

## BBC NEWS SCHOOL REPORT

### BEN AND JADE INTERVIEW DAVID LAWS, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS



On Monday, 24 March 2014, Ben Bassett and Jade Leader interviewed David Laws, Minister of State and Minister of State for Schools, in the Houses of Parliament whilst working on a BBC News School Report project, accompanied by Mrs Chard and Mrs Venables.

Every year, the English and Media Department at Poltair School participate in the BBC News School Report project, and this year, we were extended a particularly thrilling invitation to send a video of questions that our students would like to ask of the education ministers. Under Mrs Trevarthen's direction, a group of our Year 8 and 9 students filmed the questions that they would pose to Michael Gove and David Laws. From hundreds of schools that submitted their videos, our school was chosen, and Sarika Unadkat, Broadcast Assistant on the BBC News School Report team, said that our video was one of the 'strongest' and 'most impressive' videos submitted.

On the day, we met with two other schools and the BBC producers outside of Westminster station. From there, we walked to the press entrance for Westminster Hall, where the cameramen began filming their entrance. Following this, the students worked with three BBC producers to practise their interviewing skills in the Jubilee Café in Westminster. Ben and Jade had a long list of questions that they gathered from doing their own research and from talking to pupils in our school. With the guidance from the producers, they narrowed down their selection to ask their two most important questions.

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After this, the students were given a private tour of the Houses of Parliament. Jade said that she was surprised at how small the House of Commons actually was because it looks bigger on television. Ben was impressed with how posh the leather seats were in the House of Lords. Our tour guide created a colourful story of the Houses of Parliament for the students, and they found it exciting to learn so much history on location.

In the afternoon, Giles Dilnot, BBC television presenter and reporter, gave the students a special masterclass in interviewing skills. He drew on his wealth of experience to teach the students how to 'play chess' when interviewing a politician. Each of the students shared their questions with Dilnot, who gave them much praise and feedback on how to improve.

We were then given special tickets to watch Education Questions in the public gallery in the House of Commons. Sitting in the second row, we had a clear view of the procedures, and this was a special treat. While the students didn't necessarily understand everything that was debated, they said that it was exciting watching how the government debates their decisions.

Following this, we were taken into the meeting rooms in the upstairs of the Houses of Parliament where we met the full camera crew and set up for the interview. As soon as the cameras started rolling, all signs of nerves disappeared. Taking it in turns, each of the students asked their questions of David Laws. Ben's first question was about free school meals for students over the age of five; Laws promised that as soon as the funding was available, the government intended to extend the free school meals to all pupils. His second question was about the teacher's strikes, and the answer was featured on the BBC News main broadcast on Wednesday, 26 March 2014, at 1 pm! Jade's questions were about the longer school hours and why the government were making so many changes to education so quickly. They were amused when he said that he had last seen a James Bond film in the cinema because as they noted, that was quite a long time ago, and when he said that his teddy bear was named 'Tinkerbelle,' they couldn't help laughing.

They invited David Laws to spend a day teaching in our school as they felt it would help him to fully understand what teachers and students experience on a daily basis. Laws said that he would try to find the time to come here, so we hope that he does.

At the end of the day, Ben and Jade both said that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity for them, and they would never forget the day. For Ben, one of the highlights was his first trip on the London Underground. For Jade, it was watching the debate in the House of Commons.

You can watch the interview on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/26758552> and view the picture gallery on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/26734359>



 <b>HOUSE STARS</b> 	<b>TEWINGTON</b>	<b>TREVERBYN</b>	<b>TRENANCE</b>	<b>TREGREHAN</b>
	<p><i>Olly Mitchell</i> <b>7RT</b></p> <p>For huge improvements in behaviour on his report book.</p>	<p><i>Elliot Coon</i> <b>7JB</b></p> <p>For his excellent attitude to learning and always following the 5Ps.</p>	<p><i>Abbie Burton</i> <b>7CS</b></p> <p>For engagement in tutor time and mature and supportive with her peers.</p>	<p><i>Kian Burt</i> <b>7KR</b></p> <p>For his efforts during the 24 hour challenge.</p>
<p><i>Ben Bassett</i> <b>9LW</b></p> <p>For his clever and confident questioning of the Schools Minister, David Laws in London last week.</p>	<p><i>Solomon Clemes</i> <b>9KL</b></p> <p>For being consistently positive and helpful.</p>	<p><i>William Swann</i> <b>11BRí</b></p> <p>For getting on without complaint and for being so positive.</p>	<p><i>Leah Read</i> <b>9LT</b></p> <p>For her efforts during the 24 hour challenge.</p>	

### Former Poltair Pupils

run the London Marathon for Charity (13 April 2014)

My brother and I are running the marathon for Macmillan Cancer Research in aid of our mother who sadly passed away last year.



To run the London marathon we have to raise a minimum of £4000, but we think we can do even better. If you were able to sponsor us (no matter how small) this would help us to power over that finish line (we are both aiming for sub four hours for our first marathon)!

Please follow the link below to find out a little bit more about us:

<http://blog.virginmoneygiving.com/2014/02/21/dianas-boys/>

We sincerely hope you can help!

Many thanks

Christian Anderson-Ramshall (formerly Smith)  
& Adam Smith

At Cornwall College St Austell

# Taster Days

9th and 16th April 2014

Come along to our Taster Days on 9th & 16th April, 10am-2pm. There's nothing like trying something for yourself! Our Taster Days give students aged 14-18 years old considering their next steps a chance to try activities related to the course they are interested in, meet tutors and ask questions.

Example of sessions- construction to include trowel work, plumbing and carpentry, childcare, beauty, gym instructor, games design.

To book and for more information go to [www.collegeexperience.co.uk/april-tasters](http://www.collegeexperience.co.uk/april-tasters) or call 0845 22 32 567.

**EASTER REVISION**

There is a timetable of GCSE Revision sessions planned for the Easter holidays. Pupils invited to attend will have received a letter this week.

**REMINDER: Tuesday 22 April—School returns**