



Amid the excitement of Brexit discussions in the capital today, Year 12s from Axe Valley visited the executive with a brief stop at Downing Street, then the judiciary during a hands-on tour of the Supreme Court, and finally the legislature at our "mother of parliaments".

Many of our students experienced the thrill of power, sitting in the seats of our Supreme Court and Privy Council. They seemed to handle the burden of responsibility with great ease (see photos).

Outside Downing Street we ran into Neil Parish's newest parliamentary aide, Charlie Hall, (in Westminster all week for work experience). Then, in the lobbies of parliament, Charlotte and Ryan were pleased to receive a cheery, acknowledging nod and smile from John Bercow as he and the mace entered the Commons in ceremony. Ryan described the Speaker's smile as "a ray of sunshine." Alfie found himself rubbing shoulders with Jacob Rees Mogg. Unfortunately, despite keen searching for a certain David, only Blunkett and Davis were to be seen.

To complete the experience, a mock legislative debate saw Rosie acting as Speaker and keeping order "Order! Order!" while a party led by Alfie advocated lowering the voting age. As Max articulated, "How can we be old enough to learn about Politics but not allowed to vote?" Polly led her party in strong opposition, arguing that "students' opinions could be influenced by their teachers." (There was absolutely no evidence that this was true!) Ultimately the bill was passed. Polly scored revenge though, trouncing the opposing party in a law-making quiz thanks to her knowledge of the militia bill of 1707, even in the face of Charlotte's multiple-choice mastery.

Patrick felt that the day was "an intriguing experience giving young people a look at how our country is governed." Jess, who joined the trip last-minute said, "Even though I don't do Law it was important to see parliament."

We'd like to thank the students for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiastic participation. Thanks to staff for releasing them from lessons.

Mr Otty & Mr Holland

