

Fountains Hall – Teacher's notes

A) Stand on the main path leading to West Gate.

The Hall was built at the end of the Tudor period – around the time that Queen Elizabeth I was dying. It was built in a Tudor style.

Look at the outside of the front of the building. Most smart houses of its time were symmetrical. At first sight the left and right sides of Fountains Hall look the same – but look more carefully and you can see differences. Write the ones you find below.

1. The bay windows – one has square corners, one has sloped corners.
2. Above the balcony one window sticks out, the other doesn't.
3. The towers are different widths.
4. One tower has an extra window.
- 5.

Above the door look for the initials of the builder. What are they?

SP for Stephen Proctor

Above the door look for his badge. What is on it? An otter with a fish in its mouth

B) 1) Go up the stairs and into the Stone Hall. Stand in the middle and look towards the end near where you came in. Look at the minstrels' gallery. What happened here?

Minstrels played music while the family sat at a long table and ate their meals or while the family sat in front of the fire.

Where do you sit to eat your meals at home?

Do you have anything to entertain you during your meals?

The main beam of the minstrels' gallery may date from when the house was built around 1600. How old would that make the beam? 410 years old

B) 2) Go the far end of the hall and look at the wall between the left hand door and the window. You can find masons' marks on the stone. One example is 60cm (2ft) in from the window-end corner at about adult eye level. You should be able to find others.

(Pupils can draw any 2 examples of masons' marks that they see in the 2 boxes.)

These are the same masons' marks that are found in the Abbey. What does this tell you about these stones?

These stones are re-used stones from the abbey ruins.