

YEAR 10 TASTER DAY TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

March saw some of our Year 10 pupils visiting Oxford University for a Taster Day - this is the report of Grace Exley, one of the pupils involved



Michael Palin, Margaret Thatcher, Hugh Grant and William Golding – Oxford University has seen them all, and as of 12 March 2014, a group of Crofton Academy's Year 10s!

6.00 am on that particular Wednesday morning, Miss Murphy, Mr Falkiner and ten students arrived at school, ready for a day of academic excellence.

A presentation about life at Oxford, a discovery hunt around the city, a mysterious "academic activity" and, perhaps the most enigmatic of all - lunch - promised a day like no other. As the coach drew nearer to Oxford, the excitement grew with Miss

Murphy's Oxford alumni quiz, then came the sign saying "Oxford".

After a short walk to Queen's College, the day began in earnest. Having got lost on the stairs entering the auditorium, the introduction to Oxford life began. A linguist led the proceedings, then the groups of schools split to begin the walking tour. Finding a red telephone box, a part of the Bodleian Library, a building with men with beards outside of it... the discovery hunt list went on.

Our tour ended at Worcester College, one of the oldest Oxford colleges, which we were then invited

to look around. With 26 acres, its own sports fields, and even a lake, Worcester seemed to be a self-contained city, and the place where we were to dine.

After lunch, we were scheduled to complete an "academic activity". The session was led by a PhD student reading physics, and was based around how lasers work. After an hour of throwing paper to model atoms, we returned to Queen's College as the day came to a close, prepared for another four hour return trip, stopping only for refreshment in the shape of McDonald's.