Inpress work experience

Julia, Jen, Annah
Inpress Books and what we learnt about it

Inpress books is a UK company that specialises in selling books produced by independent publishers.

They work in partnership with publishers to achieve a fair and successful profit for both the publisher and writer.

Although they do sell directly to consumers on their website their main focus is to get bookshops to buy books from independent publishers.
What we did while we were there

We were at first welcomed by a fire drill but after that, we were quickly brought into the team and sat in on their morning meeting and helped with their new strategy of improving the website.

We were part of a market research group on social media and helped come up with ideas for events on National Poetry Day (October 4th)

Then we wrote reviews to go in the next Poetry Book Society magazine, and sat in on a sales and marketing meeting for an upcoming book
What roles did we observe?

We observed the roles of the 5 employees in the office, they all had a unique role within the company but each role came together to work efficiently.

We worked most closely with Sophie O’Neill (managing director) and Alice Mullen (manager of the Poetry Book Society)
Any surprises?

Annah: I was surprised at the volume of books a company that is quite small gets through in a year (about 350) and how one of their focuses is a poetry society that T.S Eliot originally founded.

Jen: Although I knew they were a small company I was expecting more than 5 people in the office. I was even more surprised to find that some independent publishers can be made up of 1 or 2 people!

Julia: I was also surprised at the number of books they sell, but I was most surprised by how tight knit they all seemed. It was like a small family.
How this experience has benefited us

Annah: I feel like this experience has helped me to clarify what I would like to do as a career. It has really helped me to understand the nature of working as a publisher and the various roles involved which has given me a lot more to think about!

Jen: I feel a lot more confident about my knowledge of the industry now, and can’t wait to explore a bit more and follow the advice Inpress gave me.

Julia: The questions we were asked about social media showed me how our knowledge is valued by these companies. It was also lovely to see how varied the roles were, this was a business area that I had no idea existed before this year. It gives me confidence that I will be able to find a role I enjoy within a creative field.