

# Sussex University Trip

On Thursday the 25th of April, I was lucky enough to be among the students on the Sussex University trip. Leaving second lesson early, we set off for the train station and travelled, via Brighton Station, to Falmer. The walk from the platform to the campus was a short one, but the excitement and energy in the air was palpable; we were all bubbling with anticipation to explore the university. Our buzzing group, distinguishable from the other schools by our sea of bobbing red hats, was guided first into the refectory where we ate our lunch. The atmosphere seemed friendly, and there was plenty of space for all of us.

Then we were taken to a lecture theatre where we sat comfortably in rows and received a talk about university life. We were provided with valuable advice, laced with past experience from the speaker, a woman who had attended university not long ago. I found the talk immensely beneficial and I took away from it a new wealth of knowledge about university living.

After this, we were led on a guided tour of the university campus in our subgroups. The tour guides were very upbeat and approachable, and they gave us an in-depth, informative insight into what life at Sussex University would be like. From what we saw, it seemed to be a fairly welcoming environment with many useful resources such as gyms and an immense library. The accessibility of these resources is, for me, a rather inviting concept, and from the snippets of discussion I heard, everyone else was in agreement.

Following our tour, we filed back into the same lecture theatre and listened to a second talk by a young man. It explored statistically effective revision techniques and how to heighten your memory capacity - I thought it was very interesting. Much to our amusement, it also involved a collective memory game. We became so immersed in the challenge that we were still attempting to recollect the items on the train ride home! This aspect of the trip was particularly useful because we can apply it to our upcoming exams and use it now rather than in the distant future.

Although we missed the train we were due to catch home, this gave us plenty of time to share our views on the day. The general consensus was that it had been a very successful and worthwhile trip; we had all been struck by admiration and awe at the features on campus and many people decided that they might like to apply to Sussex University in the future.

In my opinion, it is a clever idea to introduce us to the idea of university as early as year 10 so it doesn't feel as unfamiliar and daunting when we reach the application stage. It will also help us to make an informed decision on what's best for us based on what we've learnt.

What our well-meaning parents didn't know when they asked us 'what did you learn today?', was that we had an avalanche of newfound wisdom and awareness from our productive day at Sussex University.