

Career Day at Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers



Birchwood High School was delighted to receive an invitation from Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers to take part in an initiative they were organising with The Worshipful Company of Art Scholars to introduce young people to the auction business.

The auction business includes the auctioneer and specialists in areas such as Asian Art, Glass, Modern Design, Jewellery, as well as Antiques and Vintage Textiles, as well as large teams working in Photography, PR, Marketing and Administration.

On the 25th April, twenty nine Year 10 students, accompanied by Careers Leader Mrs Crimes and Mrs Jackson, spent a fascinating day learning what goes on behind the scenes at Sworders. In addition to getting involved in workshops, the students heard about the career journeys of three of the Art Scholars including John Benjamin of Antique Roadshow fame. The team at Sworders could not have been more hospitable and we are exceedingly grateful to them for the fantastic day they put on for our students.

We rounded off the day with a mock auction. Each student had



Photos courtesy of the school

an envelope of fake money and bid fiercely against one another with the odd online or phone bid thrown in to spice things up.

When asked 'what the best part of the day was', our students replied: "Learning about jewellery and seeing how you can find if a piece of jewellery is real or fake"; "I enjoyed talking to experts and listening to their work and their insights. I loved the workshops that I participated in, and loved learning more about them"; "I loved learning about hallmarks as I used my knowledge to date a set of cufflinks and jugs my grandmother gave me"; "Learning how to identify if a painting has been painted over or not."

Mrs Crimes, Careers