

Poltair Students Make the News at Sky Skills Studio, London

On Friday, 20th May, Mrs. Venables, Mr. Sampson, and Miss May accompanied the GCSE Media Studies students on a special trip to the Sky Skills Studio in West Osterley, London. Pupils worked with Sky News professionals to learn how they write, film and edit the TV News, including learning about what happens both on and off screen.



Upon arrival at Sky (after an eventful bus journey and dramatic arrival), the pupils were given a lively health and safety briefing by the Team Leader, Serge, who set pupils at ease before we were whisked off on a whirlwind tour of the epic Sky Studios. On the Share Floor, they watched the engineers in charge of broadcasting TV programmes and were amazed that it's only a two second delay between the signal leaving Sky to reaching our TV's at home. On the Make Floor, they learned how the lighting engineers make the "silks" (the backgrounds on set) look as if the presenters were outside, and they examined professional video cameras that cost more than Mrs. Venables' house!





After a short spell hanging out in the Sky Sports Broadcasting Centre, pupils were let loose in the studios to create a broadcast of their own. Their set topic was “Mind, Body and Sport” and pupils utilised their research and prepared scripts to create their news report. They moved swiftly into action, taking on exciting roles such as news anchors, producers, film crew and reporters. Changing into costumes solidified their new professional personas, and Elliot and Lewis did a stellar job in setting a serious tone for the report. Jacob took charge as the leading camera man in his studio, and under the direction of his producer, Lauren, filmed the dynamic duo’s introduction. Other students acted as experts, such as Sam, who played the role of a headteacher who had banned junk food in his school; Keagan, who became a diva model, taking the controversial view that size does matter; and of course, what sport report would be complete without the professional footballer and broadcaster, Chris Kamara (aka Callum)?



The highlight of the day, though, occurred when Sam G, Sam B, Callum, and Liam spotted the signed football shirts upstairs in Sky Sports. After having their pictures taken with their favourite teams, one of the security guards recognised fellow football fanatics and allowed the boys to hold the coveted Soccer AM signed football for a photo. Because he was so impressed with their enthusiasm, he then promised to obtain a signed football for the school, which he will be sending to us shortly.

Overall, the day was an excellent learning opportunity for our Media Studies students, and while they returned home exhausted from a long day, their bellies were full of KFC and their minds were full of media-fuelled aspirations!

UKMT Mathematics Challenge

Cadan Glass achieved Best in School in the UKMT Intermediate challenge in February and scored so well he went through to the next round – the Kangaroo.

He was competing against 2500 of the UK's most gifted mathematicians and qualified for certification. He did really well against very tough competition.

Well done Cadan!



Junior Olympiad and Kangaroo

Year 7 Sophie Evely achieved the highest grade in Year 7 and is through to the next round, the Junior Kangaroo where the top 5500 highest scorers compete for a second time.

Year 8 Daniel Allen scored incredibly high (122 out of 135) and has been selected to compete in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Only 1200 pupils are selected for the Olympiad from over 200000 entrants across the UK.

Well done and good luck Daniel and Sophie!!



Statistics

Starting from 14th June Years 8-10 More Able Mathematicians are investigating the use of statistics in the real world. For example, Predicting Disease, Medical Studies, Genetics, Political Campaigns, Insurance, Quality Testing and Stock Market.

Meet the Expert

Once a fortnight pupils have been invited to attend a seminar from an expert Mathematician.

These include Anna Barbanti, a graduate of Msc Conservation in Biodiversity; Emma Gerrard, a Renewable Energy Consultant who discussed the use of Mathematics in Engineering; Paul Massey from Bluefruit Software who uses his mathematics to write code for computer programs; DCI Curnow explaining how Mathematics is used in the police force, and Simon Norris the Exeter Chiefs Analyst.



Mathletics

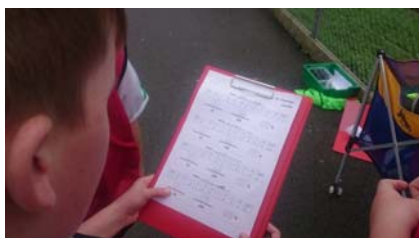
Pupils worked at three stations perfecting their shot technique then arrived at the fourth station where they recorded shots made from 10 attempts. On the next round of stations pupils recorded shots made from 15 attempts. This led to discussion (that took place in the classroom) about percentage and how to convert a fraction to a percentage and the relevance of using percentage as a method of recording success.



"I liked how we used a score out of 10 and then worked out the percentage. Then I like how we upped the level and worked out 15 shots. I would like to do it again as it was really fun and we used maths across the curriculum."



"The numeracy in PE was really good and it was interesting to do maths to calculate how many shots we scored out of 10, 15 and working out the percentage of how many we got in the basket."



"I enjoyed how we found out our score as a percentage. We took 10 and 15 shots and times 10 by 10 and 15 by 6.666r and found our percentage"



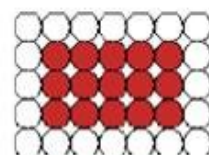
"I think the numeracy PE was so fun and it helped me with my percentages."



Maths: When am I going to use it?

We use maths in every aspect of our lives at school and in practical everyday activities at home and beyond. We use maths when we go shopping, we have all heard those moans from mum 'get me the cheapest' and we never do. We choose to buy clothes, CD's or video games or all and consider if we have enough for the bus fare home. We place money on our dinner accounts and debate if we can afford a cream cake afterwards. We bake cakes, cookies and savouries and nearly all the time they are too sweet. We use watches which tell the time in 24 hour clock mode. What do you mean it's 21:00, I thought I had to be back home by 9 o'clock! Good numeracy is essential to us and helps us make sense of our ever-changing world. Decisions in life are so often based on numerical information: to make the best choices, we need to be numerate.

My brother gave me a set of table mats he bought in Mexico. They were rectangular and were made of straw circles joined together in the form shown in the picture →



All the circles on the edges of each mat were white and the inner circles red. I noted that there were 20 white circles and 15 red circles. There are two ways of making a mat similar to this where the number of red circles is equal to the number of white circles. Can you find them?

Please get your answers to Mr Russell in S14. Don't forget to include your name and your tutor group.

Poltair's Got Talent 2016

For the 4th consecutive year our talented pupils will be battling it out in a series of auditions for a place in the grand final.

The event will be showcasing some of Poltair's finest musical talent as well as some great dance acts. The judging panel will no doubt have a tough job on their hands (as they do every year) in selecting a winner!

This year's judging panel sees the return of:

Sheila Vanloo (station manager at Radio St Austell Bay)
Former pupil, Shane Solomon (founder of the Cornwall Channel)
and former pupil/local celebrity - The Kernow King!

The final will be taking place on Thursday July 7th, tickets are available to buy from the school reception and are priced at £3.50 for adults and £2.50 for children. Included in the ticket price is a drink and a pasty.



Mock Exams

Wednesday 15th June 2016

Practical exams may start earlier