

Our Photography and Videography workshop at BBC MediaCityUK

During our visit to BBC MediaCityUK, we experienced an exciting workshop with Tom, a social media manager on YouTube for the BBC. Many of us enjoyed the event as we could practise the secret techniques recommended by professionals, to ensure an impressive outcome for us as aspiring and ambitious young students exploring the world of work.

Firstly, our school was seated comfortably around a formal conference table, where we listened to a short but pleasurable introduction to Tom's career; he had worked his way up the ranks at the BBC and encouraged us to continuously work hard to achieve our goals. Tom's main area of interest was filming and photography, and therefore, his mission was to give us a crash-course on how to become 'semi-professional' videographers and photographers with our underestimated yet powerful smartphones –yes, smartphones! The crash course entailed a chance to independently video an interview with a friend, to explore our original and existing ideas about filming using a smartphone; this was done with the purpose to later compare it to a second – more informed and knowledgeable – attempt after our crash- course from a BBC professional.

Following our first attempt, we had had a chance to discuss how we could improve our techniques in photography and filming. For example, Tom introduced us to 'The rule of thirds' which increases the aesthetics and attractiveness of an image or video (see linked article by Ella D.), which was a new concept to many us. Also, Tom assisted us when improving our skill from a basic picture, to an increasingly dynamic and focussed image. We found that it was much more relaxed and pleasurable to film in landscape (as this is how it appears on our screens), with the focussed individual speaking in an angle across the screen (the increase the realistic feeling), with the body positioned in an angle towards the camera therefore the audience feels engaged and involved.

Moreover, to conclude the workshop, using our newly found knowledge, we filmed our interview again to compare the improvements and reflect on our learning. As a group, we inferred that fortunately, we have the technology (smartphones) that enables us to experiment and explore such enhancing techniques.

Furthermore, I urge anyone interested to use our recently acquired knowledge from this article and the linked article by Ella D. to expand your knowledge to further your skills in Photography and Videography.

By Susanna S.

