



Westcliff High School for Girls

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World Challenge pupils declared their recent trip to Morocco a success, despite the seven day delay to their flight home caused by volcanic ash clouds.

The 31 girls from Years 9 and 10, flew out to Morocco for their 10 day trip on 6th April. They spent four days trekking in the Atlas Mountains. A further two days was spent painting murals on the walls of a deprived village school in Tamtouche. They also created a football pitch and played a match against the locals - which they lost 4-2. Goals for Westcliff were scored by Mr Vinten and Ms Bushby. The girls also took pens and pencils as a gift for the school.

Laura Brooker, 9A, said: "I particularly enjoyed the trekking because it enabled us to see the scenery. The mountains were spectacular. I also

World Challenge Trip "Successful"



enjoyed experiencing the different cultures."

Nadia Eden, also of 9A said: "Staying with the local people was fascinating. We got to see what they ate, how they lived and what they did in the evenings."

Evening entertainment consisted largely of the locals playing musical instruments. "It was fun to see everyone dancing -

especially the teachers," added Nadia.

Sadly, the trip home was marred by a delay. The party arrived at the airport for their return journey, only to be informed that their flight had been cancelled due to the eruption of the Icelandic volcano.

However, hotel accommodation was quickly organised at a four star

hotel, complete with swimming pool. Mr Vinten said, "The pupils were looked after really well. They really enjoyed the swimming pool - nearly everyone ended up in it fully clothed!"

The cost of the extra seven days was paid for by World Challenge and Royal Air Morocco.

World Challenge is an organisation whose aim is to provide educational expeditions in the developing world which teach life skills and expand minds outside the classroom.

WHSG pupils are offered the opportunity of putting their names forward for the World Challenge in Year 8, giving them a year to raise the funds needed to pay for the trip. The trip to Morocco cost £1,200. Pupils aim to raise the funds themselves by organising and participating in a range of activities.

Mixed Message from Westcliff Voters!

The Conservative Party won a landslide victory during a mock General Election held at WHSG this month, although voting in the Sixth Form bucked the trend.

In the election for the main school, the Conservatives won with 317 votes, the Liberal Democrats secured 240 votes and the Labour Party came a poor third

with just 130 votes. But in the Sixth Form, voting was much closer. The Labour Party won with 77 votes, the Liberal Democrats came second with 74 votes and the

Conservatives came last with 70 votes. The elections, which were organised by the Politics Department, followed hustings which took place in the main hall.

News in Brief

Maths Challenge

61 Year 10s took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge last month. 4 were awarded a gold certificate, 12 a silver certificate and 19 a bronze. Lucy Thomas qualified for the next round and took the Olympiad paper. The school is awaiting the result.

Arkwright Scholarship

Three WHSG students have got through to the final interviewing round for the Arkwright Scholarship. This is a significant achievement as only 4% of winners are girls. The three girls are Alexander Fogg, Emily Whatton and Emeila Hollington.

Music and Engineering Presentation

Sixteen girls attended a Music and Engineering presentation at Anglia Ruskin University to see how new technology has changed the musical sound produced by instruments.

Girls Get Cracking on Enigma Codes



Year 9 pupils competed to break enigma style codes last month during Enigma Day, an event organised by the Maths Department. Outside agency, the Enigma Project was invited to the school on March 11th to explain to the girls the importance of the Enigma machine for England's war effort. Pupils spent the first part of the day listening to outside speaker, James Grime, who outlined the history of code breaking, the role of Bletchley Park and how the enigma machine helped England to

win World War II. Mr Grime brought an enigma machine to show pupils and explained the theory behind it and how it worked.

Later in the day, pupils were organised into groups and asked to break some codes. The fastest time for solving a puzzle was two minutes.

The Enigma Project is part of the Millennium Mathematics Project at the University of Cambridge, aimed at inspiring students in maths, science and history through code breaking.

Biology Challenge

Year 9 Biology students last month took part in the Biology Challenge, a national on-line test of Biological knowledge.

The test is based on the national curriculum but rewards those who have knowledge beyond the curriculum. Pupils sat the test during a one hour science lesson.

Mrs Carole Cobb, Head of Science at WHSG said she was particularly pleased with pupils' performance. "We were very impressed by how well our students did, especially as the competition was open to Year 10 students as well as Year 9 students."

There were three Gold winners, four Silver, ten Bronze, eight Highly Commended and twenty one Commended. Certificates were presented to pupils by Dr Hayman during an assembly on the 10th May. Some 32 schools, representing more than 2,000 pupils, took part in the competition, organised by the British Biology Olympiad with the support of the Society of Biology.

Year 12 Students Invent Prototype Rain Cover for Electrical Equipment

Four Year 12 students, who took part in a scheme to invent a rain cover that could be used to protect electrical equipment in conflict zones such as Afghanistan, enjoyed a Celebration and Assessment Day at SEC earlier this month. The challenge facing the students was to design a

product that could cover electrical equipment within one minute of rain starting and be retracted within five minutes of rain stopping.

The students who took part in the Engineering Education Scheme were: Dan Cole, Nicola Gardner, Sam Ward and Gemma Wharton, all of whom

achieved a Gold Crest Award which recognised their individual contribution to the overall success of the team. For the Celebration and Assessment Day, the team had to: produce a report and display materials; give a short presentation to a team of assessors and answer questions about

their product. Carole Cobb, Head of Science said: "The assessors were very impressed by how well our students had worked as a team and how thorough they had been in carrying out all stages of the design process." Students began work on the challenge last October.