



Press Release

Title: BCoT Forensic science students end up in Court!

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Local solicitor gives students a dose of reality at BCoT's 'Day in Court' arranged for students studying Forensic Science.

As part of their studies for their BTEC Extended Diploma in Forensic Science, 20 students from Basingstoke College of Technology had to undergo a mock trial in strict Court conditions, questioned by solicitor Emily Poynter before 'the bench' of three Magistrates. Ann Grant, Programme Manager Applied Sciences at BCoT said 'The day in court was the culmination of months of preparation during which our students were tasked with preparing detailed forensic evidence surrounding a crime of their choice. They worked in three teams and each had to prepare their case and be cross examined as 'expert witnesses'.

Emily Poynter, solicitor at Phillips Solicitors specialising in family law and litigation, received the 'Court bundles' the day before the event, assimilated the papers in preparation for the trials then, together with the three Magistrates, explained the Court usage and procedures to the students. The three teams were called to the witness box in succession and questioned in detail by Emily, acting as the prosecutor. Emily commented 'It can be daunting for any adult called to Court, so for these young people to take part in a 'reality' situation, it was certainly a bit scary, but they conducted themselves very well and were clearly knowledgeable about the way that they had collected and assessed the forensic evidence.'

Ann Grant concluded 'The students gained a lot of insights throughout the day and they will be marked on the content of their work, the detail of the evidence and their performance in the witness box. It was a brilliant learning experience and Emily Poynter was an exceptional advocate. We shall look forward to some excellent BTEC results shortly.' ENDS