Henry praised Wolsey’s diligence so highly that a few days later he said openly (and not by way of a joke) that Wolsey would rule not only himself but Francis as well.

Polydore Virgil *Anglica historia* 1555

**Source 15**

Wolsey was ‘very far above all measure, and that was great pity; for it did harm and made him abuse many great gifts that God had given him’.

Thomas More

**Source 16**

During negotiations with the French in 1527, Wolsey worked from four in the morning until four in the afternoon, yet ‘never rose once to pisse, nor yet to any meat, but continually wrote his letters with his own hands, having all that time his nightcap and kerchief on his head’.

*Cavendish*

**Source 17**

When Wolsey’s servant, George Cavendish, brought the news of his master’s death to Henry at Hampton Court, he found the king practicing archery at the butts erected in the park and not over-eager to hear the news.

‘I will make an end of my game’, Henry said, ‘and then will I talk with you’.

*Cavendish*

**Source 18**

Item: that he having the French pox presumed to come and breath on the king.

One of the charges brought against Wolsey by Henry.

Edward Hall, MP for Wenlock, *The articles justifying Wolsey’s fall* 1529

**Source 19**

It pleased the king ... ‘for his recreation, to repair unto the Cardinal’s house, as he did diverse times in the year [...] such pleasures were then devised for the king’s comfort and consolation as might be invented, or by man’s wit imagined’.

George Cavendish *Thomas Wolsey, late Cardinal, his Life and Death* 1554

**Source 1**

Why come ye not to court?
To whyche court?
To the kynges court?
Or to Hampton Court?

Nay, to the kynges court!
The kynges court
Shulde have the excellence;
But Hampton Court
Hath the preemynence!

John Skelton
*Why come ye not to court* 1522

**Source 2**

Emperor Augustus

*by Giovanni da Maiano.*

*Clock Court*

In their sleeping chambers, the French guests found a basin and ewer of silver, wine and beer, a silver pot to drink from, and silver candlesticks. Even the shape and colour of the candles was extraordinary: both white and yellow, in three different sizes.

*Cavendish describing Hampton Court during the visit of the French ambassadors in 1527*

**Source 4**
Lodgings in Base Court.

One has to traverse eight rooms before one reaches his audience chamber, and they are all hung with tapestry, which is changed every week.

Report of Sebastian Guistiniani the Venician ambassador on his visit to England 1519

The king ‘leaves everything in charge of Cardinal Wolsey, who keeps a great court and has comedies and tragedies performed’

Venetian Ambassador Guistiniani 1519

I would you should make good watch on the Duke of Suffolk, on the Duke of Buckingham, on my lord of Northumberland, on my lord of Derby, on my lord of Wiltshire, and on others which you think suspect to see what they do with this news.

Written with the hand of your loving master, Henry R

Letter written to Wolsey from Henry 1520

In 1528, Thomas Heneage apologised to Cardinal Wolsey that he had been unable to come to a meeting because ‘there is none here but Master Norris and I to give attendance upon the King’s Highness when he goeth to make water in his bedchamber’

I acknowledge that I have put much confidence in your professions and promises, in which I find myself deceived. But for the future, I shall rely on nothing by the protection of Heaven and the love of my dear king, which alone will be able to set right again those plans which you have broken and spoiled, and to place me in that happy situation which God wills, the king so much wishes, and which will be entirely to the advantage of the kingdom. The wrong you have done me has caused me much sorrow….

Letter from Anne Boleyn to Thomas Wolsey 1529

Wolsey would set out ‘apparelled all in red in the habit of a Cardinal; which was either of fine scarlet, or ells of crimson satin, taffeta, damask or caffa, the best that he could get for money’. In his hand Wolsey held an orange, the meat of which had been removed and replaced with a sponge soaked in vinegar ‘and other confections against pestilent airs’.

Cavendish

Wolsey was ‘double both in speche and meaning. He would promise muche and performe lytle; He was viciois of body and gave the clergie evil example. He hated sore the citie of London and feared it’

Edward Hall The Union of the Two Noble and Illustre Families of Lancastre and York 1548