



Travel and Tourism students going the extra mile!

Travel and Tourism students at Havering Sixth Form College have certainly covered some distance on their course – taking part in seven trips and assignments in the last five months.

The popular visits, including days at Stansted Airport, Thorpe Park, Colchester Zoo, Thorndon Country Park, the Virgin Atlantic Training Centre and the World Travel Market, were organised to incorporate practical learning into theoretical assignments, to enrich learning and also to act as team building sessions.

During the trip to Stansted, the group of 20 lower sixth students had the opportunity to view the behind the scenes operations at one of Europe's busiest airports. They had a guided tour and were given a talk from one of the ground operations crew.

Tutor Lorraine Barnett said: "The day was very busy and quite demanding but it really gave the students a great insight into some of the topics they are studying this year, including Customer Service and Airline Cabin Crew."

One student commented: "It was interesting to hear about the different jobs available at the airport and to understand the range of roles and responsibilities."

While at the airport the students' excellent behaviour, attitude and appearance was commented upon. Anita Garrard, Stansted's HR Manager, said: "The group of students were wonderful and an absolute credit to Havering Sixth Form College."

The trip to Thorpe Park enabled students to complete a work sheet on the facilities the theme park offers as a visitor attraction and was also a chance for Extended Sport & Tourism and Level 2 Tourism students to get to know each other.

At Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood, students were given an organised tour by the park ranger and learnt about the provision of amenities for special needs, and at Colchester Zoo they had a talk on customer service before taking a tour of the animal enclosures.

On their busy schedule was also a trip to the World Travel Market at the ExCel Exhibition Centre in London's Docklands. This is an event attended by organisations worldwide, for example Emirates Airlines and Hilton Hotels. The students were able to visit the display stands and network with potential employers, gathering research for their coursework.

Showing how varied the Travel and Tourism course is, next on the students' agenda was simulated air crash training at the Virgin Atlantic Training Centre in Crawley. The students were shown how to evacuate an aircraft and the role of air cabin crew in the event of an emergency landing on water.

Travel and Tourism tutor Joan Barry said the Virgin Atlantic Training Team expected the students to respond as if it was the real thing and they were put under the same pressure as the airline's own trainees.

As well as the off-site visits, the students were also given a glimpse into the varied role of a cabin crew member when Hayley Levene from First Choice holidays came to College to talk to the students about her job.

She gave them a 'warts and all' presentation and they were able to ask her questions about her role. She explained the health and safety responsibilities, how she dealt with demanding customers and also told the students about some of the exotic destinations she had flown to. After her presentation, the students said the talk had been an eye-opener and had given them a real insight into the challenging job of air cabin crew.

Not content with such a busy and interesting few months, the Travel & Tourism students have even more visits to look forward to with a day out at Thames Chase Country Park and a three-day residential trip to Portsmouth planned.