

KS3 go wild on the weekend!



At the end of September pupils from KS3 enjoyed a sleepover extravaganza, an annual event designed to help the younger students forge firm friendships and to teach them how to work together in different ways through their participation in a variety of very different activities.



For years 7 and 8, the weekend continued on from an already packed day at Outdoor School. After a short respite to regroup and recharge their batteries with some much-needed grub, they were joined by pupils from year 9. The evening started off with some teambuilding exercises, with groups mixed up to help them get to know each other and to offer a rare chance for everyone to work with new people and make new friends. Afterwards, as the evening drew in and despite the mild weather, they took advantage of the much-welcomed warming campfire to settle down and roast marshmallows whilst they sipped on hot chocolate. Afterwards they were split into groups and headed off to their different rooms to cosy up in sleeping bags and prepare for the big day ahead.

Up at dawn, the morning saw them feasting on bacon and egg rolls before they headed out



onto the yard to enjoy the chaos of the balloon popping war where they tied balloons to their ankles and tried to burst everyone else's. Following this, they decamped for Heatherton to enjoy a day in the sky, swinging among the treetops where they learnt how to tie themselves in knots, speed down zip wires and test their nerve on the high wire. As well as providing them with the chance to learn valuable teambuilding skills





by helping each other out, it soon became apparent that size or age was no dictator of who might come to another's aid. The instructor at Heatherton said, "I've never seen such a group of young people look after each other and work so well together as a team."

All in all everyone agreed that the weekend really helped all the pupils, both new and old, to form even stronger bonds with, not only their own year group, but also with others and that they had certainly got to know everyone a little better. As well as being classmates, everyone admitted they had definitely begun to work as a team and that they had begun to feel they could rely on each other more in any situation. Everyone agreed that the high wires and sleepover had both been highlights of the

weekend and one added that "it has helped to extend my social life in Castle School." And other admitted, "it was good to help out friends."

Director of Outdoor School, Ruth Harris, had the final word, adding "this was a fantastic event, yet again. Pupils rose to the challenge, showing amazing teamwork and facing and overcoming their fears. A great time was had by all."

PS We even managed to wear out Ryan!

