

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a pilot supported by a large academy trust
Curriculum Provision	✓	KS3 English: 'Speaking and Listening'
Employer Partnerships	✓	Part of an initiative to promote Allied Health Professions
Reflective Young People	✓	Developing 'Presenting' and 'Creativity' skills
Informed Career Choices	✓	Broadening understanding about careers in the NHS

Students apply Speaking & Listening skills to encourage compliance with eye treatment

The brief for this Key Stage 3 English project at Ryde Academy on the Isle of Wight was prepared during the Covid-19 health crisis to support learning about 'Speaking and Listening'. It stated that, *'Our students are currently working from home and teachers are setting tasks via Google Classroom. We would like students to be able to complete some research about a topic at home and to prepare a PowerPoint about this topic ... Many students really struggle with their confidence and find it difficult to complete this part of the assessment. We would like to introduce more similar tasks in KS3 to ensure that they are familiar with what it entails and to build up their confidence.'*

As part of an initiative involving Allied Health Professionals in the NHS, students were challenged to apply learning about the topic to a real situation faced by Orthoptic professionals. Research papers show that treatment for Amblyopia (lazy eye) is most effective when started young. The resources shared through Google Classroom include a request from a practicing orthoptist that required get this message across young children, *'You will need to apply skills learned in English: Share your ideas with others and focus on the task; structure what you say to engage the child and use ambitious vocabulary, grammar and a range of non-verbal features when you talk.'*

Students were provided with a briefing paper from the orthoptist, a short introductory video message and PowerPoint slides that concluded, *'We look forward to seeing and hearing your responses to this challenge from the NHS. If you do not have access to a computer to create PowerPoint slides, design and write a leaflet. This is a real challenge and we want your bright ideas.'*

Benefits for the Students

The achievement I am most proud of as a result of this experience is:

- *'Writing something that is aimed at helping people.'*
- *'Creating an effective speech to teach children.'*
- *'I am proud that I took part in this project, as I learnt a lot from it, enjoyed working through the tasks, being creative and feeling that the work I was doing will help to contribute to further research.'*
- *'Recording my presentation as I ... am self-conscious.'*
- *'I was able to gather lots of information and show my ideas.'*

Benefits for the School

- 'Having a real-life problem to solve helped the students to engage with the task. At the time of the project, the NHS was in the forefront of students' minds due to Coronavirus which added to the student engagement.'
- 'Hopefully when we are all able to return to the school next year, we can repeat a similar project that will be much easier to plan and collate as we will all be in the building.'

Benefits for the Employer

- Orthoptics is one of 14 Allied Health Professions the NHS wishes to promote to young people. The project presented a positive message about working in this profession to Key Stage 3 students with limited requirement of time and effort from busy health professionals.
- 'Thank you for helping us to target children with your key messages on the importance of treatments during the critical period of vision development.'

Health Education England

Amblyopia Challenge

Can you use your skills in speaking and listening to help motivate a child to complete their course of treatment?



AMBLYOPIA CHALLENGE

Thank you for your interest in helping us with this challenge about the NHS. Patching is a real-life problem as patching the stronger eye forces the weaker, blurrier eye. This can be upsetting for children as they do not usually want to wear a patch. Vision will gradually get better the more the patch is worn.

Medical Facts

Amblyopia results from the vision-sensing part of the brain (visual cortex) not working correctly. This happens because a clear image signal is not being sent from the eye. This can be caused if a child needs glasses or if there is a structural problem or disease somewhere along the visual pathway.

Eye Specialists

There are a number of professions working in eye health. Unhelpfully they also all begin with 'O'. Optometrists typically work in high street opticians where they prescribe glasses. They examine the eyes for defects in vision, signs of injury and eye diseases. Ophthalmologists are medically trained doctors that specialise in diseases and injuries in and around the eye. They also do eye operations. Orthoptists are concerned with how the eyes work together and interact with the brain to create vision. They pick up vision problems and treat symptoms as soon as possible. Quick treatments often have better outcomes.

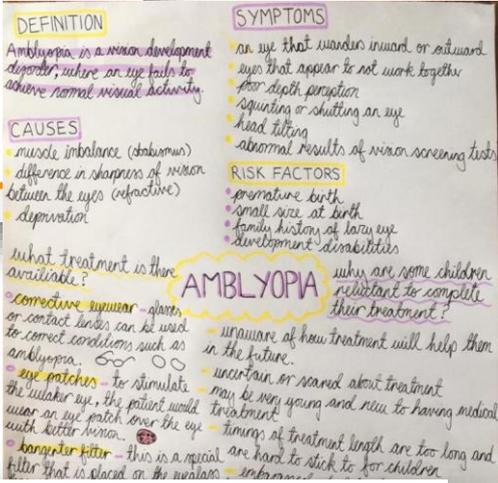
Working as an Orthoptist

You can find out much more about the training and work in this important part of the NHS at: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/orthoptist>

We look forward to seeing and hearing your creative responses to this challenge.

Martha
Martha Waters, Orthoptist

Developing people for health and healthcare



DEFINITION
Amblyopia is a vision development disorder, where an eye fails to achieve normal visual acuity.

SYMPTOMS

- an eye that wanders inward or outward
- eyes that appear to not work together
- poor depth perception
- squinting or shutting an eye
- head tilting
- abnormal results of vision screening tests

CAUSES

- muscle imbalance (strabismus)
- difference in sharpness of vision between the eyes (refractive)
- deprivation

RISK FACTORS

- premature birth
- small size at birth
- family history of lazy eye
- development disabilities

what treatment is there available?

- corrective glasses - glasses or contact lenses can be used to correct conditions such as amblyopia.
- eye patches - to stimulate the weaker eye, the patient would wear an eye patch over the eye with better vision.
- banger filter - this is a special filter that is placed on the weaker eye.
- unsure of how treatment will help them in the future.
- uncertain or scared about treatment
- may be very young and new to having medical treatment
- timing of treatment length are too long and are hard to stick to for children

why are some children resistant to complete their treatment?

How might you be feeling about this condition?

Whenever you have to go to hospital, or have treatment done, you may be feeling a range of emotions. For example you might feel scared, uncertain or anxious; but don't worry! It's normal to feel like this, just remember you are being brave to complete your treatment and it won't last forever. Amblyopia affects many young children like you, so you are not the only one who has felt worried or upset about this condition! Before you know it, you will have done all your treatment and can enjoy being you again!

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