

Trips

The Fourth Forms at Hever Castle.

I think for the last ten years I have taken the Fourth Formers to Hever castle in Kent. It links in with our work on the Tudors having been the home of two of Henry VIII's wives, Ann Boleyn and Anne of Cleves.

The children made the tour of the house in small groups of eight or nine and were able to see some of the fascinating objects associated with Ann Boleyn, ranging from her bed to some beautiful illuminated 'Books of Hours'. The reconstruction of the house by the Astor family, though far from truly authentic does give the feel of a Tudor house and the Long Gallery with the waxwork models of scenes relating to Haney and his wives always sticks in their memories. The visit allows the children to refresh their minds on the Tudors and some the religious changes of the times before their examinations!

The grounds are equally noteworthy. The landscaping by the Astors with the huge lake and the Italian gardens, complete with ancient sculptures is always of interest and the outside of the castle with its medieval defences is always looked at with great interest. The maze was shut this year as there had been heavy rain but the water maze was open, and was greatly enjoyed though with entirely predictable results! We received a number of compliments from other visitors about how well-behaved and pleasant the children were, and all the group leaders reported that their children had shown a lively interest in the castle and its contents.

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2002-2003

