

DATE

Spring 2023

SCHOOL

Aston Fields Middle School

DISTRICT

Bromsgrove

EVENT/ACTIVITY NAME

Magistrates Court

NUMBERS ATTENDED

15

WRITE UP

This academic year has seen Aston Fields Middle School take part in the Magistrates Mock Trial Competition. Since October, a small group of Year 8 pupils have been busy preparing, showing their perseverance, motivation and drive. To be competition ready, our pupils have had to learn about how the UK's legal system operates, analyse this year's case documents and prepare both individually and as a team. The roles included magistrates, lawyers, witnesses as well as a legal advisor and court usher, all of which are careers that our pupils could aspire to work in when they are older.

Pupils were able to visit Worcester Magistrates Court prior to the competition in order to see the layout of a courtroom as well as having the opportunity to witness some trials. It was brilliant to see pupils learning outside the classroom whilst showing respect to the members of the public on trial by observing proceedings diligently and keeping all they saw confidential.

The day of the competition fell on Saturday 18th March. We met at 8am to travel as a team to Worcester with a mixture of excitement and nervousness both evident on the coach. In our first trial, Aston Fields Middle School took on other schools and it was our prosecution team who presented a strong case drawing on evidence from the witness statements. Furthermore, our legal advisor, Phoebe F provided a brilliant summary of the law to support the magistrates in making their verdict. After a short break, it was the turn of our defense team who successfully ensured our defendant, Violet M was found not guilty allowing her to return home at the end of the day. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all pupils involved and thank them for their efforts in preparing for the competition. Each pupil represented the school superbly and it was a pleasure seeing them flourish in their roles.

PHOTOS



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