



NEWSLETTER October 2015



Welcome from James Tickle, Principal

Welcome from James Tickle, Principal at The Roundhill Academy

A very warm welcome to a new academic year at The Roundhill Academy. We extend a special welcome to the students and families who have joined us in Year 7 and the 98% of students who have chosen to stay with us into Year 10. The term has started incredibly well for this special year group and we wait to see the amazing results they will achieve in the summer of 2017.

As always, the first half term has been incredibly busy; however we have decided to make it even more so this time around. As well as all of our usual activities we have managed to include residential trips to France and Spain for Year 10 students and an outdoor educational residential for Year 7 students. My thanks go to the staff that have spent many hours organising these trips and giving up their own time to attend them.

We held our Open Evening for Year 6 students and again we could not believe the number of families that attended and were desperate for their children to have a place at the school next year. This is again testament to the hard work and effort of all of the staff at the school and the really positive attitudes to learning that our students show.

The rest of this newsletter will show some of the many exciting things we have already achieved this year. As always, please feel free to contact us here at The Roundhill Academy if you have any questions or would like any advice as we are always available to support.



On Tuesday 6th October 2015 23 students from The Roundhill Academy went to watch Canada v Romania in the Rugby World Cup. It was a fantastic evening of rugby with a tight encounter that saw Romania overcome the largest deficit in a World Cup match. All of the students enjoyed themselves and even managed to get onto the local news channel! Big thanks to Mr Lindley and Miss Gladney for supporting the trip.

By Mr Devaney

Bradgate Park Geography Trip

On Tuesday 29th September and Thursday 1st October, the Year 9's went on an educational trip to Bradgate Park with the Geography department. We had been studying the unit of tourism in our lessons and so it was time to put our learning into action. Our task was to prove a hypothesis that tourism either had a positive or negative impact on the park. Through different fieldwork techniques such as questionnaires, traffic counts and field sketches, we found that tourism was actually good for the park; most importantly, they use



car park charges to maintain and improve the park for everyone to enjoy. We are now going to use our findings to write a report. We were lucky with the dry and sunny weather and all had a really good day.

By Stefan Nistor and Ben Morgan, AWI 9WB1

OFF TO THE WOODS!

Monday 28th September 2015 saw 43 intrepid Year 7's head off into the woods for Roundhill's first ever Bushcraft Residential, with The Bushcraft Company. A two hour coach journey to Cornbury Park private estate in Oxfordshire gave the students a final opportunity to disconnect themselves from their social networks before staff collected phones and other electronic devices so students could totally immerse themselves in the woodland experience.

Students took part in fire-lighting, shelter building; camouflage exercises, knife workshops and nature walks, all with the aim of giving them the skills to survive in the wilderness, whilst helping them build relationships with their new friends in the year group. Fire-lighting became quite important as students had to cook their lunches on the fires they made so they had to work together to make sure they got it right!



The Bushcraft Company staff on hand were excellent. Taking care of all activities, catering needs and even sleeping out by the campfire so they could be on hand during the night. They were friendly and knowledgeable and all students benefitted from their enthusiasm.

This was a fantastic experience, one which students won't forget in a hurry – especially those few who indulged in a little bush-tucker trial involving a salmon's eye! Great times!

Year 10 Paris Trip – Student Diary



Monday – Olivia

“To start our journey off, we arrived at school at 5am and we were all so tired but our tiredness subsided after excitement took over! The bus journey was fun with lots of clapping and singing and when we finally arrived at the château we got settled into our rooms and went for dinner which cured our hunger and tiredness. Afterwards, we engaged in an evening activity with the château staff. This was a fun fashion show where we teamed up and created outfits for our ‘models’! To end our day, we went back to our rooms and chilled – ready to face the exciting week ahead of us!”

Tuesday – Natasha



“We had a good start on Tuesday with a fantastic breakfast with a range of hot drinks (for me the hot chocolate was the best), juices, freshly baked croissants, pain au chocolat or just cereal. After this, we visited the Eiffel Tower where we had to walk up 700 steps to get to the second level. We were all tired, however it was totally worth it because as soon as you saw the view you fell in love with Paris – it was amazing! Next, we walked down the Champs-Élysées and saw the Arc de Triomphe which was amazing and very chaotic as it was on a roundabout which had 12 lanes! Afterwards, we ate dinner at the Hard Rock Café with a well-deserved burger which everybody enjoyed after all the walking we had done! To finish the special day off, we went up the Tour Montparnasse and you could see the view of Paris at night. Whilst up on the terrace the Eiffel Tower lit up with sparkly light! It was magical! Paris at night is the most beautiful view you will ever see – the buildings were lit up and you felt like you were in a magical place! After admiring the view we answered questions about places in Paris which was interesting to learn about. We then went back to the château for a good night’s sleep after our busy day!”

Wednesday – Himani

“On Wednesday, we began our day by visiting the famous art museum ‘Musée d’Orsay’. This was incredibly interesting due to the variety of artwork displayed in the rooms. We were allowed to go around by ourselves however, to get more knowledge about the artists, the GCSE Art students went around with Mrs Chapman to gather more information to improve our GCSE work. Throughout the day we also had to complete a booklet full of French challenges as a competition against the other teams of students. In the afternoon, we ventured onto a boat trip down the River Seine, where we got to see various attractions of Paris. We then visited the area of Montmartre where we saw the Sacré Coeur – a large church – with which we grasped some of Paris’ culture. Here we experienced dinner in a typical Paris setting where we were able to speak French to the locals to order our dinner. This experience was amazing and will always be remembered as it was new to all of us! We had crepes and saw our teachers in their multi-coloured berets!”

Thursday – Meesha

“On Thursday, we awoke feeling super excited for our magical day at Disneyland! The journey wasn’t long at all and we went to Disneyland during the Halloween period so we were treated to lots of magical parades. We met many amazing characters; Mickey, Minnie, Olaf, Elsa, Anna the other princesses and famous Disney villains to name a few and then enjoyed a special meal at a restaurant of our choice! The weather was good so we enjoyed a tasty ice cream before going to various gift shops for souvenirs. When we arrived back at the château we got to try tasty snails as well as having the chance to make and enjoy crepes with a topping of our choice. We also participated in a French quiz before relaxing in our rooms!”



Friday – Olivia

“Awaking early, with packed suitcases and hearts full of memories, we went to breakfast and prepared for the journey home. To break up the journey, we stopped off at a French supermarket to buy food and last minute souvenirs. On the journey we listened to our teacher’s French speeches, which their student groups had created for them during their challenges, and before we knew it, the journey home was over. We were home, with beaming smiles on our faces, capturing the unforgettable memories of our week in Paris!”



BARCELONA 2015



What a lovely week we had in sunny Barcelona! The days were spent sightseeing, we enjoyed visiting Gaudi's famous Parc Guell with its lovely mosaic structures and fantastic views of the city and of course we could not visit Barcelona without seeing the magnificent and as yet unfinished Sagrada Familia Basilica. Our students used iPad to discover the history of the church and were astounded to see the stunning light coming through the beautiful stained glass windows inside. The visit to the Nou Camp was a huge hit and many souvenirs were bought for friends and



family. All the staff bought FC Barca lanyards as a memory of the trip! The Pueblo Español showed us Spain in all its architectural glory and the famous 'Las Ramblas' street did not disappoint, we walked from the Christopher Columbus monument at the bottom to Plaza Cataluña at the other end discovering the mime artists, tourist stalls, beautiful fresh flowers and of course the amazing ice creams and waffles. Lots of Spanish was spoken as last minute souvenirs were bought along the way. The atmosphere was vibrant and alive and proved to be a huge contrast to the calm and peaceful marina area with its spectacular yachts, where we started our day. The views from the top of Miramar and Mont Juic Mountain were enjoyed on a number of occasions as we ate our picnic lunch and it was fascinating to see the exact spot where the archer fired his burning arrow into the Olympic cauldron to start the Olympic games of 1992. It was also great fun to chill out at Port Aventura for the day, going on all the rides and Mrs Berridge particularly enjoyed having her photo taken with the 'Cookie Monster!' Our students were amazed that the city of Barcelona is surrounded by mountains and great scenery and could not believe that there was so much architecture, history, sport and shopping to be found in one place.

Our days were full and varied but our evenings were just as interesting, the students enjoyed going in the pool and playing basketball and football to unwind before dinner and the teachers were very impressed at the way our students tried the authentic Spanish food. We enjoyed Tapas and Paella and particularly loved the Churros and hot chocolate we had at breakfast one morning and our surprise trip to the Hard Rock Café went down a treat with everyone!

We were blessed with lovely, warm weather and good company and the week ended on a high with a Salsa dancing lesson in Spanish on our last evening. It was such fun to see everyone laughing raucously doing the 'merengue' and clapping away to 'Mambo number 5'.

Joe Dawson - "It was a beautiful city and I loved seeing the mountains – Leicester looked so boring when I got back!"

Jack Orton – "it was fun!"

Nikisha Tank – "the weather was so nice!"

Chaniya James-Dore – "it was such a good experience and I would love to do it again"

Megan Kew-Moss – "the view from Parc Guell was amazing!"

Felicity Carter – "I just LOVE Barcelona!"