



## Saturday 18th July 2009

The delegations arrive in Cambridge. Accommodation and dinner will be in Robinson College with the mentors.

## Sunday 19th July 2009

1 After breakfast guests and mentors walk together to the Corn Exchange where the Opening Ceremony and Banquet will take place.

After the Banquet transfer will be provided to Oxford separately from the Mentors. The coaches will go directly to St Anne's College so guests can check-in to their rooms.

Once all the guests have settled into their rooms the group may start discovering Oxford with a guided walking tour:

### Walking tour of Oxford

An English speaking guide will meet the guests at St Anne's and depart for a walking tour of the City, to see the sights and enjoy the anecdotes of 800 years of town and gown. The guide will lead the group on a lively exploration of the colleges and historic city centre. Honey-gold buildings and 'dreaming spires' are just part of Oxford's unique charm. Whilst the glorious architecture of its famous colleges makes every visit memorable, the city which took eight-hundred years to create really does take time to explore.

The tour will include a visit to Oxford's largest and grandest college, founded by King Henry VIII. Christ Church is the only college in the world to have a cathedral within its walls. Its dominating features are Tom Tower and the impressive Quadrangles.

Christ Church is also famous for its connections with 'Alice in Wonderland' as it was here that Charles Dodgson, (Lewis Carroll), a young Oxford Don, wrote the Alice stories and you will see the views and objects that inspired the memorable characters. More recently, Christ Church has been used as the setting for the Harry Potter films.

At the end of the day guests will have dinner with the mentors at St Anne's.

## Monday 20th July 2009 – Warwick Castle and Stratford-on-Avon

After breakfast in St Anne's a coach and English speaking guide will meet the guests at the College and depart for Warwick Castle.

This breathtaking monument first fortified by William the Conqueror, spans nine centuries of war and peace. Rising majestically above the banks of the River Avon, the castle has echoed to the sound of feast days, lavish entertainment and high society dinners.

The guided tour will include the State Apartments and the magnificent Great Hall as well as the Kingmaker attraction where the Earl of Warwick prepares for battle, and the 'Royal Weekend Party'. There will be some free time to explore other areas of the Castle before taking lunch in the Coach House.



After lunch the guests depart Warwick for Stratford-on-Avon.

A small, old Elizabethan town on the gently-flowing River Avon, Stratford is famous as the birthplace of the Immortal Bard, William Shakespeare, born there in 1564. The charming town centre boasts an array of 16th and 17th Century buildings with rows of half-timbered houses, including Shakespeare's Birthplace. Stratford is also well known as a stage for Shakespeare's works, with three popular theatres; The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, The Swan and The Courtyard, home to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

On arrival the guide will conduct a panoramic tour which will pass the many places of interest such as the five Shakespeare Houses, the Royal Shakespeare Theatres, Holy Trinity Church, the Guild Chapel and Harvard House.

2

After the tour there will be some free time for shopping before returning to Oxford.

The day will close once again with dinner with the mentors or there might be a surprising evening programme.

## **Tuesday 21st July – Bath**

As on Monday after breakfast the guests will leave College for a whole day excursion. The coach and English speaking guide will depart from St. Anne's College for Bath.

The golden city of Bath, with its glorious Roman and Georgian heritage, has been welcoming visitors for over 2000 years. It is a World Heritage Site and a unique city, with hot springs, Roman Baths, the splendid Abbey and Georgian stone crescents. Set in the rolling Somerset countryside it is a beautiful and unforgettable place to visit.

During the tour a visit will be made to the Roman Baths. Around Britain's only hot spring, the Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex that still flows with natural hot water. See the water's source and walk where Romans walked on the ancient stone pavements. The extensive ruins and treasures from the spring are beautifully preserved and presented using the best of modern interpretation.

Lunch will be taken in the city with some free time for private exploration before returning to Oxford.

The guests will return to Oxford to have dinner with the mentors.

## **Wednesday 22nd July – Blenheim Palace**

A coach and English speaking guide will meet the guests at St Anne's and depart for a morning visit to Blenheim Palace.

Set in the midst of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds and surrounded by over 2000 acres of lovely 'Capability Brown' parkland, Blenheim has been the home of the Dukes of Marlborough since it was built for John Churchill, the 1st Duke in recognition of his famous victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. It is now the home of the 11th Duke and is lived in and cared for by the family for whom it was built.



Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, the Palace is one of the finest examples of English baroque architecture in the country. The Palace's fine collection includes famous tapestries, paintings, sculptures and fine furniture displayed in magnificent gilded staterooms.

Additionally there is a fascinating and permanent exhibition of letters, paintings and memorabilia of Sir Winston Churchill, which can be found next to the room where he was born.

The coach will return to Oxford in time for lunch in the Exam Schools and the guests can enjoy free time during the afternoon.

3

### **Thursday 23rd July – London – Royal Society – Natural History Museum**

The guests will accompany the Mentors on their programme throughout the day.

### **Friday 24th July – Cambridge**

The morning will be free with lunch available in Robinson College. In the afternoon a coach will take the guests to the Botanic Garden for a guided tour. The coach will then return them to central Cambridge for a walking tour which will include a visit one of the Cambridge Colleges. Finally the guests can relax during a chauffeured punt tour on the river Cam and enjoy the British speciality called Pimms.

### **Saturday 25th July – Newmarket and Ely**

After breakfast a coach and an English-speaking guide will take the guests to Newmarket.

Newmarket is a small market town which is unique in Britain for its long association with horse-racing which has been taking place on the extensive chalk heath land since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Today there are over 70 licensed trainers and around 60 stud farms, with bloodstock sales taking place almost monthly at Tattersalls where horses can often be sold for over a million pounds.

The guests will be able to see the horses training on the gallops before visiting the National Horseracing Museum to discover the rich history behind the 'Sport of Kings'. After coffee in the Museum café the guests will rejoin the coach to visit Ely.

Ely is built on an island in the flat, low-lying area of England known as the Fens. Formerly wetlands, the area was drained during the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and the rich, fertile soil used for agriculture. The Cathedral was originally founded in 673 by St Etheldreda and has been destroyed and abandoned before being restored once again in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. A highlight of the Cathedral is the magnificent Octagon which appears to be suspended without support.

The guests will have a light lunch at the Almonry restaurant before returning by coach to Cambridge.