

Developing employability skills with Travers Smith



A ThinkForward partnership with Travers Smith has allowed us to offer participants sought-after work experience placements in school and college holidays. Salma from Mulberry School for Girls spent three days with Travers Smith with the aim of learning more about a career in law. Salma said the highlight of the experience was “getting the placement and then finding out more about what it is actually like to work as a lawyer”.

Over the three days, Salma had the chance to take part in some training, work with several different legal teams and attend meetings with lawyers from other firms. Sonal Patel, a Corporate Solicitor who planned and supervised the placement, said “Travers Smith was keen to support ThinkForward as we believe it can help school children develop the necessary skills to make the difficult transition from education to the workplace.”

ThinkForward Business Engagement Manager Susannah Behr believes that the difference between an average work experience placement and the successful experience Salma had at Travers Smith is in the preparation. “Placements work best when young people are working to a varied, pre-prepared schedule and know what they are trying to achieve in their place of work”, she says. ThinkForward has developed a toolkit for employers and places emphasis on the need to train and enable both parties for the best outcomes.

Salma spent each day at Travers Smith gaining new experiences, which spanned training on new software and learning interviewing skills. Together, she and her line manager set goals for the future including reading more newspapers and writing a fantastic CV. She has already made contact with the HR Manager at Travers Smith to support her in this goal.