

9 March 2017

## **Beyond Image – International Women’s Day**

**On Wednesday 8 March 2017, events around the world marked International Women’s Day, an annual celebration and opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of women while calling for greater equality.**

This year, the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford has teamed up with two Year 13 students from North East Wolverhampton Academy to organise a special event entitled ‘**Beyond Image**’. The event was aimed at female secondary school students from across Wolverhampton, studying GCSE’s and A Levels and followed this year’s International Women’s Day theme **#BeBoldForChange** for a more inclusive, gender equal world.

Over 50 students from Wolverhampton Girls’ High School, North East Wolverhampton Academy, Dormston School and The British Sikh School were in attendance on the day and had the unique opportunity to meet with successful women from the Royal Air Force, Aviation, Enterprise, Law, and Social Work industries.

Following an introduction to the day, students listened to the individual experiences of the six guest speakers who addressed the social, commercial and intellectual gender stereotypes they have each faced in their respective fields throughout their careers. With the aim of inspiring young females to succeed, they each addressed how they’ve overcome these issues to reach their career goals and the work they do now to encourage the next generation of women to pursue careers in STEM and other typically male dominated industries.

Guest speakers included representatives from a variety of organisations and industries including the Royal Air Force, a Lead Software Engineer from Northrop Grumman, a Family Lawyer, Family Court Advisor, Director of Metal Seagulls Ltd and the RAF Museum’s CEO.

Following the presentations, students worked in small groups with each of the guest speakers for close discussions and questions about their careers and the skills they needed for their role.

**Beyond Image Event Organisers, Morgan Harris and Bethanni Wootton said:**

*“We believe in women taking powerful positions in the world and achieving their potential.”*

**Julie Brierley, Access and Learning Manager said:**

*“During this one day event we were able to highlight the vast opportunities and the wide range of roles available for women in some typically male-dominated industries. It’s been great working with the students organising the event, giving them the opportunity to pursue something they feel passionate about, whilst motivating their peers. We are delighted with how the day has gone and we hope to roll out the Beyond Image event on an annual basis, inspiring young women to follow their ambitions, whilst showcasing possible career paths.”*

For more information about the RAF Museum Cosford, please visit:

[www.rafmuseum.org/cosford](http://www.rafmuseum.org/cosford).

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Keep up to date with the latest news and event information by following us on:



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- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:  
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email [michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org)
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