

Name:

Form:

College News

Monday, 20 September

Issue 2



Tower Power

by MISS NIESCIER

On Friday 10th September, 40 Year 8 pupils excitedly left Lower Site by coach at 4pm to visit Tower Wood. It was the start of a fun yet challenging weekend from which the pupils learnt lots of new skills.

The first task for the pupils on arrival was to find the bedrooms and to make up their own beds- for many this was surprisingly the first time they'd had to do this!

Then it was time for dinner, followed by orienteering in the dark around the grounds of the centre. Map skills and teamwork were essential for this activity, which went very well despite the pouring rain. Biscuits and hot drinks were a lovely treat before bedtime and dreams of what the next day may hold.

After a hearty breakfast the first activity for all the groups was a range of problem-solving tasks.

These were specifically chosen to encourage teamwork, confidence, co-operation and sharing of responsibilities and ideas

within each group.

Lunch followed which had been made by the pupils themselves in the morning and it was time for the pupils to use the skills they had developed in the morning during the activities they undertook in the afternoon.

Activity

Each group did a different activity from the following; tree-climbing, tree-abseiling, Sky Pole or kayaking. The water activities were inevitably followed by jetty-jumping.

Dinner was most welcome and then it was time for a rest before the Singstar competition in the evening and a story read by Miss Cutler in the dark.

The pupils went to bed that night exhausted yet exhilarated by the day's exciting events. The following morning, the pupils did a different activity from the list from the previous day followed by the raft building and racing challenge. The winners - Team C - showed that teamwork and motivation was definitely the way to win the race and a much better tactic than

Team A's floating around in circles!

All too soon it was time to pack away and return to school. The weekend was a huge adventure for all the pupils who gained a lot from it. They picked up many new skills ranging from Kayaking to hoovering!

They all developed as the weekend went on and their self-confidence, ability to share and work co-operatively with their peers definitely improved.

Parents were greeted by some very happy but tired looking faces on arrival back at Lower Site!

The week in brief

On Tuesday, there is a Geography Field Trip.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, there is the Y6 Parents' Information Evening.

On Thursday, Y12/13 pupils have a trip to the theatre and on Friday, pupils from Years 7-11 will take part in an Orchestra Day.

Y13 Girls set for the sails



Two of our pupils went all Ellen Macarthur during the summer holidays as they learned what it takes to sail across the English Channel.

Sixth form pupils Ellie Prendergast (13H, pictured left) and Eleanor McGrory (13D), set off for Southampton on July 28, as they bid to get first hand experience of the attributes required to become able seafarers.

Once on board their trusty vessel, the pair anchored at the Isle of White and took it in turns to keep watch, marking points on a map to ensure they did not drift off.

Having successfully performed this task, the two faced a 5am start as they headed off to Cherbourg.

During the journey, our two fearless girls were instructed on how to keep watch by experienced crew members from the Rona Sailing Project, who provided Ellie and Eleanor with this fascinating opportunity.

Having successfully navigated their way to Cherbourg, the girls embarked on the return leg of their adventure – having spent a night docked in the French port.

The return journey saw the two 17-year-olds take in Aldenay, the Channel Islands, Poole, Portsmouth and Cowes, where they almost got caught up in a Tall Ships race.

Having successfully managed to reach dry land the pair were rewarded by being presented with Amory Awards – distinctions handed to young sailors aged between 16 and 20 who have successfully completed a six day Sail Training Voyage.

The good news did not stop there – last weekend, Ellie and Eleanor returned to Southampton for Selection Weekend and were duly declared Junior Watch Leaders. They hope to follow this in March by being selected to take part in the Tall Ships Race. Before that, there is a small matter of a Small Ships at the start of October, when Ellie and Eleanor will go head-to-head in the event at Cowes.

Ellie said: “Sailing to Cherbourg was a great experience, we both really enjoyed it. We’re pleased to have received the Amory Awards and we’ve just been made Junior Watch Leaders too.”

But while the young sailors are pleased with their progress so far, it has not stopped a competitive edge creeping in ahead of the sailing showdown in October, Ellie added: “We’re both looking forward to the Small Ships race on October 1. We’re both keen to finish ahead of each other but, to be honest, I’ll just be happy if I don’t finish last.”

Time to reflect on Pope’s visit

Staff and pupils at the College took a moment on Friday morning to reflect upon the Pope’s visit to Britain last weekend. A common prayer service was held in all Forms inviting us to pray for the continued success of Catholic education, one of the key themes of the visit. Six of our sixth form students, Andrew Fraser (12C), Beth Billingsley (13S), Clare Marsh (13E), Catherine Fearon (13C), James Fearon (13C) and Laura Haines (13C), were fortunate enough to be invited to meet Pope Benedict, while our Head Boy and Girl, Paolo Robertson (13H) and Eleanor McGrory (13D) represented the College at the online Big Assembly.

Ladies’ Night

The College is holding a Ladies’ Night on Friday, 24 September. A Robbie Williams tribute act promises to entertain you and there is also a disco and cheap bar - although you are advised to bring your own supper. Tickets, costing £10, are available from the school office - telephone 0151 931 2971. The event, organised by the PTA, will take place in the Myers Road East building from 8pm.

Year 7 Mass

Parents and pupils from Year 7 gathered last Friday to celebrate our annual Welcome Mass, this year led by Father Paul Jusu, a priest visiting from Waterloo in Sierra Leone. The event forms part of our ongoing relationship with the Waterloo Partnership, an initiative linking the College with the town of Waterloo in Sierra Leone, where a number of exciting development initiatives are in progress.

