

Year 12 visit the Palace of Westminster

On the 20th June, the Year 12 Politics students were given the opportunity to visit the Palace of Westminster, which serves as a meeting place for the House of Commons & the House of Lords. We were greeted inside Westminster Hall by our tour guide who showed us around the Palace and explained the historical and political significances of everything ranging from the colours of the carpets to the intricately decorated rooms that once housed the monarchs. Around midday, we sat down in a Grand Committee Room to interview the MP for Chingford and Woodford Green, Sir Ian Duncan Smith. Our politics class had prepared questions regarding both current affairs as well as the impact of modern politics on our futures. After a very enlightening conversation with the Conservative MP, we were fortunate enough to be able to sit in the sessions that were happening while we were there.

Home Secretary Priti Patel was answering questions in the Commons and the new Education Bill was being debated in the Lords. We greatly enjoyed watching the debates, conscious that history was being made and were grateful for the public accessibility which is one of the democratic ways in which our political system functions. To end our day, we managed to sit in on the workings of the Levelling Up Committee, where MPs were discussing the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill and the challenges around building affordable housing.

Overall, our Politics class found the visit highly educational as it further developed our knowledge of the structure of UK government. All of us particularly enjoyed the tour of Westminster Palace as we were very fascinated by the historical significance that it held, which was excellently explained by our tour guide and observed through the beautiful paintings throughout the Palace.

Sara, 12JMC



Our local MP in the Grand Committee Room taking questions

