



Nailsea School

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Nailsea Students stand together with Westminster

Nailsea School Student Council experienced a thought provoking trip to London this week taking in the London Eye, a boat trip along the Thames and the Palace of Westminster. Nailsea School were one of the first groups to visit Parliament following the horrific attack last week. A number of parliamentary workers expressed their appreciation that Nailsea's trip had continued as planned following the many cancellations they had received since the attack. Many of the students expressed determination that they would not be deterred from visiting London despite the unsettling events just days before. It was clear security had been heightened and flowers and tributes were a very poignant reminder of the recent terrible events. Nailsea School staff were proud students responded with typical maturity and sensitivity particularly when in the vicinity of Parliament and the parliamentary staff were clearly very thankful of the support.

Students had the fantastic opportunity of seeing live debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords as part of their tour of the historic buildings. This was followed up with a workshop where the students were set a number of challenges to focus their learning on democracy and how laws are made. Students split into two sides, each with a Leader, and set about proposing a bill. One of the Head Boys, Ben, acted as Speaker to call for "order" and manage the debate as students lobbied for a change in the funding of higher education. After Ben added up the ayes to the right and no's to the left students were interested to find out the House of Commons at exactly the same time had also experienced a division and members were voting in exactly the same way.

Mrs Watts, Events Officer said "The trip is an amazing behind the scenes chance to witness first-hand the parliamentary system at work. The parliamentary guides and workshops are outstanding and students learn in a very practical way. Given that the student ages range from 11 to 18 students work together very well and everyone learnt new facts about democracy and the complex, rigorous systems used in government".

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