

## A Memorable Visit to Buckingham Palace

Our visit to Buckingham Palace was nothing short of magical, beginning right from the moment we approached the main gate. The sheer scale and grandeur of the palace hinted at the remarkable experience that awaited us inside.

This visit was made even more special as it was part of the Gold Service Scholarship prize. As one of the ten finalists for 2025, meeting at the front gate of Buckingham Palace marked one of the best days of our careers.



We were warmly greeted by Mathew Palser, who, along with his team, extended a delightful welcome with tea, coffee, and biscuits. This thoughtful gesture set a convivial tone for our tour.



The team then guided us through the State Rooms, each one a breathtaking display of royal opulence. I was particularly impressed by the team's extensive knowledge of the palace's history and intricate details. Their expertise truly brought the rooms to life, enriching our understanding and appreciation of the monarchy's heritage. It was an honour to understand some of the procedures in the palace and for the Garden Party.

The State Rooms themselves are a testament to the elegance and tradition of royal life. From the ornate ceilings to the exquisite furnishings, every detail spoke volumes about the palace's significance as the ceremonial heart of the British monarchy. The experience provided a unique insight into the world of official events, state banquets, and royal receptions. During the tour, I was particularly impressed by the vast collection of china, each set with its own unique history and many created for special occasions. The different sets of china and silverware, along with the table decorations, are meticulously polished in a dedicated room. A specialized team is in charge of organizing the sets for various ceremonies and tables.

Walking along the corridors, viewing pictures depicting historical moments like coronations, I could feel how impressively realistic they were.





Following the tour, we joined the Garden Party as members of the staff, serving alongside over 200 other staff members to an impressive 8,000 invited guests.



We served amazing cakes, classic English breakfast tea, apple juice from the King's orchards, iced coffee, lovely sandwiches, and a selection of ice creams to finish. It was an honor to be part of this tradition, where the Sovereign recognizes and rewards public service. This experience added another layer of appreciation to our visit, leaving a lasting impression of the grandeur and history contained within Buckingham Palace.