



Medical student Ryan set for volunteering mission in Nepal

Former student Ryan Burnett came back to College this week to raise awareness and promote fundraising for the VSO (Voluntary Services Overseas).

Ryan, 20, gave out doughnuts for donations, spoke to students and distributed leaflets about the work the VSO does in Third World countries and in the UK.

The former Sanders Draper School student left Havering Sixth Form College two years ago with straight A grades in Biology, Chemistry and English Literature – and he also attended the Enrichment Fast Track course for Medics. He started medical school at UCL in London and is now taking a gap year to do some charity work with the VSO and broaden his experience before returning to UCL for four years to complete his medical degree.

He will leave the UK for Nepal at the end of October and while there will be helping in the village of Surkhet where there has been a cholera outbreak.

He said: “There is a group of 9 of us going and I will be helping with medication, sanitation and even building work where necessary. Many children don't have access to education and there are a lot of problems with health, so one of the projects I will be involved in is the construction of a clinic.”

Ryan added: “This is unrelated to my degree. You do not need medical experience to do it, I just wanted to do this for myself.”

He explained that VSO cover the costs of training, travel, insurance, visa and immunisations and although it is voluntary so you do not get paid, you are given a living allowance while you are away.

Ryan is hoping to raise £1,000 for the VSO and said the College students were generous and many showed lots of interest in the scheme. He said: “I actually ran out of leaflets there were so many students asking for information!”

When Ryan returns from Nepal he will work for the VSO in Plymouth helping unemployed people and past drug users.

To help with Ryan's fundraising, go to www.justgiving.com/ryan-burnett