Welcome to Space Academy

Joshua Burns
Louis Darby
MBBS5
King’s College London
What you’ll need to succeed

- A STUDENT

Helmet
Knowledge, Skills and Performance

Space gloves
Safety & Quality

Space radio
Communication, Partnership and Teamwork

Heart
Maintaining Trust
Congratulations on being accepted into Space Academy!

A career in space is challenging and exciting. There is a high level of expectation on a **Space Cadet**.

For example, it is *always* important to act with honesty and integrity!
How would you define honesty and integrity?
Today is launch day!

In order to board the ship George needs to bring his completed Space Book to be approved by the Captain.

George remembers that he didn’t do his Zero-Gravity training because he was ill that day and forgot to go to the other session.

George panics – without this he might not be able to go into space!

His roommate tells him “Quick, go and find a newly qualified pilot and get a stamp! Just tell them that you didn’t have your book with you that day!”
a) What issues does this raise?

b) What would you do in this situation?

Discuss as a group and write your answers down
(2 minutes)
George manages to find one of his friends that has just finished Space Academy. He convinces them to stamp his book after telling them that he’s definitely done the training. George gets ready to board the ship!
The Captain discovers that George did not complete his Zero Gravity training. He tells George that claiming to have completed a task when you have not can put yourself and others at risk and repeated behaviour like this would need to be seriously looked into.
What did you do?
Whilst in space George is carrying out a space experiment in timed conditions to earn himself a badge.

The first is to measure how nanoparticles behave differently in a space environment.

Whilst tying his shoes, George’s nanoparticles escape before he can record his results.

With the Captain out of the room his friend says, “I’ve got results here, just use mine and change the numbers slightly and we can both get our badges.”
Zero G, Zero Results 🎨

a) What issues does this raise?

b) What would you do in this situation?

Discuss as a group and write your answers down (2 minutes)
George feels like he should just tell the Captain but needs the badge to fully complete his mission. He uses his friends results and hands in his findings. He tells his friend “Thanks, that was close, I promise I wont copy again!”
The Captain looks over the results and notices the similarities and can see clearly whose was the original. He finds George and explains that copying someone else’s results is not behaviour expected of a Space Cadet and puts real doubt into his mind that he can complete this and future missions.
Zero G, Zero Results

What did you do?
After a few weeks in space, the Spaceship’s reactor cores need to be reactivated.

George has seen it done plenty of times but hasn’t done it himself and Cadets aren’t supposed to do it.

Whilst shadowing the Engineer, George is keen to impress as he’s thinking about specialising in Space Engineering in the future.

The engineer hands George some tools, leaves to change the other core and shouts, “Let me know when you’re done George!”
Reactors Core Competency

a) What issues does this raise?

b) What would you do in this situation?

Discuss as a group and write your answers down (2 minutes)
Keen to impress and not wanting to let the engineer down, George takes on the task. He soon realises that he is out of his depth and has to call for help. Luckily the engineer has finished with his core and is able to come and step in before anything goes seriously wrong.
Word gets back to the Captain about what has happened.
He explains to George that it is important for the safety of himself and the crew that he is honest about his ability and should not allow any of his superiors to believe that he is capable of tasks above his level of training.
What did you do?
Over the last month, George has been finding life in space very difficult.

He misses home and has been finding it hard to sleep at night due to worry. His co-cadets have told him to speak to the Captain but George says he’s fine and not to worry about him.

The Captain noticed that George hasn’t been acting the same and falling behind on tasks and asks him if he needs any additional support. George smiles and says “I’ve always wanted to go into space, I’ll try harder I promise!”

It’s the last week of their mission and they will be visiting an Alien planet to see what they can learn from them. George is feeling worse than ever.
George carries on as usual but is scared that everyone else seems to be coping fine. He doesn’t want to show he is struggling, so decides to go on the last task and visit the Alien race.

Whilst meeting an Alien family he becomes overcome with emotion and excuses himself back to the ship. The Alien is worried that they have done something wrong and asks to speak to the Captain about George.
Feeling Lost in Space

a) What issues does this raise?

b) What would you do in this situation?

Discuss as a group and write your answers down (2 minutes)
The Captain goes to find George and tells him that the road to becoming a Space Pilot is difficult and feeling like this is more common than you think. He points George to support back at Base Camp and tells him that the Academy will be able to help him.
Feeling Lost in Space

What did you do?
Could you relate any of these experiences to medical school?
What happened to George in the end?

“George, the reason it was so difficult to get into Space Academy is because it’s a profession that expects more from you than many others. It is your duty to show honesty and integrity in every mission that you do now and in the future.

Your behaviour has shown me that, even though you had good intentions, you may not be fit to fly.

With our full support we will need to have a meeting with you to assess your future as a space cadet”
How did you do?

“Congratulations – you have shown the value of honesty and integrity throughout your mission. Continuing to behave like this will lead you to become an excellent space pilot, a fine representation of our Space Academy and a positive influence to those around you. Great job cadet!”
Take home messages

• Doctors hold a trusted position in society and honesty is key in earning that trust.

• Don’t act like other students may do - as a medical student you will be held to a higher standard than most.

• It is important to act with honesty and integrity always, not only on placements. This means from the moment you apply to medical school.

• The medical school should offer you help in any situations of difficulty, seeking support early is best.
Key resources

• Achieving good medical practice: guidance for medical students
• Professional behaviour and fitness to practise: guidance for medical schools and their students
• Supporting Students with Mental Health Conditions