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Najib returns to UK alma mater

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MEMORIES: PM to launch Razak Science Centre at Malvern College

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FOR Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, it will be a trip down memory lane when he visits Malvern College in Worcestershire, a 2½-hour drive from here, tomorrow.

Najib, who was a student at the boarding school, where he completed his A-Level certification, will visit the college to officiate the opening of the Razak Science Centre.

Accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, he had attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, but had to cut the trip short to attend Saudi King Abdullah Abdulaziz Al Saud's funeral. The monarch died on Friday.

Malaysian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Datuk Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi said the prime minister's visit here would go on as planned, following his unscheduled trip to Riyadh.

During his three-day visit here,

Najib will also visit the Battersea Power Station residential project.

"The prime minister will visit and be briefed about the progress and development of the Battersea project, a project close to his heart," said Rasidi.

The site of the former power station, bought for £400 million (RM2.1 billion) by a consortium, comprising SP Setia (40 per cent), Sime Darby (40 per cent) and the Employees Provident Fund (20 per cent), will be redeveloped by British-based Battersea Power Station Development Company.

It is expected to be completed in 2024 over seven phases.

This is Najib's second visit to the site, where he will also survey the planned Malaysian Square public space.

This will be the first time that the prime minister will visit Malvern College, a co-educational boarding school for pupils aged 13 to 18, since he was a student there from 1968 to 1971.

His brother, Datuk Johari Razak,

attended the college in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The prime minister's nephews also attended the college.

Four Malaysian students are studying there.

Najib will visit the house he stayed in throughout his duration as a student there.

The school, which was founded in 1865, has produced notable alumni, including Viscount

Malvern, the first prime minister of the Federation of Rhodesia, and C.S. Lewis, author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Rasidi said Malvern College was proud of Najib's achievements and that it could now count a Malaysian prime minister as part of its alumni.

The refurbishment of the Preston Science and 1960s building into the Razak Science Centre includes a

140-seat lecture theatre and 18 state-of-the-art laboratories, as well as a showcase laboratory.

The centre was made possible by philanthropic support from a variety of college benefactors and "a significant gift from a very generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous", said Rasidi.

Najib and Rosmah will fly back to Malaysia after visiting Malvern College.