

Heartbeat



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Issue 24

Year 10 clock on for work

Our Year 10 students swapped the classroom for the workplace recently as they embarked on a fortnight's work experience.

The students were expected to find their own placement and, as our photographs show, they chose a variety of locations including, schools, beauty salons, farms and showrooms.

Michael Callaghan (pictured top right, 10S) secured himself two weeks at Gallery Oldham. Here is his account of his experience.

I chose to do my work experience at an art gallery in Oldham. I picked Gallery Oldham because my uncle runs the workshop there and my sister went three years ago and said she really enjoyed it.

When I got there on the first day, I was given an induction by the Head of Health and Safety, Dion. He told me everything I needed to be aware of and showed me the numerous fire exits around the gallery. I spent the rest of the day on the front desk and realised the work done there only ranged from answering the occasional short phone call to telling people they were actually looking for the library desk, which was in a different part of the build-

ing. Over the next few days I helped out with the Natural History section. I got a tour of the collection from Pat, the curator, and found out just how difficult it was to keep things on a hill. For the rest of the day, I taped old plants to pieces of paper. A man had been collecting and sending these plants in for years for use in the gallery's collection of exotic and alien plants. The places he had collected these from ranged from beaches and riverbanks to his own back garden.

The next day, I observed how large objects were moved around different parts of the building, and then constructed a cupboard which would be used for the storage of a butterfly collection Pat had obtained.

Throughout my work experience, I was moved around different parts of the gallery so I could see all the different jobs involved. I spent a few days with Michelle in administration, which I was told would be the most boring part of my placement. It was time for the newsletter to be sent out, so I spent two-and-a-half days stamping and filling envelopes with letters and leaflets. Fortunately, I was allowed to listen to my iPod whilst doing it, so managed to get through it.

On a number of days, I took part in the children's education workshops. The first one I helped out with was called, *Picture This*.

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Remember the name...

Great Britain footballer, Robert Gilroy, is hoping to fire himself into the Premier League

Year 11 student, Robert Gilroy, is hoping to follow in the footsteps of College old boy Victor Anichebe by playing in the Premier League.

The talented 16-year-old has already sampled life at the same club as Victor, having played for the Toffees' junior side at the age of six, before returning to Everton six years later, after the Premiership club paid Wrexham £12,000 for his services.

Unfortunately for Robert, he suffered an injury during his time there and, following his recuperation, moved to the then League 2 club Chester. It was a wise move; the young midfielder's career has since gone from strength to strength, having since been selected for the Merseyside County squad, whose tie he is wearing in the photo (right) and, more recently, the Great Britain Catholic Schools team.

Robert explains: "I'd signed for Chester when they were in League 2 and I got promoted past the youth players and reserves.

"I was then selected for the Merseyside County team, which was brilliant for me. Then, through playing for Merseyside, I

got a trial for the Great Britain team. It went well and I got the call to say I had been selected. It was a great feeling and I am really proud and grateful to everyone who has supported me."

Robert, who describes himself as an 'un-orthodox central midfielder', will now take part in the FISEC Games in Malta in July, when he, and the rest of the squad, will compete for a gold medal against schoolboys from countries such as France, Germany and Spain.

Robert added: "I have wanted to get to international level and represent my country since I was playing in the Bootle & District League when I was just ten. I'm really excited."

The confident 11T student says he hopes to one day make a name for himself in the Premier League, but does not want to be known as the next Steven Gerrard, his favourite player, but as the the next Robert Gilroy. On the evidence of what he has achieved so far, he could well get his wish.



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The children would look around an exhibition about illustrations from children's books and get ideas for painting their own A3 sized characters, which would be stuck into a book and cut through the middle, hopefully creating a mix and match character book.

Another workshop was called *Printed Patterns*. The children would be taken around the galleries to look for any shapes they could find and sketch them down as ideas. They would then cut these shapes out of felt and stick them to plastic squares, creating their stamp. After rolling paint onto their stamps, they would print their designs onto pieces of fabric, creating nice wall hangers.

The final workshops I took part in were Spanish lessons. The children were given pictures of various items around the gallery which they had to look for and count the amount of them in Spanish. They were then taken to the Illustrations

exhibition, where they would pick an animal they liked and use the Spanish they had learnt to fill in information about it, such as colour, any features it had and where it came from.

As well as taking part in the workshops, I also helped prepare an adult glass cutting session. The first thing was to make sure all the correct pieces of glass had been sent to the gallery. I then prepared and set out all the glass cutters, and even got to have a go on a scrap piece of glass.

Throughout my placement at the gallery, a few extra opportunities arose for me to experience what goes on behind the scenes there. I learnt the advantages of using LED lighting and just how much difference lights with different light temperatures can make. I was given a tour of the vast art collection that was kept in a high security room, saw how many different types of art there are and how clever and inventive some artists are. Near the end of my placement, I was also given the op-

portunity to take part in a meeting about plans for the future of the gallery, learning just how much it was struggling with the Government cuts.

Even though there were a few jobs I did at the gallery which I felt were quite tedious, or didn't really need doing at all, I would definitely not say I wasted my time spent there. Because I was given such a variety of jobs and experiences, I now have a much better idea of what I do and don't want to do when I'm older. I think I would quite like to work at a gallery or museum because I would find the new collections that come in every now and again very interesting and be able to broaden my knowledge about a lot of different subjects.

News in brief

There are Gym & Dance displays in St Edward Hall today, tomorrow and Wednesday, and theatre trips for Y12 tomorrow and Y12/13 on Thursday.