

## SASH London trip, Feb 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017. Sponsored by York Vikings



Dave Anderson presenting a cheque to Gary Hogg for £1500 to assist SASH in sending 13 young people and 4 staff on a visit to London.

5 YP\* from York, 6 YP from Harrogate and 2 YP from East Riding. All Supported Lodgings apart from one of the York ones who is on the waiting list for SL in York, but is currently living at Howe Hill. We had a cancellation with less than an hour to go and the young person managed to pack and get to the meeting point on time. He was also one of the ones who appeared to get a lot out of the trip.

Left York on the 10:03 and arrived into Kings Cross at 12:23. Down onto the underground and travelled to the YHA at St Pauls. Dropped off all of the bags

and headed to the V and A, Science and Natural History Museums in South Kensington. 3 hours to look around and explore. Met up at 17:00 and boarded the tube to Covent Garden where we all sat down for a meal at Pizza Express.

After the meal we walked to the Cambridge Theatre where we took our seats to see Matilda. All the YP loved it. I was sat at the back of them in the upper balcony and they were all on their feet giving a standing ovation at the end of the show!

Tube back to the youth hostel at St Pauls and an hours down time before bed at 11.30pm.

Breakfast at the youth hostel the following morning at 7.45am. All YP up and ready to go! Had breakfast and then got the tube to Houses of Parliament for the tour organised by Rachael Maskell.

Arrived at the HOP at 9.15am in plenty of time to go through the stringent security checks, bag checks, pat down and scanner. Went into Westminster Hall where we were met by Stephen our guide who took us on the hour and a half tour. We went all over inc into the House of Commons and the House of Lords and one YP was even given a copy of the Hansard from the previous days parliamentary session.

The YP all seemed to love and engage with the tour and were asking pertinent questions of Stephen from start to finish.

Left HOP and headed for the boat tour dock on Westminster Bridge. 45 min journey to the Tower of London where we disembarked and got the tube to Trafalgar Square.

Four of the YP joined in with a street art project that was run by a couple of homeless chaps and was raising money for them and Help for Heroes. They actively encouraged the YP to add to their collection of pictures, which they did whilst chatting about what it was like to be homeless in London.

Boarded the open top tour bus for a tour of the city. All managed to squeeze on the top deck. Toured the city for an hour looking at all of the sights before getting off at Buckingham Palace and waving to the Queen, who I was assured by one of the YP had waved back from an upstairs window! YP all taking lots of photos and pointing out places of interest.

Left the palace and walked down the Mall and through St James's Park to the HOP where we jumped back onto a tube to the YH. Collected the bags and then boarded another very, very busy tube in the London rush hour back to Kings Cross. We only just got everybody on board.

Off at KC, had something to eat and a drink and then boarded the train home which was waiting for us on platform 1.

Feedback sheets distributed and completed on the journey home.

All four SASH staff agreed that it was the best SASH trip that we have done to date as all the YP were respectful to each other, SASH staff and other people who were around them.

A really great experience, especially given that one of the YP could have been a real problem but really turned his behaviour around and was probably the one YP who gained the most from the trip and was a joy to be around for the second day.

\* (YP Young people)