



JUNE 2016

# SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

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## Activities Week & Expeditions INSPIRING

### Who's dèche? Ardèche!

On Friday 13th May 2016, 45 pupils and 6 staff travelled to the Ardèche Region in France for a nine-day action-packed adventure.

After a long twenty-four hour coach journey, the group arrived in France and could feel the heat as they exited the coach. They grabbed their luggage and went to find their camp after meeting the awesome Acom staff! When they awoke the following morning they were split into four activity groups and were thrown into the deep end for their first morning of activities. Each activity session lasted for three hours and then the group came back together in the camp marquee for some tasty lunch. After lunch there was another three-hour activity session, then dinner, followed by evening activities. Every minute of the day was utilised, as there was just so much to do! The activities consisted of swimming, kayaking, raft building, mission impossible team tasks, rock-climbing, abseiling and high ropes.



In their free time students could also use the camp's swimming pool, basketball courts, table tennis equipment and football pitch, as well as the snack shack serving the favourite treat of the week, Slushies!

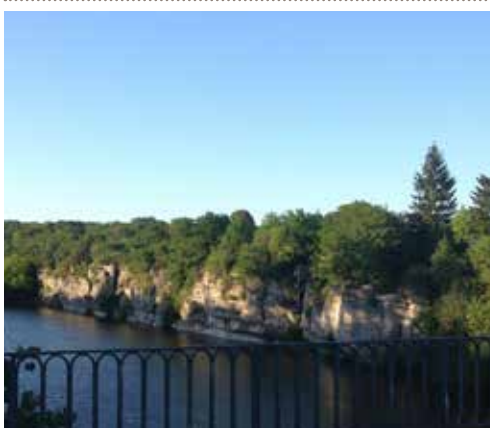
By **Jack E, Max H and Ben O**

### Kerley's Communiqué

After a few action-packed days on and around the banks of the Ardèche river, we packed our barrels with our overnight essentials and headed on our way to our river descent from 18th-19th May. Ahead of us was 20 miles of river,

teeming with rocky rapids and swift swerves. On our first night we hunkered down at our bivvi site, filling our bowls with steaming pasta for energy and our mugs with heavenly hot chocolate. Early next morning, as dawn broke over the valley, we gathered our goods and set off again. The weather hung low in the sky, but our spirits were high. When we reached the end of our river descent we were greeted by our coach drivers who took us back to the campsite, following the river, but this time on wheels. Jack E summed the descent up perfectly for us by saying, "It was very enjoyable and a good experience. Great views – I would recommend it!"

By **Miss Kerley**



### Teague's Tale

Facing our fears was the main theme of the France trip. Personally I have never been a big fan of heights but I'm willing to give anything a go. Climbing up the gladiator wall, my hands sweating and my heart beating in my ears I felt what I'm sure a lot of the pupils felt. But when I reached the top, I felt amazing, like I'd conquered my own personal Everest.

The pupils did an amazing job of, not only dealing with their personal fears, but encouraging others to face theirs and giving nothing but 100% to all the activities. My personal superstar was Carl T who got in his canoe and owned the Ardèche. For a week at least we were the champions of fear! I would like to thank the pupils and TIFS for making the week both enjoyable and challenging.

By **Mr Teague**

# WELCOME

As I cast an eye over this AWE (Activities Week & Expeditions) inspired edition of Salve I am once again reminded of what an extraordinary school we have created. I know I say this every edition but this half term is truly action packed. We have so much to look forward to with the summer show, sports day, the Bonnie Challenge, the school production of Peter Pan, and exam week! I hope you will be able to join us for some of these events, dates can be found on the school website.

Mr Boyd,  
Headmaster



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## BALCH'S BULLETIN



The focus of the Scotland trip was ecology and photography. The trip highlights included: spotting a Minke whale off of the west coast; photographing Pine Martens and Badgers at a night hide; climbing Cairngorm where we spotted the Ptarmigan which is native to the Highlands; studying bird species in the Moray Firth – Gannets, Guillemots and Puffins; seeing Red Deer just outside our lodge in Aviemore.

By **Mr Balch**

# SENSATIONAL SCOTLAND



### Day 1 - Saturday

Team Scotland met at 5.30am in preparation for their thirteen-hour trip up to their luxury lodges. After a very long drive the group reached their destination, unpacked and had a much-needed early night. The following morning the group woke up and set off on their mission to feed the reindeer. The sheer number of reindeers overwhelmed the pupils, and they said that the babies were really cute.

### Day 2 - Sunday

The group travelled for two and a half hours to Gairloch, where they went on a three-hour whale watch kitted out in full fisherman gear. The pupils and staff sped across the water on a fast rib boat soaking up the wonderful atmosphere. Some groups were lucky enough to see three whales, but sadly others saw just a couple of fins-a magical experience nonetheless.

### Day 3 - Monday

Team Scotland had their hardest challenge ahead of them, climbing Cairngorm Mountain. When they got about half way up they started to see snow, and took the opportunity to have a break from walking, playing in the snow and sliding down the mountain on home-made sledges, (their coats)! From this point the pupils had the choice of going the hard way or the easy way up the rest of the mountain. The harder path was rocky and steep, but brave pupils were rewarded with cake at the summit!

### Day 4 - Tuesday

The group experienced an overnight watch to see Pine Martens which are cat sized nocturnal animals. They arrived at the specially made lookout shed at around 8pm to observe the animals in their natural habitat and arrived back at the lodges at midnight.

### Day 5 - Wednesday

Team Scotland made another long journey to the other side of Scotland to see some dolphins. Once again the pupils were all geared up and went on rib, but sadly this time they didn't see any dolphins, as the weather was not the best.

### Day 6 - Thursday

On the final day, the two house groups met up and walked around Loch an Eileen. After this adventurous hike the pupils all went to the local town, Aviemore, to look at the small row of shops. Then, to celebrate their final night, the groups joined at the biggest lodge for a barbecue and party. This was a really wonderful trip for all involved, and the pupils would like to say thank you to the staff for organising such a fun week.

By **Charlie M**



# Island Bound

The Year 8 pupils who stayed at school during AWE 2016 were treated to a mixture of exciting activities. The first of these activities was a hike to Shanklin from Ventnor. Once they arrived in Shanklin the pupils had their lunch and played a game of crazy golf, before hiking back in the afternoon. The day was most enjoyable because the golf became a competitive activity, in true TIFS style. All groups that played golf handed their scores in to Mr Peace and the overall winner was Sonny M, revealed in an assembly.

At Osborne House and Carisbrooke Castle, Mrs Boyd had organised treasure hunts around the grounds with lots of cryptic clues to follow. A few different tactics were tried out, but the most effective seemed to be groups taking their time and really thinking things through meaning they made fewer mistakes. Pupils also took part in community gardening at Rew Valley during the week. The first group spent their two hours in the refreshing rain, digging the hard ground to make the perfect bed for beautiful flowers. The second group had the easier, but more precise task of planting the flowers in the perfect positions. Despite the bad weather the day was very enjoyable.

The final day of AWE 2016 was spent at Tapnell Farm. The pupils that stayed at school joined with the campers to spend the day in Freshwater. One group started with a kayaking race, running from the beach and diving into the sea. The other group started with mountain boarding down the hill, where Mr Peace's enthusiasm resulted in a minor injury! Pupils were able to try their hand at Archery later on and a competition ensued, with a best score of 28.

By **Oliver C, Max T, and Malik F**



## 7's GO CAMPING!

On Wednesday of Activities Week, Year 7 Group One went on a hike from Ventnor to Bembridge. It was a long, 6-hour walk but the pupils endured, even with the pouring rain! They had their lunch near Sandown beach, and continued on past Culver Cliff and down to Bembridge. At the campsite, the students set up their tents, played games and ate dinner. In the morning, they prepared their own lunches before getting on the minibus home.

Year 7 Group Two departed on Thursday, and did the same as the group before them. They returned on Friday, a few hours before the end of Activities Week. After a long and challenging walk and camping in the great outdoors, the Year 7 pupils went home and enjoyed a well-deserved rest. Brandon WP who was a member of Group One said he had a fantastic time, "The best bit was camping outside and the burgers!"

By **Beau E and Noah D**

## Splash of a day at Freshwater Bay!

On Tuesday, the first day of the activities week, Year 7 pupils travelled to Freshwater Bay to canoe across the waters, where they were treated to a beautiful view of the town. They took part in various activities on the canoes, which included lots of team games. Some pupils were also able to participate in land yachting, which was an exciting experience for all involved. We spoke to Mia G who told us "It was really fun to get involved in the water sports, and everyone was really nice.

By **Brandon WP**

## Action Adventures at Tapnell Farm

Tuesday was a busy day for the Year 7 Team who stayed on the Island during AWE16. Their day was spent at Tapnell Farm, action-packed with many activities such as mountain boarding, climbing and archery. Mountain boarding, where pupils skated down steep hills on specially designed boards, challenged their balance and co-ordination skills. Rock climbing tested their strength and determination to reach the top and archery tested their concentration and focus. A brilliant day was had by all, and the pupils would like to thank the Team Year 7 staff for organising a great week.

By **Ella M**

## Riches' Run-Down

Despite the torrential rain on the Wednesday, the D of E camping trip was a huge success. The students were amazing and great fun to be with; we enjoyed mountain biking, hiking, the inaugural Island Monopoly Run, Bournemouth Air Museum and living the outdoor life.



# Incredible Italy

On the first day, we took the coach halfway up the amazing Mount Vesuvius, which is located in Naples near Pompeii, before we climbed the rest of the dormant volcano, up to the crater. Once we got to the top, a tour guide showed us around the crater, and we learnt about the interesting history of Mount Vesuvius. We learnt that Mount Vesuvius used to be two separate volcanoes, and that over the years they combined together to make the Mount Vesuvius we saw on our wonderful holiday. After a while we walked to the bottom and bought souvenirs.

After visiting Mount Vesuvius we drove to historical Pompeii. Before entering, there were casts of people that died in ashes when Vesuvius erupted. We explored all of the historical buildings in Pompeii that were covered by the ashes from Mount Vesuvius and we learnt a lot about general Roman life. We also looked around the forum, which is the place where business took place, and where all of the local shops were. It was a really interesting experience, Erin Powell said "It was really fun because we did a lot of activities."

By **Olivia S, Emily C** and **Alana W**



# Bellissima Roma!

On the Thursday of our trip we had to get up very early to start the long journey for our thrilling day in Rome. Although it took four hours to get there, our excitement kept us going.

When we arrived in Rome the first thing we did was go and see the Colosseum. Unfortunately we were unable to go inside, but the views from outside were breathtaking. We then walked around the historical sites in Rome such as the Forum and a small church near it. We then walked through the city to a small restaurant and had a tasty Italian lunch. Overall this trip was absolutely amazing and was a great experience for us all.

By **Thea M** and **Hope W**



# Traversers' Travels

Anyone for Chocolate Pizza? I had my doubts about the whole trip when I was handed a pack of neatly folded orange t-shirts the day before the trip. Orange... I don't have anything to go with orange! The fruit pastel coloured t-shirts we donned as we entered the airport made sure that everyone noticed us. For any other school this might have been a disaster; being so recognizable, but not for TIFS, I was extremely proud when the flight attendant said we were the most polite school group she'd ever met. Touch down in sunny Italy! Well, we all imagined it was going to be sunny but no, a very overcast afternoon and by the time we made it outside the heavens opened and a very rainy Italy greeted us. Team Orangina did their best to bring the sun back with a song and dance routine outside the airport.

As we travelled south to Sorrento, we spotted Vesuvius in the distance; the vast sprawl of Naples and the most amazing hairpin bends brought us glimpses of the beautiful Amalfi Coast. The highlights of the trip; ice cream, orange t-shirts, pizza and of course the vast archaeological site of Pompeii and the awe inspiring Forum in Rome. The students were fabulous. Never complained despite the heat, rain, long days, late nights and lots of walking. Thank you especially to Team Orangina, the person who came up with the idea of chocolate flavoured pizza and the TIFS staff who spent many long hours planning the perfect trip.

"You may have the universe if I may have Italy." Giuseppe Verdi

By **Ms Travers**