

Connect

ISSUE 100

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM TRIP FOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

YEAR 7 ART TRIP TO BURGHLEY HOUSE

SPORTING SUCCESSES

AND MUCH MORE.....



THE PLAY THAT WENT WRONG

The Play the Went Wrong Theatre Trip, as reviewed by Taiya Caffrey-Hall, Year 10.

On Thursday 6 September, 45 students from Years 8-11 travelled to Leicester for an evening of laughter watching 'The Play That Goes Wrong' at the Curve Theatre!

The play definitely didn't fail to disappoint, especially for Miss Hollick who was laughing out loud the whole way through! The show was incredible and as we watched the play fall apart in front of us, we couldn't help but laugh even more. The actors had such high energy and kept such a quick pace throughout the whole show. It was a very enjoyable experience for everyone who attended.

I speak on behalf of all the students, in saying a big thank you to Mrs Mitchell, Miss Hollick, Mr Donnelly and Mrs Myciuk for taking us all on such a brilliant trip!



NETBALL SUCCESS FOR SPORTY SISTERS

Lauren and Louise, (aged 11 and 14) are taking the netball scene by storm. Both girls have recently been accepted into the Leicestershire County Academy Under 15 team (Louise) and Under 13 team (Lauren) and will also be playing in the regional league this season.

Last weekend the sisters trialed for the Loughborough Lightning Training Academy and Louise has made it onto the Under 17 team which is an incredible accomplishment for her age. Lauren is awaiting the result of her trial for the Under 15 team.

We can't wait to see what the next season brings for these superstar sisters.



MUSIC MARK AWARD

Catmose College has been awarded the Music Mark award in recognition of a commitment to providing high quality music education for all children and young people.

Our Music team work incredibly hard offering our students opportunities to develop their musical skills further through an extensive programme of extra curricular activities.

We have a number of concerts planned for this academic year including the annual Christmas concert at All Saints Church in Oakham on Wednesday 19 December.



LAMDA EXAM PREVIEW EVENING

You are warmly invited to come and watch students perform in the College theatre to see what they have been learning in their LAMDA lessons. We are holding a preview of students' work on Monday 29 October from 5pm until approximately 7pm.

This is an informal preview which gives the students an opportunity to showcase their work. This helps them to work through their nerves and prepares them for the much easier task the following week when they will have an audience of only one.

The evening will be fun, supportive and will send the students home with a real sense of achievement. I have no doubt that their performance on the exam day will benefit as a result of taking part.

It will also provide an opportunity for Paula Matthews, LAMDA teacher, to answer any questions you may have about the exams or LAMDA in general.

If you would like to attend, please email lmitchell@catmosecollege.com to confirm.

BURGHLEY HOUSE ART TRIP

On Thursday 27 September, the Art department took over 100 Year 7 students to Burghley House, Stamford.

The students experienced a day full of exciting activities including a guided tour of Burghley House where they learned about how people lived in the Tudor times. We walked through the house, including the Tudor kitchen, and witnessed the beautiful Heaven and Hell rooms which had impressive painted ceilings.

Students then took a walking tour through the sculpture garden and had the opportunity to pick their favourite

work of art to sketch. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of impressive sculptures to choose from.

After exploring the grounds, students participated in a workshop with the resident artist, where they used different coloured wire to create their own dragonflies and butterflies. Some of the work produced was incredible.



FOOTBALL TEAMS

The year 9 football team have made an excellent start to the season. They played their first game against UCC and won 4-2 with Harry scoring and Josh scoring a hat trick. The other teams have also started the season well and we hope to lift the Varisty cup for the 5th year in a row!



UPCOMING TRIPS

- YEAR 7** OAKHAM CASTLE HISTORY TRIP, 8 & 9 OCTOBER 2018
- YEAR 10** GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP, HUNSTANTON, 9 OCTOBER 2018
- YEAR 7** WW1 COMMEMORATION SERVICE, OAKHAM CHURCH 10 OCTOBER 2018
- YEAR 11** WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK HISTORY TRIP, 15 - 21 OCTOBER 2018
- YEARS 9-10** NEPAL EXPEDITION, OCTOBER 2018
- YEAR 7** JOHN CLARE HOUSE, ENGLISH TRIP, 1 & 8 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEAR 11** NOTTINGHAM SYNAGOGUE TRIP, 6 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEAR 7** JOHN CLARE HOUSE, HISTORY TRIP, 1 & 8 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEARS 10 & 11** LEICESTER TIGERS SPORT TRIP, 9 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEAR 11** MACBETH THEATRE TRIP, 14 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEARS 9 & 10** LONDON THEATRE TRIP, 15 - 17 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEARS 9 & 10** CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TRIP, 15 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEARS 8 - 11** CATMOSE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, 28 NOVEMBER 2018
- YEAR 9** BATTLEFIELDS HISTORY TRIP, 21 - 23 MARCH 2019
- YEAR 10** ROME ART TRIP, MAY 2019



More information can be found on our website at www.catmosecollege.com/trips-visits

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM TRIP

The Natural History Museum is the fourth most visited museum in the United Kingdom. It contains the most widely revered natural specimens in the country, including insightful studies into species that fell into extinction and intricate extracts from scientific journals; which help us understand the natural progression of the world and how we can contribute to its health and prosperity.

It was a wonderful experience visiting the Natural History Museum for our scholarship projects. As soon as we arrived, it was evident that, not only due to being situated in the busy heart of London, that the museum would be brimming with life; most importantly, the relics of life that science has preserved throughout the history of our natural world. Huge glass pillars, almost glowing with the vibrant studies of butterflies and ancestor insects, made us realise the importance of understanding the world around us and appreciating its seemingly immeasurable beauty.

The museum captivated all of our interests immediately. In our first workshop, the scientists among us were spellbound by the prospect of being able to hold and research rare specimens, allowing them to create their own detailed analysis of animals and species that no longer exist in the modern world. It seemed fascinating to be able to question the origin of the specimens and required developed critical thinking to come to supported conclusions; which led to many evaluative debates within the group.

Furthermore, in our second workshop, we focused on the foundations of the museum itself: the scientists that made the conclusions possible. We entered into a critical debate, weighing up the theories of two highly regarded – and also greatly contrasting – scientists who developed ideas explaining the development of the animal kingdom and humankind. Throughout these discussions, we discovered how difficult it would have been for Charles Darwin to present his scientific concepts in a country governed by religion and the existence of a divine creator. The theory of natural selection was disapproved of by his devout Christian adversaries, such as Sir Richard Owen, who believed evolution to be

dictated by God. This contrast allowed us to think evaluatively and express our opinions with confidence in the face of disagreement, due to having the evidence to support our ideas.

Later, we were allowed to explore the museum and take notes of the exhibits that inspired our interests. The art scholars, already enamoured by the stunning complexity of the architecture existing in the structure of the museum itself, were enchanted by the vivid colours in the oils used to paint scientific case studies and create a sense of realism for the viewer; from times where evidence was key to proving scientific concepts. It was boundlessly inspiring to have time to study the exhibits independently, as everyone was very enthusiastic to take notes from their experience to contribute to their scholarship studies.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

During the past couple of months our DofE staff have been extremely busy organising and supporting expeditions at Gold, Silver and Bronze level. The Gold Award students travelled to the Brecon Beacons for their practice expedition, while the Silver Award students travelled to the Peak District for their qualifying expedition, and the Bronze Award students travelled to the Charnwood Forest area for their qualifying expedition.

Gold Award

The Gold teams travelled to Wales, more specifically, the Black Mountains area around Abergavenny in the Brecon Beacons during 14 – 19 July. On arrival at base camp they settled in and on day two, teams carried out a day's training before embarking on their expedition of four days and three nights. The Brecon Beacon area provides a superb venue for a Gold practice expedition allowing students to feel the real remoteness and unfamiliar environment of the wild countryside. On day one of the expedition the teams were supervised closely, so that any problems could be ironed out.

Over the four days the supervision became more remote and by the last day they were travelling independently with very little direct guidance. Teams will typically travel a total distance of around 50-60 miles during the expedition, carrying out at least 8 hours of planned activity each day and there were some sore feet! Expectations are very high at this level and our students did extremely well, sharing experiences in the outdoor environment, developing initiative, teamwork, communication, leadership, problem solving and organisational skills. Our Gold teams will now prepare for their qualifying expedition in the Cambrian Mountains area of Mid Wales, which will be taking place over the October term break. We wish them every success.

Silver Award

The Silver teams travelled to the White Peaks in the Peak District over the 14 – 16 September for their qualifying expedition. This challenging environment made a perfect location for a silver expedition, teams were lucky to have some fine weather, although a few hours of cold, windy sheet rain made walking and navigating a challenge in itself. Teams all reached their first camp location successfully, set up their tents and prepared some outstanding evening meals on their Trangias. Teams are given the freedom to plan their own routes between a fixed start and finish point and as with all DofE expeditions they were totally self-sufficient and carried all the kit and equipment they needed for their 3 days and 2 nights.

All the teams performed very well, travelling distances of around 30- 40 miles in total with at least 7 hours of planned activity each day. The students should be proud of what they have achieved. Teams will now prepare their expedition presentations which will be delivered to their DofE peer groups, leaders and assessors. During their DofE journey over the last 12 months, students have shown so many of their hidden talents and have gained copious practical skills and new experiences.

Building self-esteem and friendships were considered by our students to be some of the main benefits of doing a DofE programme. It has also given them a spirit of adventure and the desire to seek out and engage with new and different activities.

Bronze Award

During the 1 – 2 & 8 – 9 September it was time for our two Bronze groups, each consisting of 6 teams, to embark on their qualifying expeditions. By the look of some of the students in the car park on the first morning, I think getting out of bed that early after six relaxing weeks over the summer break was a challenge in itself, however they soon started to wake up. Teams travelled to their starting locations of the Charnwood forest areas around Bradgate Park, Swithland Wood, Newtown Linford and Beaumanor and all were eager to start their expeditions. Teams successfully navigated their way to their finish location of Beaumanor Hall, travelling total distances of around 20 miles for a duration of at least 6 hours per day.

On day two teams were cooking breakfast and striking camp at 6am, eager to start their routes and complete their expedition. The weather for both qualifying expeditions was fantastic, all check points were met and the teams navigated along their planned routes to complete with no issues at all. Assessors debriefed the teams and congratulated them on their leadership, motivation, confidence, team spirit, hard work and success over the weekends.

Very well done to all of our Award groups who took part in expeditions over this period and congratulations to those teams and individuals that have now qualified and completed the Award. Thank you to all the DofE staff who have given up their time and weekends to support all of the training and expeditions, in order to inspire, guide and support our students in their self-development and recognise their achievements.

Simon Mellors

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme Lead



RICHARD III AND BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Monday 24 September 2018 saw 120, Year 8 English students travel to Leicester and Bosworth Battlefield to learn more about the context behind Shakespeare's play Richard III and the propaganda he used to portray Richard as the villain.

Two coaches departed early from Catmose, each containing 60 students. Coach one headed for the Richard III centre, whilst coach two made its way to Bosworth Battlefield. The Richard III visitors' centre were incredibly welcoming, allowing students to make their way – supervised by members of Catmose staff – around their museum. The students enjoyed this element of freedom and engaged fully in both the historical section and the more modern element, which explained how Richard's body was discovered and identified. Students especially enjoyed the interactive displays, whereupon they discovered how scientist were able to match Richard's DNA to modern relations and how they were able to recreate his features, which were remarkably similar to many of the earlier images of this hotly debated monarch. The students were remarkable – so much so that two retired teachers visiting the centre commended them on their behaviour.

With an idea of who Richard was and how he was identified, students then made their way across to the Cathedral to see Richard's grave. This part of the tour was self-guided, so the members of staff supporting each group read from the information packs given to them by the Cathedral volunteers to inform them about how Richard was buried and explanations of his chosen sigil – a boar – which came from the Latin name for York which was 'Eboracum', as well as the fact that the stone chosen for his monument was mined and transported in Yorkshire – an ode to his position in The House of York. The students conducted themselves with quiet respect and displayed

real interest.

After lunch, Coach one headed to Bosworth Battlefield, whilst coach two went to Leicester to the Richard III visitors' centre. The students said that they enjoyed Bosworth Battlefield the most. With its range of activities; including a soldier re-enacting the dress, weapons and high-volume drill voice of a soldier of the time, a walk around the area in which Richard set his camp, with impressive views of the battlefield and historically significant places, and a self-led visit to their small museum, in which the students could dress up in chain-mail, helmets and costumes of the time, as well test themselves against a machine depicting the tension of a long bow, it was definitely worth the trip. Having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, the coaches returned with the newly-educated students all professing that it was worth going and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Hopefully now, not only will they better understand the background surrounding the play and realise how much of Shakespeare's content was nothing more than propaganda, but they have a better idea of appreciating both sides of an academic discussion when researching it.



SHAKESPEARE SCHOOL'S FESTIVAL

Thirty one students from Years 8, 9 and 10 visited the Curve Theatre this week as part of the Shakespeare School's Festival. Members of the SSF team led workshops on physical and vocal performance, and students developed two scenes from *The Tempest*. The staff were very impressed with the students' energy and focus, well done to all!

The students will continue rehearsing their 30 minute version of *The Tempest* during elective time, as well as after school rehearsals.

The cast will perform *The Tempest* at the Curve Theatre, Leicester on Wednesday 28 November at 7pm. The students will then perform for Catmose Primary in December, with a final performance at Catmose Theatre in January 2019, more details on this to follow. Tickets are available from <https://www.curveonline.co.uk/whats-on/shows/shakespeare-schools-festival-2/>



NETBALL SEASON HAS STARTED WELL

It was a great start to the season for Catmose Netballers. In their most recent match against Belvoir at home and the teams won 4 out of 5 games. The girls played some great Netball and worked well as a team. Watch out for scores next week against John Fernley.



SISTER ACT CAST REVEALED

We are excited to announce the cast of our upcoming musical Sister Act.

Students from Catmose College will be playing a number of lead roles in this collaboration with Harington School, they are Florence, George, Archie, Hannah, Henrietta, Katie, Naomi, Ruby, Rosie and Phoebe.

Rehearsals will get under way in the new year with 5 show stopping performances planned for late June. Look out for how to book your tickets closer to the date.

