Dear Careers Lead

The COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges and new ways to gain healthcare experience/opportunities for school students considering a healthcare related career.

The Belfast Health & Social Care Trust is one of the largest providers of work experience to young people in schools and colleges across Northern Ireland. We are committed to raising the aspirations of young people through experiences it provides via placements, open days and support for a range of career’s events and activities.

Therefore, in partnership with Work Inspiration: Business in the Community the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust will be host the 7th Annual Student Healthcare Debate in November 2022. We hope that involvement in the debate will support students further in their university applications. Debate topics will be public health focused and current issues facing healthcare professions.

We are inviting expressions of interest from school students who have an interest in healthcare related careers to submit a debate team on behalf of their school. Teams are invited to complete the attached application form, which should be submitted electronically to reach the shortlisting panel by **Monday 7 November 2022 5pm**.

Four teams will be shortlisted from applications to participate in the semi-final debates, which will take place on **Monday 28and Wednesday 30 November 2022 via MS Teams**. The WINNERS of semi-finals will then be invited to compete in the final debate event, which will be held hopefully in person in December 2022 (date to be confirmed). All debate participants will receive recognition of their contribution to the process and the winning team will be presented with a prestigious winner’s award trophy for their school.

We look forward to receiving your school’s application and are happy to answer any queries you may have.

Kind regards

BHSCT Work Experience Co-ordinators

**APPLICATION FORM**

To enter each member of the debate team must be in Year 13 or 14

* Only one team application per school will be accepted.
* School team should consist of a maximum of 5 students, all of whom have a healthcare career choice focus.
* Each team should answer BOTH questions in no more than 1000 words per question.

Applications deadline **Monday 7 November 2022 5pm**

Return completed applications to

[Kerri.McArdle@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:Kerri.McArdle@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

**Question 1:**

**All school children should receive free school meals**

**(Max. 1000 words)**

**Question 2:**

**All children should have Mental Health awareness incorporated into their curriculum**

**(Max. 1000 words)**