

Education & Careers

ANOTHER NEW PAGE...

WELCOME to our new **Education & Careers** page – giving you information to help you make informed decisions about your future and keeping you abreast of scholarships, special study schemes and schools, university and college competitions and anything that will help you get on.

We will be running this page at the beginning of each month, from September onwards. We are, however, putting together a special in the August 21 edition with information about courses and university places available following the publication of A level results. Look out for that edition and reserve a copy from your newsagents now.

If you want to send us news or information, email editor@easterneye.eu, putting 'education & careers' in the subject line. Thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

Award for a little help for her pals

AN Indian-origin law student at the University of Leicester's efforts to look out for the interests of her fellow students has been recognised by the British police.

Campus Park officer Harvey Watson said: "Melissa Maharaj has worked extremely closely with us and the students in the community this year and as a result has had a great impact in the quality of life of some international students.

"She was nominated for an award by myself for delivering service excellence to the student body. The panel unanimously voted Melissa the winner. She was also issued with a certificate in recognition of her contribution to neighbourhood policing in assisting the 'Campus Park' neighbourhood team at the University of Leicester."

The award was presented to Melissa Maharaj by Inspector Richard Toone, commander at Welford Road police station in Leicester.

Maharaj said: "It is always nice to be recognised for hard work. I could not have done any of my community warden work without help from the team at the welfare services of the University of Leicester."

Scientist gets STEM honour

A KOLKATA-born academic has been selected for a prestigious award in recognition of her work in the field of infectious diseases.

Sunetra Gupta, an expert in theoretical epidemiology and a writer based at the University of Oxford, bagged the annual Royal Society's Rosalind Franklin Award last week.

Gupta said: "My colleagues and I have worked for some time to develop and test new, and initially somewhat controversial, ideas on the evolution of pathogen diversity. It is a great honour to have our work recognised in this way."

The Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award is funded by the UK government as part of its efforts to promote women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Gupta will receive a medal and a grant of £30,000.

The Royal Society awards scientists for the excellence of their work and the implications of their findings to others working in relevant fields.

Putting her money where her mouth is

DENTIST DEVICES 'HOW TO' GUIDE

by ADITI KHANNA

AN Asian dentist has made it her life's mission to help others take up the profession.

Alka Nathwani has devised a step-by-step programme for prospective dentistry students to guide them through their application process.

The King's College Dental School graduate is particularly keen to help Asians, who see dentistry as a lucrative career but often trip up at the entry level.

Dr Nathwani, 34, told *Eastern Eye*: "I qualified as a dentist over a decade ago and found it difficult at the time. I felt like I had no help and while applying, there were quite a few little things I felt could trip me up. My younger brother benefited from my experience and had it slightly easier.

"That's when I felt I must try and help others who might struggle to get into the field. A child qualifying as a dentist changes the whole family's life. I found that less privileged families either do not have the belief or the resources to become a dentist. I myself came from a non-privileged family so know how hard it can be.

"I have created a step-by-step programme for them and also provide an email consultation to children and teenagers who are interested in becoming a dentist."

She has the support of her brother and other successful dental students who have benefited from her advice in the past. The programme, which comes at a nominal one-off fee of £19.95, includes 100 interview questions posed to students of dentistry.

HELPING HAND: Dr Alka Nathwani (left) and (inset, below) her book



The author of *How to Become a Dentist* has helped more than 100 students qualify as dentists. Her own research found that nearly 80 per cent of students that apply to dental school are of Asian descent.

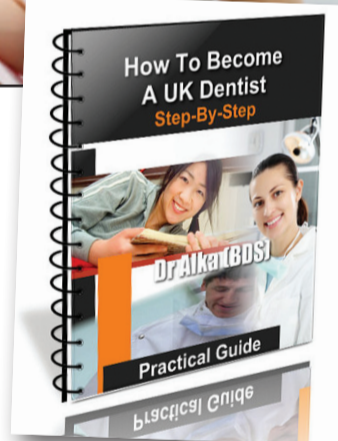
She added: "The role of a dentist involves much more than just pulling teeth. You are required to calm nervous patients, design and discuss treatment plans, analyse X-rays, conduct surgical procedures such as extracting wisdom teeth, conduct root fillings, fit crowns and dentures. You are also required to work well as part

of a close team, among many other necessary skills and attributes.

"It has become very competitive to get into dental school over the years as people are realising what a great profession it is. The status, together with the financial rewards, are making Asian parents hope their child can enter this wonderful profession.

"Over 50 per cent of applicants are women because the flexible nature means they can manage the family and work balance."

■ For more information, visit www.learnhowtobecomeadentist.com



Free numeracy campaign to help adults Get Ahead

BANGLADESHI and Pakistani men will be targeted in a new campaign to boost their maths skills.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has launched the Get Ahead campaign to promote free numeracy courses for these two groups and men from the Afro-Caribbean community.

Advertisements will run on TV, radio, and on the internet, along with niche retail and community outlets in Birmingham and London.

It will feature a number of characters from ethnic minority communities in everyday situations where trouble with numbers can turn into a nightmare. For instance, 'Imran' and 'Robert' invent excuses to avoid helping their children with maths homework, while 'Rohan' struggles to find the right change for a newsagent as an irate queue forms behind him.

The government's long-term ambition is for 95 per cent of adults to have

functional literacy and numeracy skills by 2020.

Kevin Brennan, minister for further education at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), said: "Basic maths is fundamental to getting on in life and at work, but some adults still lack that knowledge.

"That's why the government is providing free basic numeracy courses to all adults without these skills in all communities so they can improve their job prospects and quality of life."

Get Ahead is an extension to the LSC's Get On campaign, which was first launched in 2001 and is part of the government's Skills for Life strategy.

The campaign encourages the millions of people in England who experience difficulties with literacy and numeracy skills, or would benefit from improving these skills.

■ To get advice about free local courses, call 0800 660800.

ADVERTORIAL

JOIN THE MET AS AN OFFICER

THE Metropolitan Police Service is constantly evolving to meet the demands of London's vibrant mix of nationalities, faiths and cultures. It is their job to protect all communities in the capital, so diversity is embedded in its culture.

The Met's huge remit makes it an employer of choice, and there are now over 33,000 police officers and a further 18,800 police staff, responsible for 7.2 million Londoners.

More police officers come from a black and visible ethnic minority background than ever before – around nine per cent of the total police officers. Although there is still much to be done, one in five of all new officers are from visible minority communities.

What's more, because London offers such a diverse and challenging environment in which to work, there is never a dull moment. It's probably fair to say that no other

profession brings with it such variety – and such reward. This is reflected in the sheer range of roles, specialisms and opportunities on offer.

There is, of course, a real sense of pride among police officers about the work that they do. They enable the rest of us to live and work in a safer city and forge invaluable links with the many and various communities that make up our city.

To be a police officer, you don't need any qualifications and anyone aged 18-57 is eligible to apply, although you must have the legal right to remain indefinitely and without restriction in the UK and have been resident in the UK for at least the three years immediately prior to applying.

Find out more about life as a police officer in the Met by registering your details to apply on 0800-408 3840 quoting reference 280/09, or text POLICE61 to 84118 by August 7.