

School Council's Visit to City Hall



With less than 100 days until the Mayor of London and the London Assembly Elections, members of Woodford's School Council from Years 7 to 13 had the opportunity to visit City Hall last Thursday, the headquarters of the Greater London Authority. Located in Southwark, on the south bank of the River Thames overlooking Tower Bridge, the surroundings of City Hall itself were mesmerising. However, on entering, we found ourselves even more fascinated with the stunning piece of architecture – in fact, so fascinated that we were almost oblivious to the security checks! But our marvel was short-lived as we were quickly whisked off to our first event, a conference between the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the London Assembly, which was the last conference to take place before the May Elections. Whilst sitting at the conference, Ms Fearnhamm made it her objective that we took away at least some things from it, for example, how the police force is trying to combat crime using more discreet methods now, such as placing knife bins in less monitored areas to encourage people to discard harmful weapons, or how London's police have dealt efficiently with security checks on last-minute calls. After being extensively quizzed on what we learnt, we were off to our next event – our own quizzing session with the Deputy Mayor of London, Roger Evans, and this time, it was us who sat on the panel in the conference room. There were several interesting questions asked, such as where the Deputy Mayor stands on the EU Referendum and what it's truly like to be a politician. But unfortunately our hunger pangs would not cease so our meeting with the Deputy Mayor was cut short. We were led into the cafeteria, ate our lunches, and were back on our way to Woodford with, of course, a short ice cream break along the way! Overall, the visit was an exciting one which definitely showed us the reality of how hard it can be to implement a change, but with determination, it is certainly possible – a learning experience which our School Council members will undoubtedly prosper from.

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