



Careers Day gives students a taste of things to come

A Careers Event held at Havering Sixth Form College on January 12th gave students a taste of what to expect when they have to attend a job interview in the future.

The day of special activities, organised by staff, was designed to develop students' interview skills and help them focus on their aspirations and goals for the summer when they will finish their courses.

The 110 students involved, who are all on one-year courses, attended presentations from Reed Employment, took part in a careers quiz, filled in a progression questionnaire, and were given formal one-to-one interviews.

In preparation for the interviews they watched a DVD of 'good' and 'bad' interviews and came up with top tips for success.

They were asked to dress smartly and the sessions were treated as if they were attending authentic job interviews. Former and current members of College staff and business people from car giant Ford and the wider local community came into College to act as interviewers. They were: Governors Cedric Hendricks, Ian Salisbury and Roger Hawkins (Clerk to the Governors); visitors and businessmen Michael Bowes, Keith Schrod, David Horner and Mike West; and retired members of staff Robert Hooper and Frank McKeown.

The presentation by Reed Employment covered topics such as 'how to impress at interviews' and 'how to make the best of yourself' and was rated by students as one of the most useful parts of the day.

Jacqui Stewart from Connexions was on hand to give advice and guidance to students and she encouraged them to take advantage of the huge range of services offered by the College Careers Department.

Student Zoe Hardington, who is on the one-year BTEC First Certificate in Sport and BTEC First Certificate in Travel and Tourism, was the winner of the Careers Quiz where students had to answer questions about information they had been given during the day. She was presented with a £15 iTunes voucher.

College Careers Co-ordinator Nikki Phelps said: "The day was very successful with nearly all the students commenting on how useful they found all the organised activities. Most of them came dressed smartly for their interview and they were all engaged, well behaved and positively focussed during the whole event."

Event organiser Jane Button was thrilled with how the day had gone. She added: "The interview experience was so valuable for the students and really boosted their confidence. They all stepped up to the challenge and all the activities and preparation proved worthwhile. The staff and visitors involved were impressed with how seriously the students had taken the mock interviews."