



A Specialist Humanities College

NEWSLETTER

Issue: 61

June 2009



Inside this issue:-

Calling All Parents!
Walk in Wendover Woods
Year 8 Trip to Sicily
Globalisation Focus Day
Year 9 Visit to the Rheinland
Charity Flying at Halton
Holiday Dates
Advertisements

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

We are currently compiling a presentation folder to promote our school.

Inside the folder there will be space to include.

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WALK IN WENDOVER WOODS

On the 5th June, 42 Year 10 Geography students had a trip to Wendover Woods for our GCSE Coursework. We left school at 9 a.m and started our long walk up a very steep hill. Once we got there we sat in the cafe and discussed what makes a good piece of coursework, talking about possible hypotheses, what key questions to include and what primary data to collect for our coursework. By this time the rain had stopped and off we went! We did loads of different things like litter counts, Bi-Polar Analysis, Footpath Erosion measurements and attempted some questionnaires. Mr Williams took a separate group and they did some Science experiments looking at the acidity of the soil and were able to test it in the lab when we got back to school.

Overall it was a brilliant day out for all the students and we learnt a lot about what we are expected to do next year.

On behalf of all the students we thank Mr Williams and the IL staff for their help and advice and a huge thanks to Mr Parker and Mrs Kelly for organising this wonderful day out.

Usman Ali - 10H



We left John Colet School at 2:15am on Monday 11th May 2009. Everyone was half asleep but we all managed to stay up and have a little party at the back of the coach. When we got to Stansted, it was really quiet and all we could see was the people sleeping in the terminals waiting for their flights. As 46 students swamped the airport we got some pretty strange looks but we all knew it was going to be worth it. We all checked in and luggage was hell! The highest amount of luggage was Emily's which weighed 22kg and our limit was only 15kg. On the plane I sat next to Megan and we took loads of pictures (e.g. Mr. Parker asleep and the views out of the window as we flew to Italy). Landing was scary but pretty amazing, it looked like a toy town and when we landed we could tell the difference in the weather immediately; everyone took their layers of clothes off and slapped the sun cream on.

On the first day we went to a Castle which took AGES to get to, it was really high up and along very windy roads but when we got up to the top it had amazing views of the island. None of us had eaten anything except for some sweets, so when we went into a restaurant we were all really relieved, but we had a problem... it was either beef pasta or chips. No one really wanted beef pasta so we ended up having chips. They were really nice but quite salty. That night when we got to our hotel we all had dinner, unpacked and then just chilled until bedtime. The next morning we had to get up at 6:30!

Tuesday 12th May, Mount Etna day! We were all pretty excited to be going up the biggest and most active volcano in Europe. We got our Cable Car tickets and walked up to the platform. Some people didn't like heights and some didn't like small spaces, but everyone was in cars of 6 so we were all together. We got to the top and quickly got into some big 4x4 jeep cars and went up to one of Etna's 260 craters. We walked around and saw the different environmental changes from up there to down in the village. On the way down in the Cable Cars they stopped for ages, and everyone panicked after 10 minutes it swung because they were taking a car off but when the cars got to the bottom we were all relieved.

The highlight of the trip was being with our friends during a great holiday. Mount Etna was a really good day and we learnt a lot about the activity and the different types of lava... one night we even saw the lava flow. Although the teachers thought we were in bed everyone was knocking on the walls sending messages to each other. The nights at the beach were amazing, the bonfire was great and to top it off we had fireworks from the top of a castle too. The water fight was so much fun but the water was absolutely FREEZING! We think that next year the trip should be repeated because everyone who went to Sicily won't ever forget it and they have the best ice creams ever! And just a warning sulphuric acid does smell as bad as they say. SICILY 09 what a trip!

Emily Bronicki and Megan Minall 8G

On Wednesday we went to an island called Volcano and got there by a ferry and while we were there we went in the mud baths and the hot springs which were very warm and relaxing. We also went up a volcano which was very hard work and stunk of rotten eggs at the top but we got there in the end.

We all thought that the holiday was one of the best holidays we had ever been on. It was definitely worth the money. We all also thought that the best parts were the mud baths, going up the volcano and the bonfire and water fight that the teachers did for us on the beach. We all said that is was a trip that we would never forget. We would like to say thank you very much to the teachers for taking us and looking after us and especially Mr Parker for taking the time to organise it for us.

Lewis Johnson and Chris Hunt 8G



GLOBALISATION FOCUS DAY

The Globalisation focus day for the Year 7 focus day was held at the Field studies centre at Amersham. Over three consecutive days, the whole of year 7 descended on Mop End to undertake two main tasks.

The first task involved group work and problem solving. This meant that students were to complete a course in and around the woods that surrounded the field studies centre. This was a challenge as it meant that they had to listen to each other to solve the clues before moving onto the next problem. These tasks were designed to make the students think about the skills people in other cultures would have to use on a daily basis. After a lot of laughter and discussion, the students returned to the centre, in many cases, a lot wetter than when they left.

The second task involved building shelters from nothing but what they found on the forest floor. This meant team work and ensuring that they could build the best shelter they could possibly build. The only instructions they received included that it should be big enough to house their group and to make it waterproof. To assess how well the teams performed, the centre staff threw water on to the shelter.

On all of the days, the students were really well behaved and really enjoyed what they did. I would like to thank all the members of staff who accompanied the students, as it could not have happened without their help. I know, that from speaking to the students, that they too had a good day out and learnt something which related to people in other cultures.

Mrs. A. Froggatt



YEAR 9 VISIT TO THE RHEINLAND

On 8 June, 38 pupils and 4 teachers set off on their journey to the beautiful Rheinland in Germany. After a long coach trip and a short ferry trip, we arrived at our hotel and we were ready for the next day's activities.

On our first day, we had an exciting ride on a chairlift after a long and hard walk up the hills! Despite a few nerves and some cold rain, everyone enjoyed themselves and the amazing views! On the second day, we had another long walk up hill to get to the Reichsburg in Cochem which was an interesting visit. We also had a boat trip on the river Mosel where the teachers bought us each an ice cream, which we had to ask for in German. The fourth day was what everybody had been waiting for - Phantasialand Theme Park! There were many exciting rides that everybody was eager to get onto even though there were some showers! I went on one rollercoaster (Black Mamba) six times! We even managed to persuade Mrs Royle to go on the rapids and she got very wet!



Thank you to Mrs Royle, Mr Phillips, Mrs Uhart and Mrs Perkins for such a great trip that everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

Rachel Durant - 9H



Year 9 has recently been on a week-long trip to the Rheinland in Germany. On the Monday, we had to be at school 4.45 a.m. and from there we had a very long coach drive to Germany. We arrived at the Hotel at about 7.30 p.m., most of us were looking forward to finding our rooms and then having dinner. Every night at dinner, we had soup for starter, which was always very nice and for main course we had a variety of meat and fish dishes; there was also a vegetarian option.

On the first day, we walked up a long hill to a monument (some people got to the top 20 minutes ahead of others!) The monument was to remember the German soldiers who fought in the war against France in 1870 - 1871. After that we walked down through the vineyards and took a ferry across the river to a chairlift up one of the hills. At the top of the hill, we had a drink at the restaurant overlooking the river. On Wednesday, we visited Cochem Castle, which was very interesting. After that we went on a boat trip down the Mosel. The driver got some of us to speak through the microphone to tell everyone what was on the left and right (myself included). On Thursday, we went to Phantasialand, this was what everyone had been waiting for. We all rushed off the bus to get in. There were some great rides there, including the Black Mamba. The trip was great and I'd like to thank the teachers involved for the great experience.

Callum Lawes - 9H

Charity Flying at Halton

On 14 June, some of us students from the John Colet School were privileged enough to receive a free flight in a Gypsy Moth kindly donated to the school by Mr Stuart McKay from the Moth Club in Halton. We started off by meeting our pilot and clambering into the first of the two seats situated one behind the other in the 'open top' plane. After placing the rather attractive looking goggles and radio helmet we were off. Surprisingly cold up there for a warm day but at 1500 feet in the air, it probably should have been expected. As the weather over the past weekend was so good, we had remarkable visibility and as we gazed over Wendover from above, everything became smaller and smaller. Even our famous Sports Hall looked the size of a small car! Although it didn't seem it, the duration of the flight was a full 15 minutes and it was 15 minutes we won't be forgetting any time soon! I think we can speak on behalf of everybody, that it was truly amazing and a great life experience and if anybody ever has a chance to experience flying in a Gypsy Moth, we strongly recommend it! We would like to say a huge thank you to all the teachers involved including Mr Gardiner, Mr McComb and Mrs McGinnity. We would also like to thank Mr McKay for giving us this amazing chance to experience something new and thrilling.

Beth Craft, Sophie, Franklin, Bishwas Gurung, James Harrison, Edward Warner





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HOLIDAY DATES 2009 - 2010

Summer Holiday 2009: School closes at 12.10 p.m. on Friday 17th July.

Autumn Term 2009: School opens on morning of Thursday 3rd September.

INSET - Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September.

INSET - Friday 23 October

October Half-Term:- School closes Friday 23rd October and re-opens Monday 2nd November.

Christmas Holiday: School closes Friday 18th December and re-opens for the Spring Term on Tuesday 5th January 2010.

INSET - Monday 4th January 2010.

February Half-Term: School closes Friday 12th February and re-opens morning of Monday 22nd February.

Easter Holiday: School closes Thursday 1st April and re-opens for the Summer Term on Monday 19th April.

INSET - Tuesday 4 May

May Half-Term: School closes Friday 28th May and re-opens Monday 7th June.

Summer Holiday 2010: Wednesday 21st July.

Easter 2010: 2nd to 5th April.

May Bank Holiday: 3rd May.

Spring Bank Holiday 31st May

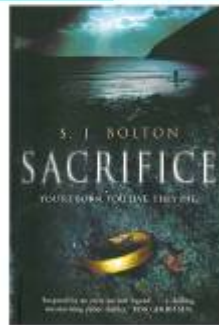
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