LETTERS

It’s the thought that counts

It was interesting to read Nursing Standard editor Graham Scott’s take on the perils of nurses accepting gifts from their patients (editorial, 17 August).

As a nurse, I find a genuine acknowledgement of the work I have done, from either patients, relatives or colleagues, far more important than other forms of recognition.

Nurses do not work in isolation and effective healthcare provision involves the combined efforts of many different individuals.

Those who work in behind-the-scenes clinical or administrative roles are also under pressure. They too deserve acknowledgement, but are often overlooked.

There is clear guidance on this provided by the NMC and local employers.

Furthermore, when patients give nurses a box of chocolates, biscuits or flowers as a thank you, refusal may cause upset and offence.

Registrants must refuse all ‘but the most trivial of gifts’

Donato Tallo, RN

Olympian feats on the wards

I asked my mum if I could ever make her as proud as the parents of our Team GB athletes and she replied: ‘You already do. You do a job that only a special type of person can.’

We see Olympic heroics every four years and forget that we nurses carry out heroic acts every day. We may not get a gold medal after a shift but, like our athletes, we have a calling. I imagine many of my fellow nursing students have doubted themselves, or had a mentor who did not turn out to be the teacher they had hoped for.

To them I say: ‘You have the calling so you are halfway there. Never give up.’

Georgina O’Reilly-Foley, nursing student

OFFICIAL CONCERNS OVER 7-DAY NHS PLAN

So you cannot run a complete 7-day NHS with the same resources as a 5-day NHS. Who knew?

Gareth Phillips

We could all have told him the same thing – and many of us have been for a long time.

Neil Thompson

If we can disregard Agenda for Change we will be well placed to save money with cheap imported staff! The NHS has never been less structurally safe.

Paul Dalpra

What is the best way to broach conversations about diet and weight with patients?

Ask how would you describe your appetite? Has it changed recently? Where do you eat, with whom? Who prepares your meals?

@MelWakeman2

Shopping lessons and cookery courses could be a start.

Obesity begins in the kitchen...

...Maybe as well we’re missing the issue because there’s too much emphasis on questionnaires, reports, toolkits etc. Take action

@M2Phil

We need to first get over our own embarrassment of raising the subject and do what is best...

...It’s a difficult conversation to start but once it’s started families will benefit from intervention

@mickbro07

Communication skills key here, nobody wants to feel preached to

@muireanntweets