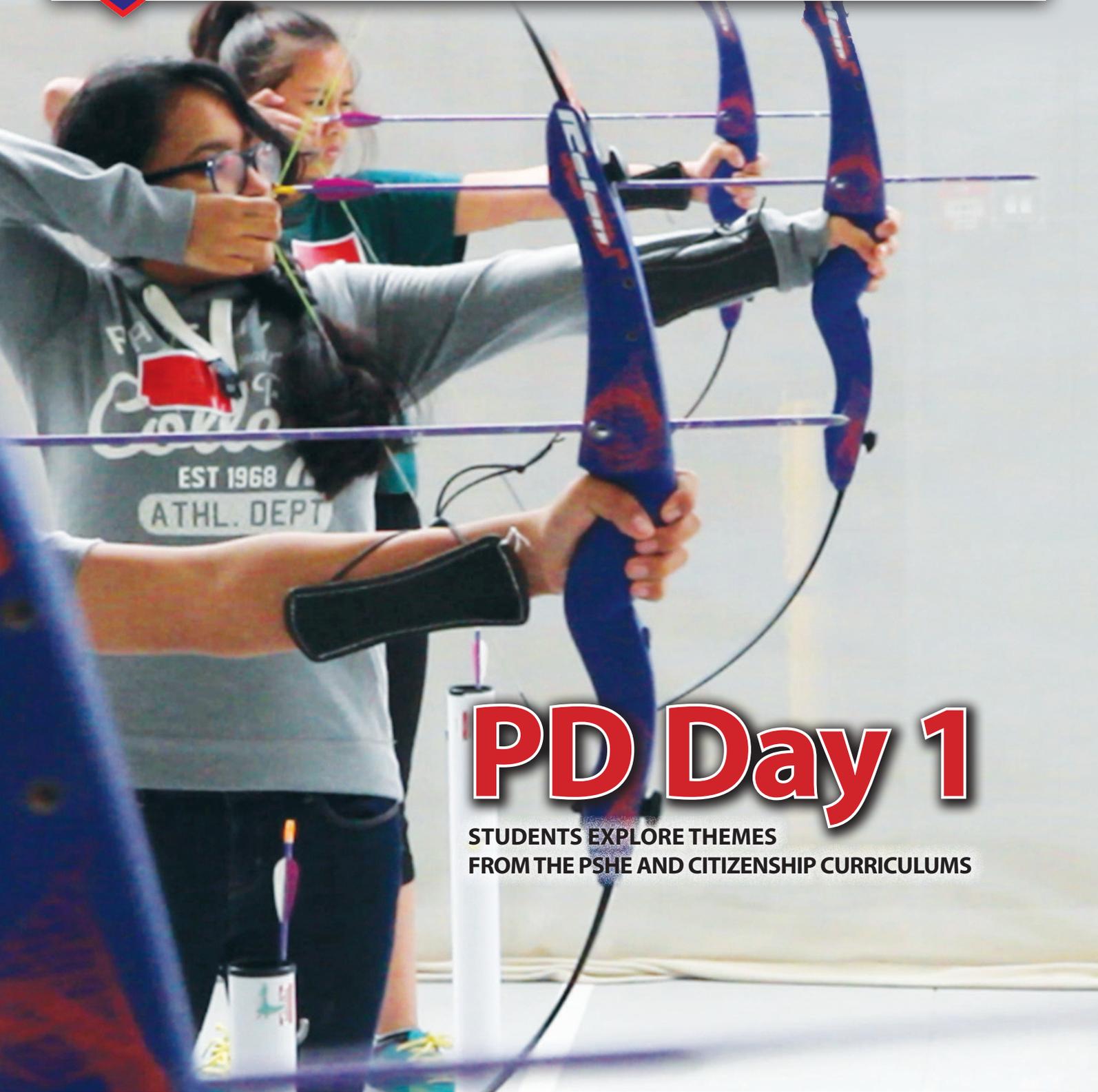




ASH MANOR SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 44 - November 2016



PD Day 1

STUDENTS EXPLORE THEMES
FROM THE PSHE AND CITIZENSHIP CURRICULUMS



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Welcome to our November Newsletter

I hope that it gives you a flavour of all of the extra activities and opportunities available in Ash Manor School.



The last half term proved to be incredibly busy with staff and students working very hard to make a great start to the year and I am very proud of what is being achieved in our school. It is a real testament to the dedication of staff and students that in addition to the academic progress we constantly strive for, we have such a wide range of additional activities.

The highlight of this week for me was the first round of the Ash Manor Bake-Off. I had the privilege of judging which meant that I got to try 12 fantastic cakes and I was incredibly impressed with the talent of our students. I am now looking forward to the biscuit round when once again I will get to try them all.

From safari in Kenya to the Trevi Fountain in Rome, starring in a Sky Sports advert to carving pumpkins for Hallowe'en there is never a dull moment here and I hope that you enjoy reading about some of these things in the newsletter

*Ms A Bailey
Headteacher*

The 401 Marathon Runner

Early in the half term a team of Ash Manor students met Ben Smith at the Rushmoor Park Run. Ben was running 401 marathons in 401 consecutive days and the boys joined him to run the first 5K of his 390th marathon.

After completing the park run, Ben went on to run the remaining 23 miles to complete his marathon for the day. The Blackwater Valley Runners put together a route for Ben which took him to Farnham incorporating a breakfast at Tesco in Aldershot!

The boys all came in with great times, completing their first park run, which had a great turnout. Many of the runners are regular Saturday morning runners, but many turned out to see Ben to run with him and support his very impressive challenge.

The Ash Manor students spoke to Lucy Saunders who is part of Ben's support team. She told the team about how Ben got into running having never been into sport before. She also talked about how once



Ben had finished he will need to complete 3 months of 'warming down' running half marathons and 10Ks to allow his body to readjust.

The Ash Manor students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and meeting Ben. Mr Tubridy, from the PE department had nothing but praise for the students who turned up to support such a fantastic cause.

Ben is running to support two anti-bullying charities; Kidscape and Stonewall. After running through our local area - Farnborough, Aldershot, Fleet and Farnham - Ben left to run another marathon in Petersfield on the Sunday and Portsmouth on the Monday. He ran his final marathon in his hometown of Bristol.

Mr Tubridy



Fun in the sun at La Rive!

Over the summer holidays a group of students and staff had the opportunity to go on the fantastic annual water sports trip to the South of France.

We had an incredible week at La Rive both on the lake and off, taking part in a wide range of activities and challenges. Sailing, kayaking, wind surfing and paddle boarding were just some of the sports that students got to try out. Although there were a few capsizes and tumbles from the windsurf boards, all of the students really got to grips with the techniques and by the end of the week

were whizzing across the water and showing some great skills.



One of the highlights of the week was our traditional visit to the biggest sand dune in Europe (which was a leg aching climb up!). We also enjoyed a great day at the waterpark on the rides and slides. The final excursion was an evening trip to Biscarrosse for: culture, last minute souvenir shopping and to watch the beautiful sun set over the Bay of Biscay.



We had fantastic food throughout the week cooked for us by the awesome Rockley staff and even got to try some snails and muscles on French cuisine evening!

The sun shone and the lake glistened for us throughout the week and we ended the week with an animal themed fancy dress evening out at the campsite's entertainment.



If you are interested in joining us next summer or in the summer of 2018, please come and speak to myself or Miss Williams.

Miss Raeburn Head of Geography



Vocational Studies

Our students who have opted for vocational courses have made a fantastic start to the year. Having already completed enough work to gain a BTEC Extended Certificate in Level 1 Construction, this term they are working towards a diploma in an independent project. They have been working on a variety of children's toys and have been exploring a variety of joinery methods. We are looking forward to seeing their final products. Excellent job, well done Year 11's.



The Year 10s have also made a good start in Construction this year. They are all working towards an Award level this term with a hope that they can match the year 11's in an extended certificate by the end of the year. The weather has been fantastic which has allowed them to come close to completing their first practical in bricklaying, some showing some natural talent in this area. Well done Year 10.



Floristry

Year 11 have continued to build on the excellent progress they made last year and nearing the end of their wedding design unit. Their accomplishments speak for themselves.



The Year 10s have made a really promising start to the subject, bring creativity and flair to their introductory unit of floral arrangements.



New Cheerleading Squad for Ash Manor

Many have an outdated and plain wrong idea when cheerleading is mentioned. In fact, it is fast growing and popular sport. It combines the grace and control of dance with the power and dynamism of gymnastics, throw in a healthy dose of 'sports acro' and you have modern cheerleading.

Cheerleading at Ash Manor is one of our most popular clubs and is expanding fast. Under the expert guidance and coaching of Miss Fletcher the girls have mastered the basics and are quickly moving on to some very impressive moves and routines.

The aim is to prepare the group for competitions and we are excited about the success that they will achieve.

PE Department



Fantastic New Food Tech Room

The summer holidays saw extensive work done in our Food Tech room. Entirely new work stations and cookers were installed to provide top quality facilities. State of the art cameras and interactive whiteboards allow students to watch demonstrations in real time whilst working on their own creations. The work being produced so far this year has been outstanding and the beautiful aromas act as a real draw for anyone walking around the school.



With the new rooms Miss Laughton has been able to launch the inaugural 'Ash Manor Bake Off'. Teams of bakers from each House will compete each week to create a themed masterpiece. At the end of each week there will be a Star Baker and 2 Bakers will leave the competition. The grand final will take place in December where the first Ash Manor Bake Off champion will be crowned.

Art and Technology Department





THE ASH MANOR BAKE OFF

Your competitors are:

 Y11 – Yasmin Paul	 Ella Butler – Y10
Y8 – Evie Hillyar	Megan Kenton – Y9
Y8 – Katie Homick	Neve Davey – Y8
 Y9 – Alice Wilson	 Tia Vivash – Y10
Y9 – Joshua Gilbert	Emma Tyerman-Cook – Y9
Y9 – Emily Roome	Zara Townley – Y7



Back to School – 30 Years Later!

Ash Manor School opened its doors to former pupils of the school for a day in October. The School changed from Yeoman's Bridge to Ash Manor School in September 1986 and to celebrate 30 years as Ash Manor the school held a celebration day for former students.

The pupils attending all came to the school during 1986, some starting it as Ash Manor and some remembering the change from Yeoman's Bridge.

After welcome refreshments and introductions, the former students

got to the walk the school corridors once again. They were able to reminisce along the way, remembering the bits that were the same and the changes, mainly having glass in the cloisters which were open to the elements in their time at the school. After break, the ex-students attended five lessons; history, computer science, food technology, art and maths. One ex-student who left the school in 1988 commented, "the interaction between the students and the teacher was great to watch". Next was lunch which was in the canteen with all the current

Ash Manor students before experiencing a tutor time.

They then spent the remainder of the afternoon being interviewed by our media studies students. All of the ex-students were amazed by the changes since they attended. They all commented on what a lovely friendly atmosphere there was and how well behaved and polite the students were.

All the ex-students really enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce about their time at school, attend some lessons and walk those corridors once more!

BA Flag Award

Congratulations to the 52 year 10 students who completed the BA Flag Award in Spanish at the end of the last academic year. The award, which covers four areas similar to those for the British Airways recruitment assessment' focuses on the skill of speaking and the use of language to get by when travelling to a Spanish speaking country.



This course is an excellent preparation for the rigours of the new GCSE language course which require students to really apply the knowledge of the language.

Ash Manor has a track record of a 100% pass rate and this year was no different.

Good job everyone! Wear those badges with pride. A big thank you to Miss Stone for the organising and running the course.

The MFL Team

THIS GIRL CAN – What is it?

'This Girl Can' stems from a national campaign, developed by Sport England, aiming to inspire every girl to get physically active, regardless of age, ability or previous experience. The school club seeks to harness every girl's enjoyment of exercise or playing sport, doing so in a female only environment (less Mr Peebles).

There is no fear of judgment, merely encouragement, enjoyment and a chance to get to know other girls in a friendly, fun, non-pressured environment. The club simply seeks to show every girl that sport and physical exercise can be a fun and enjoyable part of life, no matter what your ability or passion.

Although the sessions are facilitated by Mrs Clements and Mr Peebles, it is the girls that determine what activity they wish to undertake, everything from Bench-ball to Netball to Yoga, it is the girls that choose! It really is a unique opportunity within the school to get to know girls from every year in a fun female-only environment. Try it, the overriding message is no matter what your ability you will enjoy the club!

This Girl Can runs every Monday 3.15-4.15 down in the PE department. Come along and join in.



*Mr Peebles
PE Department*



Kenya

After a long day of travelling, we arrived at the airport in Kenya, Nairobi, where we were collected and driven to Simba Lodge. During the journey we were able to experience Kenya for the first time - nothing could've prepared us for the endless fields of farmland, untouched by machinery, or the beauty of the rising sun as we travelled further and further away from the busy city.

Once at Simba Lodge, we had a day to get settled in before going to Tetu Primary School. We were overwhelmed by the kindness of the students from the moment we arrived. They had prepared a welcome assembly for us, involving a song and dance performed with an unimaginable level of enthusiasm.

The next 10 days provided us with ample opportunity to get to know the children as individuals, as well as allowing us to learn about life in Kenya. Our days rotated through teaching and spending time with the students, working on the fence project and walking up to the local market to buy food to cook. A group of Ash Manor students spent time at Tetu Primary School a few years ago, constructing a fence around half of the school grounds. Our goal was to complete it. We did this by working with a group of men, following their instructions in order to make their



work easier. Over the course of the ten days, we got to know each other, forming friendships which will never be forgotten. While teaching various classes we discovered how quickly they pick up new content,



Kenya (cont.)



amazing us again and again with their willingness and ability to learn. They wanted to learn songs and games from England so we taught them nursery classics like Ring a Ring a Roses and Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. After lunch one day we even introduced them to bubbles and balloons!

When the time came to leave we were all incredibly sad. As a thank you for their incredible hospitality and eagerness to become our friends, we performed the cup song, before talking about the core values of Ash Manor (and how they demonstrate them perfectly). Their teachers assured us that they'll never forget us - we certainly won't forget the memorable 10 days spent with them.

After another relaxing day at Simba Lodge, we spent a day at Ol Pejeta, seeing a wide array of animals from zebras to elephants. We also got to meet Baraka the blind rhino, and were able to stroke his face and feed him leaves. Seeing all of the animals in their natural habitat was a great experience, as was visiting the chimpanzee sanctuary afterwards.



The next few days were spent upon Mount Kenya. Unfortunately, we were unable to make it to the top, but we still experienced breath-taking views, and could claim the satisfaction of being within eyesight of the peaks. After descending, we visited Thomson's falls which, although not quite as impressive as Mount Kenya, was still a spectacular place to visit.

By this point our stay in Kenya was approaching its end, but was beginning to get more relaxing. We spent a day at Lake Naivasha, going on a boat ride to see hippos. At one point we were only a couple of metres away from one!

The following morning we returned to Nairobi, staying at a boarding school. Our final day was spent at a giraffe centre, at which we all kissed Eddie. Later that night we bid farewell to Kenya, returning home to our families in England.



Personal Development Day 1 - October 2016

On Friday 14th October we held our first Personal Development Day for this academic year at Ash Manor School. Each year group were given the opportunity to take part in a variety of workshops, activities and lessons throughout the day. These were based around themes from our PSHE and Citizenship curriculums.

For our Year 7's, Miss Maddison organised a fantastic team building trip for all students at 'Runways End Outdoor Education Centre' in Aldershot. This was a brilliant day for Year 7 to get active outside and work together to build relationships with their peers and tutors whilst taking on a range of physical and team-building challenges. Some students showed a good head for heights with the high ropes, climbing walls and Jacobs's ladder. There was also a caving experience put on for some groups to develop their skills at working together in manoeuvring themselves through an eerie underground network of caves. Archery, problem solving, orienteering and multi-sports were also on offer for students to have a go at during the day. Thankfully the weather was good and the rain held off, although there was some splashing around with the rafting and canoeing teams on the water. A big thank you to all the tutors and teachers who supported this experience for Year 7 and got involved in the activities throughout the day. A special mention to Miss Fletcher and Miss O'Connor who ended up IN the canal with some of the students!

Back at Ash Manor, Year 8 were focusing on diversity and culture led by Miss Moore. This saw them rotating around different sessions looking at various cultures from around the world and the interactions between them. Extreme cultures and clashing cultures were investigated and lots of discussion based activities encouraged the students to develop a broader understanding of culture and diversity in the UK and the wider world.

CSI was the theme for our Year 9's who were trying to solve the mystery of who had murdered Miss Bailey! Miss Fairhurst set out the crime scene to the whole of year 9 in the morning and students then spent the day working through their lists of suspects. Finger print analysis, urine and blood sampling and testing of metal wires found at the crime scene were just some of the investigations used to home in on the perpetrator. The day also saw year 9 learning more about the UK's judicial system and the role of the police and courts in criminal investigations. After a day of accusations and suspicion, all evidence pointed towards Mr Wilder who has since admitted to his crime! Thanks go to team science and all staff and suspects who worked to make this a great experience for Year 9.

Year 10 financial awareness day with Mrs Ford saw year 10 students rotating around sessions focusing on finance in the wider world. Tax, interpreting pay slips and budgeting all played a part in the day as well as students having the opportunity to start writing their own curriculum vitae. There was also a chance for students to learn about these topics through playing some financial games with the maths team.

Finally, for our year 11's the theme was sexual health and relationship education which was organised by Miss Coe. This is an essential topic for students to learn about in the safe setting of the classroom. The workshops were based around consent, contraception and sexual health. Thank you to all the staff who worked with and supported Year 11.

Our next Personal Development Day for students will be held this half term which will feature in our next newsletter.

Alice Raeburn Head of Geography



Ash Manor goes to Maestros!

On Monday 17th October, the Year 10 GCSE Music class visited Berkshire Maestros in Reading for an exciting day of workshops and performances. The aim of the day was to explore music from the Baroque period and music from video games, both of which are integral parts of their course.

The students witnessed a performance by a superb Baroque orchestra, featuring solo trumpet and solo flute. In complete contrast, the Maestros teachers also performed an incredible version of the Super Mario Theme on guitar, bass and drums!

Throughout the day, the students participated in workshops with other schools, composing music for a video game scene first (some were better than the original!) and then composing a large group composition from scratch. The students learnt many new compositional techniques throughout the workshops, which will benefit them hugely in their GCSE coursework.

The long day was topped off with pizzas which gave the students an opportunity to continue their animated discussions about the variety of music that they had experienced.



Make sure you look out for information about an exciting new projects the school will be running with Berkshire Maestros...

*Mr Coventry
Head of Music*

Halloween Haunted 'House' Pumpkin Carving



October saw the Art department hosting their traditional pumpkin carving competition. Added spice was put into it this year as Galileo, Sparta, Venture and Phoenix battled it out to see who could come up with the most creative and spooky Jack O' Lantern.

It was great to see so many staff and students get involved and the newly revamped art rooms offered the perfect venue. The judging was hard and Miss Hall after much deliberation decided that the winners were:



1st Max Quinnell (Phoenix)

2nd Niamh Pearson (Phoenix)

3rd Roxy Phillips (Galileo)

4th Carl Redman (Sparta)

A massive thank you to Mrs O'Connor and Miss Wilson for all their hard work for running the competition and for putting up with their rooms smelling of raw pumpkin.

*Miss Maddison
Assistant Head of Sparta House*



The Sky's the Limit!

Students from Ash Manor recently took part in the filming of a promotion for Sky's new sport's channel. Sky Sports Mix is a new sports channel with the theme 'Sport for everyone'. This is also the ethos that is central to our superb PE department.



The Ash Manor students were emulating their tennis heroes as they recreated some of the shots and moves of well know sporting stars. The short film was to promote the ATP Tennis Tour which will be televised on Sky Sports Mix.

The students and Head of PE, Mr Wilder spent the afternoon with the team and got a great insight into what goes into making a short film. The students worked with the Sky film crew, studying the tennis stars to work out how to put their moves into action. They then had to work hard when in front of the camera, repeating the same shots several times to get the perfect end result.



Alistair, the director on the day, said, "Everyone who has seen it has been impressed by the performances of the kids." Having worked with the students and Mr Wilder during the day, Alistair went on to say that they were a real credit to the school and truly represented a positive and enthusiastic ethos.

A link to the final advert can be found on the school Facebook and Twitter account.

Mr Wilder Head of PE

ASH MANOR SCHOOL'S ROME AND SORRENTO EPIC ODYSSEY or ITALIAN JOB

Monday

Leaving Ash... Teacher's view: We arrived ridiculously early at school! But I knew Alex would forget his lunch and his mother would have time to go home to collect it for him! Miss Bailey and Mr Milner were there to wave us off and help with last minute details. The coach journey to Heathrow Terminal 5 was the fastest I have ever had, with no traffic problems. On getting to Heathrow, everyone had a food stop before checking in. A group of 44 people checking in and going through passport and baggage control is no mean feat but we managed to scan our boarding cards and only a few people had to be X-rayed when they beeped! We all had lunch at the airport which for the teachers was a very civilised meal at Gordon Ramsey's restaurant organised by Mr Bland- delicious!



Flying and arriving in Rome... Student's view:

We got to Heathrow really early and had plenty of time to exploit the opportunity to shop at Terminal 5. When we finally got on the plane a smooth flight saw us landing in Rome in just under 3 hours. When we arrived it was really humid and warm and our bus was ready a waiting for the next part of our journey.

We stopped at the side of a road after battling through the Rome traffic , as we looked up we could see a grand hotel, it turned out it wasn't ours. Luckily, our hotel was a short walk away which we could do without having to cross any of Rome's busy roads. As we approached, there was a choir singing so we queued for a while, taking in the magical Italian ambience.

After arranging ourselves in the hotel lobby we checked into our assorted rooms. Everybody was told that we had 20 minutes before meeting at the main lobby/courtyard. This was only just enough time for some to ensure that they were ready to compete with the legendary Rome chique.



Rome & Sorrento (Cont.)

For our evening meal we walked to the local restaurant to eat. The food was our first taste of Rome and getting use to "al dente" pasta was certainly an experience. As we all sat and ate our budgeted buffet, we conversed with each other and spoke to people that we may not usually speak to and built the relationships that would make this trip so much fun. As we were finishing our food we spotted a piano; after about 10 minutes of persuading, Ellen accepted her fate and went to play the piano in front of the restaurant. As the music began to flow, the whole restaurant was mesmerised and froze as the music washed over all of us, locals approached and watched as Ellen played the piano passionately. As the song came to an end, she received a huge round of applause. Sam then followed playing his signature tune, "The Final Countdown" and also received a round of applause. Meanwhile, Mr Bland and Miss Moore were filming the whole thing with all of their snazzy camera angles.



TUESDAY

Trevi Fountain, Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St Peter's **A busy morning... Teacher's view:**

Shopping in an Italian supermarket for lunch and snacks was not the adventure I thought it would be. There were Pringles, Pom Bears, Haribos mini baby bells – so most of the food was recognisable. Rohil and Alex bought sushi for lunch – I was impressed! We caught the Metro to the Trevi fountain and played sardines on the way as it was very busy. We had to split the group but Jenson took charge (he had an obvious height advantage and could see where everyone was!) and met the other group at the correct stop. We walked to the spectacular and astonishing Trevi fountain. Pictures were taken by all and wishes made with coins thrown in. The sun magically appeared, lighting up the beautiful white marble. According to Phoebe the ideal situation to be in after a stressful time on the Metro! If only London commuters had one too!



After lunch of proper Italian paninis, pizza and gluten free pasta we met our guide for the Vatican. Here it was busy as well but awe inspiring – Michael Angelo's first ever commission was the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Miss Wilson and Miss Madison would have given him an A*** or Grade 9 for his work. My favourite painting is the one of God touching Adam's hand, creating human life, what a beautiful image to have thought up.

Sistine Chapel Student's view: **Vatican**

We walked through the underground crypt where all the previous popes are buried to get to St Peter's Basilica. The paintings, marble and sheer size of the cathedral were incredible.



Rome & Sorrento (Cont.)

WEDNESDAY

Colosseum, Forum, Palatine Hill and Time Elevator

Teachers view:

We had a lie in! After the kilometres walked the day before a later start was planned for the Colosseum, Forum and Palatine Hill visit to enable us all to be daisy fresh for our guide Richard's tour. Then it rained. We spent several hours wandering the ancient ruins with Richard who told us stories about the Caesars from Augustus, the founder of the Roman Empire through to Constantine and Titus.



THURSDAY Rome to Sorrento:

Solfatara in the rain... Student's view:

The weather was definitely against the Geography department! Miss Griffiths' big moment had come and being a Geography Geek she was enthusiastically revving up to explain volcanoes, fumaroles and mud pools when the heavens opened! The sulphur smell was astonishing as we got nearer and saw the steam rising from the warm ground and rocks around.



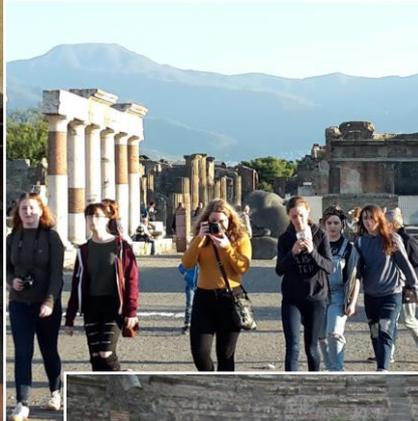
FRIDAY

High winds and tornados at Vesuvius... Teacher's view:

Another Geography fail, poor Miss Griffiths! After a snaking journey up the side of the volcano on twisty, narrow roads we reached the top only to find Vesuvius had been closed for the day! It turned out to be a blessing in disguise as all had wanted time to visit Herculaneum and this was now possible. An incredible place... I will let the photos tell its story.



Rome & Sorrento (Cont.)



Thank you to all students, parents, teachers and AMS administration staff who were involved in making this trip possible.

Written by Alice Lofting, Nicola Younger and Miss Moore
Photos Mr Bland and Miss Moore