

Year 9 visit to
Computacenter (Hatfield)



4th May 2023

On a bright spring morning, our Yr. 9 students boarded the Hailey Hall Minibus and taxi and went to the Computacenter in Hatfield. This is Hailey Hall's ongoing commitment to our students in having access to many employers and employees as they consider their Post 16 education and career pathways.

(Gatsby benchmark 5, Encounters with employers and employees)

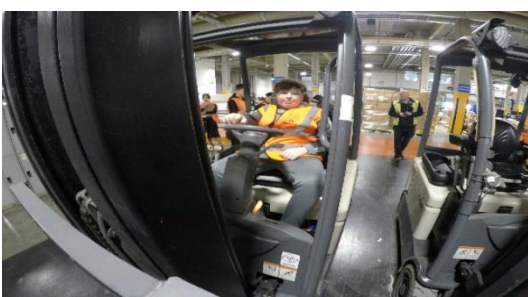
Computacenter is a state-of-the-art venue that caters to many multinational companies with its IT and support services. It has offices all over the world with its Head office in Hatfield. In recent weeks they hosted the CEO of Apple, Tim Cook with meetings with his company.



Renee and Craig met us on arrival at the venue in reception. All students and staff were given ID badges. We then went to their conference area known as "The Hothouse", all students had to go through strict security with security guards and Metal- detector arches to access and leave this facility. This is due to the high value of stock contained in the warehouse area.

After initial discussions with both Renee and Craig who talked about their career pathways in the company, Renee Languages and Craig Sports, both are now involved in Future Talent and apprenticeships roles. This gave our students insight into how they could enter the company for various employment routes connected with IT and it was not necessarily from an IT background. Craig said that "They are the biggest company in the world that nobody has heard of". Computacenter work with many multinational companies all around the world, (He showed us a picture of companies we have all heard of that Computacenter is involved with IT and Software),

We then were split into 2 groups and were shown around the buildings which have the largest automated warehouse in the country. The students saw many items of IT equipment being moved by machines and staff driving Forklift vehicles.



At lunchtime we were given a buffet lunch by our hosts and the boys were able to tuck into a variety of freshly made sandwiches, fruits, and cakes. Consideration was given to students with their own dietary needs such as Gluten-free and vegetarian and were given individual snack boxes containing appropriate food.

After lunch, the students were split into 3 groups. They were asked to use their imaginations in designing a “Robot of the future” with an emphasis on how it could support the future of mankind. The students had 30 minutes to work as a team in designing and then building a robot using large boxes of Lego.

The students discussed various designs and then worked together to build them.



After the allotted time, Renee had the task of which group was the winner. All students took part, so all students received a prize donated by the Computacenter of Play station-themed packs of pens and stationery.

Students gave their thanks to Renee for the day and students then returned to Hailey Hall and went home as normal.

Thanks for the support on the day from Renee and Craig and Hailey Hall staff Josh Taylor, Sarah Stringer, Donna Clarke, Georgina Parsons and Coral Thomas from SFYP

Peter Gregory

Careers lead