

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall will visit the English College in Prague

On Tuesday, 23 March their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will visit the English College in Prague, together with former President Vaclav Havel and Mrs Dagmar Havlova. His Royal Highness and President Vaclav Havel are joint patrons of the College and will visit it jointly for the first time since its establishment in 1994. The last time the Prince of Wales visited the English College in Prague was on 30 October 2000.

The English College in Prague was founded in 1994 in the wake of the Velvet Revolution as a six-year independent day school, offering a British-style education to 350 boys and girls aged 13-19. It is a member of the UK Headmasters' Conference (HMC) but also part of the Czech school system and is non-profit-making. The College traces its traditions back to the Prague English Grammar School which existed in Prague from the 1920s but suffered closure under both the Nazis and the Communists. It seeks to maintain the traditions and rigour of an English Grammar School within the Czech educational framework and its governors are drawn from both the UK and the Czech Republic, symbolized by its two patrons – former President Vaclav Havel and HRH the Prince of Wales. 80% of its students are Czech and 20% are international students from over twenty different countries but the language of instruction is English. The teaching staff are experienced graduates, the majority of whom are native English speakers.

The College offers education in two curricular programmes: one Czech, the other International. Both programmes offer the full curriculum for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB), but differ in the teaching of native languages. The College has more than ten years experience of teaching the IB, which is accepted around the world as a prestigious university entrance exam, and many of its staff are IB examiners.

More information about the English College, including a video about the School, can be found at www.englishcollege.cz

More information about the International Baccalaureate organization can be found here. www.ibo.org

Program for the Royal visit at English College in Prague

Their Royal Highnesses and former President Vaclav Havel and Mrs. Dagmar Havlova will first see the library and talk to first and second year pupils about their project work for the spring term - 'Traditions Worth Preserving'. Traditions explored included religious architecture, marriage ceremonies and language.

Both couples will then watch one of the final rehearsals of the forthcoming School play, Aristophanes' 'The Birds'. Drama is an important part of the ECP curriculum and college students frequently participate in English language theatre in Prague. Recent productions have included Pinter, Chekhov and Stoppard and students are currently preparing for next terms production of Vaclav Havel's 'Memorandum'.

Finally, the Party will join in a 'BBC Question Time' style panel discussion on the environment – particularly the issues around Water. The panellists will be a combination students and CSOB Economist Tomáš Sedláček and Josef Brůna of the NGO Tereza. This is part of the 'ECP Goes Blue' week where the whole School is focusing on activities around the importance of preserving our water supply in today's World. Events include a dance afternoon, films and visits, as well as essay, art and photography competitions.

To commemorate the visit the Prince of Wales and President Havel will unveil a plaque on leaving the College.

The visit to the English College in Prague is the last item on the official visit to the Czech Republic and indeed the end of the tour which has included visits to Poland and Hungary.

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