



On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 60 year 9 students visited the wartime tunnels at Dover Castle. Having studied the evacuation of the Dunkirk beaches in 1940 (nicknamed Operation Dynamo) during their history lesson, these students had the opportunity to see the location where the evacuation was planned, as well as investigating the castle keep and the links between Dover and our current history GCSE. Year 9 students Becca Dore and Ava Hodgson kindly wrote out their experiences:

‘Sixty year 9 students took a trip to Dover Castle as part of our history curriculum. We are currently studying Operation Dynamo and the rescue of British troops from Dunkirk which occurred in 1940. Dover Castle has a long history, dating back before William the Conqueror, who took control of the site in 1066. We explored the underground tunnels which expand under the castle for a total of over 3 miles. Our tour guide, Steve, led us to one of the oldest casements in which we were shown projected presentations of the dates and specifics of Dunkirk. These were fun and unique as well as educational. We also enjoyed the intimidating voice-over messages which added humour to the tour. We could see many names and numbers carved into the stone walls which are at least 200 years old. In addition to this, we looked at the Anglo-Saxon church and Roman lighthouse which are at the site. We found this fascinating because you could see where the stone had worn away since it was built nearly two thousand years ago. Lastly, we looked inside Dover Castle keep which included Henry II’s bedroom, the kitchen and its facilities and many spiral staircases. The top of the castle was beautiful, overlooking the White Cliffs of Dover, and we could catch a glimpse of France. Overall the trip was both entertaining and educational. We enjoyed learning more about the evacuation of Dunkirk and Dover’s long history. A huge thank you to all the teachers who made it enjoyable!