

# Platanos College News

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Trips to Enhance Learning for Key Stage 3

As part of Platanos College's commitment to enrich our pupils' learning in new and creative ways, every term Key Stage Three pupils visit a range of exciting and educational venues to enhance the outstanding learning that takes place in the classroom.

The following are snapshots of our most recent *Trips to Enhance Learning* day on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

We are proud of all of our pupils who attended these trips – they were living examples that attitude determines altitude and they continue to be outstanding ambassadors for our school.

*Mr Bourke*

## The Imperial War Museum



The trip to the Imperial War Museum was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to gain context for the war module they have been studying in English. While the focus of the trip was the First World War, pupils were given sufficient time to explore all of the wars that have happened since the First World War. Our pupils learned about how warfare has evolved since the First World War, from weaponry to the rules of war. Highlights from our visit to the Museum include: pupils speaking to a Second World War survivor, navigating a life-sized replica of a trench and seeing photo gallery of the daily lives of British citizens during the First and Second World War.

*Mr Kabaka*

## The National Army Museum



9A attended the National Army Museum in order to enrich their First and Second World War studies in History. Upon arrival, the pupils undertook a workshop, the topic of which was Total

War. The pupils improved their knowledge of the subject matter and were extremely engaged with the lesson, impressing the facilitator with their impressive subject knowledge and asking thought provoking questions.

In the more interactive section of the workshop our pupils had the opportunity to examine propaganda posters from the First and Second World Wars and had to decide the audience and purpose of these posters. They were then given genuine artefacts to examine from both wars having to decide the use of them in Total War. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities, and were able to give considered and well thought out answers to the questions posed to them in the second part of the workshop, highlighting both their subject knowledge and their engagement with the earlier session. After the workshop pupils were given the opportunity to explore the museum which had five galleries on various aspects of the army from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

*Ms Tonge*

## The Harry Potter Walking Tour

This trip had a very positive impact on our pupils from the go as they were able to explore the literacy works of J.K. Rowling in a fun and interactive way. The trip itself was a great opportunity to explore new places, as it was the first time that some pupils had visited Central London and it incentivised their curiosity for the different films' sets. Furthermore, our pupils participated in different quizzes that allowed them to upgrade their memory skills as they had to pay attention to the stories told by the guide in order to answer the questions and win points for their houses. Furthermore, pupils completed problem solving activities to find solutions to different issues that producing the *Harry Potter* franchise may offer in a city like London. I would underline two main outcomes from this trip: first, the pupil-teacher bond that was strengthened and secondly, the influence of J.K. Rowling's life as an example to our pupils of overcoming adversity and to pursue their dreams.

*Ms Lopez*

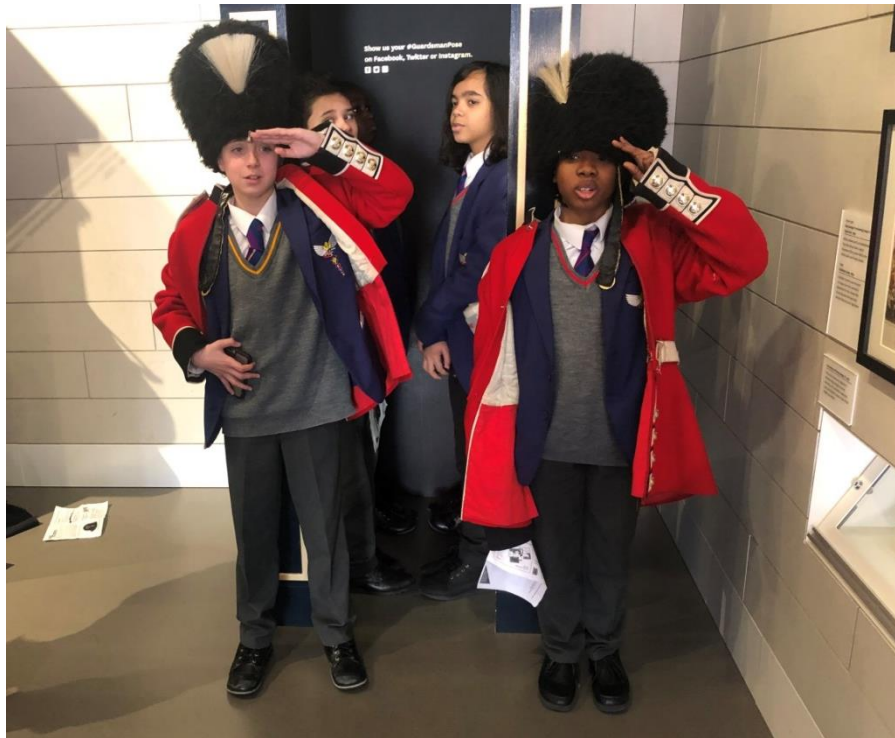




## The National Army Museum

The Year 7 Trip to Enhance Learning to the National Army Museum in London was a highly informative and interesting day. Our pupils have been analysing and comparing "War" poetry this term and the fabulous museum exhibits enabled pupils to put the various poets' words into context. This excellent museum took our pupils on a journey through the various conflicts that the British Armed forces have been involved in over the past 300 years or so, and the countless interactive opportunities gave them a real feel for life as a soldier through the centuries.





The workshop was presented with style, expertise and enthusiasm, and children were able to handle precious artefacts (with care) - a rare opportunity to touch the clothing, armour and weaponry from years gone by - a lucky few were even dressed for battle in the uniform of soldiers from the English Civil War!

*Mr Turner*



## King's College London

A small group of year 8 pupils had the opportunity to visit the *Modern Language Centre* at King's College to learn about careers related to Modern Foreign Languages.

The trip was organised in two parts: the first part of the trip was in the Franklin-Wilkins building where our pupils were given a talk by the Head of the French Department about the history of King's College; secondly, a Spanish culture class was delivered by Laura, a member of the Modern Language Resource centre, who gave a small lesson about South American artists. Laura played two songs in which pupils had to identify different features related to Spanish culture, such as the bull, clapping and flamenco dance style. Another activity was a quiz based on the last video they saw. Our pupils were able to answer questions and to ask for the meaning of some words from the song.





Following this, our pupils visited the Language Resources Centre at Somerset House. Pupils were split into four groups and a laptop was provided to each group. They played Kahoot, a quiz based on Spanish Culture.

Our pupils were very inspired and found it very engaging. All agreed that they would like to return!

*Ms Roso*

## The Museum of London

9D's Trip to Enhance Learning was to the Museum of Learning in order to enrich their studies in History and English. Whilst at the museum, all 21 pupils had the opportunity to visit exhibitions and galleries, such as:

- Medieval London (410-1558)
- War, Plague and Fire (1558-1666)
- Expanding City (1666-1850s)
- People's City (1850s- 1940s)

There were a vast number of things that our pupils engaged with. They were able to gather information about the 17<sup>th</sup> century living conditions; the short film on the Great Fire of London enabled 9D to gain a better perspective and graphic imagery of the events that



occurred before, during and after The Great Fire of London. The displays and activities were interesting and captivating for many of our pupils, particular the members of the class who attend History Club. Staff looked on, watching the pupils interacting with the exhibition, trying on clothes, sniffing the smells of the Plague and sitting on period furniture. One of the exhibitions all staff and pupils found of interest was walking through a Victorian street, which was filled with a Victorian bank, post office, grocer, public house etc.

On the way home, when asked about the trip, the pupils were very positive and enthusiastic about their experience; some expressed the willingness to return with parents and siblings. We were extremely proud of 9D's conduct and inquisitive nature!

The Museum of London is a place 9D would recommend.

*Ms Wilson, Mr Williams and Mr Bell*

## The Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood Bethnal Green



Another Trip to Enhance Learning for our year 7 pupils was at The Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green. The Museum holds the largest collection of toys in the whole world and pupils were able to indulge in an awesome discovery of the world of play. The day was spent engaging with interactive activities within the museum. It was a wonderful and fun day and our pupils were beautifully behaved, despite their excitement!

*Ms Hunt*

## The Bank of England



Year 8 pupils visited the Bank of England Museum in the City of London.

On arrival the pupils were greeted with a *Discover the Bank* questionnaire and had to find out interesting facts of the Bank history which involved them walking around the exhibition, looking, reading and learning about inflation, the introduction of a bank note and the make-up and security that goes into making of the current notes in circulation today.

The pupils also got the opportunity to pick up a solid gold bar (which weighted 13kg) and is valued at £404,263 in today's current market.

*Mr Boyles*

## The Horniman Museum



A small group of year 9 pupils attended the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill, London. We also toured the gardens in the museum's beautiful surroundings.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed it and really appreciated the anthropology displayed here.

*Ms Kellman*

## Gamelan and Tate Modern

Year 7 Most Able Girls and Boys from A band left attended a Javanese Gamelan Worksop at the Southbank Centre.

Opening up especially for our pupils, the Gamelan Master led us through a practical workshop using the percussion instruments in both slendro and pelo scales. Pupils were challenged to adapt to a less familiar way of organising notes from the western traditions many are familiar with.

After playing a range of instruments and putting together a whole piece of music as an ensemble, our pupils took out their notebooks to draw some of the instruments, shadow puppets and art they could see around the room.





After walking along the Southbank, pupils continued to fill their books with drawings, stories, monologues and poems as they took part in a tour of the Tate Modern.

Upon returning to Platanos College, the notebooks were returned to the tutor to redistribute as part of an extended follow-up activity in tutor time after half term, with pupils' work being rewarded with *Independent Learner and Creativity* merits.

*Ms Valmarana*