



Visit to Christ's College, Cambridge - 10/10/2022



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Outreach at Cambridge is arranged according to geography. Any liaison between the university and schools or FE colleges in Lincolnshire or Yorkshire and the Humber is the responsibility of Christ's College. That is the reason why, for our visit to the University of Cambridge, we went to Christ's.

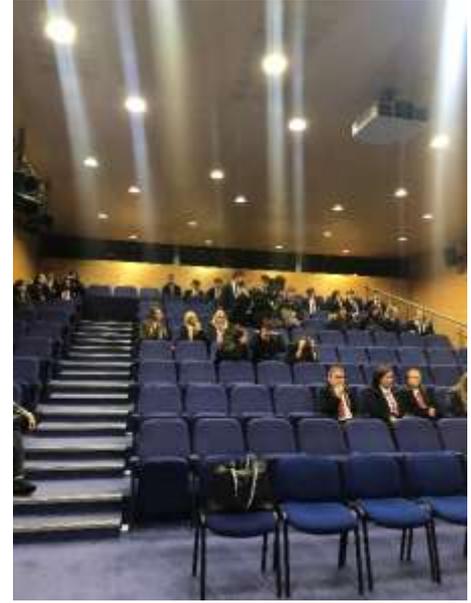
The College itself is unable to be accessed by coach, so our bus, with its 39 Year 10 and 11 pupil passengers and 3 staff members, dropped us off outside of Queen's College and we were met there by our host for the day, Ellie. She led us through the city centre, pointing out other university buildings and points of interest along the route, for example the Senate-House where the graduation ceremonies take place, which are conducted entirely in Latin! The sun was shining and the streets were bustling and it all made for a very pleasant walk of about 15 minutes.

On arrival at Christ's College, we passed through the large wooden gates of the Porter's Lodge and gathered in a courtyard, where Ellie explained some of the things we could see, like the only circular lawn at any college in Cambridge and the college cats.



We were impressed with how pretty the buildings were – old and grand, yet welcoming. However, we soon arrived at the most modern building at the college: the Yusuf Hamied Centre, built in the 1950s. This building has a large accommodation block where, Ellie explained, the majority of first year students lived as these rooms have en-suite facilities, whereas the older blocks have much more antiquated facilities. However, the older rooms certainly have a lot more character and charm! We were taken into an area of the Yusuf Hamied Centre that contained a lecture theatre, and this is where we settled for our first session of the morning: An Introduction to University. In this

session, Ellie told us about the number of universities, courses and students that there are in the UK and described the way Cambridge is similar to other universities and ways in which it differs. For example, she explained that there are campus universities with all their facilities together in one place, there are city universities whose facilities are spread out all over a city and collegiate universities (of which Cambridge is one) where students belong to a college and they tend to live and do their studying within their college, although the university itself is spread out over the city.



At the end of the session, there was time for us to ask questions and find out about university in general or Cambridge specifically and then Ellie explained the applications process and how students are allocated to colleges. She made it clear that it is very important to do research early into courses you are interested in as there may be entry requirements you have to bear in mind, such as Cambridge's insistence on potential medical students having done A Level Chemistry.

At the end of the first session, the group was split into Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. The Year 11s went to the Upper Hall for a fabulous lunch with lots of choice of freshly cooked food (all provided for us free of charge and greatly appreciated!) while a student from Christ's, Hannah, took the Year 10s for a tour around the college. They learned that the college has its own outdoor swimming pool, they saw the Master's Lodge,



the chapel, the garden where they hold their May Ball (where we met one of the aforementioned cats!) and the library, amongst other things. The Year 10s were especially that the librarian allowed them access to the Old Library, which was a room giving off very “Hogwartsy” vibes and was packed with history and atmosphere.



The Year 10 and Year 11 pupils then swapped and the Year 10s went for lunch while Year 11 did their tour with student Edward.



Back in the lecture theatre after lunch, we were introduced to 2 students that are currently studying at Christ's and they described their experience of student life and of life at Cambridge. They told us how they were anxious about starting university and how they dealt with their initial worries. They explained what they are studying and what their future plans are. All in all, they showed that anyone who is prepared to work hard can get a place at university – even a prestigious university like Cambridge! Ellie also pointed out that the reason statistics show that students from state schools in areas such as ours seem to be under-represented is because they simply do not apply. There is nothing about anyone's background or educational history that would prevent them from being accepted, they simply need to meet the entry requirements for their course and make an application. This led on to the final session of the afternoon: Post-16 Choices. In this session, Ellie reiterated the importance of pupils doing research into what they need to do NOW to get to where they want to be in the future.

Having been given considerable food for thought, we made our way back through the centre of Cambridge to Queen's College, where our coach was waiting to bring us home after a most informative and enjoyable day.