

TRIPS & TOURS

While we do much at Canford to foster a love for subjects within the classroom and local environs, there is something exciting about a trip further afield. The benefits are not just subject specific, but develop a much wider range of skills of collaboration, team work, organisation and leadership. A school trip can be a very memorable part of a pupils' school days – and great fun! Here are reports on just a few of the many rewarding trips Canfordians have taken in the past year.

PHYSICS TRIP TO SPACE CENTRE

At the end of the Summer Term, a group of budding Shell and Fourth Form Physicists travelled to the Euro Space Centre in Belgium learning how to be an astronaut. Astronaut training involves learning about the science of space and spaceflight, along with some demanding physical challenges and teamwork exercises. In the rocket workshop, aerodynamics and propulsion systems were analysed and tested, and teamwork was needed to repair the satellite on the zero-gravity wall, but the greatest challenge was to be part of a space shuttle mission. Eight students and staff worked together to get a space shuttle into orbit and deploy a satellite. The instructor could introduce problems at any stage of the mission and the teams had to work together, frantically looking through the book of codes to override one system and re-boot another. For some well-deserved relaxation there were trips to some local caves and a medieval castle for a flaming torchlight tour. The Belgian chocolate shop and workshop on the way back to the ferry were also very popular. Both pupils and staff behaved impeccably, making it a thoroughly worthwhile trip and one to be repeated with another set of would-be space adventurers.

Chris Fenwick
Head of Physics

Pupil comments:

“The experience you get when you go on this trip is unforgettable - it was great to experience the training astronauts have to go through to get to space and great fun to watch the results on my friends' faces as well!”

“The trip helped me gain a greater understanding of how physics in the classroom is applied elsewhere, and of how the space program has had effect on our lives at home.”

“I gained a lot of important skills: confidence through completing challenging activities and leadership skills when we were split into groups.”



BARCELONA PRE-SEASON



From January 3-7 the Canford 1st XI Boys' Hockey Squad of 17 travelled to Barcelona for a much anticipated pre-season tour. We left the UK in the early hours in monsoonal conditions and arrived in Spain to 20 degree temperatures and bright sunshine! The five days that followed were excellent, both on and off the pitch. Two intensive training sessions to acclimatise and work on set plays and a tour of FC Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium preceded the prestigious Hockey Reyes Tournament at the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona, this year celebrating its 70th Anniversary. A Gala dinner launched the occasion on the evening of January 4th, with eight U18 boys' teams, five U18 girls' teams and men's and women's senior club sides from England, Spain and Holland being represented. The Reyes Tournament is an invitation event, boasting excellent facilities and three water-based pitches. We were keen to make a good impression so future year groups and Canford teams could gain the same experience. Four competitive games saw us win two and lose two, but the team acquitted itself extremely well, coming 5th overall and seeing some excellent match play. Recovery sessions post training and match days in the unheated (very cold) hotel swimming pool were a regular feature! The benefits to the squad as a whole in terms of camaraderie, team spirit, playing different systems and styles and experiencing different cultures for our domestic season cannot be underestimated. It was a fantastic touring opportunity, and to date the 1st XI have won 12 games in a row and face Repton in the National U18 Cup quarter-finals. Many thanks to our sponsors, Carolina Bamballi from FTI Sports Tours and the parents for their support.

Matt Collison
Director of Hockey

GEOGRAPHY/CLASSICS TRIP TO BAY OF NAPLES



After morning lessons on the final teaching day in October, five teachers and 44 Shells boarded a coach that would take them away from the increasing English chill to the sunny shores of Italy, for a three-day study visit to geographical and classical sites in the Bay of Naples. You might have expected the pupils to be tired after their first half term at Canford, but they showed no signs of that as they marvelled at the precipitous Amalfi coast road, climbed Vesuvius in the fog, and explored the remains of Roman Pompeii. Great thanks are due to Miss Snooks for organising such an active and enjoyable trip, which I know the Shells will remember for many years to come.

John Dant
Head of Classics

CCF TRIP - NORWAY CROSS COUNTRY SKIING



Over February half term, twenty cadets from Canford School CCF journeyed to the Hardangervidda Plateau in Norway near Hovden to learn to cross-country ski and develop their arctic survival skills before embarking upon a three day expedition with one night in a snow-hole and a second night in one of the Norwegian ski-touring huts. The first three days brought numerous thrills and spills trying to learn to wax the skis, apply skins, drive and glide and so on, but by the end of day three all the cadets were fully prepared to head off into the mountains. Two groups set forth towards Tjombrotsbu and Berdalsbu huts and

began digging furiously as the weather closed in. Half of the party successfully entombed themselves in a cosy snowhole whilst the remainder were thwarted and had to spend the night in the hut. Sadly the next day saw a catastrophic decline in the weather conditions confining the party to the huts apart from short forays to practice search and rescue missions under controlled scenarios searching for lost equipment and handling first aid cases. The weather certainly challenged one and all and gave the cadets a clear insight into the challenges faced by mountain rescue teams. During the second night whilst still confined to

the huts the weather improved enabling the skiers to enjoy a spectacular ski back out to civilisation and a welcome bowl of soup and importantly a warm dry bed. A great deal was learnt by each cadet, not only about themselves but also and each other as any comfort zones were left far behind in such an alien and potentially hostile environment: but to a man, the trip was voted a resounding success, great fun and a fantastically worthwhile venture.

Dan Culley
Director of Outdoor Activities and Challenges

CROSS CURRICULAR EXCHANGE TO PROvence

Twenty one pupils from Fourth and Fifth Forms, accompanied by two staff, spent six days in Provence over the October half term break. Staying with French hosts, there was plenty of opportunity for pupils to improve their language skills and to experience French way of life. A mixture of educational cross-curricular visits and guided tours of the area offered a local flavour of the region, in the literal sense when sampling local produce such as a Provence Rose cru classe wine tasting and various food in Aix-en-Provence on market day. Pupils learned about the WWII D-day landing on the Mediterranean in Toulon, taking a boat ride in Toulon bay to see the French Arsenal including the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier. Art and Geology followed with a hike around Cézanne's Montagne Sainte Victoire looking for dinosaur eggs. A visit of 'Fragonard' perfume factory in Grasse and a trip to the Oceanarium in Monaco added Chemistry and Marine Biology to a fully charged educational programme. Each evening the group returned to their host families to discuss the day's adventures – en

français naturellement

Marianne Marns
International Student Co-ordinator

Parent comment: *“A massive thank you for organising such an amazing trip ... my daughter's French has improved a lot and her confidence has definitely grown.”*

