



Year 10 Economic Citizenship Day

In May, Year 10 spent a day learning about money and its financial and ethical value in several different financial arenas.

The first session used Cafod's excellent role-play "Trainer Game" where pupils took on the roles of families in a South American country. These families were very poor and the game replicated the problems of Less Economically Developed Countries and the instability of world trade. The girls quickly took on the roles, so much so that one family decided to become illegal immigrants in the USA, and others resorted to underhand tactics to survive. Led by the Geography Department, the pupils learned a great deal from the session.

The Maths Department led the second session on personal budgets and finance. They examined a couple of scenarios, including that of a student at university and used their maths to explain the issues behind personal finance.

The afternoon sessions introduced pupils to the Government's budget and to the world of stocks and shares. In the Government's budget they learned about taxation and what the government spent its money (and the

loans) on. They were challenged to do better than Alistair Darling- what budget would they have? What were their priorities? They were allowed to make 2 new taxes – one suggestion was a tax on the internet. Many wanted to reduce the defence budget and further increase tax on alcohol and tobacco (on health grounds).

The stocks and shares session introduced pupils to the risks and potential rewards of investing in the stocks and shares market. Each girl had an imaginary sum of £5000 to invest in 2 shares, using prices quoted in The Times financial pages. They were encouraged to research their companies and look at trends on the London Stock Exchange website. They also had to do the maths! There is a competition to see who can make the most profit by the end of term. Look out for news of this exciting competition.

Mrs C Workman