

One thing that I must thank politicians and the media for is making my daughter's mind up about the subjects to study at AS level next year. She has been so fascinated by everything that has been happening during the general election last month. The Internet has made it much easier for young people to engage in politics – she has followed the leaders of each party on their blogs and Twitter, she has joined Facebook groups and, when she didn't understand something she was able to research it using the myriad of websites available. So, if you see a younger version of me on the front benches in a few years' time, you will know that her choice of Government and Politics paid off! *Angela Liddiard*



Pictured (left to right) are Pippa, Millie and Laura, discussing their work placements.

Huge thanks to our partner recruitment agencies Bain and Gray, Joyce Guinness and The Career Boutique for organising a week's work placement for 36 of our students last month. Our students measure their skills against each other – therefore, until they go out into the 'real world' they have no idea how good they are! They came back from their week away with a great sense of confidence in their skills and abilities. The week allowed some to decide what industry they wanted to work in, and some decided what industry they didn't want to work in! Five students returned with firm job offers, and one student had her work experience extended to a second, paid week. Some inevitably spent the week at an Office Junior level, filing and making coffee, but what they all had was an opportunity for networking which, in the current job market, is priceless.

Work experience placements are few and far between these days; there are even reports of them being auctioned. This week was a monumental logistical task for the three agencies to achieve. Each agency interviewed the students and did their best to match them to work experience that suited their skills, abilities, personalities and job aspirations. This resulted in a very successful week and our students will no doubt be returning to the agencies in a few weeks' time when they are looking for permanent work.

However, before then there is the little matter of finishing their course! These last few weeks are where we hone the polish and professionalism that OMBS students are renowned for. We give them the skills to become good resource investigators and problem solvers; for example, in the next few weeks they are going to learn 35 new Excel functions. They will be finalising their Share Reports; this has been a 20 week study into the business and financial markets, analysing the effect that the current environment has on their chosen company's share prices. They will be chasing higher and higher keyboarding, shorthand and audio speeds. They will also be compiling that most important document; their CV. This is then presented to an external Human Resources Consultant, who comes to OMBS to do a 'mock' interview with each of our students.

We have a string of agencies and employers booked to come and talk to the students; some with specific jobs to offer, some to

talk about the current market and what to expect. Jobs are coming in daily now, and already students are going out for 'real' interviews.

There is a buzz about the building – it is the buzz of success, of hard work deservedly paying off.

Website of the month

<http://foursquare.com/> This is a social media site which is mentioned regularly in the marketing press as 'the new Twitter'. The idea is that you 'check-in' and say where you are and what you are doing. Foursquare will then tell your friends, so that they will know where to find you. Alongside the social aspect is a bit of frivolous fun ... you can earn 'badges' and 'points' and even become the 'Mayor' of selected venues, earning yourself all types of goodies!

This month's IT Tip

*Imagine that you have to produce a report in **Word**, which includes the latest figures from an extract in **Excel**. You could copy the **Excel** extract and paste it into **Word**, but it would be easier to embed it into the **Word** document so that it automatically updates and shows the latest figures.*

*Select the section of the **Excel** worksheet that you wish to use and copy it. Switch to the **Word** document and put your cursor where you want the **Excel** section to be. Go to the **Home** tab/**Clipboard** group, and click the drop-down arrow under the **Paste** button. Select **Paste Special**. Choose the **Microsoft Excel Worksheet Object** and ensure that the **Paste Link** button is selected. Click on **OK**.*

*To amend the spreadsheet just double click on it from within the **Word** document. This opens up **Excel** and you can make your changes. When you have finished, click outside of the **Excel** worksheet to return to **Word**.*

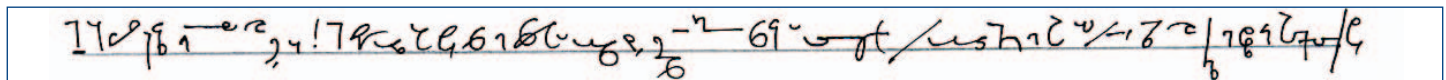
Bring your business cards to life!

Augmented Reality is the mixture between virtual reality and real imagery. With a computer, internet access and a webcam it is possible to turn ordinary things into 3D images that you can interact with. For example; Grazia magazine used this technology in a previous issue. The reader could place the magazine in front of their webcam and the page came alive to show a 3D make-up tutorial on the computer screen.

Imagine what you could do with your business cards. You (or your boss) could seem to 'pop out' of your business card onto a computer screen, and you could tell people all about your company, your product, even the directions to your offices!

Adidas have produced trainers which have Augmented Reality symbols in the tongue. When you hold these up to a webcam you are taken to interactive games on the Adidas website.

The more senses that you can engage when trying to sell to customers, the more likely they are to take your message on board. With Augmented Reality people are able to see, hear, and interact with the product or people; maximizing the chances of a sale.



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