

## Parliament Visit

It was three days from Brexit Day and the Year 12 Politics class was due to first Parliament. Would we witness political fireworks? The answer was no.

Although there had been a serious Government defeat the day before, and the first of the indicative votes on Brexit were taking place the next day, Tuesday was a relatively quiet day.



The guided tour got us off to a good start, and the girls enjoyed going into both the Houses of Commons and the Lords, although they had to resist the temptation to sit down on the green and red benches – this is strictly forbidden. They did, though, get the chance to walk through the division lobbies, which is where MPs go to vote. We then visited a couple of Select Committees at work, spying Iain Duncan Smith on the way as he discussed something (Brexit probably!) with a fellow MP. In one of the committee rooms we saw David Lammy MP making a strong case for tackling the sources of knife crime and social exclusion.

After that we saw the Speaker's procession and then entered the viewing chamber of the House of Commons, where we witnessed the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, answering questions. The debate was fascinating to watch and gave a real insight into how parliament functions away from all the usual fireworks. We ended the day by mingling with the Brexit protestors outside and getting a real flavour of the passions that have been aroused by this most divisive of issues. As girls went home they reflected on the fact that they had been in and around Parliament at a time of real historical significance – in the future they can truly say, "I was there".



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