

## New student editor appointed

*BDJ Student* is delighted to announce Hfsa Fahad is the new student editor of *BDJ Student*.

Hfsa, 4<sup>th</sup> year student at King's College London, was chosen from a crowded field for her submission 'Everything Etched in Enamel: The Stories Teeth Tell' and will start with *BDJ Student* from the beginning of the new academic year.

Professor Kirsty Hill, Dean for Education at the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences at King's College London said: 'We are absolutely delighted that Hfsa has been appointed as the new Student Editor for *BDJ Student*. This is a prestigious and competitive role, and we are incredibly proud to see a King's student selected to represent the student voice on a national platform.'

'Hfsa is an outstanding and multifaceted individual who brings a rare blend of clinical excellence, creativity, and advocacy to her work. Alongside her dental studies,

she has contributed significantly to our community as Co-President of Womxn in Dentistry, Editor-in-Chief of *The King's Crown* magazine and podcast, and as Welfare Director on the Dental Student Council. Her commitment to student wellbeing, leadership, and representation has had a meaningful and lasting impact on our school culture.

'With a background in English Language and Literature, and a passion for writing and communication, Hfsa exemplifies how the arts and sciences can come together to enrich dental education. Her interests in public health, dental education, advocacy, and underserved populations reflect both compassion and vision – qualities that we believe will shine through in her work with *BDJ Student*.

'Hfsa's appointment is a testament not only to her many talents – from poetry and digital content creation to language learning and leadership – but also to her strong desire to amplify diverse perspectives and engage with



some of the more challenging and under-discussed issues in dentistry today.

'We warmly congratulate Hfsa on this well-deserved achievement and look forward to seeing her shape meaningful conversations within the wider dental student community through this new and exciting role.'

## Immigration rules change will deepen access crisis



The British Dental Association has warned proposed changes to immigration rules will have a direct impact on patient access to care UK-wide, hitting key members of the oral healthcare team, and the future pipeline of dentists.

In an open letter to Home Secretary Yvette Cooper and Health and Social Care Secretary Wes Streeting, the professional body has stressed that the abrupt removal of key roles – both medical and dental technicians (code 3213) and dental nurses

(6113) from eligibility for the skilled worker visa will exacerbate shortages in a wide range of roles including dental therapists, dental hygienists, orthodontic therapists, and dental nurses.

Dental technicians fabricate and repair various dental appliances, such as dentures, crowns, and bridges, and have seen their numbers fall by over 10% since 2020.

The BDA warn this will also have knock-on effects on the supply of dentists, given these codes are often used by overseas qualified

dentists to work in other dental roles while waiting to sit the professional registration exams which are highly oversubscribed and can take years to complete. Dentist leaders say this is simply not the way to reduce the overreliance on overseas talent, as training new team members will not happen overnight.

Official data shows 100 applicants sought dental nursing visas in just the six months from Quarter 4 2024 to Quarter 1 of 2025, alongside 88 medical and dental technicians.

The BDA stress that both occupational codes 3213 and 6613 should be retained in the Immigration Rules without changes, so that individuals currently applying for visas will receive them. Failing this, these codes must appear in the new temporary shortage list as of 22 July 2025.

BDA Chair Eddie Crouch said: 'Changes to immigration rules for skilled dental team members risks deepening an access crisis already felt by millions. Everyone agrees we should be focused on building home grown talent, but this cliff-edge approach is careless and will be felt by patients the length and breadth of this country.'