



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

GUIDE TO PATHOLOGY CAREERS TALKS



Pathology Careers Talks for Schools.

How-to guide to accompany video guides.

This guide accompanies the video and PowerPoint resources on the careers talks page of the RCPATH website and gives a few extra tips and links that will help you deliver a really successful careers talk for school students.



Things to think about when planning your careers talk.

When is a good time for schools?

[National Pathology Week](#), [British Science Week](#), and [National Careers Week](#) are times when schools might be most keen to accommodate a pathology careers talk. The summer term after exams have finished (late June/ early July), is also a good time for running careers talks in schools. Start approaching the school a few months before you want to give your talk and don't be disheartened if you don't hear back straight away. Teachers are extremely busy and sometimes a few email reminders or phone calls after lessons are finished (after 3pm in most cases) are needed to get something booked in.

Ideas on how to introduce pathology to school students

It is a good idea to think about how you want to introduce pathology at the start of your presentation. Many young people won't know what pathology is and it can be difficult to 'sum up' what pathologists do. You might consider showing our ['What is a pathologist?' animation](#) - while you may think an animation might seem a bit 'young' for a secondary school audience, showing something visual and simple that sums up the work of pathologists can be a great way to start your talk.



We have also included a suggested introduction underneath slide 4 of the careers presentation template:

"We are the doctors and scientists who work out what is wrong with someone by examining samples from them. They might be samples of blood or urine, or a tissue sample taken from a lump. These kinds of tests and investigative techniques can be vital in finding an accurate and early diagnosis – thus improving the prospects for treatment. Our work can also help prevent disease – for example screening populations for early signs and those at risk of disease.

Each of us specialises in one type of pathology, for example, haematologists are blood specialists, microbiologists are experts in bacteria and histopathologists examine tissue samples. So if you hear of 'sending something off to the lab', you can be sure there will be a pathologist at the receiving end making the diagnosis".

As mentioned on the webpage of this resource, if you would like to make your talk shorter than the one in the video, you could summarise pathology in your introduction with just one or two slides and we have provided a single 'Setting the scene' slide on the webpage as a separate download so you can consider using this alongside the first one or two slides from the main presentation.

You may also wish to replace each of the skills slides for each specialty with a slide or two on 'core skills for pathologists' at an appropriate point. We have provided two 'Core skills slides' on the webpage, that can use to help communicate this if you don't wish to go through each speciality in turn; one slide that lists core skills for pathologists generally, and one slide that is entitled 'Aptitudes for patient-facing specialties'.

Extra resources and ideas for making your talk a success

Why not add in videos of interviews with consultants from different specialties that the College has produced to your presentation. These and a number of other interviews can be found on the [College YouTube channel](#).

If you would like to include all four we would recommend embedding the shortest versions (links below) into the presentation slides. You can perhaps email the longer versions to the students (or their teacher) after the event.

- [Microbiology](#)
- [Histopathology](#)
- [Haematology](#)
- [Chemical pathology](#)



There are some good online guides on how to embed videos for example - [this iSpring-solutions guide](#)

You might also consider using:

- Short [quiz](#) to break the ice and get students engaged
- Quick hands-on activities or demos – we have loads of ideas [here](#)
- Physical items you can bring from work such as a microscope and slides or pathology specimen jars are a great way of bringing pathology to life for students.

Don't forget to check out all of the free printable posters and evaluation postcards on our [event organisers' page](#). You can also request some of our [branded promotional materials](#) to be sent to the school.



Careers in pathology – postcard for school students

Select quantity:



What is pathology? – booklet

Select quantity:



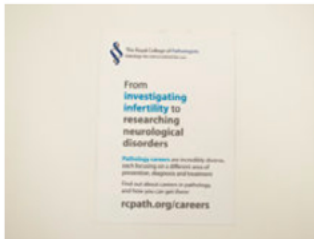
The history of pathology in 50 objects – book

Select quantity:



Careers in pathology – booklet for school students

Select quantity:



Careers in pathology – postcard for undergraduates

Select quantity:



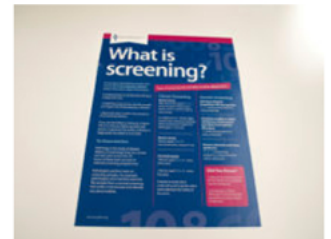
What do pathologists do? – A3 poster

Select quantity:



Careers in pathology – booklet for medical students

Select quantity:



What is screening? – A3 poster

Select quantity: