tickets available [here](#). To ensure fairness to everyone across our region, we kindly ask that you reserve no more than two spaces on the event.

Career Masterclasses – What are they and how can they support your students?

At Northumbria Healthcare Trust, we are incredibly proud to be able to offer our career masterclasses to our future healthcare heroes!

The idea behind our brilliant masterclasses is to give students in years 10 to 12 more guidance on their chosen potential career area. We want to provide as much information as possible about how they can move towards this career area once they have left education. The masterclasses are a hands-on and immersive day where students get the chance to speak to our career ambassadors doing the roles. They also involve interactive workshops. Previous attendees have said they felt they left the day with more knowledge and understanding of the qualifications they would need to secure their future roles.

You can view videos of our previous masterclasses on our Widening Participation [page](#).

To sign your students up to our masterclasses as outlined below, please complete our expression of interest form for up to 5 of your students (if you need any additional places, let us know and we will try our best to accommodate). You can find the form [here](#).

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Target audience
28/9/26	Career Masterclass for SEND students – <i>please note staff must accompany students to this.</i>	Year 10 +
30/9/26	Career Practitioner CPD day	Career leads
05/10/26	Healthcare Science Masterclass	Year 12 +
15/10/26	Nursing Masterclass	Year 12 +
09/11/26	AHP Masterclass	Year 12 +
19/11/26	Pharmacy Masterclass	Year 12 +
08/02/27	Apprenticeship open evening	Year 11 +
12/03/27	Healthcare Science Masterclass	Year 10 +
17/06/27	Medicine Masterclass	Year 12 only
21/06/26	Physiotherapy Masterclass	Year 10 +
22/06/27	Healthcare Science Masterclass	Year 10 +
23/06/27	Nursing Masterclass	Year 10 +
24/06/27	AHP Masterclass	Year 10 +
02/07/27	Pharmacy Masterclass	Year 10 +
08/07/27	Northumbria Healthcare Career Showcase	Year 10 +