



DARE TO BE THE BEST

## OUTWARD BOUND 2016

A selected group of year 11 students took part in the Outward Bound challenge. Undaunted by the reports of snow and freezing temperatures 34 boys set off first thing on Friday morning, for the six hour journey to Aberdovey in West Wales.



On arrival the boys received their Mock GCSE results and had time to contemplate their challenges for the weekend and also for the next five months. Was action needed? What strategies would help? Could they overcome any challenges? What would success look like for them? Then the groups were split up and were straight off to the challenges, be that rock climbing or high balancing. Then it was on to packing ready for a night in the hills. Luckily there were log cabins and we weren't expected to camp in the snow on the waterlogged ground. At the log cabin the frost was evident and the thin wooden walls only offered limited protection. While the clear night gave a great view of the stars and the heavens, it did make it particularly cold.

Early up to start the day and see the sunrise over the mountains and enjoy a camping style breakfast. Then, for our group, it was on to the water for a canoe trip up the river, rowing against the tide in four canoes lashed together. Teamwork and listening were vital to go in the right direction. After a quick change and lunch it was off

to the mountains for a walk on the slopes of Cader Idris through the snow. Some of us found it tough but by pairing off we were all successful, some of us found it quite frustrating but needed to put the group before our own needs.

We returned to the centre for welcome hot showers and a hot dinner then broke off for team challenges and proved that if you implement a plan you stand far more chance of success, and that communicating your ideas is really important.

Sunday morning was a cold one with a bitter wind as we moved to the dock where there was a Jetty Jump into the cold waters of the river or the Commando Challenge, between the dock and the quay, where if you were successful you could keep dry, which most of those who did it managed! After a reflection session and writing an action plan we had lunch and got onto the bus back to London and home.

We know that there may be a challenge between now and the real GCSE exams, but with support, teamwork and a positive mindset we can overcome some of the obstacles. So thanks to Mr Cook, Mr Abbas Omar, Mr Simenas and Mr Turnour for giving up their weekend to make the trip possible.

**Mehmet Tore, 11B**



### Jack Petchey Passion for Learning Award

January's winner is **Ernest Nkansah-Badu**, 10O. Mr Milki, Computer Science, nominated Ernest.

Mr Milki says: "Ernest continues to work exceptionally hard with passion in all

For four years **Rokeby School** has been in a partnership with **Moscow Gymnasium 1592**. The aim of this partnership is to help students learn more about Russia and to use the skills they have gained during their Russian lessons, which is why we have video lessons once a month. How does it work? Simple.

A couple clicks on a keyboard plus the magic of Skype and we have our students and the students in Moscow involved in the virtual learning process. Rokeby students are representing our school, so they are always mindful that their behaviour, manners and knowledge of the Russian language should be nothing less than exemplary. Video lessons are planned in advance by the two teachers leading the partnership (Ms D.Dambrauskiene, Rokeby's Russian teacher and Ms. Olesya Belyukina, English teacher in Moscow). Rokeby



**Rokeby's Year 11 Russian students**

watch students trying their best to help each other with the learning of the language at a distance.

Video lessons have specific learning objectives and students get involved in different themes and projects each time. The lessons involving the game *Chto?, Gde?, Kogda?* (*What?, Where?, When?*) are however the students' favourite. Students from each school prepare questions about culture, traditions and historical facts about Russia and England. The team which provides the most correct answers wins.

At the end of the year schools exchange prizes and formal certificates. Most importantly, at the end of Year 11, the students exchange emails and addresses so the friendships created during these video lessons can continue. How cool is that? There is a Russian saying, "Don't have one hundred Rubbles, but have one hundred friends." I know for sure that the students from our Russian group and from Moscow have enriched their friendship lists no end. Learn languages and the world is your oyster!

**Ms Dambrauskiene**



**Video link with students from Moscow Gymnasium 1592**

students only speak Russian while Moscow's students try to impress with their knowledge of English. It is very exciting to



**Mon, 25th Jan**  
Parent Information  
Session (Cyber Safety,  
9.30am)

**Thurs, 4th Feb**  
Year 11 Parents'  
Evening

**Fri, 5th Feb**  
Non-uniform Day

### ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

#### *Did you know:*

90% attendance = 1/2  
day missed every  
week.

90% attendance over  
one school year = 4  
whole weeks of  
missed lessons!

#### **How is YOUR tutor group doing?**

Congratulations this  
week go to:

**8B** with the best  
attendance at 99.1%  
&  
**7B** with the best  
punctuality at **98.7%**

### WORD OF THE WEEK

This week our word of  
the week is

#### **Schadenfreude**

Can you find the  
meaning of this word  
and make a sentence?



### NEW LIBRARY COLLECTION

Come along to the library to check out our new  
collection of **Horror** and **Crime** novels

