

## The 15<sup>th</sup> Whittington Course – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017



The 15<sup>th</sup> Whittington Course took place on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 when the Headmaster and his staff from the Bexley Business Academy visited Docklands and the City.

Established in 2002 by Sir David Brewer CMG and Steve Neville OBE, the Whittington Course seeks to motivate and inspire youngsters from the Thamesmead based Bexley Business Academy, to consider careers in the City of London and in particular, Finance, Banking and the Security Profession.

The day started with the students boarding the Thames Clipper from Woolwich Arsenal that took them across to Westferry Pier at Canary Wharf. The students were welcomed by Ian Mayes QC, Master of the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals (WCoSP) where they posed for group photos.

After a short walk through Canary Wharf taking in the sights to Barclays Bank, they were met and hosted by Nick Wilkins Vice President, Group Fraud and Risk. They were taken to the Client Meeting Floor for breakfast and an introduction to members of the Executive Team. They were then tutored in the art of CV preparation and interview techniques engaging in some roleplay. It was inspiring to hear the students, listen, engage and ask questions. They were then taken on a tour of the building which offered them a glimpse of what life would be like working in a corporate head office. You could not fail to be impressed by Barclays' commitment to its staff and many pre-conceived perceptions of working in a bank rapidly dissolved into a burning ambition to apply for a job at the first opportunity.



With their interest in corporate life very much in the foreground, it was time for the second part of our journey into the very heart of the City of London. After a short walk across Canada Square we boarded the Docklands Light Railway, alighted at Bank Station and walked to 20 Fenchurch Street and the Sky Garden.

The Sky Garden is a unique public space which has 360 degree uninterrupted views across the City of London, offering a rare chance to experience London from a different viewpoint. The students were able to wander around the observation decks and the open air terrace,

picking out famous landmarks and looking back over to Canary Wharf.

Leaving the Sky Garden the third leg of our journey through the City of London and took us to Guildhall passing by The Monument, the Royal Exchange and the Bank of England along the way.

At Guildhall, we were met by Stephen Anderton, the Master Elect and a group of young City graduates from many of the major City firms and a number of the WCoSP's Apprentices. Among those present were; Georgina Martin, Faith Fetuga and Liam Callender who are all former pupils of Bexley Business Academy. Their participation in the Whittington Course was of particularly relevant to the students. The graduates and apprentices Hugh Pickering Carter, Chad Tumelty, Dan Hadfield and Daisy Parry had all made a special effort to be at Guildhall and had given up their lunch hours to informally chat about their respective journeys from college into the City; their work and their prospects. The Company is very grateful for this. The Students were enthralled as here were young men and women from every background, prepared to share their experiences and give their encouragement. The Students were able to rest and enjoy lunch and receive their Course Certificates which were presented by Stephen Anderton and the Chair of Governors Mr Lewis Knights.



Then it was onto Wood Street, the last leg of our day to meet with the City of London Police. This has long been a firm favourite with the pupils as they get the opportunity to informally meet police officers and see behind the scenes of a busy police HQ. They were taught the dangers of guns and knives and were able to talk, laugh and joke as the barriers that usually separate youth from the police came down. There were smiles all round and lessons were learnt on both sides. They were shown two Police Horses one experienced horse and one currently in training, whilst allowed to pet the horses and take photos, they were given an in-depth lesson on how the horses are trained and the important part they play in traffic and crowd control and at Royal Events. The Students met some of the Police Dogs based at Wood Street and were very interested to learn what a great aid they are to the police for sniffing out all manner of illegal substances, money and weapons. Then on to the various vehicles available to the Police. The students were very interested in the police motor bikes and were allowed to sit on them.



At the end of the Wood Street visit, each student received a commemorative mug before they were whisked off to Bankside Pier in a fleet of taxis generously provided by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers for the return river trip to the North Greenwich – O<sup>2</sup> Pier where buses were waiting to take them back to their Academy.

It was clear that the students had an enjoyable and interesting day which was greatly appreciated by all of them. After 15 years, the Whittington Course continues to be as popular and creative in its approach to the motivation and inspiration of our future generation as ever. It takes many volunteers who freely give of their time and money to make the Course possible. To all of them, we say thank you on behalf of all the Liverymen, Freemen and Members of The Worshipful Company of Security Professionals.