

Year 8 Visit to Burghley House and Gardens (Stamford)

Monday 21st May

Burghley House

We started off in the courtyard, with the rooms around us. We were taken through a smaller, side door, into an old room. We were told about William Cecil, Queen Elizabeth 1 treasurer and spymaster, who built the house in 1555, his second largest, with 200 rooms in Burghley.

We then were taken into the Kitchen, the second largest room in the house. We were talked to about the spit and the spit boys, we learnt that there was a well somewhere in the courtyard. We were later shown the Turtle Pan, which Cecil commissioned because of his love of turtle soup. We were taken up the main stairway and saw the Tudor designs on the roof of the stairs. We then went into the games room. There was a billiards



table, made from a sunken ship, as well as many portraits around the room.

We were taken through some more bedrooms and shown the hidden entrances to the servants corridor. The tour guide told us about when Queen Elizabeth 1 was going to stay at Burghley House and she was told to

leave, because Cecil's niece had Smallpox.

We walked through the rest of the house and were told about the other people who had stayed in the house and were related to the Cecil's. The tour guide took us through a dining room to a room painting of Greek Heaven, which contained the second biggest wine chiller in the world. Then came the

version of Greek Hell, which had to be finished by a different artist, since the original artist stormed out, leaving the painting unfinished.

Then we had a wire sculpture class, where we created wire dragonflies.

After lunch, we went into the sculpture garden and were given a task sheet to do as we went round. The task sheet was about some of the sculptures in the garden, asking questions that made us think.



John Hansen (8N)