

Y11 Visit Reading University

Our Year 11s have been visiting universities over the past few weeks with the aim to raise aspirations and inform students about further and higher education opportunities. The second trip to Reading University took place on Monday 9 January when students experienced university subject taster sessions, a campus tour and a Q&A with current students.

Reading is a leading UK university and offers a wide range of degree programmes encompassing the pure and applied sciences, social sciences, languages, arts, humanities, business and many more. It is ranked 30th in the UK and 19th in the world.



*I enjoyed the opportunity to go to Reading University, where I learnt there are many possible careers with certain degrees. We learnt about 3 different degrees at Reading - these were Psychology, Economics and Law. We got a tour of the campus which showed us how different university is compared to secondary education. Reading University will be a good choice to attend. **Sam 11JAL***

*It was a real eye opener for what university will be like and I think it was crucial in a way to have this experience and it was very enjoyable to be at the university! **Robin 11SAS***

*What I enjoyed about the trip was when we did the activity which gave us an idea of what studying law was like as everyone started debating which was fun. **Freya 11LOI and Caitlin 11SUK***

*The trip to Reading University went well, we enjoyed the activities and thought it was helpful. I especially enjoyed psychology as we had good debates. **Jake 11LOI***



Review by Kiana Wright

Today we visited the University of Reading. It was an incredible experience that broadened my understanding of the university experience as a whole. Our guide was extremely informative and he created an encouraging and exciting atmosphere consistently throughout our trip.

Upon our arrival we were greeted with a friendly team of student tour guides, who stayed with us through the entire experience. After a scenic walk across campus, we arrived at the

building where we would embark on our first two, of three lessons that were stretched over the day.

First, we had economics. Initially many of us were unclear on what the subject meant but, after an efficient and informative explanation from the head guide, we were all engaged and ready to learn more about this intriguing subject. We began with a captivating psychological game which delved into the themes of communication and cooperation. Using class volunteers, we were all hooked on this exciting, fresh concept. Not only did this prove to be amusing and enjoyable, it extended our previously sparse knowledge on this new-found topic, captivating my classmates and me.

After a short break, we were introduced to a psychology-style lesson. Many of my classmates were thinking of choosing this for our upcoming A Levels, so it was an enthralling experience for all. Even the student tour guides were getting involved. We listened to multiple music pieces from differing genres and were instructed to draw what we heard after being equipped with various implements. Then later, we were introduced to a theory which hypothesised the meaning of relativity and our approach to certain objects. After a quick evaluation, we established there were little anomalies to a general trend in the appearance of our drawings, fascinating many of my fellow students.

Once we had successfully completed our first two lessons, we had a lunch break, which swiftly transitioned us to the next stage of the experience. A tour of the campus was conducted by the two senior tour guides and allowed us to take a look at the everyday experiences of a Reading student. All elements of the campus had architectural phenomenon's with a wide range of buildings for various subjects. My fellow classmates were astounded by the plethora of services made available to the students and the group of student guides answered all of our questions regarding student life. Some of our personal favourites were the '3sixty' on campus nightclub, enormous library containing over one million books and the surfeit of catering facilities. Not to mention their eco-friendly approach to energy usage; since 2010 the percentage of their energy efficient buildings has increased from 34% to 89%, many of my classmates are climate change activists, so this news only compelled us to learn more!

Then came our last lesson of the day which was Law. We were given another interactive activity which encompassed the philosophical and moral questions regarding the law. We were tasked to create the laws for a hypothetical new planet and split into four groups, to later discuss our ideologies at the end. This sparked debate among us and allowed us to further analyse the meaning behind the rules which govern the constrictions to the society we live in today. This challenged us to delve deeper into the moral compass of human beings and question the relativity of rationality versus morality, which many of our students enjoyed.

Overall the experience was an incredible opportunity to give us an insight to what life is like when choosing further education, equipped with the eager guides and new-found information, it was a thrilling adventure for students and teachers alike.

