



Moor House School News and Events

Schools Out Summer Trip

Monday 9th - Friday 13th August 2010

In the middle of the summer holidays a number of young people returned to Moor House School for a summer trip, prior to heading off to their sixth form colleges.

On the morning of Monday 9th August students met up at Moor House and packed into the minibus for the journey up to Derbyshire, home of the Peak District and of course Alton Towers!

Due to the length of the journey we planned to stay overnight at Alderwasley Hall School who graciously permitted us to use their excellent accommodation on the Monday night which is located in the beautiful rolling hilly countryside near Wirksworth.



On arrival, legs were stretched and bodies revived with an impromptu game of football, followed by a fish and chip supper in a local restaurant and then a movie before bedtime.

Tuesday morning saw an early start as we rose, ate breakfast and set off to Alton Towers for the day, where we met up with the Cuthbertson Clan who had travelled to meet us at the park for opening time.

The rides started with a burst of speed as we went on Rita Queen of Speed, followed by the brand new ride 'Th13teen' which goes forwards, backwards, and even has a section where the piece of track drops down to a level below!



For those who find thrill rides a little too intimidating, there were supposedly 'gentler' rides on offer, such as the venerable 'Teacup Ride' which inevitably turned out to be the most vomit-inducing ride of the entire day.

George and Hong were also pleased to discover that there was an Xbox Kinect booth at the park so they got to give that a test run, while Hong and Tom B. faced off against mutant zombies in the Arcade Hall.

After a tasty pizza lunch we continued with our thrillseeking and managed to ride probably every single ride in the park throughout the day, including the fearsome Nemesis, the awesome Air, and the terrifying vertical drop ride 'Oblivion'.



Finally closing time arrived and we had to start our long journey home, arriving back at school just after midnight.

On Wednesday we went to Go Ape at Leeds Castle. Go Ape is a high ropes adventure course, and following an induction session which explained how to attach yourself safely and navigate around the course, we were off.



Joining us for this session were Miss Gerety and Mr. Crowhurst who gamely ascended with us into the forest canopy, and then swung like chimpanzees across cavernous gaps, and zip-lined through the foliage.

It was particularly gratifying to see all students take part in this activity, despite initial fears, because although the activity sounds risky they had carefully listened and understood the ways to keep safe and manage the risks involved. As a consequence a really fun time was had by all.



After Go Ape we went into the grounds of historic Leeds Castle where we had a nose around, saw a display of exotic birds, and had a lunch and an ice-cream. Then it was back to Moor House for a delicious dinner cooked up by the very brave Mrs. Vallance!

On Thursday we headed to Devil's Dyke in Brighton where we all went orbing at Orb360°. Orbing is an adrenaline sport invented in New Zealand which basically involves getting inside a giant inflatable ball, and then having somebody push the ball down a steep hill.



There are various kinds of orbing - including water orbing, and free orbing - but we did 'harness orbing'. In this variant two people are strapped into harnesses inside the inflatable ball, facing each other from opposite sides, and the ball is then rolled so you can share the experience with a friend.



Describing the feeling you get from doing this is hard, but think about being inside a spin dryer going at maximum speed and you are getting close! Megan and Danielle definitely win the award for the loudest screams, while Bradley and Nick win the award for the best bouncing!

On Thursday afternoon we had a relaxing swimming session in the pool, before smartening up and heading out for dinner at The Ghurka Kitchen, Oxted's finest restaurant, for our last evening together. This was followed by a movie and a roaring campfire which was made even more special as an unexpected meteor shower caused a number of shooting stars to cross the night sky.



On Friday morning we allowed ourselves a lie in, and then went for a leisurely breakfast at a local health food establishment which was certainly enjoyed by everybody... and then it was time to say 'Goodbye' once again.

This was a really fun week that was enjoyed by everybody - thanks are due to Miss Gerety and Mr. Crowhurst for their assistance, and particularly to Mrs. Vallance who once again agreed to give up a week of holiday time in order to co-lead a trip.

Report by Mr. Hart