

## Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge 2016 Visit: Bhavik Patel

Firstly, on arrival at Sidney Sussex College we were taken to our rooms to unpack and freshen ourselves up. We were then led on a tour of Cambridge city and the many different colleges. We learnt about the different colleges and their significant features, such as the beautiful court at Trinity College and the “Grasshopper Clock” at Corpus Christi College. We were then given time to explore the city ourselves.



After returning to Sidney Sussex we were given a welcome and introduction to the College and the University by Dr Kirsten Dickers, the College’s Admissions Director. This was followed by a tour of the College itself by a current student. Sidney Sussex was beautiful and seemed like a great learning environment with many facilities available and always a great place to study. Everyone we saw was well presented and had impeccable manners.



We then were taken on a magnificent punting trip along the “backs” of colleges such as Queens’ and Trinity as well as such sights like the Mathematical Bridge, Clare Bridge and the Bridge of Sighs.

We returned to Sidney Sussex to be given a dinner, which was very delicious. There was also a large variety of food and drinks to choose from. In the evening we took part in a very challenging and enjoyable quiz, competing against other schools. The quiz was about knowledge of Cambridge and also Sidney Sussex. After the completion of the quiz we were given some free time to watch a DVD and later we went to our rooms and discussed the day’s events.

The next day, after breakfast in the College's Dining Hall, we attended a sample lecture session by Jenifer Varzaly, a PhD student who is an adviser to the UN, on the economic and the global financial crisis. We then walked across to the Faculty of Law, where we had a talk by Ali Lyons on Law as a university course, what to expect and what is needed.

After lunch at Sidney Sussex we visited the Whipple Museum of the History of Science. There were many interesting artifacts on display and lots of information about scientific and medical instruments. Throughout the two days, whenever we could we were given free time to explore the city, which we did for the last time before setting off on the return journey home.

Sidney Sussex was beautiful. I especially enjoyed the tours of the College and the city, as well as learning about the history of Cambridge and actually seeing it for the first time. The Corpus Christi clock was very fascinating and has the Latin inscription which translates "the world passeth away, and the lust thereof". I also really enjoyed going round the Whipple Museum of the History of Science, due to the huge amount of information it contained and also to see the development of medicine throughout time.



The visit was memorable and worthwhile. It was very educational, interesting and enjoyable. I was given key information about further education. It showcased the high standards expected by the College and University. I learnt that the academic standards are very high and that GCSE and A-level grades really do matter. Without the right grades there is no chance of even achieving an interview. You also need to be well rounded, have a good character and a strong passion for the subject which you pick.

Before the trip I believed the people at Cambridge would very different. However, they were all very similar to us and were all polite and kind. They all had great manners and were well spoken and well presented. Cambridge encourages people like us to apply, as long as we work hard, get good exam grades and are prepared to explore our chosen subject beyond the syllabus.