

Connect

ISSUE 95

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AND MUCH MORE.....



SUMATRA 2017

Sumatra

The Sumatra expedition was a fantastic experience for all who went on it. Over ten days in Sumatra we visited 5 different places to learn about the Sumatran Orangutan, Sumatran Elephant and rainforest restoration as well as the diverse and very different culture. The trip was organised by VentureForce who work closely with SOCP (the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Project).

Medan:

One of the first places we visited was Medan. The city is sprawling and about the same size as London but with almost twice the number of people living in it. During our time in the city we visited different places including the Grand Mosque of Sumatra and some of the many food districts.

Bukit Lawang:

We travelled to Bukit Lawang, a small town on the edge of the rainforest and national park. Here, we stayed in the EcoLodge that has been built completely from materials grown in the local area, including a large two story building made out of bamboo in the traditional Batak style. Whilst here, some local guides took us into the jungle to see some orangutans, this involved lots of trekking and climbing muddy slopes to get to the right locations. At the end of a six hour trek to see the Orangutans we climbed onto some rubber tubes and rafted back to the EcoLodge. The Orangutans were definitely the highlight of this place, we also enjoyed visiting local bat caves and learned about some of the sustainable farming the area is trying to encourage.

Tangkahan:

In Tangkahan the locals have dedicated their time and efforts into rehabilitating and looking after Sumatran Elephants. There are 18 of these magnificent animals in the area and we had the amazing opportunity to meet many of them including some babies. Every day the elephants come to the same spot at the same time to be bathed and scrubbed down by people and fed some fruit. The elephants clearly enjoyed the attention and it was an unforgettable experience to be so close to these animals.

Sikunda:

Sikunda is a low lying area of rainforest north of Bukit Lawang and Tangkahan. Here there is a remote scientific research station that has been set up in the past two years to study many different animals and plants in the rainforest. This place is so remote we had to travel on the bus over dirt tracks for many hours and then climb into canoes for a

further hour to get to where we were staying. Whilst here we trekked to see some truly wild Orangutans- the animals here almost never see people at all and so we had to be very quiet otherwise they would have left the area well before we could see them.

Halaban:

The restoration site situated in Halaban was the most eye opening of all the places we visited. We stayed in one of the nine restoration sites that have been set up with the primary goal to restore palm oil plantation back to primary rainforest- a feat many thought was impossible until now. We learned about the impact the palm oil plantation has had on deforestation and more recently the soil. The intense plantation dries up the soil and leaches all nutrients from it so that virtually nothing can grow on it. We visited a variety of sites where the restoration was at different stages and assisted in collecting saplings from primary rainforest and planting these in new areas to help restore the area. With hard learned lessons at the site and many years of experience they can now fully restore back to primary rainforest from palm oil plantation in under ten years. While we were there we saw tracks for elephants, tigers and many other animals.

The expedition was a great success and an unforgettable experience.





CONSTRUCTION SITE VISIT

The trip began with an induction to explain the hazards on a construction site and what to do in an emergency. Then we put on our hard hats and high visibility vests and we went into the apartment block that they were building.

They showed us what the rooms look like before they are occupied and then we climbed up the scaffolding and we got a view from the top of the apartment block and saw them building up the walls. We were told about all the equipment they used like the cranes and trucks etc.

We were shown some of the different jobs that people had to do on a construction site like electrics and scaffolding. It was a fun trip because we were able to see people actually working on a building site in real life and we saw how many people were needed to do different jobs.

Brodie Neal, 11C

SCIENCE COMPETITION

ON THE ROAD TO DRIVERLESS CARS.

YEAR 10 AND 11 ESSAY COMPETITION:

Driverless cars are being developed and tested and could soon make an appearance on our roads. Is this a good development? DISCUSS:

- The current status of driverless cars
- The potential impact on road safety
- Whether you are for or against their introduction
- What evidence is there to support your viewpoint?

Essays should be 1000 words maximum and will be judged by a panel of expert engineers in the local area. For more information about entering, please contact Mr Kerley. Closing date for entries is the 8th of December 2017.



LION KING THE MUSICAL

On Wednesday 1 November, 38 music students from Catmose College and Harington School travelled to London to watch a performance of The Lion King at The Lyceum Theatre. After some free time exploring the Covent Garden markets, half of the group walked to the Pineapple Dance Studios whilst the other half went to Pizza Hut for lunch. The studio group took part in a movement and voice workshop with a cast member of The Lion King, who played a number of different animals in the afternoon performance. The students learnt one of the songs from the show, put together a dance routine, and had the opportunity to ask questions about what it is like to work in the theatre industry. The two groups then swapped over, with the second workshop being led by an ex cast member from the show. After an exciting morning, the students then watched

the afternoon performance of The Lion King and were lucky enough to see ex-Catmose student, Nathan Louis-Fernand, performing in the show. The trip was an excellent opportunity for our music students, and we would like to especially thank the two actors who led the workshops.



GERMAN EXCHANGE

During the German exchange of 2017, we got to do many things we don't have the opportunity to do in England, not only with trips and visiting Historic landmarks but also with learning and embracing German culture and language. A few of the things we were able to do during the week included, travelling to Heidelberg and visiting enormously impressive castles and tasting a 'Snowball' which was particularly special to Heidelberg itself, travelling to Ludwigsburg to cook traditional Swabian food called 'Maultaschen'. The story of Maultaschen goes that a monk received a large piece of meat during Lent. To prepare a meal that was supposed to be meat-free, the monk chopped the meat up finely then mixed it with spinach and herbs. He then hid the filling in small pieces of pasta dough so god wouldn't know. As well as learning Swabian history in Ludwigsburg, we also got the chance to look around shops and buy what we pleased which was a nice break from the historic bombardment. However, on top of doing all these trips we got the chance to experience our exchange partners way of school life and the length of their school day and how lucky they are to not wear school uniform! It was extremely interesting to listen to day to day conversation and naturally we all picked up words and parts of vocabulary we wouldn't have already known. During the

weekend our partners organised what we would do, for some that meant going to football training and tennis practice and for others we got to meet up and go to a theme park! All outcomes were successful and very fun. By the time the following Wednesday came it felt like we had a new family and countless amounts of tears were shed as we left our new founded best friends and families. Overall the experience was one like nothing else and we had a great time.



ALYSSA FRENCH CAKE COMP

Congratulations to Alyssa French 7A on winning Gold at the Cake International awards in Birmingham recently.

Alyssa said: 'I enjoy the opportunity to show off my skills every year at Cake International and can't wait to go back every year to gain more awards and meet like-minded people.

I am incredibly proud of myself for winning gold and shocked I came first! It's really difficult to get awarded and I'm so happy I got the absolute best score I could have received.

I want to keep improving and challenging myself in different categories in the future.'



LEICESTER CITY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Jack Butterfill 9S who has recently been signed by Leicester City on a 2 year deal. He has made an excellent start scoring several goals in his first matches for the club. Congratulations Jack, we cant wait to hear all about your successes.



CAMBRIDGE TRIP

On arrival, we were greeted by the wonderful entrance to St Catherine's College, which was a beautiful sight. The day started with a talk from Jessy in which she spoke about Cambridge and Oxford, what they offered, why it's unique and what we can start doing now to benefit our applications in the future. She also took us through some advice for A levels, as to which will be regarded highly by the college and how the application process works for Cambridge, which was extremely informative.

We then went on a guided tour with a medical student who took us all around the college, talking about its unique features and how it is tailored to suit the very best independent learning that it can. We had a walk though some of their libraries, in which we saw lots of students studying and we were amazed at the environment – especially in the second library which maintains its original build, layout and traditional storage and furniture. This was really impressive and gave us an insight into the history of the campus. Later in the day, we had a guided tour around on one their museums which focused on the History of Science, in particular the history of microscopy. We also got to use some extremely old

microscopes in a workshop that focused on the science behind the construction and use of a microscope and how different microscopes were built for different eras in science. Overall, the day was a wonderful experience and I, on behalf of all students that attended, would like to thank everyone at St Catherine's College for such an informative and interesting day and a thanks to all students and staff that attended.



NETBALL SCHOOL GAMES LEAGUE

We have had excellent success this year with Year 7, 10 and 11 girls all finishing top of the league, and not losing a match.

All teams will now progress to the next round and we wish them success which I am sure will be justly deserved.

Year 9 girls played extremely well and only lost against a strong Uppingham team. They have been entered into the County Tournament at Leicestershire Grammar School which is coming up soon.

Year 8 had a better season than last year winning most of their matches and showed that they had made progress from the previous year. More work on tactical play and more aggressive marking will, I am sure, result in greater success next year.

Well done everyone on a successful start and ensuring that we are top of the Varsity League after Term 1 with everything to play for going forward.



OUR YEAR 11 NETBALL STARS

UPCOMING TRIPS

YEARS 9 - 10 LONDON THEATRE WEEKEND, 24 - 26 NOVEMBER 2017

YEARS 7 - 9 MANCHESTER SPORT WEEKEND, 24 - 26 NOVEMBER 2017

YEARS 10 - 12 CANADA SKI TRIP, 14 - 21 DECEMBER 2017

YEARS 10 & 11 SCROOGE THE MUSICAL, 3 JANUARY 2018

YEARS 10 & 11 A CHRISTMAS CAROL, 17 JANUARY 2018

YEAR 7 ALADDIN THE MUSICAL, 18 & 25 JANUARY 2018

YEAR 11 OLD OPERATING THEATRE, 23 JANUARY 2018

YEARS 8 - 10 SPAIN SKI TRIP, 10 - 17 FEBRUARY 2018

YEARS 10 & 11 ICELAND PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP, 21 - 25 FEBRUARY 2018

YEAR 9 SOMME BATTLEFIELDS TRIP, 15 - 17 MARCH 2018

YEAR 10 VIENNA ART TRIP, 9 - 12 MAY 2018

YEARS 9 & 10 SUMATRA EXPEDITION, 30 MARCH - 9 APRIL 2018

YEARS 8 - 11 PERFORMING ARTS TOUR, AMSTERDAM, 4 - 8 JULY 2018

YEARS 8 - 10 NEPAL EXPEDITION, OCTOBER 2018

More information can be found on our website at www.catmosecollege.com/tripplanner



FUTURECHEF 2018

Monday 30 October once again saw Catmose play host to the school stages of the Future Chef 2018 competition. The event is a fantastic opportunity for all students across the College to express their passion for cooking in a competitive environment.

Nine students took part this year, each chopping, frying and baking their way to a chance to represent the College in the 2018 national Future Chef finals.

The challenge this year was to prepare, cook and present a hot main course for two people with a budget of £5 in under an hour.

We were delighted to be able to welcome back Kevin Speirs to join us as a judge for the competition. All students performed outstandingly well on the day and were true ambassadors for the College.

After a phenomenally close fought competition, there could only be one winner, which this year went to William McCabe of Year 8. William made a delightful 'Summer in Winter' Chicken. The 2nd place accolade was awarded by the judges to Thomas Cox, a student in Year 10 who made a tasty Chinese chicken tray bake.

On November 14 William and Thomas travelled to Loughborough College where they took part in the next round of the competition. The challenge they faced here was to prepare, cook and present a main course and dessert within a budget of £7.

Both cooked fantastically and were a credit to the College. Congratulations to Will who won 2nd place in the competition.



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2019

Rutland County Council is now consulting on its proposed Admission Arrangements 2019 and Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2019-2020. The authority is required to consult with parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen. Full details, including the background to the consultation, the proposed documents and ways that you can submit your comments/feedback are available on the 'Admission Arrangements' page of their website at www.rutland.gov.uk/admissions

Both documents are a legal requirement as described in the Government's School Admissions Code. The Code states that an admission authority must consult on their admission arrangements when changes are proposed or, where there is no change, consultation must take place at least once every 7 years.

CROSS COUNTRY

This year we travelled again to Crowland to enter the ESAA English Schools Cross Country Cup and although we did not progress to the next round we had some pleasing performances. The Inter boys are a young team and have another year in this age group. We were missing a couple of strong runners but excellent performances came from Marcus Francis who finished 7th, Spencer Hex 21st and Harry Window 26th. In the Junior boys team Oliver Wright had an excellent run coming 4th in a very competitive field of runners. Finlay Brown crossed the line in 17th position and the rest of the team came under 50th place. In the girls races Georgia Gilbert and Bay Mitchell had the best finishing positions of 11th and 15th respectively. In the Leicestershire and Rutland League the Junior boys are currently in 3rd position and, although first may be out of our reach, our aim is to finish at least 2nd this year. Harry Window, Jack Welch, Sam Lowings, William Way and Archie Adams have all shown commitment to representing the College on a Saturday and I hope that they will be proud of their performances at the end of the season. In the other age groups Charlie Hex has finished 31st, Isaac Bassendine Matthews 43rd, Elliot Wright 42nd and Tom McEnergy 59th.