

## **Y6 Visit to London – 12th October 2016**

What an exciting day! So many new experiences, so much to see, so much to learn! I was delighted when I was asked to join the Year 6 trip to the Palace of Westminster in London and, like the pupils, had been looking forward to it for weeks. From leaving school at 7 am to arriving back at 10 pm, the well organised day was full of interesting activities. We were so lucky to arrive at Buckingham Palace just as they were changing the guard, and saw at least three horse-drawn carriages bringing important visitors – to see the Queen, we imagine. And the crowds of tourists! Next time we see the palace on the news we'll all be able to imagine standing in front of the gates among the throngs of visitors looking up at the famous balcony.

The highlight of the day for me was the visit to the Palace of Westminster and the chance to sit in the public gallery of the House of Commons and watch a live debate on Brexit; being at the centre of government was such an exciting and instructive experience for us all. We then went into a mock chamber and took part in an excellent inter-active session where we acted out a parliamentary election, from manifesto to new Prime Minister. The pupils approached the activity with interest and made thoughtful and constructive contributions to the proceedings – and they impressed the tutor by knowing the name of our MP.

It was a great pleasure to be with such enthusiastic, sensible and attentive children and my group of six looked after me very well; above all, it was a real privilege to be with such dedicated, caring and hard-working staff. Not only did they work very long hours on the day but had put in many hours of preparation beforehand to organise such a fulfilling and rewarding experience – and unlike me, they had to get up early the next day as well!

L Redfern

Governor