



Watford Grammar School for Boys

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PRESS RELEASE

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US Ambassador Visits Watford Grammar School for Boys

Sixth form students at Watford Grammar School for Boys (WBGs) were visited by the US Ambassador to the UK, Matthew Barzun this morning.

The Ambassador visited the School to listen to the views of students about the USA and to discuss issues that are important to them. The Ambassador explained that the results of the WBGs student feedback will be collated and shared with the US President, Barack Obama.

Using interactive clicker buttons, the session began with students voting on their perceptions of the US. The Ambassador learnt that the majority of students had visited the US and that they would consider going to the US to live, work or study.

The Ambassador asked the students for their opinions on which foreign policy issue was most important to them: 36% said the Middle East and 36% said international terrorism; climate change received 16% of the student vote.

The Ambassador was keen to know what concerns the students had about the US; the students came up with a varied and thought-provoking list. Top of the list was military expenditure, guns, Guantanamo Bay and the involvement of the US in international relations.

Other topics the students discussed included healthcare, foreign policy since WW2, interventionism, the US Constitution and international trade. The Ambassador was impressed with the students' knowledge about US history and politics and he thanked them for their feedback.

The Ambassador finished his visit by asking students to highlight what they liked most about the US and student responses included the US film industry, research and development, US influence around the world and the many opportunities available in the US.

Commenting on the visit Ian Cooksey, WBGs Headmaster, said: “We are truly grateful for the visit of Mr Barzun. He was able to engage with the students who had the opportunity for real dialogue with the US Ambassador and they were able to express their views at the very highest level.”

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For more information please contact Watford Grammar School for Boys on

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Note to Editors

Matthew Barzun was appointed the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom in 2013. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Sweden from 2009 to 2011. He is a business executive who is known for his work with CNET Networks and for his volunteer work on Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.