

IoD NI Directors Shadowing Finalist 2008

This time last year I was in the same position as Alice is now; I had just completed my placement with Michael Murray in BT and submitted the obligatory report to the Institute of Directors outlining what I had learnt from the experience about the role of a director and the qualities required. And that was all the hard work done, or so I thought...

With ongoing formal plans and other Head Girl duties it wasn't anything out of the ordinary for me to be called to the Headmaster's office one Monday morning in November. So it was a very pleasant, but unexpected surprise, when Mr. Wilson informed me that I had been selected as a finalist for the Director Shadowing Presentation on the basis of my report.

On the day of the Certificate Presentation I, along with four other finalists, had to give an oral presentation summarising my experience on the Shadowing Scheme. The audience included members of the Institute of Directors, teachers and our 50 fellow "shadows". Our performance was judged by a panel comprising a director from the IoD, a representative of the Ulster Bank and two employees of the Institute of Directors. It was incredible that not only were the five finalists girls, but also we all had a specific interest in the Finance aspect of the business world. We each had very different experiences on the Shadowing Scheme, but our presentations reflected that we had all learnt the same key aspects of directing a company and the role of Finance within that.

It was a great honour for me then to be selected as the overall winner of the Ulster Bank award for the best report and presentation. I had thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent with Michael Murray and that alone had strengthened my ambition to reach such a high level in my future career. However, winning the prize was an unexpected bonus, and it has definitely motivated me further.

- Caroline McKane