



WHSB CAREERS

AN EVENING IN Medicine, Dentistry and Optometry

Wednesday 26 November 2025- 7.00pm to 8.30pm

We are delighted that five professionals have agreed to attend our evening event, discussing their pathway into careers within their areas of expertise, as well as sharing some of the exciting projects they have been involved with to-date. Please book your free tickets ASAP via TicketSource which can be accessed at <https://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

The event is open to pupils in all year groups, their families, carers, and our local secondary school community as well. However, seating is limited.



Mr Harun Thomas - Consultant Surgeon specialising in Breast Cancer

Mr Thomas is a Consultant Surgeon specialising in breast cancer, with over two decades of clinical and academic experience. He has been at the forefront of breast cancer care, serving as the Lead Breast Cancer Surgeon at Southend Hospital from 2016 to 2020. He is currently active in clinical practice, research, and medical education, and holds the position of Honorary Associate Professor at the University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich. After earning his MBBS in 1999, he pursued higher surgical training in general surgery with a focused subspecialisation in breast cancer. His academic credentials include three Masters Degrees, two prestigious international fellowships and a Post Graduate diploma in medical education, further enriching his clinical expertise and academic breadth. Mr. Thomas is known for his patient-centred approach, surgical precision, and dedication to advancing breast cancer treatment through research and teaching. He is committed to shaping the next generation of clinicians while continuing to contribute to innovations in breast cancer care and outcomes. He is a proud parent of a student at WHSB.



Dr Ivan Shanley – Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry, Clinical Director for Older Adult Services—Mid and South Essex

An Old Westcliffian, Dr Ivan Shanley studied medicine at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. He went on to complete his foundation training in the South Thames Deanery working in a range of specialties including General Surgery, Respiratory, Orthopaedics and Emergency Medicine. Dr Shanley undertook core psychiatry training in Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS FT and obtained Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, before returning to Essex for higher speciality training in Old Age Psychiatry. He has been involved in a wide range of research, scientific publications and service development projects, and completed a MSc in Psychiatry through Brighton and Sussex Medical School with a particular interest in the treatment of cognitive impairment in individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia. Dr Shanley currently works as a Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry for Essex Partnership University NHS FT and is the Clinical Director for Older Adult Services in Mid and South Essex.



Ian Paterson – Orthodontist, Springfield Dentist Practice

On leaving WHSB in 2002, Mr Paterson went on to study dentistry at Bart's and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry. After graduating, he worked in general dental practice across Essex, as well as training posts in orthodontics and maxillo-facial surgery. He went on to complete post-graduate training in Orthodontics at the University of Warwick, and currently works in orthodontics and cosmetic dentistry in Chelmsford and Colchester.



Paul Sayer - Director, Broadway Opticians

Old Westcliffian, Mr Sayer, graduated from Aston University in 2001 after studying Optometry whilst working at a local optical franchise as an optical assistant, building up 'grass roots' experience in the process. He has worked in independent optometry performing eye examinations and fitting contact lenses ever since. He established his own practice in 2010 which services the local community providing enhanced NHS services to share some of the burden of eye care with our local hospitals, also using specialist imaging equipment such as Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) and provide myopia control therapy for children whose eyes are worsening through puberty. He also works closely with local private and NHS hospitals to streamline referrals for surgery as and when required. Mr Sayer feels it is wonderful to give back to the local community and inspire current WHSB pupils who wish to embark on a career in healthcare.



Dr Eeshan Gangwani – Foundation Year 1 Doctor – Trauma and Orthopaedics

Old Westcliffian, Dr Gangwani, after undertaking work experience at Southend Hospital during his time at WHSB, knew very quickly that he wanted to become a doctor in order to make a meaningful difference to people's lives. After WHSB, he studied at Norwich Medical School where he gained clinical exposure from day one, covering both primary care and secondary care through placements. He is now working at Southend Hospital as a Junior Doctor on a Trauma and Orthopaedics rotation. Tasks involve, assessing unwell patients through history taking and examinations, optimising medications for patients and formulating management plans to improve their conditions. He also covers orthopaedic referrals from A&E during on-calls to carry out any relevant investigations and start appropriate treatment where necessary. Additionally, he is involved in assessing medical students at OSCEs and delivering teaching sessions at the hospital.

This event will take place in the Westcliff Theatre, parking is available on the South Drive. Please note that tickets are limited and should you be unable to attend, kindly cancel your booking.

We hope that you find this WHSB Careers Evening interesting, helpful, and informative. Feedback is always welcomed, as well as offers of support for future events.

Please contact Mr Martin Atkinson **T:** 01702 475443 **E:** atkinsonm@whsb.essex.sch.uk **W:** www.whsb.essex.sch.uk Thank you for your support.