

## Year 9 Visit Bucks New University

On Friday 26th May we took a group of Year 9 students to see the Bucks New University in High Wycombe; the first time we had visited this particular university.

The day started with an icebreaker and then a team challenge to build the biggest tower out of spaghetti, marshmallows and sellotape. The students all worked together really well and had a lot of fun!

The next session was all about encouraging the students to think about what courses they might be interested in studying, and which universities might be best for them. This proved to be an excellent exercise which showed the students the huge range of courses on offer.

The students were particularly interested in the tour where they saw the amazing drama/recording studios, the music studios, a flight simulator and a psychology interrogation room.



The rest of the day was spent building a 'model student' factoring in which qualities might be needed and then marketing the student to the university via formal presentations, acting out a scene or pretending they were a radio station. They had props they could use and every student participated. Apparently, this is the first group the university have experienced where every child got involved; no one refused to do the activity. I think, for some of the students, this was particularly challenging but they all participated.

We had some very good feedback from the day. A couple of students said 'you couldn't improve this day at all' and eight of the students on the feedback forms, have moved from 'possibly considering university', to 'definitely would like to go to university!'

This concludes our Year 9 visits to universities. I hope the students have found the trips valuable in raising their awareness, and for some, raising their aspirations.