

LUSH Workshop

Year 11 and 12 Beauty students at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School took part in specialist workshops hosted by LUSH this week as part of their Welsh Bacalaureate project.

Amy and Ellen from LUSH treated the girls to an education in the company including its 'ethical sourcing' - all the ingredients for their products are naturally sourced from all over the world. All LUSH products are Fair Trade. Unusually, you won't see the fair trade logo on any LUSH products. However, Fair Trade is very important to the company, and Amy explained that LUSH supports various communities all over the world who source their ingredients for a fair price.

The ladies began by talking about some of the products sold by LUSH. We had a demonstration of a dissolving bath bomb and products including a cocoa butter 'Peace Block' and a 'Fun Bar' which were passed around for the students to smell and test. Every LUSH product is vegetarian, and at this moment in time 80% of their products are vegan. The aim is to make people think about what goes into the product they are using. The girls also explained about LUSH's 'naked packaging' – they produce moisturising bars and shampoo bars so they can be sold 'naked' and reduce the need for packaging. The girls were told about various groups around the world that supply LUSH with some of their ingredients including a small group in Columbia who harvest the cocoa butter for the Peace Block, fisherman Pete from Poole who sources the seaweed for the bathbomb we saw being made, groups from Ghana and Fukushima who are supported by the SLUSH fund, and a group from Uganda who produce vanilla for LUSH by hand pollenating each flower. Once the talk had finished the students were given the chance to make their own 'Big Blue' LUSH bath bomb. Ingredients included seaweed, coarse sea salt and lavender oil. We were told that this particular seaweed – Arame, is harvested from the coastline of Japan. It is traditionally gathered by women, who dive up to 20m without breathing equipment to collect the Arame from the seabed - particularly impressive given that they have an average age of 70 years old.

All the girls left with their own handmade LUSH product at the end of the day. Mrs Elias, Head of Hair and Beauty said "What a fabulous workshop, thank-you to Ellen and Amy from LUSH for such an informative and inspiring talk. The girls loved being able to make their own products."

