

“Meet me outside the souvenir shop in an hour,” Dad ordered Beth and Sam.

“Have fun exploring, and make sure you tell me anything interesting that you find out. I’m just going to study these paintings for a little bit longer – I don’t want to bore you.” Dad casually sauntered away, occasionally looking up at the huge paintings and occasionally looking back at the children.

“Look after your brother,” was his parting shot to Beth as he headed down a corridor.

Beth whispered to Sam, “you do realise he’s heading for the nearest coffee shop so that he can check the football scores on his tablet, don’t you? He’s desperate to find out how Man United are getting on today!”

The children giggled, remembering how reluctant Dad was to take them to Hansley House this morning. At this very moment, Man United were in the cup final and Dad was a devoted fan. But Mum had insisted that as they had won free tickets to Hansley House, and the last day to redeem the tickets was today, and she was away with work, that Dad should take them there today. Beth and Sam were not football fans so they were very happy to have the day out with their dad instead of watching yet another football match.

Beth especially thought that Hansley House was the ideal place to spend a day. It was an old stately home that had been built nearly six centuries ago and had housed royalty. It also had many secrets for long ago times. The current resident was Lord Duncan Lebarr, a colourful figure who often popped up in different places around the house, unannounced.

The large clock in the hall way struck three and the children decided they had better get going so that they wanted to.

They both wanted to see the spying gallery, which Beth worked out was located in the north wing of the house and they set off quickly so that they would be back in time for Dad.

Beth and Sam raced up a spiral staircase two steps at a time. They breathlessly began winding their way along a beautifully decorated corridor but their progress was impeded by tourists tangled in the wires of their audio guides and school children clutching at colourful worksheets. They weaved in and out of the crowds until they eventually reached the spying gallery.

1. Why had Beth And Sam's mum said their dad should take them to Hansley House today? 2 marks
2. How can you tell that Beth is interested in history? 1 mark
3. What did Dad say he was going to do and what did the children think he was really going to do ? 2 marks
4. Look at the paragraph beginning *Beth and Sam raced up a spiral staircase...*

Explain how the paragraph shows that Hansley House is a large and popular tourist attraction. 2 marks

5. What time do the children need to be back at the souvenir shop to meet their dad? 1 mark
6. Who do you think is the oldest, Beth or Sam? Give reasons for your answer. 2 marks.