

## The York Story – Day 1 – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

We made it safely and, thanks to a brand new coach, very comfortably. It was also very special when the coach pulled up at school as the first person I saw was a parent of one of our current children who was on the first Horsmonden trip to York back in 1993. Weather-wise, it's been glorious so far and for the walk into the city, several of the children removed their coats because they were too hot.

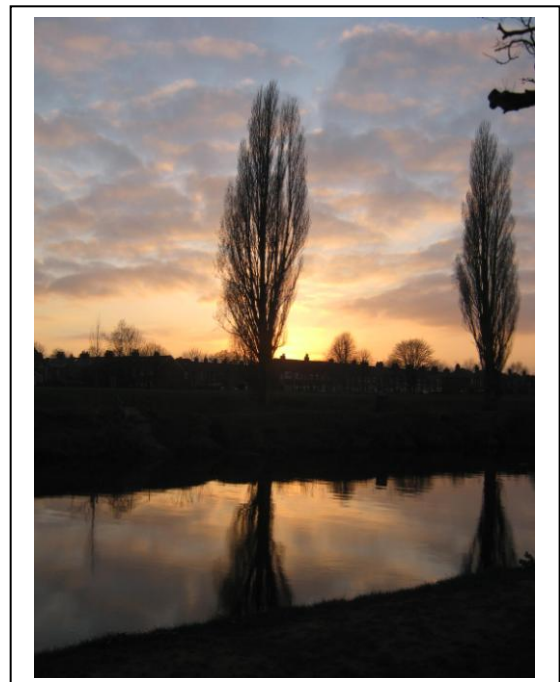


Coachy has been very kind and the children had free access to bottled water, still, sparkling and flavoured. Unfortunately, the male staff all forgot to bring their packed lunches, so were forced to eat MacDonalds at lunchtime whilst the children enjoyed their healthy sandwiches.

And so we moved on to the second part of the journey and into York itself. We arrived bathed in sunshine and Coachy

performed the miracle of getting a 48 foot coach into a very tight parking space. There's another school party staying in the other part of the hostel who arrived just after us – they're on their last night and it was an eye-opening experience for the children. What we always admire is the deep sense of right and wrong – 'Disgusteds of Tunbridge Wells' had their say!

The children put their bags into their rooms and we went straight out for a walk along the riverbank. It was good to give the children a view of that spiritual monument basking in the early evening sunshine – yes, the Railway Museum looks as beautiful as ever... oh, and the Minster looked quite good as well.





There is clearly scope for learning!

Upon our return to the hostel, the children had the task of making their beds. “I can’t believe my mother does this every day,” announced Finlay, as two girls from the other school stood in the corridor assisting! The good news is Finlay’s mum won’t need to now that Finlay knows how to! Anthony discovered a method of placing the duvet in the cover by entering the cover himself.



Following their shambolic efforts at personal organisation, we went down for our evening meal. These children are so lovely! There’s something wonderful in seeing them on their first night all working out how to get their meals, organise the tables and simply enjoy the company of one another. It was all very calm and the hostel staff have already made a very clear comparison between us and the other school party.



It’s good to see the staff engaging with competitive sports

At the time of writing, we’re all in the big lounge and they’ve got their York books. They’re writing their feelings and memories in what we hope will be something really worthwhile to look back on in future years. In a little while the children will be exposed to the delights of their first room inspection – we have a feeling that it’s going to be a steep learning curve for many!

*With lots of love from all of us in York*

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