

# Aimhigher London NCOP Newsletter

Summer 2018

## Leap into Liverpool Residential Summer School

What a fabulous experience for our Year 12 & 11 learners from 4 schools! This 4 day residential summer school was a non-stop educational, social and cultural bonanza! Along with Justine & Mark from AHL and Mrs D'Mello from Quest Academy, the group were joined by 5 under-graduate NCOP ambassadors from partner universities; St George's, St Mary's, Ravensbourne, Goldsmiths and LSBU.



On the first night, students had a welcome talk and meal at Liverpool Hope University, where we were staying. This was followed by football in the park where the students really bonded as a group.



The next morning, students had breakfast with Liverpool Hope under-graduates and were able to hear about studying in a different city and ask lots of questions. Then it was into the city centre to discover Liverpool!

Our first stop was the impressive Tower Experience

at Liverpool Cathedral. We were able to spot most of Liverpool's great landmarks with a breathtaking 360° view from the rooftop of the highest Cathedral in the UK - 152m (500ft) above sea level, two lifts and 108 stairs, which all of us climbed! The massive Vestey Tower has a floor to top height of 101m (331ft).



Next we enjoyed an open top bus tour, taking in the whole city and learning about the stories and humour of the residents over the years. We alighted at the World Museum and after lunch, viewed finds from one of the world's greatest archaeological discoveries – the Terracotta Warriors of China's First Emperor. These life-sized figures are extraordinary and there was also some immersive technology to really bring the displays to life.



The afternoon was rounded off with a look around the beautiful docks and some shopping in the Liverpool One shopping centre. After returning to the peaceful Liverpool Hope University accommodation, we had pizzas for supper and then some of the group assembled in the common room to watch the England/Belgium football match (☹️) whilst some other undertook the fantastic *Shiverpool* experience.



This involved an absolutely hilarious 'ghost' walking tour around the city with the occasional surprise guest! A very unique way to see the city, lots of laughs and we loved it!



The next morning after breakfast, we went to the University of Liverpool, a Russell Group member, for a fantastic HE workshop with University of Liverpool under-graduates followed by a tour where students were able to try the sporting facilities, demonstrate their talents and get a real taste of life and study for a Liverpool student. We had lunch in The Courtyard in



the Guild of Students.

Then it was a short walk to the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA), which was co-founded by Sir Paul McCartney. Under-graduates provided a tour of the state-of-the-art facilities and



then students were treated to an interactive music workshop where they created 3-part harmonies. One of our students was also able to demonstrate an impressive talent on the piano!



The day was far from over; next we went to the Everyman Theatre for a fabulous drama workshop! The session gave the students the opportunity of workshopping the ideas which the play they would see later that evening was based on. The students were extraordinary and their ideas were clever, innovative and well thought through. There was much hilarity and also some real talent on display!



The play we saw was *The Big I Am*, a reimagining of *Peer Gynt*. The play moves restlessly between locations and planes of reality, snapping suddenly from domestic scene to swirling dream world. Some of it was quite dark but it was also laugh-out-loud funny and some of the students' perceptions were equally as diverse and they dealt with some difficult themes with real maturity. Last stop of the night was after theatre dinner!

For our last day we took a fantastic tour around Anfield, home to Liverpool FC and learned all about the history of the club. This was a particular treat for one of the boys as they are a die-hard Liverpool fan! After lunch we took the train back down to Euston &



the students gave Justine & Mark a lovely 'thank you' card which they were really touched by. We all committed to continue to share our photos and memories on our Whats App group and said our fond farewells. It had been a really great trip and all of the students were wonderful. Here's to next year!

## Year 12 Preparing for UCAS Day



Our Year 12 NCOP learners had a great experience at our UCAS day, hosted by Roehampton University with sessions contributed by St Mary's University and student ambassadors from RU, SMU and Kingston University.

After a warm welcome, Roehampton delivered terrific sessions on How to Apply; Researching Courses; and Applying to Competitive Universities and St Mary's delivered marvelous sessions on University Level Study; Study Skills and Metacognition.

There was also a tour of the beautiful grounds and facilities and a fantastic Q&A session with all of the under-graduate ambassadors



with RU rubber ducks given to learners who asked good questions! There was even a mini Liverpool reunion and the students from Quest Academy presented Justine & Mark with thank you gifts for the trip – what a great day!



We'd like to say thank you to RU for hosting and to SMU for their contributions and a huge thank you to the students who attended and made the day such a success.

## Year 9 Creative Arts Day

Our first event for our fantastic Year 9 NCOP learners! This was a hugely interactive and entertaining day hosted by Ravensbourne University with NCOP under-graduate ambassadors joining us from Goldsmiths, and Kingston University as well as from our hosts.

One of the sessions involved the learners story-boarding a TV show, complete with opening credits, content, ad breaks and closing credits. The students were asked to really think about their choices. They also used interactive 3D technology to see their artwork pop up from the page and come to life!



Another session involved the students deciding what they wanted to protest about and then making their own protest signs!



Some real global issues were tackled such as global warming, pollution and Black Lives Matter but some of the students decided they were just too positive to have anything to protest! Some amusing signs were the result such as 'Fun is Fun!' and 'Stop Treating Weird People Weirdly!' So creative and we even went on our own protest march around the Greenwich Peninsula!

The day was rounded off with a 'flight' on the Emirates cable car link across the Thames. Some of the students (& staff!) didn't like heights but decided to face their fears and have a go and they all did it!

Thank you to Ravensbourne for hosting this fabulous, creative day. The students got a real taste of the different kinds of learning on offer in Higher Education.



## **Upcoming Events**

### **September – NCOP Parents Uni Tour**

Parents, with or without their children, will be able to visit Roehampton University, Kingston University & St Mary's University and have all the questions they could ever have answered by HE staff and under-graduate ambassadors. Not to be missed, even if you're undecided about uni! They will see the different facilities at each and receive general information about finance, applications and well-being. Refreshments provided at each stop!

### **October – Year 11 Goal Setting Days**

Hosted in two different university locations for geographical ease, the Year 11 Goal Setting Days will help students, in their critical GCSE year, to identify and set achievable goals to facilitate their success.

### **October – Year 12 Academic Taster Days**

Again, hosted by two different unis, these academic tasters will give our Year 12 NCOP learners the chance to experience under-graduate level, subject specific learning. This could help them to make crucial course choices or set their minds at rest about what to expect.

### **October – Year 13 Personal Statement & Interview Workshops**

A chance for our Year 13 NCOP learners to get practical advice about their personal statements and potential interviews from the people who will be evaluating them!

### **November – Year 10 Interactive Taster Days**

Introducing university level, subject specific learning for our Year 10 NCOP learners in fun and inter-active formats. This is a gentle introduction to what to expect from under-graduate study.