

Platanos College News

Wednesday 16th October 2019

Hampton Court Palace History trip

On Thursday 10th October, the History department took 70 Year 10 pupils to Hampton Court Palace for the day. The trip was part of pupils' GCSE studies on Elizabethan England. Our pupils had the opportunity to attend a workshop focusing on Elizabethan Government and Society. The trip also gave pupils the opportunity to tour a heritage site understanding the world of Tudor nobility.

Pupils displayed exemplary behaviour while travelling on the Underground and National Rail to Hampton Court. On arrival, our excited pupils participated in a workshop led by a knowledgeable guide.

It was a delight to see pupils putting their knowledge to the test during a Privy Council meeting and debating the Succession Crisis of 1562 as Elizabeth's Privy Councillors would have done just over 450 years ago. This was a personal highlight for me as it was amazing to watch pupils using their debating skills which intertwined their understanding of



the period, with their ability to debate to great effect.

The grounds of Hampton Court Palace delighted our pupils as they took lunch in the Autumnal sunshine, and met some of the resident swans and geese. Overall, pupils were extremely positive about the day. They were able to imagine what it was like to live in a grand house only heated by fireplaces filled with logs, and visited the vast kitchens which would have prepared feasts fit for a king.

In the afternoon, the pupils had time to visit the Tudor and Georgian parts of the palace including the chapel, kitchens, and courtyards. From this they were able to gauge religious changes, differences in Elizabethan society and gender roles.



Although some pupils had visited Hampton Court Palace previously, the trip allowed all pupils to see the site through their GCSE Learning of Elizabethan life. They found the opportunity to visit Hampton Court extremely valuable to their studies, also enhancing their understanding of aspects of life in historical and modern England.

As always, our pupils were fantastic ambassadors to the school. We received compliments from members of the public who were impressed with their behaviour and conduct throughout the day. This trip will certainly help pupils gain a better understanding as they complete their first Formal Mock Exam after the half term break. I look forward to the variety of trips and workshops that are to come over the course of this academic year.

Written by Ms Stephenson, Hampton Court Palace trip leader.