

**APPLYING TO A HIGH RANKING
MEDICAL SCHOOL COMING FROM
A HISTORICALLY 'LOW
ACHIEVING' SCHOOL**



FIRSTLY, THANK YOU



ABOUT ME

- My name is Callum
- I am 19
- Despite the struggles that we have had, my family means a lot to me
- I love art and have a clothing brand that is centered around mental health
- I am dyslexic
- I am half Grenadian
- I am a quarter Chinese and a quarter English
- In my lifetime I want to make a difference and inspire other people to follow their dreams, no matter what they are




MY EXPERIENCE AT SCHOOL

- In our area we used to have lower school, middle school and upper school.
- In lower school I was kept behind during break and lunch so that I could finish my work despite me never having any issues with my behaviour.
- In middle school a teacher laughed in my face when I said that I wanted to become a Judge
- In upper school a member of SLT asked me why I can't I be more like my sister, who has a lot of challenges and would say herself that she had more problems than I had having been adopted
- My English teacher gave everyone in the class handshakes except my friend and I because we 'forgot everything [she] told us'
- In sixth form I was told that I would not get into university to study medicine when they didn't know how much hard work I was doing
- The only things that kept me going were my supportive parents, the teachers that actually believed in me and my will to prove everyone wrong and change what success looks like for a black person

MY EXPERIENCE APPLYING TO IMPERIAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL

My school hardly helped me:

- I had to get someone else outside of the school to help organise all of my work experience by myself
 - I didn't receive a great amount of help from school while writing my personal statement although I received more help than the majority of people in the year
 - I only had one practice interview
 - I didn't receive any help with practising for my UCAT or BMAT
 - I didn't have much emotional support either
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WHAT COULD IMPROVE THIS?

- Be supportive if people aren't performing as well
- Develop a relationship with the students. There may be something beyond the obvious that is stopping them from making steps towards their goals
- Help people be clear of their own dreams and goals
- Ensure that someone is making links with external parties so that students have people to contact if they need to gain experience
- Be aware of the culture within the school and make sure that people are aware of the biases that they may have and how the comments that they make or gestures that they perform can have a huge impact on someone's life

HOW COULD WE INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE GOING TO IMPERIAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN GENERAL?

– What does good help look like?

- Doing research into how to support students – ask other schools and students for advice
- Mock interviews
- Find mentors for these young adults
- Find out what makes a good personal statement when applying to medical school – don't just use generic personal statements, it has to be impactful
- Help students arrange placements and other experiences so that they can make an impactful statement and have an impactful interview
- Ask the students how you could help them

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

- Any questions?