On the 4th of July, the 6 of us met at the Hong Kong International Airport, wide-eyed and filled with trepidation for the week ahead of us. None of us knew then what an incredible journey it would prove itself to be.

Upon arriving at the Heathrow Airport, we were immediately bundled into a van. For the next 2 hours or so, we would be held captive there until our sudden release into the picturesque streets of Cambridge. Gnarled trees and lush vegetation grew beside the brick walls of timeworn architecture, forming a perfect tableau to the eye. Trinity Hall, our accommodation, was only a short walk away.

Later on, we had the chance to explore the entire campus, as our visit coincided with the Cambridge Open Days. This special occasion allowed us to wander into different colleges and drop in for sample lectures of our preferred courses, giving us a clearer idea of what university life entails.

Despite the busy schedule, I also dropped by the Sedgewick Museum of Earth Sciences at Downing Site to admire the cabinets of fossils, rocks and minerals.
Another opportunity to experience university education came in the form of supervision sessions, which were small-group discussions led by a fellow. Our sessions with Mr. Colm McGrath and Dr. Ali Boyle enabled us to think outside the box and challenge our pre-existing notions through thought experiments. The most exciting aspect was that there was no right or wrong – we explored issues from all angles, seeking to learn more and not to prove a point.

We had the chance to further interact with other fellows during formal dinner. The usual intensity of our sessions was absent as everyone relaxed and began to chat. At my corner of the table, I had the privilege of speaking with Dr. Andrew Murray, a physiology and neuroscience Senior Lecturer. Interestingly, our conversation topics varied wildly from tortoises to the European Union.

Intellectual stimulation aside, we enjoyed Cambridge to the fullest with a scenic punt down the River Cam, as well as an excursion to the Cambridge Botanic Garden, where we saw the rare Titan Arum. The Titan Arum had just bloomed – an event which occurs once every 15 years – and was starting to wilt.
It was with great reluctance that we departed from Cambridge after 4 days, but the thrill of reaching
London quickly lifted our spirits. Our schedule was packed, from visits to hotspots like Saatchi Gallery
and Sky Garden, to thrilling performances like “Twelfth Night” and “Thriller Live!” Other highlights
of our trip included meeting Ms. Anna Beech of C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, which is a
network of megacities committed to addressing climate change. We were also given a tour of London
Imperial College by Dr. Lawrence Tse, an environmental and tech consultant.

An exciting place worth a mention was the Science Museum in London, which
was currently hosting a robotics exhibition. Among the robots featured there was
the T-800 Endoskeleton robot used in filming “Terminator Salvation” in 2009. We
also experienced Typhoon Force, which simulated a jet ride through the landscape
of North Wales and Lake District.
On the 11th of July, the 6 of us returned to the Hong Kong International Airport, exactly a week since we'd departed from London. Other than the slight disorientation from the 12-hour flight, we looked very much the same in appearance as the day we first left. Yet internally, we had accumulated a wealth of experience and knowledge. Without Ms. Yip's meticulous planning and Ms. Ho's funny antics, I would not have enjoyed this trip as much. ;)}