

# Year 13 Politics Trip to Parliament

In October, Year 13 Politics students went on a trip to the heart of politics in the UK - the Parliament.

Initially, we all met in the morning on Parliament Square and everybody else had a tour of the various statues by Mr Jenkins (unless, of course, you were late like Aakriti & I). After entering the Houses of Parliament, we were subject to various security checks, before meeting our tour guides. We were split into two groups, and our group was led by an incredible guide called Princeworth.

We were all amazed to see the building we had studied up close, and to learn about the intricate history of where we were standing. None of us could guess that Westminster Hall was 1,000 years old, and that it still stands to this very day.

My favourite part was definitely entering the House of Commons & Lords; standing in the rooms where the laws and debates that shape our country have been created is truly surreal! Additionally, witnessing the parade of fancily-dressed speakers was a highlight (even if Mr Jenkins' phone went off!).

Another important part of our day occurred when we had the opportunity to speak to Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the Member of Parliament for Chingford & Woodford Green and former leader of the Conservative Party. We listened to him speak about his experiences, before questioning him on a vast array of topics including the Tory leadership contest and House of Lords reform (about which he was particularly passionate).

We spent our lunch touring London with our friends: Chloe, Aakriti & I went to St James Park, Buckingham Palace and helped a tourist who had lost her money before returning to Parliament and buying merchandise from the shop.

All in all, visiting Parliament was an invaluable experience that allowed us to appreciate out-of-textbook learning whilst having fun in the city!

**Samiksha, 13MNA**

