

Years 12 and 13 enjoy a day in Parliament



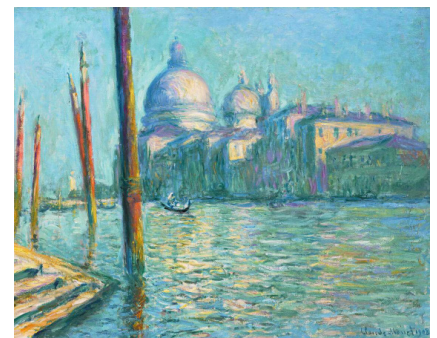
Earlier this year, both Year 12 and 13 Politics classes visited the epicentre of UK politics; The Supreme Court and Houses of Parliament. Following an extraordinarily early start, we reached London, in high spirits despite the traffic. Our first stop was the Supreme Court, where we had a workshop in Court 3- Famous for the Unlawful Prorogation of Parliament, 2019 and The Uber Case, 2021, in which labour laws were changed in a landmark decision. We were tasked with debating a past case of civil rights laws, in which Josh's team had the judgement from the majority of the deciding year 13 judges.

Following a short walk across Parliament Square, we started our tour of the bicameral chambers that complete the UK Parliament, with our guides Dan and Dianne. We had the opportunity to view The Commons from the public gallery, where we saw Boris, that being the highlight of the trip for some. We also walked through The Lords and reviewed the process of passing legislation and the role of our unelected chamber.

Concluding our trip we had a mock debate in the format of an official Parliament debate, known as a second reading when passing through the legislative process. This became a heated debate very quickly, between Piers for the year 13s and Josh for the year 12s, upon resurrecting the Death Penalty in the UK. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day, and found it incredibly useful connecting our studies to the location that we learn so much about, and we all owe a huge thanks to Mrs Tillotson for organising such a brilliant trip for us all.

Cardiff Art Museum

On the 31st of January all the Year 11 Art students visited the Cardiff Art Museum to gather inspiration for our new exam projects. Everyone had their chosen topic in mind and we walked around the art museum and took photographs of art related to our individual topics. There was a very wide range of different artwork, paintings, sculptures and immersive installations, to inspire everyone's project. I found the Cardiff trip so helpful as I saw many paintings that have impacted my project. My chosen topic is reflections and I mainly looked at paintings which portrayed landscapes reflected in water, how people's minds are reflected onto art and how religion is reflected through art. The trip opened up my mind to so many new ideas and it was really helpful to see such diverse paintings.



My favourite part of the trip was seeing paintings by Monet for the first time in real life. Monet is one of my all-time favourite artists and to see some of his paintings life size, was incredible and memorable. Seeing his work up close allowed me to see his brushstroke techniques and colour use in so much detail. A few of the Monet paintings on display had a reflection's of Venice, which inspired me to photograph it for my project. It was an inspirational experience, seeing such a huge range of paintings and style of art, which we don't often see.

Emily Draper, Year 11

Ski Trip 2023

During the February half-term, the PE faculty took 79 students to Auron, France for the first post-covid ski trip. The students were a credit to the school. The progress made by all groups was amazing. All groups, including the beginners, made it to the highest point of the resort. Details for the 2024 ski trip will be released soon.

Congratulations to Elod Jakab- Barthi Yr 9 on passing his Grade 5 Drum exam with Merit!

Head-itorial

"What is it that you do exactly?" is something that has sometimes been asked of me by genuinely inquisitive youngsters who know that I'm not in the classroom as much as their other teachers. There are some very mundane, but necessary bits, and there are some more interesting elements, but it is certainly true that no two days are the same. Three of this week's highlights began with a lunch with sixth form students who had recently visited Auschwitz Birkenau as part of the nationally-run 'Letters from Auschwitz' programme. It is always fascinating to learn from their experiences, and as a follow-up, the three who went from Sheldon will be producing some work for use with students lower down the school; after a four-year break, it has been great to see this back. Less welcome was the return of the snow. Some schools in the county were forced to close, whereas we were able to stay open, largely thanks to some speedy work by our site staff who had cleared paths and car parks to make everything safe. It is never a straightforward decision, although we would always look to open when we can, and other factors such as numbers of staff affected by poor weather conditions where they live can also play a big part. Luckily, on this occasion, they were able to make it in safely too. And finally, Strictly on Friday: this is not a compulsory part of the job, but one I have decided is something that has to fit into what I do. Again, after a four-year pause, we have this on the calendar with tickets selling out very quickly. I shall look forward to dancing with a fellow grandparent, probably adding some unintended comedic value alongside my attempt at kicks and flicks, but I am sure that the event itself will provide an enjoyable end to the week and raise a sizeable amount for charity.

Neil Spurdell
Headteacher




Participants are now continuing to work on their skill, physical and volunteering sections. A number of students have completed at least one of these sections with the aim to have these signed off before the expedition. Students needing any help with this should come along to the drop in sessions every Tuesday lunchtime in C2.
Miss Langdon

Bronze Training Day

Nearly seventy year 9 students completed their expedition training last weekend. H5 Adventure spent the day with the participants looking at route planning, camp craft, cooking, menu planning, first aid, equipment and bag packing. Students are now looking ready for the expeditions in May and June.



Science Life

On Monday 27th February, thirty Y10 and 11 students went to the Science Live event in Bristol which featured a series of lectures by prominent scientists, including well known Professors Lord Robert Winston and Jim Al-Khalili. We had lectures on a wide variety of subjects from leading scientists in their fields. Dr Hannah Critchlow a neurologist, explained how our brain waves synchronise when we work together; Prof Jim Al-Khalili explored the possibilities of time travel; Dr Anna Ploszajski wove an intricate web of materials linked to her cross-channel swim; Prof Dave Cliff took us into the future of computing and robotics; Prof Winston discussed the challenges of embryology and its application to a range of medical contexts. We also had a couple of sessions by a senior examiner who disseminated key pointers for students to help them maximise their performance in their GCSE exams.

There were a lot of challenging concepts put before us which made us all take stock and think hard! The students who attended were a highly engaged group and pleasant company throughout the day - they were a real credit to the school.

Dr Aicken

Wishing everyone coming to watch Strictly Sheldon tonight a wonderful evening and good luck to all the dancers.

