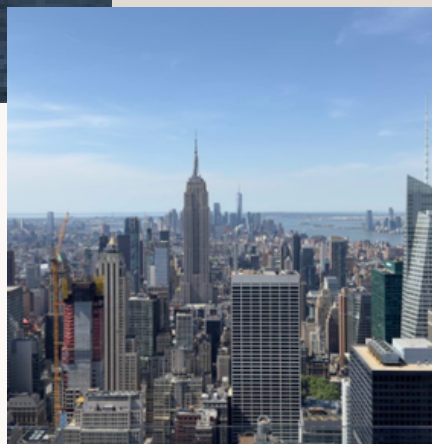
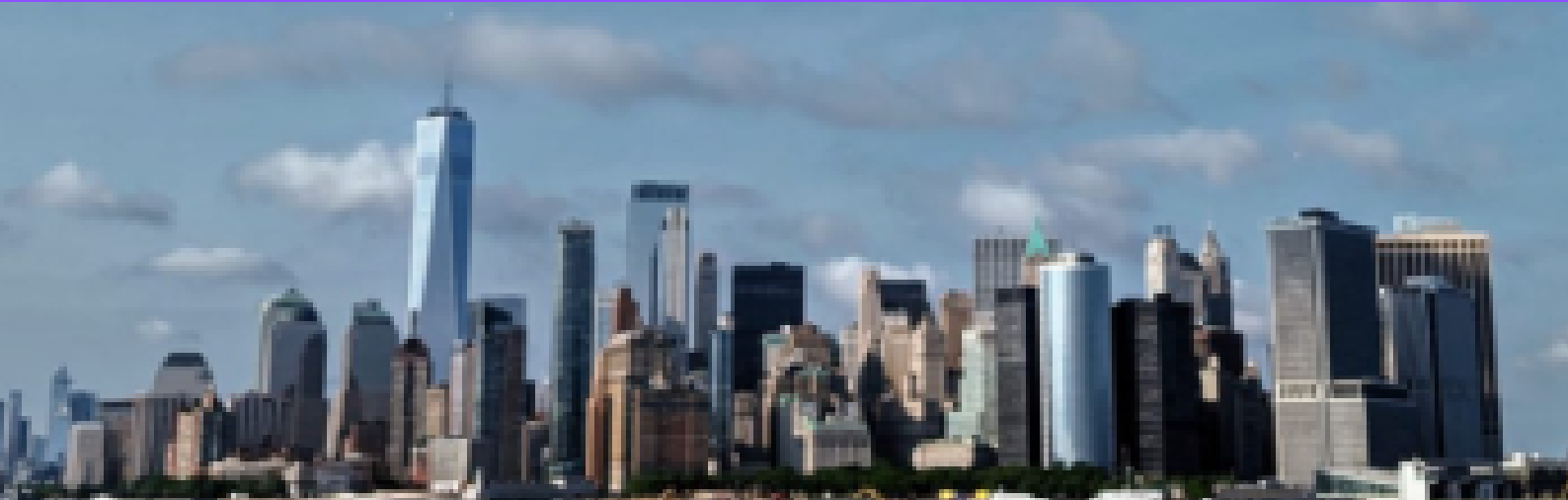


BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND FINANCE PATHWAY

– NEW YORK TRIP – MAY 2024



On the last day of term, 41 students with Mrs Harker, Mrs Carter, Mr Stone and Mr Stevens set out for the excitement and bright lights of New York City. A mysterious suitcase appeared and a boarding card disappeared but we managed to fly. Impressively, living up to the school motto emblazoned on our hoodies, students could be found with their CGP books and laptops getting some studying done during the flight. We were soon on our way from JFK, Queens (the largest of the 5 New York boroughs) into Manhattan enjoying an informative, non-stop commentary. A quick check-in at our conveniently located YMCA and we headed out to a buzzing Times Square where an abundance of sailors was in for Fleet Week. Memorabilia from legends of American culture surrounded us as we sat down to a welcome burger & cookies at the Hard Rock Café.



A short walk past the Lincoln Centre took us to breakfast and fuelled us for the day ahead. We meandered through Central Park, looking up at the multi-million apartments and observing native New Yorkers taking their jogs and dogs out on the bank holiday Memorial Weekend. On a jaunt down 5th Avenue we had to stop at Trump Tower to watch the commotion as Donald emerged – great snap by Ayan (ed – I'll give you this one but I know you were pulling our leg with Pep at the Etihad!) A real highlight was the view from the 'Top of the Rock' the Rockefeller Centre over the concrete jungle. The afternoon was spent in true American style – soaking up the atmosphere of the national pastime, at a ball game... 'Let's go Mets!'. A bit of free time to grab dinner – Raising Cane's was a popular choice and students now know which influencers they agree with – before enjoying the magnificence of Wicked on Broadway.



Having seen what a fabulous lifestyle we could live in New York, our focus shifted on to how we could support it. An even earlier start on Sunday saw us reunited with guide Lin and our first trip on the subway downtown to the financial district. We touched the charging bull for luck and imitated the pose of the fearless girl statue. Leeds fans were particularly sombre as we headed towards the site of the World Trade Centre. The memorial park pools of reflection were very moving. Our tour took in the Oculus Center, a jaunt over Brooklyn Bridge, City Hall, the Law Courts, Chinatown and we were very ready for a sit down in Little Italy for our lunch. The afternoon presented the opportunity to speak to Wall Street Insiders and learn more about the workings of the Stock Exchange and Federal Reserve. A late afternoon ride on the ferry brought us fabulous views of the city skyline and then we were back on the subway to Chelsea for our dinner. As we didn't have our passports we couldn't go through the portal to Ireland (ed - I don't think that's how it works!) so we just got some pictures of it and the Flat Iron building. We reached the 80th Floor of the Empire State Building and had the disappointment of seeing only white fog, but the irrepressible spirits of the students who ventured higher were rewarded with a pleasant surprise on the 86th outdoor viewing deck where the swirling mists created a surreal other world, and the occasional glimpses of tower lights were magical.



Students showed they could hack the pace and match the energy of the City That Never Sleeps with their bright smiles on our final day. After breakfast in the Forrest Gump inspired Bubba Gumps we headed to Macy's on 34th Street for a behind the scenes tour which gave an insight into the features and challenges of retail. The plaques in memory of Rosalie and Isidor Straus, who refused to take up places on the Titanic Lifeboats, were a touching reminder to students to seek not just a fabulous lifestyle and incredible prosperity but much more importantly, love and strength of character. Free time for shopping, a big wave at the Earth Cam and we were headed for home: exhausted, exhilarated and with friendships and memories that will hopefully last a lifetime.

A massive thank you to Mr Stone, Mr Stevens and Mrs Carter (and their families for sparing them) for their indispensable support, and to our impeccably behaved students who were a credit to the school and their families.