

On the 26th September, a group of students from Parmiter's School, Watford, were lucky enough to be taken around Balliol College, one of the most renowned colleges at the University. The weather had turned out for us – the sun was shining in Oxford.

After an extended walking tour around the city (with the help of Google Maps) we arrived at the gate on Broad Street. We first participated in a fascinating Shakespeare workshop, studying the history of the book covers and title page designs used in the period, and how Shakespeare used a bold new design on his folios - such as The Complete Works - to stand out from the crowd.

After a hearty lunch (many thanks to the kitchen staff), our questions on the prestigious college were answered, and we were given a fascinating insight into life, be it work or play, at the University. We found out about the large range of clubs available for students, and arrangements in place regarding student life and financing an Oxford course. We learnt about the range of courses and unique teaching styles offered by the college. We discovered how the University is not just teaching the next generation, but a workplace where experts who are conducting pioneering research in their field. Lastly, we had a tour of the facilities at the college, including the on-campus library with its huge collection of books, old and new, and the vast dining hall. The day had flown by, and all too soon we had to bid the college farewell.

It was a momentous occasion for all those involved, and we are very grateful to Balliol for opening their doors to us, and providing such a brilliant opportunity to see inside the University with so much history, and so great a reputation. We hope many more groups will be as privileged as we were.

Report by Dexter Kenchington