***The Quirinale Palace visit***

The introduction to students was done in front of the Quirinale Palace.

At the Palace gate we saw two tall “cuirassiers”. The tour guide explained that all cuirassiers come from the police force

The first thing to be done was the metal detector check.

After, we entered the Palace courtyard.

In the courtyard there is a tower that was used to see everything around the Palace many years ago.

There are three flags on the tower: 1) the President’s flag, 2) Europe’s flag, and 3) the Italian flag.

On the tower there is also a roman clock, two bells and under the clock there is a religious mosaic.

It is interesting to note that the clock makes 4 revolutions per day instead two.

Before going up the staircase, we saw a stone where all kings, popes and Presidents names up till now are inscribed.

On the Honour staircase there is a red and blue rug.

From the bottom of the staircase we can see the Quirinale Palace gardens.

We also saw one fresco from a destroyed church that a pope decided to preserve and take to the Quirinale Palace.

After that, we entered the Cuirassier Hall.

We saw the ceiling with the same designs as the floor.

There were 47 coats of arms representing Italian’s cities on the walls.

The Paolina chapel is located on the left.

This chapel has the same dimensions as the Sistine chapel.

We saw a piano, a big cross and white and golden angels on the ceiling.

The ceiling is made from plaster.

The walls at the Quirinale Palace were red when the popes used to live there.

Today, there are 12 painted apostles on the walls.

Then we walked to the Party Hall.

During the monarchy, the king and the queen used the area for dancing parties.

In this hall there are many windows with red and white curtains.

This hall is also used for lunches and dinners.

We saw 3 crystal chandeliers, two mirrors and the biggest rug in the world measuring 300 square metres.

In this hall, the new government vows the constitution

Next to the Parties Hall, there is a hall where the guests rest after dancing. This hall is called the Hall of Mirrors.

Inside of which, there are sofas, 5 chandeliers, 10 big mirrors.

Those big mirrors remind us of a popular saying: breaking a mirror brings 7 years of bad luck.

Then, we enter into the Tapestries room, where we saw a sofa with Vittorio Emanuele’s initials, four candle sticks and 3 chandeliers made from Venetian glass.

There are many tapestries which tell us love stories.

One example is a tapestry that tells of Bacco’s history.

Bacco is the god of the fruits, the wines and the earth.

Bacco has donated the life and wine to men.

The Zodiacal Hall is next.

There are many zodiacal drawings on the walls.

There are tapestries representing the fauna and flora from other countries, as people did not know which animals there were in other countries.

There is a tapestry with a lion representing Brazil; however there aren’t lions in Brazil.

After, we passed by the Palace Garden.

There are long hedges, palm trees, pine trees and a sundial which is a solar clock.

After we entered into the Carriages Hall where there are 4 very old carriages.

On one of those carriages, there are the initials of King Vittorio Emanuele.

Before entering into the Carriages Hall, we saw from far way, the fountain organ which works with carillon.

We saw the king’s office, containing Queen Margherita di Savoia’s dress and a king’s bust.

On one corner of the room there is a round table set.

We also saw the President’s studio and the Presidents’ room.

In this room we saw photos of kings, popes and presidents. On the walls there are cut-outs of newspapers showing important episodes of Italian history.

One of the 3 original Italian constitutions is displayed in this room.

Next to the constitution there is a Braille blind alphabet version.