

"Day in the life of... Norwich Police Headquarters"

The '11 Million' visit gave young people across the country the opportunity to join the workforce for a day. Two Ormiston Venture Academy students had the exciting opportunity to join the Norwich Police Headquarters for the day. This is their story!

We were both nominated to attend Norfolk Police Headquarters at Wymondham as part of '11 Million Takeover Day' last year.

We both found it a really good experience. If you want to do anything in the Police when you get older, it's a great insight into things. The day was fun and everyone was nice and friendly, plus we got fed!

Due to the high level of security, when we arrived we had to have our photo taken to make a badge that we had to wear all day.

The theme of the day was domestic violence, and we saw various parts of a domestic violence role play. One part included going into the control room to see what happened when the victim called in, and then what happened when Police Officers went to deal with the incident. They calmly dealt with both parties at the scene, although both made allegations against the other. The actual offender did get arrested and we saw that take place.

We could see from the role play that if you are a victim of domestic abuse it's important to report it to Police and talk to someone about what is happening. Police take allegations seriously and will take positive action and offer support. Some victims feel it's their fault that these things happen but it isn't, and we would definitely encourage people to report this kind of abuse.

When we went into the control room we were really surprised to see all the CCTV footage being watched from different parts of the county. We also got to see some people training with Tasers. We were shown one being discharged, and received an explanation about where on the body they would shoot them. The Taser causes muscles to cramp up and people can't do anything about it. We were also told about all the paperwork that has to be done if one is discharged.

We also got to look at a firearms vehicle, and were shown all the equipment they carry such as the different guns, riot shields, and the enforcer, which is what they use to break down doors.

We spent some time with a CSI, and he showed us how they take footprints and fingerprints, and the various equipment they use. CSI is complex and takes some time. It definitely didn't appear like CSI on the television!

We both had a great day, it was a really good eye-opener as to what goes on and there is so much more to it than you think. If you get the chance to go, we would definitely recommend it.

By Robbie Milbourne and Ellie Philpott