On Monday, February 12, 2018, students from Milton High Schools, The Young Women's Group, The Young Men's Group, The Calculus Project, and others interested in careers in the financial sector, traveled to KPMG for the second annual Black History Month Celebration: Recruiting the Next Generation of Accountants. KPMG sponsored the trip, covering the cost for transportation, lunch, and provided the students with a parting gift. Students had the opportunity to learn more about the financial services that KPMG provides to clients around the world.

Students attended small group sessions that taught them about the three main services provided by KPMG; Audit, Tax and Advisory. Students also learned about many other careers offered by KPMG, in their human resources and office management departments. Over seventeen employees from KPMG volunteered their time to meet with MHS students. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn from senior associates, managing directors, associate directors, and the office-managing principal.

The day started with a welcome and introductions by Corie Fletcher, Associate Director of Tax Transformation and Technology, John Capone, Audit Partner, and Darren Donovan, Office Managing Principal. The welcome was followed by four breakout sessions where students had the opportunity to divide into smaller groups with experts from Audit, Tax, Advisory and NBPG, to learn what employees at KPMG accomplish in their typical work day. Following the breakout sessions, students were treated to lunch catered by some of Boston's best ethnic food restaurants. The lunch also served as an opportunity for students to network with KPMG staff. This networking session provided students with an opportunity to talk with staff in a more relaxed environment. KPMG’s staff lectured the students and shared valuable information about their typical day, courses they took in college, and what it takes to work in the financial services sector. The day ended with another breakout session and a closing in which the students each received a book as a gift.

Last year’s trip to KPMG helped introduce many of our students to careers in the field of financial services. Five of our students had the opportunity to participate in a week long summer accounting camp through the Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP) program as a result. Darien Johnson, a 2012 MHS graduate and former KPMG intern, helped to chaperone the field trip. Darien had the unique opportunity of being both a Milton High graduate and a former KPMG employee. Darien provided valuable insight to our students and told them that a job at a company like KPMG is within their reach. He advised them to, “Identify people you feel comfortable with and reach out to them when you need help.” He also talked about his experiences in the Milton Public Schools and how it prepared him for success in college and beyond. Currently Darien is a staff assistant in the office of US Senator Elizabeth Warren.
Darren Donovan, KPMG’s Office Managing Principal, provided great motivation to our MHS students by telling them that, “Any one of you could do my job,” and that, “the only obstacle between you and a job at a firm like KPMG is you.” Donovan and his staff made our visit to KPMG a welcome experience for our students. They were able to explain the complex operation to our students in a way that was engaging, informative, inspirational and motivating for our group. Our students were inspired by his words and many walked away from this experience with a greater interest in accounting and other careers in the financial services sector.