

**A LANGUAGE STAGE**  
**AND**  
**A VISIT TO THE GRAVE**  
**OF**  
**THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR**  
**IN**  
**LONDON**  
**A LOGBOOK**

**London 20 - 27 February 2017**

**4ASA**

**A.S. 2016 – 2017**

**LICEO SCIENZE APPLICATE**

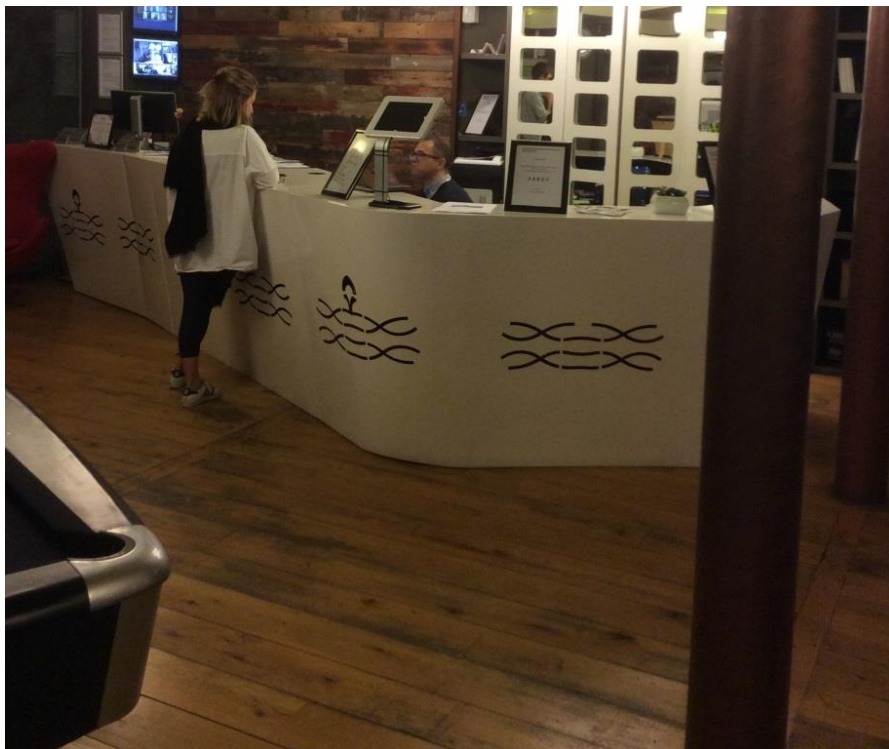
**Prof. ssa Marilena Beltramini**

## Tuesday 21st, February 2017

Today it is our first school day at 5 J Nicoll Road NW 10 9 AX. After a night in a four or double bedroom



we met at 7:30 at the reception lounge to have breakfast.



Strangely enough differently from our expectations temperature was ok and breakfast all right.

We could have both English and continental breakfast: 7 of us had English breakfast with eggs, cheese ham, orange juice, tea and according to the Italian style, some of us had coffee; our teachers brought a moka and had espresso coffee in Ms Beltramini's room.

The receptionist served us with a welcoming attitude: he was ready to meet our needs and provided all the necessary information to us all since we were newcomers.

Breakfast is served from 7.00 to 10:00 and so you have got plenty of time to get ready for lessons.

Lesson started at 9:00 and before being assigned to the different classes James, the Director of studies met us on the third floor and called us by name. We therefore realized that even English speaking people have problems when it comes to pronounce foreign names and surnames. James's pronunciations of Italian names reminded the way French people speak Italian.

Classes are rather different from our ordinary lessons because our teacher asked Mr James to have us practice speaking and interaction. Everything seem done to have us enjoy an apparent game that is indeed a challenge to have us use the majority of vocabulary possible.

The prompts for the activities were written on the white board and today the subject was knowing each other to start from the teacher, a young guy, medium height with fair short hair and blue eyes., to continue with inventors like Leonardo da Vinci thus connecting Italian culture and the language we are supposed to improve.

Learning a foreign language requires concentration and the courage to try and so it may be tiring at times and that is why we appreciated the two breaks during the morning; we could recover our mind strength and cope with the new language (footprints, to scratch, to itch, ...)

At 1 o'clock p.m. lessons were over and we went to have our lunch straight forward because we had to reach The Imperial war Museum as soon as possible to make the most of our afternoon and develop the project on WWI and The Unknown Soldier.

Therefore we had to take a short walk to Willesden Junction the nearest tube station.



From there we took the Bakerloo line which took us to Lambeth North the nearest stop to the museum.

The weather was cloudy and rather wet in line with the atmosphere of the museum dedicated to the War. Once there we stopped outside to admire the cannons





in the front entrance and the teachers took a picture of us.

During our visit we privileged WWI Galleries because they were the object of our project. The galleries were impressive, crowded with

The galleries contain 14 story areas. They highlight the breadth and variety of our unique First World War collections.

You are halfway round when you reach the Total War story area, which looks at the 1916 Battle of the Somme.

If you would like a break at any time, please feel free to leave and come back later.

visitors from different countries and of different ages. To tell the truth, in Italy, it is rather unusual to see so many people visiting a war museum. Indeed, we live in an area very near to Redipuglia but never so many people could we see in such places unless on formal ceremonies. *“The museum turned out rather involving”* said Simone. Indeed it project the visitor into the context of the war: from the trenches to the papers inviting young people from different countries to join the army and take part in the conflict. Unfortunately also hate against the enemy was encouraged. The search for peace was a distant matter at the times when defeating Germany war the privileged aim.



The entrance hall







The galleries were equipped with illustrated panels arranged in chronological order thus allowing a fuller understanding. Considered that we were given only a certain amount of time we have collected a series of images that we will arrange into slide show that may somehow offer the flavour of the atmosphere of the conflict and of course the way we have lived the experience which would require a larger amount of time. For example if we could have watched the several videos present at the galleries our experience would certainly have been more enriching. But there





Will be time in the future to go back since the exhibition is a permanent one.





# Why war?

## Distant crisis

On 28 June 1914 a Serbian-backed terrorist shot dead Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

## War in south-east Europe

Austria-Hungary, encouraged by Germany, set out to punish Serbia. It declared war.

## Crisis rapidly spreads

This immediate crisis stirred old tensions and anxieties, drawing in allies and supporters on both sides.

## A divided continent

Leaders were willing to risk war to defend or extend their own national interests. Germany was determined to support Austria-Hungary, its only reliable ally. Russia decided to stand up for the Serbs.

## Powers prepare

Within weeks Europe's leaders had prepared their armies and navies for war.

## Europe at war

Germany believed it could gain an advantage by striking first. It declared war on Russia and then on Russia's ally in the west, France.

## Will Britain intervene?

Some Britons did not want to join the fight. The British government, led by Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, agonised over whether to support Russia and France.

But it feared German domination of Europe.

A victorious and hostile Germany would threaten Britain's security and its position in the world.

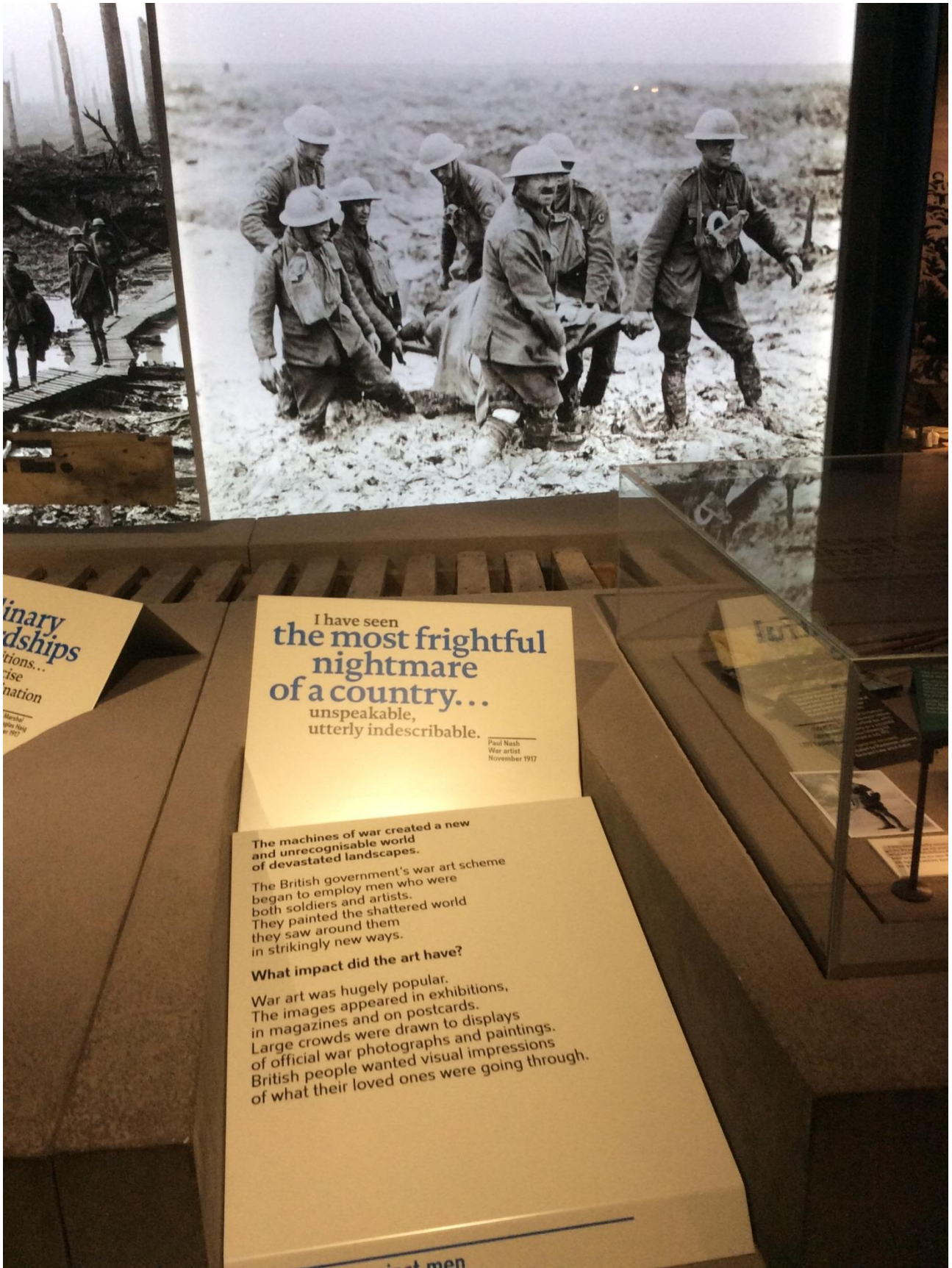
## Britain declares war

Germany's invasion of Belgium, to get to France, tipped the balance. Britain had long promised to protect Belgium's right to be neutral.

On 4 August 1914 Britain - with its global empire - declared war on Germany.







At 4:00 o'clock we left the museum heading towards Trafalgar Square, the heart of London and hence the proper place to start our discovery of London.











The experience is  
to be continued.

**Wednesday  
22nd, February  
2017**

Immediately after school we left for Willesden Junction underground station to reach Paddington where we could change to the circle line that took us directly to Westminster. Once arrived we could appreciate the surrounding landscape: London Bridge, the Houses of Parliament and the famous Big Ben. Also Parliament Square with its traffic was in front of us before we got to Westminster Abbey. Everybody knows the Abbey represents the most prestigious place for a London visitor. Indeed the ticket was not very cheap even if we were given a little discount.









The teacher provide us with a so called Marshall who took us directly in front of the Unknown Warrior grave. To tell the truth you couldn't miss for different orders of reason: first of all it was placed in the center of the west nave and secondly it was all surrounded by red poppies that attract visitors' attention due to their brilliant colours.

The marshal told us the history of the Warrior. It was interesting to realize that we were able to understand any word: a rather strange experience for us in London. To be honest we enjoyed the speech because we had already studied the origin and the development of the cult of the Unknown Warrior and indeed were rather curious to see the places we had read about. Together with the tomb and its inscription we could see the bell accompanying the unknown soldier's coffin from San Pol (France) to Victoria station in London. It hangs on the left hand side of the grave and on weekdays (from Monday to Friday) it tolls whenever the religious services begin. In addition on the right end side of the grave placed on a pillar there was the Medal of Honour given by the United States to commemorate a soldier that is a symbol of all soldiers. Our curiosity was totally satisfied when at the end of our visit we reached Saint George's Chapet that houses the so called Padre's flag.

This part of our visit has added meaning to our project since thanks to today's experience what was a series of information we had read and searched about turned out something concrete.

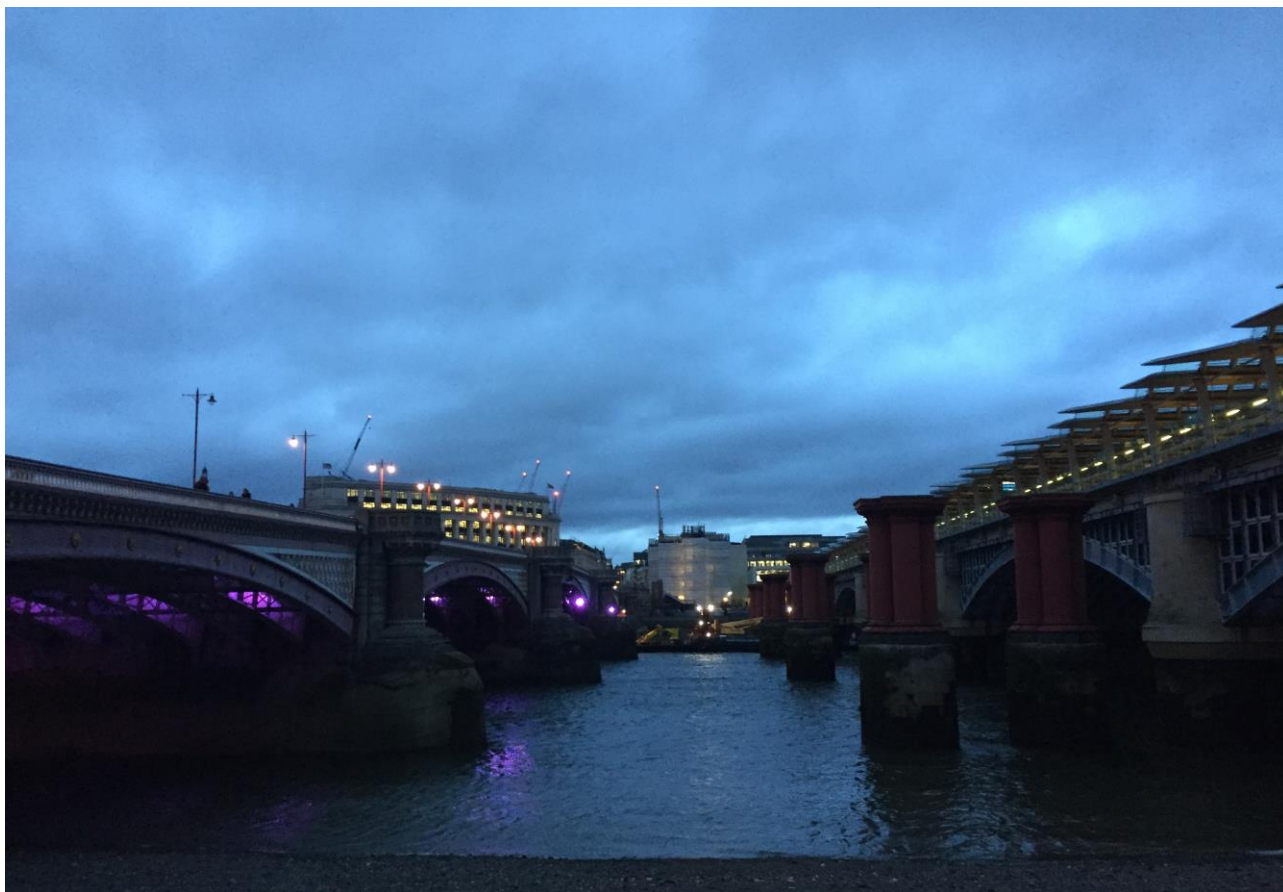
It goes without saying that the Abbey experience was not confined to the Unknown Warrior's grave discovery but it implied coming into contact with most of English history and in particular we could see the graves of famous kings and queens we had studied about. Also literature and other branches of culture are well represented inside the abbey and you can find the graves of the most significant figures in English culture, the tomb of the War poets included. Our teacher was the intruder who could take a picture of that grave and last but not least, her interest in T.S.Eliot considered she gained the permission to take a picture of his grave as well.

Of course our visit to London did not only include historical and cultural venues: we also took a long stroll along London Bridge from where you could take snapshots of the Houses of Parliament, the River Thames and Big Ben. We did not here the clock but could see it from the distance first and later in a close-up. Our long afternoon ended with a long walk around South Bank and most of the Thames Piers, Blackfriars included.

The weather was horrible to tell the truth but compensated by the magnificent landscape and skyline. We could see colours that are very different from our sunset.





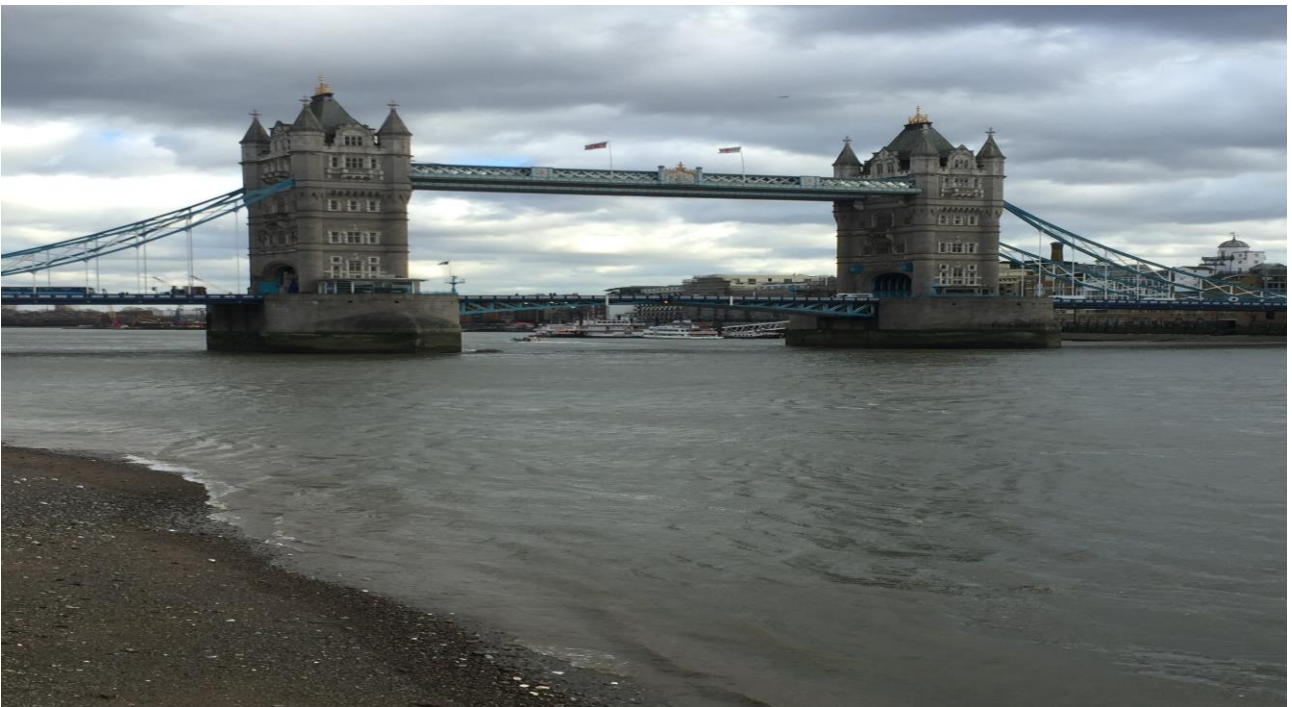


**Thursday 23rd, February 2017**

Unfortunately the weather hasn't improved today and while we are in front of The Tower of London gusts of wind reminded us of Trieste's bora.

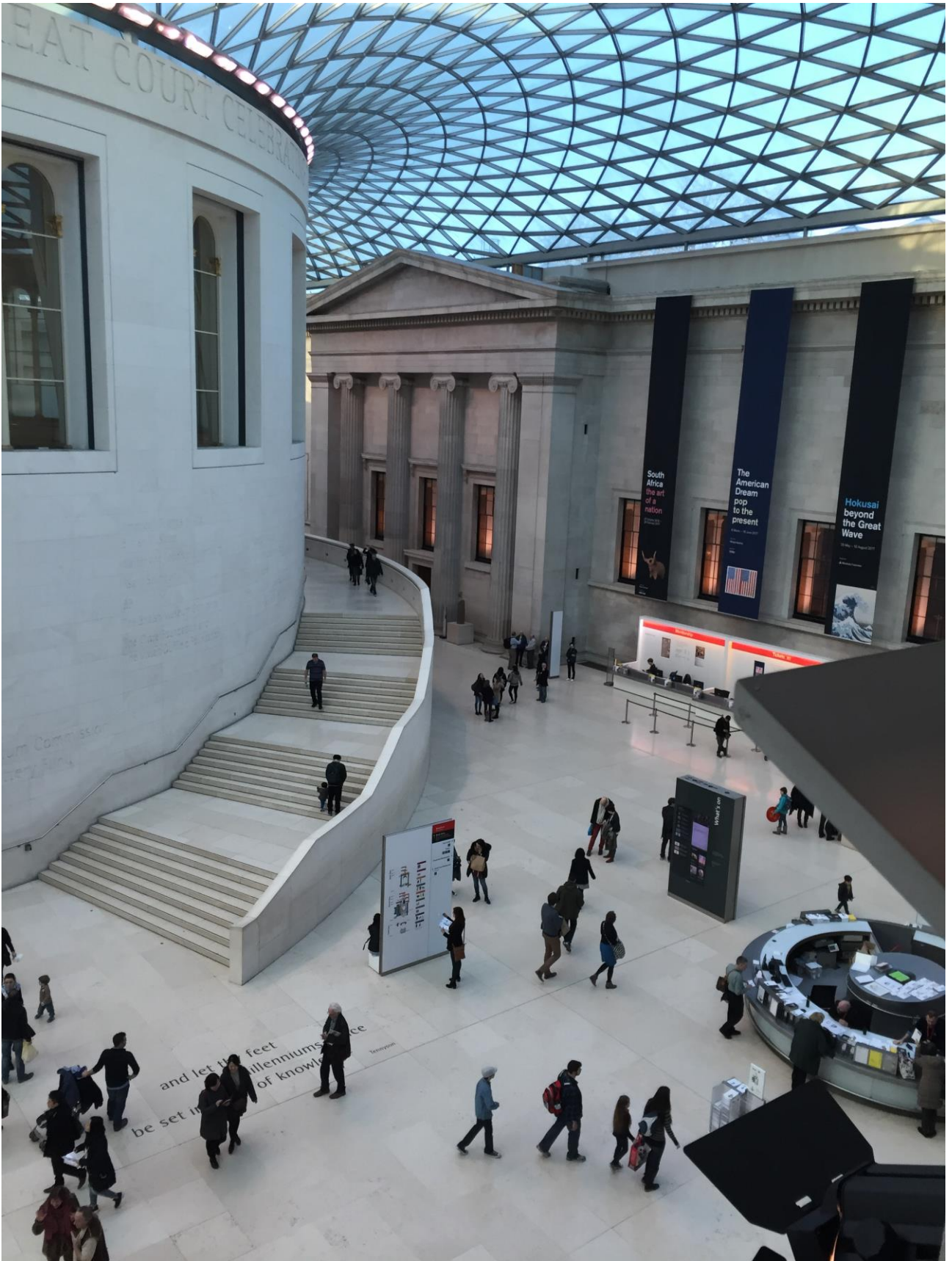


The view was fascinating and London Bridge added to the scene



but time is money and we soon had to leave the place to be in time to visit London Museum at Barbican. Here we had the opportunity to revise some of the most important moments of British and London's history





The space devoted to the Great Fire and the Great Plague (The Black Death) particularly caught our attention. We appreciated the exhibition was arranged in chronological order and that allowed us to follow events easily. Once again one wonders how you can go in free. Aquileia's museum costs more even if the space as well as the facilities offered to the visitor are poorer.

When the museum closed we continued our walk along Bankside and since it was sunset the view was gorgeous.

When we reached our residence we also enjoyed our dinner: it was delicious. We really liked the oven salmon we were served despite the dish side was once again POTATOOOOES!!!

Potatoes at all costs!

### **Friday 24th, February 2017**

This afternoon was a different afternoon. The weather was warm and suitable for a window shopping day. And indeed we went to Covent Garden,







a lively touristic attraction with its covered market, full of tourists and street performances. Also we gave a glance at the London Transport Museum because a bigger one was waiting for us in Bloomsbury. We took the Piccadilly line to Russel Square and in ten minutes 'walk we reached the most famous museum in London: The British Museum.

Unfortunately since we are a group we were not allowed to the main entrance and a consequence we miss the beautiful facade. But we couldn't miss the precious exhibition of some among the best pieces of historical importance like Rosetta Stele, Greek and Japanese culture and much more that cannot be easily communicated in words and that is why we prefer to add some pictures.



One can think that after so much culture a group of students would deserve some relax but that was not exactly the experience we lived since we had booked a table in a top-quality pizza bar, one said to offer pizza made with the same ingredients used in Naples's *Sacro Cuore* chain. The experience was worth but the journey was long and tiring because you cannot expect bus drivers to be helpful and so we could never be totally sure we might reach Crouch End Hill, which we succeeded at Last.









e food was great and it was a reward to the effort.



By the way we forgot to tell you that today we also received our feedback and certification which was above our teacher's assessment. When you follow an English course you never feel the frustration of our English teacher's comments on our English proficiency but as one of the most famous saying goes ....

Luckily it is never too late.

## **Saturday 25th, February 2017**

Today is Mr. Clementin day.



Our teacher assured him he would be given time enough to enjoy the Natural History Museum and so two groups were made each following their own interests. Mrs. Giolo accompanied the Natural History Museum Group and Ms Beltramini the other one heading to The Science Museum. Once at South Kensington underground station we walked to Cromwell Road where one can find some of the well-known museums.



Mrs. Giolo told Ms Beltramini she enjoyed the visit because Emilio was a great guide to the place. He guided the group despite some entries were closed but he seemed so self-assured about the place that the group could save a lot of time. The blue zone concerning the biological branch was the privileged area of the visit where you could see, careful reconstructions of blue whales, T-rex and the human body across time. Mammals , snakes and dinosaurs seem to have no secrets for Emilio and the related school mates.

The group that chose to visit the Science museum was particularly keen on the area concerning the Industrial Revolution, Space and spaceships , Machinery and Engines, Einstein's Theory of Relativity and all engineering-related matters and of course there is no doubt that most students in the group will attend Engineering Faculties at University.









We spent the afternoon in a totally different atmosphere and landscape: after the virtual environment of the museums we could smell the spicy flavour of Camden different foods and drinks. Camden was the real thing: a teenager place where you could meet peers and stalls of all kinds.







Tattoo and piercing shops were the most frequent attractions as well as shoe and sneaker shops. We mainly spent our pounds on sensor-equipped t-shirts that is T-shirts sensitive to different

sounds and music. We also bought some souvenirs to bring our families and friends. Alessia and Elisa tasted some food there and Camilla and Sara experienced a new kind of cheese burger.

Our teachers preferred to have a drink the award-winning and critically acclaimed, Gilgamesh - the internationally famous Pan-Asian restaurant in the heart of Camden Stables Market that offers a unique Eastern gastronomic experience. They also met Vera alumna of our Liceo Scientifico working in London that spent all the afternoon and the evening with us.

## **Sunday 26th, February 2017**

Today like yesterday we had a free day!

After a scrumptious breakfast and after collecting our packed lunch off we went to the underground station again. This time we did not wait for the bus because on Sundays they are not as frequent as on week days. Besides it was rather cold and we decided to go on foot. It only took us 7 minutes ... As we have almost finished our stage we have gained a certain experience with underground lines and routes and so we went to Platform 1 straight forward without checking our maps or apps. The direction to central London is Elephant and Castle if you use the Bakerloo line.

But to tell the truth we were too self-assured and once on the train we realized we had got on the Overground and therefore we had to decide for an alternative route.

Indeed we got off at Euston on the Northern line to reach Charing Cross: the nearest tube station to the National Gallery. To reach the gallery we had the opportunity to take a walk along the street with the most famous bookshops like Foyles and we also took some pictures about Soho, China town, the top theatres and we could not miss watching a strange fellow trying to attract visitors' attention. In fact he seemed rather a lunatic.

Finally we arrived in front of the gallery but it was still closed and from the steps we were able to realize Trafalgar Square had changed into something different from the day when we first saw it. It was full with stalls and equipment to install others. Strangely enough the weather seemed to have improved but it was only an illusion. When we finished our visit to the Gallery the sun had disappeared but at least it was not raining.





Luckily we were inside while the temperature changed. We were impressed by the gallery and this is why we forgot about the weather. Each of us got a map otherwise you could not manage to see what you wanted. It goes without saying that you cannot visit all the rooms (there are 67 altogether!!!).

There were 5 level inside the gallery and we privileged the second level where you could find most of the paintings to start from the 13th century to the 20th century. Each of us chose her or his favourite pictures but the one that seemed to have met most of our interest was Van Gogh's Sunflowers. We also appreciated, Caravaggio, Leonardo, Piero della Francesca, Canaletto, Bronzino, Veronese, Tiziano, Raffello, Andrea del Sarto and other foreign painters like, Monet, Cezanne, Rousseau, and others. Our teachers went to visit Memling, Paolo Uccello, Leonardo's Vergine delle Rocce, Vermeer, Mantegna, Piero della Francesca.

The museum was crowded with people from different countries and nationalities and you could hear Italians everywhere. What's more you noticed that the museum was rich with facilities like: café, restaurants, clean toilets and lifts for different necessities. We appreciated that you could visit the galleries without an entry ticket and this is a way to promote culture.

At 12:00 o'clock we met at the exit and were given one hour for lunch. The meeting point was under the statue of the horse facing the Gallery. We had our packed lunch: two sandwiches, a packet of French fries, a bar of chocolate, a banana and a bottle of water. All of us like banana!!!



Trafalgar was the right place to head to the Cenotaph one of the landmarks of our project.



To reach the Cenotaph we walked along Whitehall: the street were crowded with buses, taxis and expensive cars. They made a lot of noise. Along the stroll we took some pictures of the



horsemen on office as you can see the picture below. You can also see us along Whitehall because we also wanted to take a picture of the monument devoted to the Women of WWII. Around the Cenotaph, in addition to the Union Jack, you could see another flag, a White Ensign and a Red Ensign together memorial poppies.

Once on Whitehall you couldn't but reach Saint James's Park, the Royal Park and of course Buckingham Palace, Mr. Digiusto's favourite spot (he suggested it was Camilla's wish – so in case this is not true, one wonders why Camilla's thought crossed his mind 😊 but that's too personal of course!

Camillas seems to be a hit among her school mates and I underline mates 😊

The stroll was worthwhile; the park was picturesque and lively, crowded with animals and birds and we took a lot of pictures along the way. We walked for about a quarter of an hour about the paths that showed Spring is approaching. You could see daffodils and crocuses as well as old and interesting trees and eventually we could see Buckingham Palace from the distance.





A few minutes later we were in front Buckingham Gate. The level of security there was really reassuring and while approaching the gate we could take pictures of the guards. The Palace is imposing in its size and Neo-Classic style even if it was built in the Victorian Age. The weather was cold but at least it did not rain and so we could look for the nearest underground station more comfortably.

We took the Victoria line and changed with the Bakerloo line at Oxford Circus. It took us about twenty minutes to get to our station and get the 220 to 5J Nicoll Road. Our residence sounded warm and quiet.

While writing this logbook tranquillity gradually disappeared – one cannot forget that when Latin culture check in you cannot but hear them. It is like a pain killer when you suffer from headache.

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## **Our feedback**



### **All in all our stage experience was:**

crazy, astonishing, tiring, busy, gorgeous, unexpected, cultural, worthwhile, quick, dynamic, lively, exciting, sometimes fabulous, amazing, new, unusual, impressive, inspiring, to be repeated, tasty, socially interesting, constructive, curious, unforgettable, frenzy, productive, rewarding.

