



ARCH:HEALTHCARE
Thursday 28 November 2024
The Abbey Senior School

Introduction

Welcome to our latest ARCH event, focusing on Healthcare and exploring the importance of specialisms within the profession.

Thank you so much to everyone for coming to hear from such an expansive medical panel including:

- Dr Shonnely Novintan - Plastic Surgeon and Abbey Alumna
- Daniel Stonehouse-Smith - Orthodontist
- Alex Robinson - Doctor
- Will Raby-Smith - Doctor, trainee Maxillo-facial surgeon
- Izzy Snape - Speech and Language
- Jenny Cropper - Clinical Psychologist

It is their combined work with the charity CLEFT that has united them here this evening. A charity passionate about providing permanent, sustainable ways to improve cleft care in both the UK and overseas.

This evening we have the pleasure of being given an insight into a range of medical specialisms and career journeys, the life changing work that CLEFT is doing, and how this demonstrates the power of combining specialist knowledge.

Following a keynote presentation and an introduction to our panel in Richards Hall, we will break out into specialist workshops. Here you will be able to explore, in a greater depth, the specialism that captures your attention, ask questions, and take part in some interactive activities.



The Abbey

Programme

18:30 - 19.00	Arrivals <i>Hardcastle Hall</i>
19:00 - 19.45	ARCH Keynote <i>Dr Novintan, plastic surgeon and ambassador for CLEFT will talk about her career journey and give an insight into the charity. We will then be introduced to the healthcare professionals she works with at CLEFT and gain insight into their specialisms.</i> <i>Richards Hall</i>
19:45 - 20.30	Specialist Workshops <i>Guests are invited to choose a workshop they wish to attend to hear more about a chosen specialism, ask questions and take part in an interactive workshop. You will be directed to the workshop of your choice.</i> <i>There will be a chance to donate to the charity CLEFT at the end.</i>
20:30	Departures

Our sincere thanks to Abbey Alumna, Dr Shonnely Novintan and the panel of specialists and workshop helpers that have so generously contributed their time and expertise and for promoting the CLEFT. You can read more about the charity at www.cleft.org.uk

Specialists Biographies

Dr Shonnely Novintan - Plastic Surgeon and Abbey Alumna

Shonnely Novintan is a surgeon based in the East of England, currently working in the field of plastic surgery. She studied medicine at Imperial College London where she was awarded the President's Scholarship and graduated with a MBBS and BSc in Haematology. During her time at Imperial, Shonnely was awarded the St. Mary's Association Prize, Merits in her finals and the Imperial College School of Medicine Fellowship Award. She has also undertaken a Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education.

She has since taken an interest in breast surgery and workplace culture. She has published in the field of plastic surgery, both in aesthetics and on the subject of maternity leave in plastic surgery trainees. She has also published a systematic review on breast conservation therapy and another on targeted axillary dissection. Her other research interest is workplace harassment and bullying, which she has presented at multiple conferences nationally.

In her spare time she volunteers with global charity CLEFT, where she co-founded and runs the Trainee Section. She also volunteers for Doctor's Association UK (DAUK), as Chair of their Learn Not Blame committee. She is an Associate Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University, where she teaches anatomy.

Daniel Stonehouse-Smith - Orthodontist

Daniel Stonehouse-Smith is a Specialist Orthodontist who is currently undertaking a MRC Research Training Fellowship, starting his PhD studies with King's College London in 2022. His research is investigating the cell behaviours that occur during palate development and applying this to a model of cleft palate. He has worked in three of the UK cleft centres and now balances his research work with clinical commitments at Guy's Dental Institute and the Evelina Cleft Service. He plans to return to higher specialty training after his PhD and continue to develop both his research and clinical interests in cleft care. As a CLEFT trainee he hopes to raise awareness of the great work of the charity and encourage more trainees and clinicians to get involved in research and improving cleft care in the UK and globally.

Alex Robinson - Doctor

Alex Robinson is a foundation doctor who graduated from UCL medical school in 2023. She now works at Southport Hospital in the Merseyside and West Lancashire NHS trust. She first became passionate about the intricacies of plastic, aesthetic, and reconstructive surgery at medical school, when she spent time with highly-skilled plastic hand surgeons at the Royal Free Hospital and soon after undertook an Elective in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with the plastic and burns unit. After hearing about CLEFT through a friend, she read about their international projects and unique work they've done to create long-term and sustainable ways to improve cleft care in the UK and overseas. She is currently working on outreach projects within Liverpool for CLEFT.

Will Raby-Smith - Doctor, trainee Maxillo-facial surgeon

Will Raby-Smith is a maxillofacial trainee currently undertaking dental studies at King's College London, having first studied Medicine at Cambridge. He initially began working as a junior doctor completing his foundation programme at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. Will first developed an interest in cleft surgery at medical school and was immediately drawn to the profound functional, aesthetic, psychological and social impacts of such surgery. After reading about CLEFT's work in the UK and overseas, he contacted the trustees to see how he could get involved. Alongside Shonnely, they created the Trainee Section to provide a community where junior trainees can collaborate on projects to further CLEFT's charitable aims.

Izzy Snape - Speech and Language

Izzy Snape is a psychology graduate and a final year Speech and Language Therapy Masters Student at University College London. Alongside this, she is President of the UCL Giving Voice Society and works with CLEFT to increase awareness of the charity among the SLT community. You can listen to a podcast episode with Marie Pinkstone about specialising in cleft lip and palate on Spotify or YouTube by searching "The Giving Voice Podcast" where you will be able to find episodes about different areas of SLT. Izzy has previous work experience working in acute stroke as a therapy assistant (across occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy), working in the community as a support worker for Headway and working as a carer neurorehabilitation unit. Alongside her studies, she works with a young person with Cerebral Palsy who uses eye gaze to communicate and support her to be as independent as possible in the community, part of Izzy's role includes supporting their eating and drinking as well as giving medication and feeds via a PEG. Izzy has a special interest in speech sounds and dysphagia within SLT.

Jenny Cropper - Clinical Psychologist

Jenny Cropper is a Clinical Psychologist working in the private sector with children, young people and across the lifespan. She has specific experience working with people with visible differences including cleft. Jenny previously worked in the Spires Cleft Centre, across Oxford and Salisbury where she was the lead psychologist for cleft, craniofacial and facial palsy services at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. She has worked at the interface of physical health and emotional well-being for the past 19 years including within surgical multidisciplinary teams and across many paediatric specialties. Working as a Clinical Psychologist, her aim is to improve the lived experience of those seeking my help.

Workshop Helpers

Radhika Maini (Dentist) Alumna 2016 Leaver, Shivam Kotecha (Dentist) and Lizzy Miller (Speech and Language)



Bridge the Gap: Become a CLEFT Charity Ambassador!

Join us at CLEFT in our mission to bridge the gap—both physically and in access to essential cleft healthcare and knowledge. Together, we can ensure children and families everywhere receive the care they deserve.

As a CLEFT Charity Ambassador, your voice and efforts can help raise awareness and support life-changing treatment and education. Whether you contribute a little or a lot, your involvement will help create lasting change. Organise events, share our story, engage your community, or simply spread the word online—every action helps us build a stronger bridge to better healthcare.

Sign up today and make a meaningful difference!

[Click here](#) to sign up or use the QR code.

Become a CLEFT Ambassador

REGISTER NOW

Raise Awareness...
Inspire Change...
Get Involved Today!

Join a UK-wide network of parents, patients, and clinicians passionate about improving cleft care.

As an Ambassador, you'll:
Spread awareness of CLEFT'S vital work.
Motivate and connect with your community.
Make a difference with your unique voice.

CLEFT
bridging the gap

VOLUNTEER

Support CLEFT in your time with your skills!
We're looking for enthusiastic individuals to support in these areas:

- Fundraising & Event Planning
- Administrative Support
- Social Media, Advertising & Marketing
- Website Management
- Charity Governance

Become a CLEFT volunteer now!
Scan the QR code to apply & we'll be in touch...



More about ARCH...

ARCH is a hub bringing together individuals and organisations across Reading to offer opportunities and learning experiences to young people and young women in particular.

The ARCH programme offers a range of activities that develop aspiration and self-discovery, built on innovative community connections.

What unites us is the desire to improve the life chances of young people to help them explore and fulfil their potential and live with confidence, purpose and joy.

You can learn more at arch.theabbey.co.uk and see more details about upcoming events which include:

Forthcoming ARCH Events 2025

Wednesday, 22 January	Behind the Mic - Jenni Falconer Radio, Podcast, and TV presenter, Abbey alumna Jenni Falconer, will share her career story and advice on the broadcasting industry.
Friday, 31 January	Pharmaceutical Nanoscience talk Professor Ijeoma Uchegbu, newly elected President of Wolfson College, Cambridge. Professor Uchegbu is known for her ground-breaking work in nanoparticle drug delivery.
Thursday 27th February	Ethical Business - Sustainable Fashion What are business ethics and why do they matter? We'll explore their impact through the lens of the fashion industry. Listen to experts in the field discuss what it actually means, the changes a designer house founder has seen during her career and what direct positive impact sustainable fashion is having here in Reading.
Thursday, 13 March	Behind the Mic - Meet the BBC We'll be joined by a panel of experienced BBC staff, from TV and radio presenters, through to producers, including a current producer of Woman's Hour. Join us to hear their insights and career stories.