

Published on Pauline Latham OBE MP (<http://www.paulinelatham.co.uk>)

Kenyan student experiences two-week placement in Pauline's Westminster Office

By Admin

Created 11/25/2011 - 13:41

Lynda Kalu, a most gifted young student from Kenya, has completed a two-week placement with Pauline Latham OBE MP in her Westminster Office. Lynda was sponsored by a charity called Aiducation. Read Lynda's report.

"I'm pleased to have Lynda at my office..." read part of a letter from Pauline Latham MP that was to be the beginning of a life time experience to me!

This is my first official work experience and working as an intern in the House of Commons is simply a great experience! The office has three employees and one intern; David Goss-in charge of case work, Anita Vukomanovic- in charge of research and media, Linda Bull, the diary secretary and Jack Palmer- the intern. They all wonderfully work together to make a conducive working environment. Working for an M.P is so interesting in that nothing is routine so flexibility is key. Every day is a new experience so I'm always looking forward to the following day!

My experiences in the office are vast. A memorable one will surely be my visit to No. 10 Downing Street which is the office and house of the Prime Minister for nearly 300 years! I also got to attend a Parliament Sitting, whereby I sat in the public gallery from where I followed the proceedings. I particularly enjoyed the Prime Ministers questioning by the opposition team which made me sit on the edge of my seat during the entire session!

I officially met with Pauline Latham M.P over a cup of coffee at the Pugin Room, with a glorious scenic view on river Thames. At a glance, one would perceptibly think I'm having a hearty chat with a good old friend! It is incredible how Pauline Latham M.P, with such an important position in one of the biggest Parliaments in the world and the busiest of schedules would spare an hour just to have a conversation with me! She is so kind and down to earth, and fascinating to interact with.

Mrs Latham is very passionate and conversant about Africa and I later gather that she is undertaking several projects in various African countries.

I got a very "royal feeling" during a tour around the Palace of Westminster as we follow the route taken by Her Majesty the Queen as she officially opens Parliament each year at the State Opening. The walls inside the Palace reveal how historic and artistic Britain is! It was such a memorable tour that left a lot of beautiful memories in my mind!

I also spent a day in the Department for Education which is committed to creating a world-class state education system. I was amazed by the opportunities this department creates for UK students and I sincerely hope that Kenya will someday take up this brilliant idea!

Pauline Latham M.P and the team also had a surprise in store for me! I will forever cherish the gifts they gave me.

I am much obliged to Pauline Latham and her team, especially Anita Vukomanovic, for all their time and energy that was geared towards me, and for warmly accommodating me during my two weeks stay at the houses of parliament. Lastly, but definitely not least, I want to so greatly appreciate Aiducation International for catering for my travel and accommodation details here in the UK.

I feel that I have been given a strong foundation to start my career on during this work experience. I will begin to study law at the Nairobi University School of Law in 2012, and I will specialise in corporate law thereafter.



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