

Interfaith Bursary Update – Southmoor Academy

Mr Blake of Southmoor Academy provided the following update:-

We sent the student council to the Ushaw Estate in Durham. The council comprises of a range of students from each year group with 13 students going altogether with ages ranging from 11-15.

During the visit students gained an understanding of the history of the return of Catholicism to England, in particular the North east in the early 1800's. They visited the Catholic seminary and saw the chapels and study rooms of the priory college where they learnt about the life and study of the priory monks.

We chose the Ushaw Estate for the visit to look at local heritage initially as we further develop and expand our cultural and equality experiences as a school. We decided, as the survey we recently completed stated, the majority of students hadn't visited any places of worship, including Christian/Catholic so we would start here before expanding to those of other faiths. This also gave us cross curricula links with History.

The bursary went to towards the transport and admission for this, along with a warm drink for the students. We hope this developed their understanding of Catholicism and embedded some of the things they would be taught during personal development lessons by giving them a first-hand experience of the seminary/priory.