



Europe Day



On Monday 5th May - The College @ Sirius Visited Europe Day

On Tuesday 5th of May we were generously invited to attend 'Europe Day' as part of role as a European Parliament Ambassador School.

Our keenest reflection is that the 'day' was a wonderful reflection of partnership. Five schools, across England, with different students, different viewpoints, and priorities, meeting, discussing, thinking, and developing together. What a wonderful opportunity.

As always, with the best events, we left feeling an unalloyed purpose, a mission on how to move forward and feeling bolstered about the future.

We had the chance to hear from experts, passionate about collaboration, partnership, and achieving the best outcome for citizens of the European continent.

What genuinely came through from the day was the idea that whilst we all face individual problems, that we can solve with the support of friends, families, or local networks, there are larger problems that are best met when we work together, when we pool our resources, of thought, financing, and effort. A partnership with Europe is one of the best ways to challenge growing energy risk, environmental challenges, and global conflict.

Additionally, membership means being a participant in the different ideas, contexts, and cultures that comes from working with people from different regions.

The day was eye-opening, and we can only express genuine and sincere thanks to the European Parliament Ambassador Schools organisation for inviting us and facilitating our attendance.

*Thanks from us all at
The College @ Sirius*



Collaboration, compromise, and a brighter future.

A key element of the day was the wonderful talk, hosted by Oumar Doumbouya - Director for the Directorate for External Liaison Offices, and Leena Maria Linus - Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office. Both spoke with great passion, clarity, and hope regarding the future of the UK/EU relationship. They were candid in their responses, and gave some truly wonderful advice, that we have headlined below. Even just the ability to speak with such august presenters was incredibly developmental, and made the day.

Questions ranged from whether the UK will ever rejoin the EU, the rise of populism and parties with extreme agendas, Referenda as a mechanism for political change, the place for students with additional needs within the European political infrastructure, ERASMUS+, to name but a few. One could not hope for a more intellectually developmental day.

Thank you to Oumar, Leena, and the other Schools/Colleges for such a stimulating discussion.

Key Takeaways

1

Collaboration

Improvement will come from working together, something we must all strive to do.

2

Compromise

Working together doesn't mean getting everything, but achieving more as a group.

3

The Future is Bright

Post Brexit, the green shoots of a developing relationship are present, and will grow.

4

Change is Possible

Improvements to the environment, a safer world, and a cleaner world are all possible!



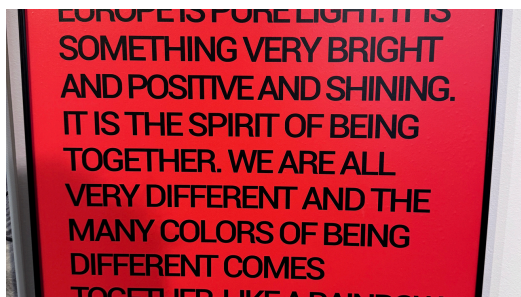
Europe in Microcosm

At the end of the session students were able to discuss, learn from, and engage with people from all across the European Union. This quick-fire cultural exposure was a truly wonderful thing to behold and was a wonderful exemplification of Europe in microcosm.

There were tasty treats from all 27 member states, as well as a rapid immersion as to what makes those countries unique, interesting, and worthy of deeper exploration.

This session - again - reflected all that was wonderful about the day. A room whereby people could express proud, individual identity, whilst all collaborating to achieve a central purpose - supporting the European mission.

This left all our students with a number of keen destinations for their holiday bucket lists, and a greater appreciation for the individual character of each of the member states.



Importance of Art

Located within Europe House was a wonderful series of exhibitions, demonstrating the importance of art in messaging. Our students were able to collaborate with the incredibly talented artist on site. A message of true import.



Significant Message

The significant message of the day, as relayed by our students is that history is important, and that the further we move away from historic events, the more we may lack an appreciation for the current. European collaboration was a result of conflict, it was designed to keep us together. Partnership is important to avoid conflict, to create harmonious working partnerships, and to collaborate for the betterment of all.

This was our students' key takeaway.



PICTURED ABOVE: LEENA AND OUMAR GENEROUSLY GAVE LYDIA TIME, AFTER THEIR PRESENTATION, TO ELABORATE ON SOME KEY THEMES.

A student's view of the day:

Lydia Wimalarasa (Year 12)

'An experience dense day ...'

"It was an experience dense day, not only the chance to discuss matters of significant importance with experts, but also the chance to experience cultures, to collaborate with like-minded peers, and to be exposed to things that I otherwise would not have had the chance to do. I am very proud of my role within the group of European Parliament School Ambassadors, it places my learning, and my efforts on a global footing."

