



IB Taster Day at Havering Sixth Form College proves a hit with visiting Year 11 students

The International Baccalaureate Experience taster day held at Havering Sixth Form College on Friday January 29th, was described by visiting Year 11 students as “unmissable”.

The event gave the 52 youngsters an exciting insight into the IB course and what life would be like as IB students at the College.

The day started with a welcome from Principal Paul Wakeling before students broke into groups and took part in a typical IB college day, attending classes in Anthropology, Biology, Maths, English, Psychology, Computer Science and Visual Arts.

The students also attended workshops to learn more about the Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Creative, Action and Service (CAS) parts of the course.

The day finished with a mini-lecture from Paul Teulon, who is the Tutor for Admissions at Oxford University. He spoke to the Year 11s, and many of their parents, about how universities view the IB course.

One parent said: “The lecture really reassured me that the IB course would be a first choice for my son.” Another parent mentioned that he was confident, after meeting and speaking to Paul Teulon, that his daughter would be “well suited” to the course.

The pupils were impressed with how much had been packed into the day and said it had helped them get a feel for the variety of the IB.

One Year 11 student from St Edward's CofE School said: “After experiencing the taster day, I believe the IB is the best course to suit my needs and help me develop a solid foundation for my future.”

Another student said: “I think the IB course offers more than A Levels and gives me a better chance of getting into Cambridge and other good Universities.”

Some students felt there was a good learning atmosphere. One Year 11 from Eastbury Comprehensive School said: “I am really impressed with the working relationships between staff and students, and the resources are great.”

There was an overwhelming positive reaction from the pupils to the Creative, Action and Service element of the course. They were interested in how they could integrate their own pastimes and activities as well as taking on new challenges, such as volunteering on

conservation projects, travelling overseas and developing new skills which would prepare them for the challenges of university life.

IB Course Leader, Nicola Diplock, said: "I really enjoyed meeting the new students and feel really excited about working with them next year. I think it was an invaluable experience for some of them."