

Houses of Parliament Visit

When we arrived in London after a three hour journey, our coach dropped us off outside Portcullis House. We all had to have special passes which allowed us into the Houses of Parliament.

Our tour guide came to collect us and as we sat on a bench he explained how the man who designed the house had based it upon a ship with masts and cannons. We were led down some stairs and up some old stairs with paintings on the wall.

Along the corridor we entered the room where MPs are interviewed for the television. We also saw their pigeon holes which were different colours according to the party the MP belongs to.

We then entered the House of Commons where everything was green and we saw the Speaker's chair. The old curtains were used a long time ago when the Speaker would need to go to the toilet but couldn't stop in the middle of a debate. We were not able to sit down as we were not MPs.

Through another passage way it led to the House of Lords which is red in colour and very intricate – it looked grander than the House of Commons with a 23 carat gold chair which the Queen sits in when she visits.

When the Queen opens Parliament the guards hold a lamp to the passageway where Guy Fawkes would have been and show her that it is safe to be in the building. However she holds two "prisoners" to make sure that there is no plot against her.

We walked into a room and were split into two groups where we debated and played other games. We then met Margot James (Conservative MP for Stourbridge) who talked about her experiences as an MP.

After all the listening and walking we went for a McDonalds and had a trip on The London Eye.

Maeve Duff

