

LONDON

YEAR 7

TRANSITION

GROUP TRIP





On Thursday the 15th of June, the transition group trip, led by Miss Turner and Mr Rowan, took place. We started our day by walking down to Woking train station at 9:30, bought our own train tickets and then got the train to London Waterloo. When we got off at London Waterloo, we split up into separate groups to buy lunch and snacks for the day.

Our first stop was the London Eye: Did you know the London Eye was launched in the year 2000, it was built by Marks Bayfield architects and takes 30 minutes to go round?

We took some quick pictures and that's when some people had bag issues (including Mr Rowan finding a squashed banana at the bottom of his!) but nevertheless we kept on walking. We stared into the cool waters under Westminster Bridge and took in the view of the beautiful Big Ben and Houses of Parliament. We then carried on walking across Parliament Square and towards Buckingham Palace.

Incidentally on the way, we saw the guards practising drills so we took some pictures and then carried on to the stunning Buckingham Palace. We took lots of

pictures outside Buckingham Palace and we also saw the Tiffany Fountain which we threw coins in to.

By the time we had seen all those landmarks and monuments, we need to re-fuel so we found a quiet place in Saint James' park under a tree to eat. This is where we were 'attacked' by many pigeons and a few geese, but luckily it didn't spoil our picnic lunch.

After that, we started to head back towards Waterloo but that was not the end of our journey! On the way we bought ice cream and saw lots of other famous places. These included: Trafalgar Square, Cleopatra's needle, the Marble Arch and so much more. We then got back to Waterloo at 2 o'clock and got a train back to Woking which arrived at 2:30. After another short walk back to school (through the park), we had finally completed our trip. Although we were a little tired, we had such a fun trip and made many memories!

By Sofia Pugliese and Teagan Tapsell, Year 7



The Year 8 Marwell Zoo experience was certainly very interesting, whether it was the animals and their adaptations, or cheesy zoo jokes. (I went to the zoo and saw a baguette in a cage. I asked the zookeeper what it was, and he said it was bread in captivity!) The most interesting animals were probably the Addaxes. They were fighting and chasing each other around with their massive horns! I wasn't sure if this was okay fighting, it looked more like a territorial squabble. Their horns kept on crashing together with big smacks and a big 'ooooohhh' rippled around my science class. The tiger was absolutely magnificent. It was an Amur tiger and it had deep orange fur and jet black stripes. My favourite adaptation of this tiger was its gigantic paws and pads, designed to let it creep silently before attacking its prey and stinking in its razor sharp teeth and claws in.

SCIENCE AND LEARNING AREA

In the science and learning area, we were able to view some confiscated animal skeletons and skins. The

fact that animals are still under threat is devastating however, from this, we were able to learn more the amazing adaptations of these animals.

SNAKES

Snakes (like pythons and Caimans rat snake), are poached for their skin across the globe. Reptile skin is commonly used to make "luxury" items such as bags, watch straps, belts, boots and wallets. In the science and learning area, we were able to see some skeletons of snakes that had been preserved and were able to learn about some of snakes' incredible adaptations.

We were able to see snake skeletons including their venom-injecting teeth. A venomous snake's fangs are either hollow or equipped with grooved to allow snakes to channel venom from their Duvernoy's gland. This incredible adaptation allows snakes to immobilise their prey before swallowing them whole. Tasty!

They have an amazing amount of vertebrae and



ribs. Whereas humans have 33 stacked vertebrae, snakes have around 100-450 vertebrae in their main body and 10-205 in their tails. This adaptation allows a wider range of motion and flexibility. The excess of ribs supports a snake's mobility. As well as this, it allows a snake to consume a meal far wider than

its own body as the ribs can stretch to provide extra room. However, a downside of this is that they are surprisingly delicate as their skeleton is practically a spine with a tail. This means that if they suffer trauma to the spine, they will be paralysed from the injury downwards.

We were also able to see another awesome adaptation which snakes possess - their insanely flexible jaws. Most species of snakes, have flexible ligaments (unlike humans) which allows them to loosen their upper and lower jaw to ensure they can open their mouths wide enough to swallow prey even larger than them! Humans can extend their jaw around 26° whereas a snake can open their jaw around 160°

ELEPHANTS

Another animal we were able to view in the science and learning area was the elephant. It is well known that elephants are poached for their tusks, but, in parts of Asia, they are also poached for their skin. The issue of poaching elephants has caused the deaths of around 20,000 elephants a year. We were able to view one of the confiscated elephant tusks as well as a colossal ear as well as a gigantic molar.

Elephants have 26 large, strong, grooved teeth, 2 of which are their tusks. Inside an elephant's mouth, they have 24 molars arranged in rows of 4. This means that whenever they wear a tooth down, the molar from the row behind slides in like on a conveyor belt.

Elephants ivory tusks are essentially just protruding, extended incisors that grow continuously throughout an elephant's life. The tusks help with a variety of tasks: digging, lifting objects, gathering food, stripping bark from trees (to eat) and defence. The tusks are made of ivory which is one of the main reasons that elephants are hunted as ivory can easily be carved upon.

The African elephant has the largest ears of any animal. These serve a distinct purpose. Like many other animals in hot climates, their large, floppy ears allows them to release excess heat from their bodies. This helps elephants as they cannot sweat. Not being able to cool their bodies with sweat means that they must rely on the dissipation of heat through their ears.

SNOW LEOPARDS

Snow leopards are often hunted for their skin as it is thought to be a deluxe carpet which is leading snow leopards to becoming endangered. However, snow leopards in nature have different uses for their skin.

The rosette spot patterned fur helps them to camouflage in the Savannah grasses and trees while the shortness of the hair allows them not to overheat in their hot environment. These are not the only

adaptations that the snow leopards possess.

In their paws, they have retractable claws and strong muscles. Their retractable claws come in handy as they allow the leopards to move silently: their claws do not scrape against the ground as they stalk their prey. Alongside their strong muscles, the claws also bolster their tree climbing ability.

Furthermore snow leopards have highly adapted eyes. As they are hunters, their eyes are forward-facing to allow them to judge depth. They also have excellent night vision to allow snow leopards to hunt at night.

We were able to learn a lot in the science and learning area. Even though it was sad to see animals had been poached, it was an amazing experience as we were able to see the animals so close in person.

TROPICAL AREA

Another one of the areas we were able to see was the tropical area. The tropical area allowed us to see the animals in an environment similar to their natural habitat.

One of the animals we met there was the crested wood partridge. Crested wood partridges are sexually dimorphic which means that the male and female of the species look different. The females are green in colour whereas the males are more blue to black and can be identified by the bright red crest situated which is what gave the species its name.

Another animal we saw was the gecko. Geckos live on all species apart from Antarctica however the one we witnessed in the tropical area was especially adapted to the tropical rainforest. When we visited Marwell, we were lucky to see it eating its natural vegetation. A final group of animals we were lucky enough to see a creep (group) of Egyptian tortoises. They have pale colouring which helps them survive the heat of the desert and also camouflages them. It was also interesting to learn male tortoises are smaller than females but (to make it up) males have longer tails.

To suit the animals, living in the enclosure, the area was very warm and humid. This simulates the environment of the rainforest as in the rainforest, it is warm and humid all year round as the equator runs through it. This made it feel as though we were actually seeing animals in their natural habitat which was absolutely amazing.

By Rosie Bryden and Pippa Pang, Year 8

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE



On Wednesday 28th June and Wednesday 5th July, the English department took Year 9 to the Globe theatre in London. It was fascinating. We started the day by getting split into groups and meeting our tour guides, who then guided us around whilst explaining some interesting and historical facts.

We learnt that the Globe Theatre we were standing in at was actually the 3rd building of its type; this was because the previous globes were destroyed. The first time it was destroyed was because of a fire and the second was an accidental cannon firing.

The groups were then shown around the main feature of the day: the theatre. We explored inside where we were taught more about the Shakespearean plays that were performed here including Macbeth.

We then went to the second part of the day which was a workshop with our tour guide this was definitely a highlight; we experienced acting for ourselves by reading the Romeo and Juliet script which then brought the day to a really fun end.

By Fern Ezenwanne (9SPI)





PEAK DISTRICT

Year 7 Residential



Students had a successful summer residential, with lots of the students across both trips enjoying bush craft! Planning a BBQ over the holidays? Many of our students are now equipped with the skills to light a fire safely using flint and steel, fire strikers and wooden bow drills! Please also ask the children who went on the trip about the mining museum; a new addition this year and a welcome respite from the rain! The students read about the history of mining and the associated dangers of lead mining in England, before many were brave enough to enter the dark tunnels and scale the mining shafts themselves! The hope is students will remember this experience ready for studying the industrial revolution in Year 8.

The trip, despite the traffic, was a success; highlights included Miss Findlay showing the Year 7s they could dance even if there is no routine on TikTok; Miss Tandon's DJ's skills; Water balloon duels between Mr Mander and Miss Bates; caterpillar trains and heads





down thumbs up with Miss Mobbs; storm watching and tracking with Mrs McNeil; Mr Budzynski-Seymour braving the zip wire and Alex's fun facts book! We would like to extend a huge thank you to the staff who surrendered their weekend to help with our summer residential, as well as the staff who organised fun activities back at SJB for our students so they could celebrate their transition year also.

By Miss Bates





YEAR 10

FRENCH TRIP

TO ROUEN

The French trip was such an incredible experience! I had never been to France before so I was extremely excited and I must say that if I had not gone with the school, I would not have had half the fun that I did. The French language lessons were so enjoyable and didn't feel like school at all whilst still fully immersing you in French and getting you out of your comfort zone, like the time we had to go to a park and ask people some questions in French! We were a bit nervous but it really rewarding

when they actually understood you. Throughout the trip we were allowed free time around the towns where we could go off in groups and explore the shops and get some treats. My favourite part was going on the carousels in the town centres! I made so many amazing memories and friends on this trip! I would do it again any day!

Vicky Mckenzie, 10EGN

In early July 2023, twenty Year 10 GCSE French students went on the Year 10 trip to Rouen. We were both so excited and had an amazing time. For two of days we went to French in Normandy (a French language school) for three hours each morning. Personally, we both found this highly educational and interactive since we were given the opportunity to go into the local park and formulate conversations with French people. In addition to this, we explored a beautiful town located next to the ocean, Honfleur. We were very fortunate to have lovely weather whilst we were given a couple of hours to wander around freely, shop and practise our French with the shop keepers. Afterwards, we went to the capital of Normandy, Rouen, which is an old town with beautiful buildings including Cathédrale Notre Dame de Rouen. The following day, we went to Monet à Giverny which was a gorgeous flower garden where Monet, the famous painter, lived. Later on, we had some fun at the bowling alley! The teachers were great at it! On our last day, on the way home, we stopped at at a Carréfour hypermarket with many shops where we spent a few hours shopping, eating and having fun! Overall, we made spectacular memories on this trip which will never be forgotten and we highly recommended this trip for anyone in the future years.

By Emma Chan 10KHE & Maya Jose (10GRN/VE)





Hampton Court Palace



YEAR 7 HISTORY TRIP

Hampton Court was Incredible! The Astronomical Clock in the courtyard, the King's Chapel, the gardens and the kitchens, we don't where to start. The location was perfect for our visit as it was a short drive and the scenery was beautiful. When we arrived it was clear that this place was fit for kings. We all lined up in an orderly fashion and were presented with our ticket for the day. Reading the workbook we had been given, it surprised us to learn that two of Henry's wives had been held there before their execution. Walking into the garden, the sheer sights blew us away and the vastness of the space was hard to believe. The maze was so cool and was far better than Chatsworth House from our residential trip and multiple times we got lost much to our friends amusement. After the gardens we arrived in the kitchens of the palace and saw the roaring fire where the king's and queen's food had been cooked. We could not understand how big the fireplace was as it nearly reached the roof. It was hard to imagine the hundreds of dishes that were cooked there every night. Then we saw the clock. Towering over us, it's intricate patterns and wonderful designs. It was hard to believe that it had been made nearly six centuries ago. Then we met our tour guide and she taught us about the lines of royals at this palace. We did numerous activities with her and she made sure everyone was involved. When she took us to the Great Hall, we were awestruck by the art and huge tapestries displayed on the walls and the detailed stained-glass windows. Furthermore, she took us to some of the King's closest quarters.



The smaller the rooms, the more important you were. After a goodbye to the guide and a quick lunch we were on our way to the chapel. This was the highlight of the day for us. Just being in there puts you at a peaceful state of mind. It was fascinating to hear that Katherine Parr had married Henry VIII in this very room. But as we walked past the crown everything just got better. The astonishing detail and its priceless value showed how lucky we were to even catch a glimpse of his headdress. Then sadly it was time to leave all but far too soon. What an incredible adventure.

By Joshua Blackman and Sofia Monterege, Year 7





THE A-LEVEL BIOLOGY TRIP 2023

Whipsnade Zoo is most famously known for its association with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) who strive for the conservation and restoration of wildlife worldwide. Based in the UK, Whipsnade Zoo has been widely recognised for their work in their groundbreaking reintroduction of the Scimitar-horned Oryx. As of now, over 370 Oryx roam in the reserve nearing close to the project's goal. Whipsnade Zoo provides protection of species as well as education for all, which is taught through workshops from ages 5-18 allowing for future generations to experience and learn more about the importance of animals on our planet and spreading awareness of the work modern zoos provide today.

Once we arrived at Whipsnade, we were led to an education room with colourful displays of facts and animals designed on the walls. For the morning, we where we provided activities and talks of the importance and roles of a modern zoo. The work we did reflected the actual work of a Conservationist, this highlighted the importance of their work in breeding programs, ex-situ and in-situ conservation projects but also cooperation worldwide with other societies working towards the same goal.

Following our workshop, we were free to roam around the zoo. Starting from Europe, we visited wolverines, bison, brown bears and penguins. The animals were





kept in quite open enclosures providing space, food and other individuals of their species to interact with. Turning left from the main road, we also witnessed otters squealing and interacting with the visitors, and giraffes as tall as a building sitting majestically on the straw-coloured grass.

Suddenly, our interest was pulled into the Birds of the World Arena, where Scarlet macaws, owls, falcons, African red-billed hornbills flew across the sky above us. It was amazingly explained how Whipsnade had aided in the conservation of these birds allowing for reintroduction and breeding programmes to help the small population.

Our attention was then turned to The Great Whipsnade Railway, where alongside some fellow classmates we explored the wildlife of Asia where we saw Asian Elephants (even a baby one!), Rhinos, Camels, and Oryx. Around the entire zoo, there are a variety of small animals wandering around that are free to roam in an open space. From an ethically point of view this is beneficial for the animal as it allows for them to experience freedom in their environment and doesn't hinder their natural instincts.

Overall, the experience at Whipsnade Zoo was a once-in-a-lifetime experience as it not only spreads awareness of the importance of these species in our world but educates future generations on the importance of conservation of animals, insects, and habitats. Modern zoos are shown not to simply be for commercial purposes but for the benefit of animals across the world that it is our duty to protect.

By Althea Laguisma, Year 12



Florence GCSE TRIP



In February, seventeen GCSE Italian students headed to the beautiful, historic city of Florence, along with Miss Ellis and Mrs Mackay, in pursuit of 'la dolce vita'.

One of the main parts of the trip was for students to practise their Italian, and this was helped by the Italian lessons they had each day at an Italian language school. The students enjoyed the small classes, and although they found the teachers speaking solely in Italian a bit of a challenge to begin with, by the final day of lessons, they had grown in confidence and understanding.

As well as studying Italian, we were able to explore Florence and immerse ourselves in the culture and

history it has to offer. On the first day, we were given a guided tour of the city in Italian, a good warm-up for the Italian lessons, which enabled us to see the main sites of the city and also learn some interesting facts about Florence. Did you know that the Ponte Vecchio, the most famous bridge in Florence, has a secret corridor across it which the Medici family used to cross the river without being seen?

We ended our first full day in Florence with a walk up to the Piazzale Michelangelo with a gelato pitstop on the way, and made it to the top just in time to see the stunning view of the city at sunset; it was well worth all those steps!

As the trip went on, we also saw some of the most

famous pieces of art in the world in three of the main art galleries in Florence. At the Accademia Gallery, students were surprised at just how large Michelangelo's statue of David was. However, it must be said that one of the highlights of the trip for a number of students was bumping into another more contemporary Davide; the former winner of Love Island!

We ate well throughout the trip, with a three course Italian meal in a local restaurant each evening, and a pizza night on the last evening. Our final day in Florence ended with a chocolate shop demonstration and tasting, where we all packed into the tiny shop and workshop to hear about the making of artisanal chocolate. And of course, we couldn't resist one more gelato before we left!

The fun didn't end in Florence however, as we even squeezed in a trip to the Leaning Tower of Pisa before our flight home. After climbing the 251 steps up to the top, needless to say, there were a few tired students (and teachers) on the flight home after a jam-packed few days.

If you study Italian and are currently in Year 9 or 10, look out for promotion later this year for Florence 2025!



By Miss Ellis





FRANCE / BELGIUM BATTLEFIELDS

On 9th March, the Year 9s embarked on their journey to Belgium and France for their Battlefields trip. This trip was for us to commemorate those who died in the First World War, and provided a unique learning experience as we have learnt about The First World War in History.

On our first day, we went to see some British trenches and we visited the site where John McCrae wrote his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. This site has now also been converted into a British cemetery for the fallen soldiers who have died there and we sadly

found a grave of a 15 year old British soldier who have been laid to rest there. We also went to see the Menin Gate last post ceremony which has happened every day at 8pm since the end of the First World War to honour the British Empire and it's allies who died in Ypres.

The next day, we were focused more on sites located in France, such as the Notre Dame de Lorette war cemetery, Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial and Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. We also visited Vimy Ridge, a Canadian memorial site where we visited the preserved trenches of Canadian troops



and the Lochnagar Crater which was caused by an explosion of 27,216 kilograms of explosives from the British army and planted beneath the German lines.

Lastly, we went to the Bayernwald German Trenches in Belgium. This is the trench that Adolf Hitler infamously fought in for the First World War. We then went to pay our tributes to two more cemeteries: the Tyne Cot British & Commonwealth Cemetery and the Langemark German Cemetery. Before heading off to Calais, we visited Ypres town centre for some free time and we were lucky to visit a famous chocolate shop there.

By Christina Delos Reyes, 9MTO





LENTEN FUNDRAISING

In the spirit of Lent, students at SJB have embarked on an honourable journey, driven by compassion, to raise funds for the wonderful charities we are supporting this year. This year's Lenten fundraising efforts have seen the entire school community come together, each year group contributing in their unique way to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Year 7 students were offering an assortment of sweets. With their infectious enthusiasm, they not only filled the school with sweetness but also warmed hearts with their dedication to the causes.

Meanwhile, Year 8 ventured into the world of refreshments. Their fizzy drinks stalls offered well-deserved refreshments after a day at school to raise funds for charity. Their commitment to the cause bubbled over, inspiring others to join in on fundraising.

Year 9 were using the appeal of the Cadbury Cream Egg to raise funds - to very good effect!



In a bid to appeal to the gaming enthusiasts in the school, Year 10 and 11 students – with large help from Mr Ali organised an exciting raffle with the grand prize of a PlayStation 5. The appeal of the latest gaming console drew considerable attention, with students eagerly purchasing tickets for a chance to win while contributing to charitable endeavours. Their innovative approach showcased their determination to make a difference.

The Sixth Form organised multiple approaches to fundraising. On Fridays, the smell of doughnuts filled the air as we sold these irresistible treats, enticing fellow students. Additionally, we hosted an SJB Quiz, testing participants' knowledge while raising funds through entry fees which was enjoyed by many. Currently, we are in the midst of running yet another raffle with some prizes donated kindly by local organisations.

As the Lenten season comes to an end as we approach Easter, the spirit of giving continues to flourish at SJB. With each contribution, no matter how big or small, students show their commitment to making a positive difference in the world. Their collective efforts live out the Gospel values that lie at the heart of the school's values showing generosity and bringing change to this world. I'm sure that The Lighthouse, Lourdes SJB and Books2Africa will be in a better position to help those in need with the financial support coming their way.

By Pearl Alighieri, Year 12

Naples



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Our Year 11 geography students were fortunate enough to enjoy a trip to Naples during February half term. It was a memorable trip filled with exploration, learning, and fun!

Firstly, upon arrival we had the unique opportunity to explore the city of Naples and in particular the underground tunnels of Naples. This historical site offered a glimpse into the city's past and provided valuable insights into its geological and historical features.

Next, we immersed ourselves in the past and visited the ancient ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Walking through these well-preserved sites, frozen in time by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, was a truly awe-inspiring experience. We had knowledgeable local guides accompanying us to provide context and ensure our understanding of the historical and geological significance of these sites.

Of course, no trip to Italy would be complete without indulging in the local cuisine! We enjoyed sampling authentic Neapolitan pizza and pasta and we even had the opportunity to participate in a gelato-making class in Sorrento.

The trip culminated in a 2 hour trek to the top of Mount Vesuvius and although it was a challenge the views we were greeted with at the top were worth it. The sun was shining and we had excellent views looking out to the Mediterranean and the island of Capri.

All the students had a brilliant time and were excellent ambassadors for SJB throughout the entire stay.

