

Oxford University Trip

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On Tuesday, 23 October 2018, 15 year-11 students were given the opportunity to visit Oxford University, in particular Balliol College. We started the day with a tour of the stunning campus, which was dated back to 1263. Our student guide showed us all the key parts of the college, including the libraries, the extraordinary gardens, the common room and the dining hall (which was reminiscent of the Hogwarts great hall.)

After the tour we were accompanied into a classroom by an Oxford professor. We were given necessary information about further education, including university and apprenticeships, along with their importance. The professor also informed us about a crucial website – UCAS, which would help us as students decide which A-levels to take based on the career path(s) we would like to follow.

Following this highly beneficial seminar, we were once again taken to the dining hall for lunch. We were given the privilege to be seated at the 'high table'. Thereafter, we were taken back into the classroom, but this time we were led by a Mathematics professor. After being shown a video of shapes being systematically organised based on numbers and their prime factors, we were asked to work in groups to try and predict the trend the shapes were following and predict further patterns. We were then asked to create a sequence using the numbers 1-17 where the sum of adjacent numbers was a square number. It was fascinating to discuss and our minds were challenged.

Finally, the University arranged for us to visit the Museum of the History of Science. One of the most fascinating exhibits was the 'Women in Science' section. This included the work of Elizabeth Hippisley, a famous geologist and chemist at a time when many females had no opportunity to be given an education. This made myself and the other females in attendance feel even more determined to focus on our education. We also saw lots of breathtaking historical technology created for medical purposes.

Overall, our trip to Oxford University was remarkable and truly enjoyable for the year-11 students. We felt so fortunate to be given such an unforgettable opportunity and it was extremely beneficial. Thank you to Mr Cooper for organising the event and Mrs Caruso and Miss Woollcott for taking us on the day.