



Welcome to the The King's Crown, a newsletter for all King's dental students. It is hoped it will keep dental students in the loop and bring the community closer together, as well as offering some light reading for whiling away the hours in Cafe 24! We hope you enjoy, and you can expect a more polished product in the new academic year.

Special Feature.

Fact from Fiction – The New Course Structure.

The King's BDS course is facing a major shake-up as we all know. Prof Woolford addresses your questions and concerns.

Why now, why such a major change, and why in such a rush? A year ago both the GDC and three visiting Deans from other UK Dental Schools agreed that students here treated patients in a compartmentalised fashion (i.e. a 'cons' patient/a 'perio' patient) and would benefit from adopting a more 'whole patient care' approach. This coincided with problems of a disillusioned BDS1 cohort, leading to the decision to tackle two birds with one stone. The school decided not to wait until 2014 as no clear advantage could be seen for delaying.

The Four Phase System

BDS1-3 are being split into two 18-month 'Phases' to give students a better split of the clinical side of things before they sit their first set of hurdle exams. The hope is that this will serve as a motivating tool and make the first year more engaging for students.

Why not just make the BDS1 Summer holiday shorter? Because cutting short the holiday and 'slapping on' a few weeks of clinical time would not do justice to the aim of the changes. Time will be spent setting students up with the tools to (e.g. study skills) to survive and succeed on the course and the clinical component needs to be longer to do it justice.

Will people be examined on 18 months' worth of course content? In theory, yes; however the emphasis will be more towards frequent lower pressure formative assessments. There will be a formative exam at the end of 'Year 1', and a summative end-of-Phase exam, and students will not be assessed on the same content twice. An idea for the future is that students who consistently perform well throughout the year in formative assessments could be exempt from sitting end of year summative exams. Prof Woolford would in general like to increase ways of rewarding the highest achieving students rather than only penalising the failing ones.

How will this affect student finance applications? Holiday periods will be the same and loans are paid in on a termly basis anyway, so this will not affect student finance applications.

Clinics

Will we have to book our own bays for clinics? No, we will still have Cons/Perio/Prosth clinics timetabled however these will all be on the house's designated clinic and will actually more closely resemble the current 'PDC' (Primary Dental Care) – i.e. you will do all the treatment the patient needs. Eventually the 'compartments' will be combined into 'Adult Restorative Care'.

Is it true we will not have clinical partners anymore? No. Clinical partners are seen as an important aspect of our learning and will not be changed.

Are quotas being scrapped? No. Students still have to do a minimum amount of any procedure to show they are clinically competent. The emphasis will shift however from items of work to number of patients seen, to encourage a 'whole patient care' approach. In most cases students will reach the threshold, however for those that do not, a new piece of software ('Lift Up')



is being introduced to monitor the work we do, the quality of it and feedback given. Prof Woolford assures that this is not Big Brother, but a way of giving staff the information to effectively support students' progression. The system is currently used in Liverpool Dental School and is apparently very successful.

Is it true we will have to book our holidays off? No, this could not be introduced until after the current 1st years have graduated.

The Team System & Internal Ranking

The dental school is essentially being split into 4 smaller schools (or 'Teams'), each with their own teaching faculty, students and name (sadly, Hogwarts names have been vetoed). The aims are that there will be better continuity and cross-year interaction, allowing students and staff to become more familiar and work better as a 'Team', with patients having different aspects of their care plans carried out by students in different year groups, avoiding the need to turn patients away or go through make-shift 'referral procedures'. It is also hoped that students will pass down knowledge to students in the lower years of their Team.

Is internal ranking for DF1 going ahead? No. The dental schools council have turned it down so even if the school were to rank us internally it would not count towards our DF1 application. The DF1 application is changing nevertheless to feature 'situational judgement tests' (SJTs), like the medics have.

Will we still learn perio/cons etc. in tutorials? That will be up to the Teams, which will work autonomously. There is no guarantee that students will get exactly the same information or be taught the same way; however there is still a curriculum and a syllabus that must be followed.

Is one of the aims of the Teams to increase competitiveness? Yes, it is hoped that 'Teams' will compete to be the best, driving up student achievement. Prof Woolford does not believe that this will have a negative impact on either the school community or on individual student satisfaction, but rather envisions a friendly rivalry that could extend to sporting competitions.

Will the groups change around at all? No, you will be in the same 'Team', with the same students and staff for the entirety of your degree. There may be mixing of groups within your Team year (there will be ~35-40 students per year in a Team).

Do you feel some students might be disadvantaged by the Team they end up in? All 'Teams' will have to follow the same curriculum and Prof Woolford hopes students will speak up if they feel they are not being taught as well as other Teams. This author believes that this could prove the most challenging aspect of the plans to sell to students, although a possible saving grace for us students is that this shifts the onus to the individual Team Leads to ensure they are both running their faculty, and teaching, as well

as all the other houses, or risk major discontent amongst their students.

The system will not only engender competition between students but also between staff of different Teams. As with the Direct Access changes and the DF1 shortfall, it seems that competition is the number one solution for driving up standards of young dentists. This raises the question – are we not trying hard enough already? **Focus groups for you to have your say coming soon.**



Photograph by Charlie Ding

Social.

The Overhang – Thurs 4th July

The Dental Charity Show is facing a famous revival. Clare Grant tells us all why this is not an event to be missed...

Decades ago, when some of our very own tutors were young lads and lasses at Guy's, there existed an annual highly-anticipated, staged collaboration of students and staff in the form of comedy, song, dance, tomfoolery and mild embarrassment for anyone brave enough to present themselves to their peers onstage. Coinciding with the demise of amalgam, the introduction of composite and the focus of dental professionals on all things bookish and boring, the show died a forlorn death and became a distant memory for some of the grey-haired Old Guy's dentists out there. A mighty shame, as *the show had stood proud for decades and indeed is the source of some of our predecessors' fondest memories.* With this in mind, and perhaps during a moment of idiocy and confusion, we decided to take it upon ourselves to resurrect the spectacle. We've dusted the cobwebs off it and have been working hard over the last few months to bring you what we hope to be an entertaining evening of laughs, admiration at the school's finest thespians or possibly surprise at the shapes your clinical partner can pull under the spotlight. Not to leave you disappointed, staff will feature, and quite a few of them by the looks of things. Being a one-night showing, tickets are selling like hot cakes so get yours fast. You may be surprised to hear that it's not all being put on for your or our amusement - all proceeds are going to Operation Smile, a worldwide charity that provides surgery to children born with cleft lip or cleft palate. Here's to a successful show and, with all going well, a three-night-running extravaganza from next year onwards! Let's bring back its former glory. See you all there! **Clare Grant, Show director and co-writer and BDS4 Student**

For more info join the Facebook group 'KCL Dental Charity Show' and check out the promo video – link available via your college email. Track down your year reps for tickets (£5)

GKT vs Barts II

It is not a common practice for our esteemed medical counterparts at MedSoc (now the MSA) to copy an event pioneered by DentSoc. After all, they do like to think of this as 'their' campus, and they do hold a very successful calendar of events already. It therefore takes a pretty marvellous event for them to swallow their medic pride and say 'let's copy the dentists'; however in the annual **Dental Summer Sports Day**, we have that event.

For years the end of Summer exams has been marked not only by a college-wide unclenching of buttocks, but also by the coming together, on one Summer's day, of a collection of dental students rejoicing their release from the library's shackles and hell-bent on cleansing their exhausted brains of all revisionknowledge* through a prescribed combination of sun, sports, socialising, barbecues...and

maybe a bit of gin (for those partial to a bit of juniper). Oh, and the staff come down for a laugh too!

"The sports day is hands-down one of the best events of the year"

says Charlie Ding, 3rd year student and sports day enthusiast. This year however, DentSoc are propelling the Summer Sports Day to whole new levels...by bringing along our dental frenemies from across the river, Bart's. For anyone who went to the legendary first

ever Bart's/GKT social earlier this year, you'll know what this means. That's right, s*!t just got real.

Bart's are under the illusion that they are the 'social dental school' and we are the geeky ones.

Well I say we win on social and smarts, but it goes without saying that to prove this it is quite simply imperative that we have more people at the Sports Day, winning more sports, eating more food, drinking more drink, getting more sunburnt and having more fun!

On June 29th, this year's Sports Day will mark another landmark for great London inter-dental school social events, so stay in London a couple of weeks after exams and be a part of it!

The key to its success is that nobody *needs* to get hammered to enjoy going to the park in the sun (if you do, seek help). Some might want to, but it's not the emphasis. MedSoc have clearly seen this as an excellent example of a social that suits both 'drinkers' and 'non-drinkers' in equal measure, something that has continued to elude many university societies for decades. Bravo DentSoc. **Luke Greenfield, BDS3 Student.**

*a word I just made up for stuff you learnt for exams that you'll never need to know again.

Smart.

One major dental update.

In the May volume of Dental Update, the editors celebrate their 40th anniversary with a special bumper issue that includes: an update on what materials to use for Class I and Class II posterior restorations, techniques to make great anterior direct composite restorations, an interesting article on minimally-invasive periodontal therapy, a slam on dentine pins, and best of all, a celebrity appearance from Guy's legend Edwina Kidd, on the history of caries! I know what you're thinking; Prof Banerjee must be literally salivating at the thought of it! And so should we – reading these would be a great way to supplement your Cons knowledge and perhaps even pick up some sneaky extra marks in an exam question. All articles in the issue are available at www.dental-update.co.uk, accessible for free on any of the college computers.

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Logo Competition.

We are looking to you budding artists out there to design a logo. Besides the pride of having your work represent this tome for eternity, the winner will also get a free ticket to next years' boat party! Deadline for submissions is 20th July.

Submit your story.

We are looking for contributing writers, so if you have an idea for an article you'd like to write for us, please get in contact before writing the article.

Tell us what you think.

As previously stated, this is a prototype and any suggestions or feedback would be greatly appreciated.