

Our Art Trip to London—Paget High School, Thursday 15th October 2015

On Thursday 15th October 2015, as the result of a successful bid to the Eridge Trust we were able to take 43 GCSE and A Level Art students to London. We received £1,100 which enabled us to make the trip entirely free to students. This money covered the cost of the coach and some of the supply costs. Usually we struggle to fill the places when we run trips that cost money, and often have to open them up to different year groups in order to cover the cost of the transport. In this instance, students were waiting for me with their signed permission slips as I arrived at school the following morning and by end of the next day it was full. The only reason we took 43 and not the intended 45 was illness—2 students were unable to attend on the day.

ITINERARY:

- 0700 We left school.
- 1130 Arrived at Tate Britain—the journey was slow and we were later than we'd hoped but we were still able to spend 1½ hours there. Students were asked to complete a task designed to support their current Art work (copies of tasks included).
- 1300 Lunch, outside at Tate Britain, overlooking the river Thames in bright sunshine.
- 1330 Walked along the river, quick look at Rodin's *Burghers of Calais*, past the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Downing Street, through Horse Guards Parade to Trafalgar Square...
- 1400 Free time around Trafalgar Square.
- 1430 Booked in at the National Gallery—we split into 2 groups for our hour long guided visit—a brief introduction to the paintings of the National Gallery.
- 1630 We left London. As on the journey into London, students were excited to see some of the places they had heard about. Six of the students had been to London before.
- Year 11 student commented, **“I think London must be quite popular, there's a lot of people here”**...
- 2100 Arrive back at Paget High School.

The trip was a great success on many different levels. Yes, we spent too long on the coach and definitely not enough time in London but it was a great day out and honestly only possible with the money we received from the Eridge Trust. We would have had to charge students £25+ for this day and there is no doubt that not enough could have come at that price to cover the cost of the coach.

Students were able to look at real paintings, possibly for the first time ever. We usually take students to the Tate in Liverpool, followed by a trip to Crosby Beach to see Anthony Gormley's installation. This is a good day out—it's the right distance and we can do it for about £12 each, but it's not London! The students were overwhelmed by the scale of everything, just from walking into the entrance of the galleries!

Students were given the opportunity to listen to someone talking about a real painting in depth, not their teacher using a projection on the whiteboard, conscious they haven't got much time to spend explaining this bit.

A Year 11 student commented afterwards

“ I would have just walked past those paintings cos they looked boring, but it was really good to have them explained to you. I didn't know paintings had all those things in them”.

From a teacher's point of view, the process of completing the bid meant we sat down and really thought about what we thought was important in terms of Art Education. We didn't have enough time to do anything more that organise a taster session for students, but it is a start and undoubtedly a valuable experience for all students. They have already started asking if we can go again next year!



Tate Britain: Some of our Year 13 students trying to make sense of it!



Some of our Year 11 students trying to complete the task they were set



Lunch



Group photo



London's version of Rodin's *'Burghers of Calais'*

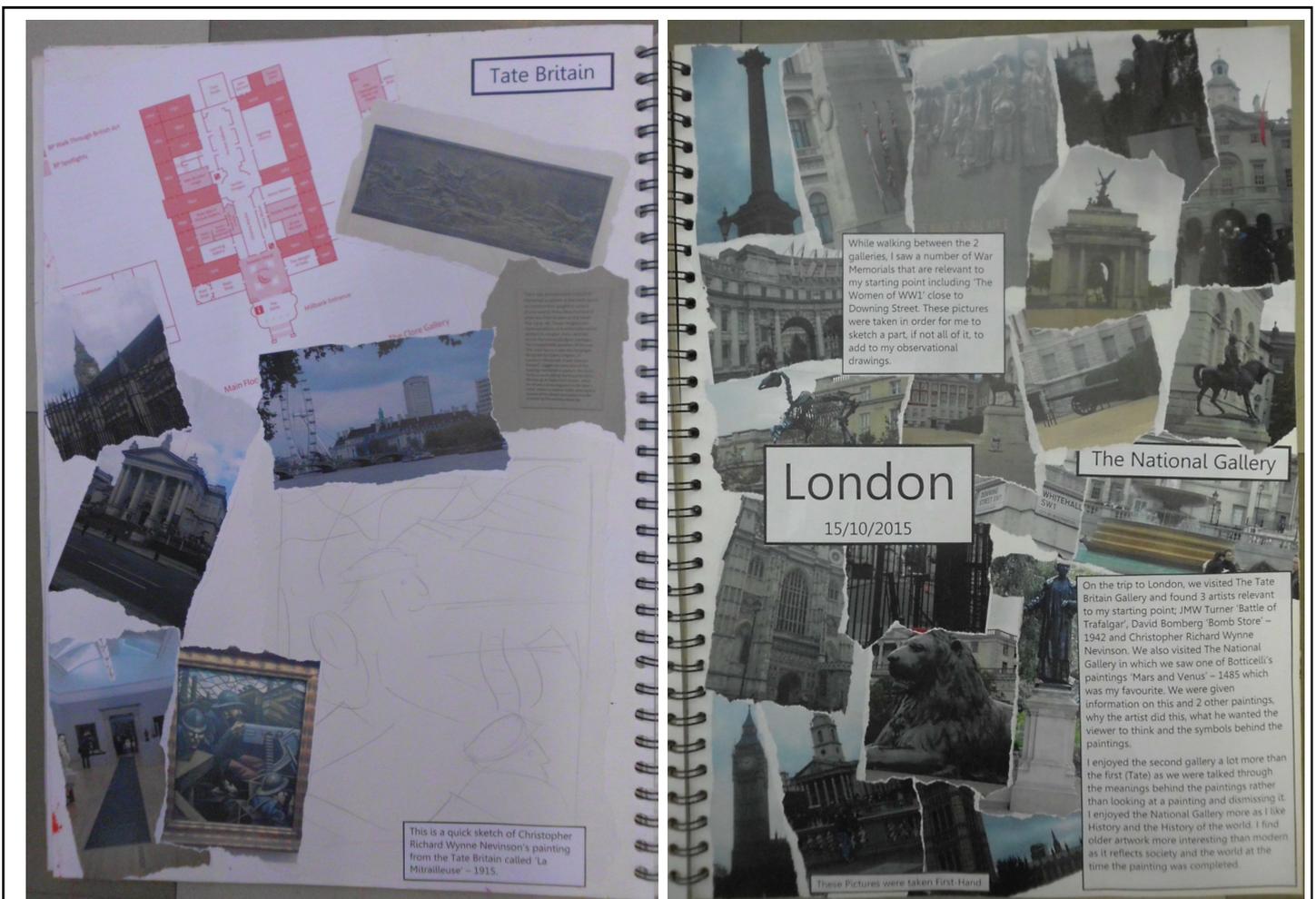


Seeing the sights...



National Gallery: Our guided tour—totally absorbed...





An example of student's completed Gallery Task in her sketchbook

Some of the students' reflections on their day out....

"I can see how people thought and processed their art. It also gives us an insight into what was happening when they were creating their work"

"It's not just a painting, it's a story, a memory"

"Art is not just something that looks nice. It can tell a story or invoke a feeling"

"Understanding how the way we set out our work has a reason and this will help me with my work"

" I loved being in London because it's so big and different to here. Everything is so grand and British and awe-inspiring"

" I liked the atmosphere in the galleries and the lady that told us how to look deeper into something"

" I learnt how to lay out a composition so that it draws your eye to the right place"

I wish we could have....

"Gone to the Tate Modern... gone to Buckingham Palace... spent more time in the National Gallery... spent more time in the Tate... seen more of the buildings in London... had more free time... seen more famous paintings..."

I really would like to thank you for providing us with the opportunity to experience this day with our students. I hope you get a flavour of the day. I have included copies of the tasks the students completed to help you understand the initial focus of the visit. I hope you also understand that for these students the day was a whole lot more!

Sarah Howell