

Year 4 Residential Trip to Castleton

In March the majority of Year 4 pupils set off for Castleton in Derbyshire, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Parker, Mr Currie and Miss Tye, and stayed at the Youth Hostel in Castleton village for three nights.

During our visit we climbed the massive Mam Tor and had a guided walk on its lower slopes, on which we learnt about the three main rock types in the area and important geographic features. We ventured deep into Treak Cliff Cavern where we were able to polish a piece of the beautiful local Blue John stone. We also trekked up to Peveril Castle in the pouring rain, managing to seek shelter in the gift shop on the way down!

The children explored the village and tackled the quiz in the tourist information centre, learning more about the surrounding area. On our return journey we dambled all over the fantastic adventure playground at Chatsworth House, as well as going on a tractor ride round part of the grounds and looking at their farm area. During the stay at the YHA we also designed, built and tested water pressure powered rockets, tried our hands at archery, took part in gem panning and team games, as well as completing activity books every evening. We even made our own beds!

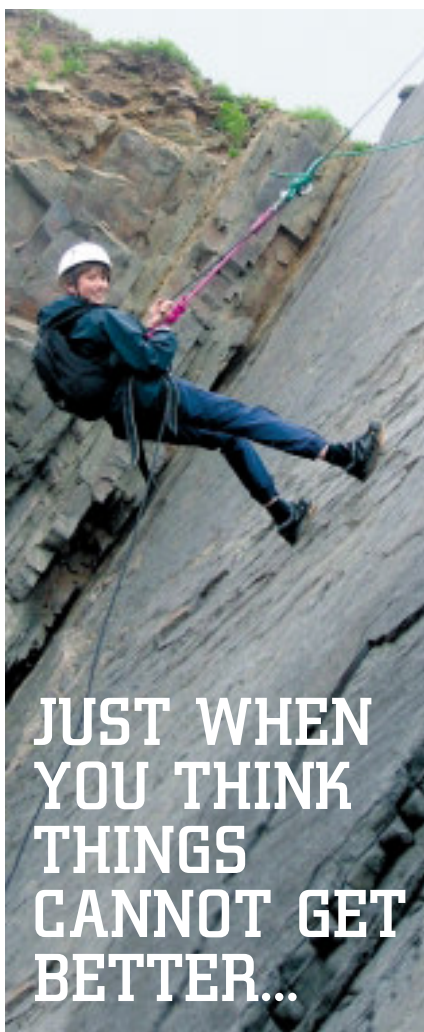
It was an excellent trip from which we all returned exhausted, and slightly damp, but with a real sense of achievement.

Mr Chris Parker

BELOW: 'EXHAUSTED AND SLIGHTLY DAMP!'



Skern Lodge 2006



Just when you think that things cannot get better something happens to change your view and this year's trip to Skern Lodge was one such occasion.

All of Year Eight plus Mrs Norton, Mr Sampson, Mr Cullum and our two Gappies, Miss Robinson and Miss Glasson travelled to North Devon on Sunday 11th June and by 7pm on the first evening were all jumping off a bridge above the River Torridge! This set the tone for the whole week which showed the true colours of all the students (and staff) as they approached all the challenges placed before them with enthusiasm and determination.

By the time we returned on Friday evening everyone agreed that it was a fabulous week and that next year's Year eight have a lot to live up to.

The French Trip

In the Autumn half term holiday Year 7 and 8 pupils travelled to the Chateau de la Baudonnière in Normandy for a week-long French field trip.

All the instructors and teachers work in French and so the children learn to develop their language skills in new and exciting contexts. Every session was packed full of exciting activities and events, including bread-making, archery, fencing, orienteering, canoeing, the 'muddy' assault course, initiative exercises, wall-climbing, fancy dress parade and even a talent show! The Château staff are French, as is the food: croissants, croque monsieurs, boeuf bourguignon, escargots, choux à la crème, and tarte aux poires normande - everyone was brave enough to sample les escargots.

A trip to Dinan market gave the experience of a French market and the Mont St Michel - the historic abbey, while others chose to stroll in the narrow twisting streets. After a stop at the local 'hypermarché', the group changed into French Fancy Dress. We had a fantastic selection of French chefs, famous artists, fashion designers and French poodles. Many thanks to the parents for all their hard work! After these trips, pupils' fluency and confidence in French greatly improves - they experience the real meaning of a language, communicating in real circumstances.

Mme Claire Goodin

