

**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**"SOFT SKILLS" ARE IMPORTANT IN THE WORKPLACE TOO - CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN TELLS STUDENTS**

**Kingston, Nov. 28, 2022** - Learning how to properly "close" one's knife and fork, correct posture and deportment are not the normal response of a student when asked "what did you learn at school today?"

But then, this was no normal school day and technically the 60 students from five local high schools were not at school - certainly not physically. They were participating in a "Ready to Work" skills workshop hosted by CIBC FirstCaribbean at the Terra Nova Hotel & Suites - one of the bank's activities in celebration of Jamaica's 60th anniversary of independence.

Noting that "Soft Skills" are as important at work as technical skills and professional certifications, the bank's Head of HR, Jerome Griffiths took the students through the tenets of interview techniques while Althea Laing, Jamaica's first "super model" of Althea Laing Image Consultants, presented on deportment, place settings and related techniques including making a good first impression when entering and leaving a room.

It was a full day of learning, roleplay and practice as the students demonstrated what they learnt including navigating a 3-course meal with the correct cutlery, various types of glassware and placement of napkins.

Griffiths and Laing scored "full marks" according to the students from Immaculate High School, Convent of Mercy Academy Alpha, St. Jago High, St. George's College and Denham Town High School. All agreed that the day was well spent and the "lessons" were a complement to their in- school classes.



CIBC FirstCaribbean “Ready to Work” participants following the workshop at the Terra Nova Hotel. At left is Renee Whitehorne, Marketing Manager.



Althea Laing, Image Consultant says fond farewell to some of the participants following the “ready to Work” skills workshop at the Terra Nova Hotel.





The correct way to have soup - one of the lessons taught at the CIBC FirstCaribbean “Ready to Work” skills workshop at the Terra Nova Hotel.



Wiping the mouth with a napkin after eating - one of the lessons taught at the “Ready to Work” skills workshop hosted at the Terra Nova Hotel by CIBC FirstCaribbean for 6- students of local high schools.

#### **About CIBC FirstCaribbean**

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in fifteen (15) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,800 employees in 64 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1.3 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. The face of banking is changing throughout the world and CIBC FirstCaribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a member of the CIBC Group. CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution with 11 million personal banking and business clients. Through our three major business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC offers a full range

of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches and offices across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world.

For more information about CIBC FirstCaribbean, visit [www.cibcfib.com](http://www.cibcfib.com), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

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