

Heckler



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Week 2 Published 16/09/2022

World Challenge 2022 Morocco



On the first Sunday of the Summer holidays when most students and teachers were having a well deserved lie-in, the World Challenge team were at Manchester airport at 5am to check in and depart for their adventure in Morocco. This was a trip that should have been in Summer 2021 to Romania but covid postponed this. Then the war in Ukraine led to a change in destination.

Leading up to departure, our main worry was linked to Covid passes and the news that they may randomly LF test you at the airport and the hotel isolation that may follow if you were positive. We were also told that masks were compulsory still pretty much everywhere. We needn't have worried about any of this. They weren't that interested in Covid passes, no one was tested and we never wore a mask the entire time we were there!



So after arriving safely and escaping the airport we were taken to our hotel in Marrakesh. The temperature was mid-40's. It was heat none of us had experienced before. We had some time to relax and then we walked to the main square (after sorting out getting some money). This was about a 30 minute walk and we were very tired but we took in the sights, sounds and smells of this amazing city. We grabbed a meal as we hadn't eaten much that day, had a quick look around before heading back to the hotel. They were lucky enough to have a small pool in the hotel so they had a quick 'dip' and cool off before an early night.

The next morning after breakfast we met our Guide for our trip into the Atlas Mountains. He was to be with us for the next 6 days. We were taken to the village of Imlil where we had a short walk up to the Gite we were staying in that night. Although it was cooler than Marrakesh it was still 35degree heat and although it was only a short walk, it was uphill and some of the group found it quite a challenge. They were treated to fantastic mountain views from the terrace of the gite, a lovely lunch and a relaxing afternoon playing cards and trying to acclimatize to the Moroccan climate.

We got up early the next morning. Breakfast was at 6am so that we could walk in the coolest part of the day. We had a 5 hour walk up to the village of Tacchedirt. And there was a tough climb. We passed through some of the small Berber villages and a wooded area on the ascent which thankfully was in the shade before heading up to our gite accommodation where we stayed for two nights. Again the views from the outside terrace of the mountains were stunning and the sunset and the stars in the evening were amazing. They had another relaxing afternoon after a tough walk.



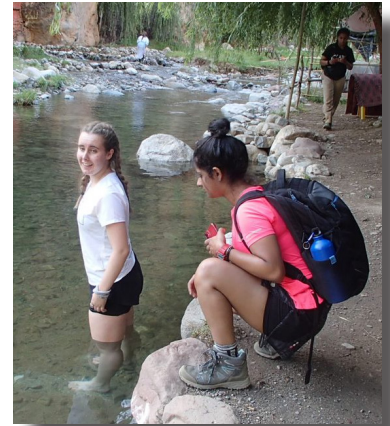
Day 3 was a shorter circular walk up to a local waterfall. Despite the fact that it was a shorter walk, we still had breakfast at 7 and were out at 8am. It was a climb up to the waterfall but the view was lovely. On the way down they were treated to watching all the local goat herders from the village moving their goats along the valley. This was fascinating to watch. There were hundreds of them!

On returning to the gite they relaxed and got an early night as we were to have breakfast at 5am on Day 4. This was our longest, highest and toughest day. We had enjoyed our two nights in the gite which had been a real treat as we had been expecting to camp. The gite was right outside the local Mosque so we were treated to the 'call to prayer' throughout the day and also to the noises and smells of the local animals (mainly cows and mules) of the village community.



We started walking in the dark with head torches on Day 4, which was exciting, but it was light just after 6am and we could put them away. We were climbing up over Tizi n'Tacheddirt pass to the village of Ouanesekra. The top of the mountain is 3200m. We hadn't started at sea level but it was

still a challenging climb up. The group were fantastic and lots of chat, water stops and moral support meant that they reached the top in 3 and a half hours. We met a number of locals on the way up. We learnt that an old man that passed us was blind and he went up frequently being guided by his



mule. We also had a mule and muleteer with us throughout the expedition who helped carry extra water and supplies for us.



We were delighted on reaching the summit, but we then had the long descent down to the village. This was steep and rocky in places and by now the sun was on us and it was very hot. A stop by a small stream where we had a snack of bread, tomatoes and sardines and fresh orange slices was much appreciated. During our rest the group had great fun in the stream

making boats out of orange skins and sailing them (as one of the said, they didn't have their phones, so they had found another way to entertain themselves!) We carried on down for a few more hours. We were starting to fatigue at this point and were delighted to reach the campsite and find lunch waiting for us. Although we were sleeping in our tents, there was a small indoor room to sit in to eat and escape the sun and we also had the treat of a proper sink and a delightful squat toilet (an experience for many!) After lunch they ventured outside and worked together



to pitch the tents. They were all exhausted and suffering slightly in some cases from the sun. They had some time to



relax before tea but as soon as it started to go dark, they were quickly into their tents for an early night.

On Day 5 we had another early start with breakfast at 6. Although most of today's walk was flat or downhill it was still a 6-hour day and the sun was on us from the moment it came up (we did have a fantastic sunrise). Today was the hottest day in the mountains getting close to 40 degrees at points.

We left camp and walked through the village to get onto a big wide track (dirt road). Some of the group were feeling the effects of the heat so they took it in turns to travel on the mule. This in itself was a fantastic experience (I think). Some of them looked to be holding on for their life whilst some (Tanishka) looked very glamorous on the back of the mule (or as much as you can without showering or clean clothes!) We stopped in a small village for a rest and then made the long final journey to the camp. This was the hardest part of the day. It was boiling and we were all feeling the effects. The



road (dirt track) seemed never ending but eventually our guide literally just took us off the side of the road down the side of a fairly steep drop into a clearing where we were going to wild camp. We sat by a stream for lunch and then most of the group fell asleep in the shade. We pitched the tents in a very small clearing just up above. After a sleep and some food they all seemed revitalised. They didn't move much from the mats but they spent the rest of the day chatting and laughing and playing cards.



On arriving back in Marrakesh we were taken to our hotel which this time was right in the centre by the square. After much needed and much deserved showers and some lunch we ventured out into the near 50 degree heat of Marrakesh. They loved exploring the souks and the square but it was so hot that they weren't out for long before returning for a rest. After tea we went out again. It possibly cools down slightly after dark, but not much, but

the place definitely comes alive. It is difficult to describe, it really needs to be experienced. Snake charmers, monkeys (stay away from those though), food stalls, souks, everyone trying to sell you everything. We stayed together as a group to go back to the souks for the last bit of shopping before returning to the hotel for a good night's sleep.

After breakfast we were picked up to be taken to the airport. Our trip was nearly over. It had been amazing. The group had been amazing. They embraced every tiny aspect of the trip. They looked after everyone, including the staff. They chatted, they laughed and they played games. On returning to Manchester and meeting their parents after a long delay collecting baggage, they were delighted to be back and see their families, but I think they didn't want to leave each other. After final farewells they all went their separate ways full of stories and photographs and experiences to share.

Thank you to everyone for making it a special and memorable trip. I feel privileged to have shared it all with you.

The group:

Eleanor Linsell Fraser

Chandni Pahal

Tanishka Gandhi

Martha Currie

Pooja Patel

Gracie Curtis-Dunn

Druvan Tailor

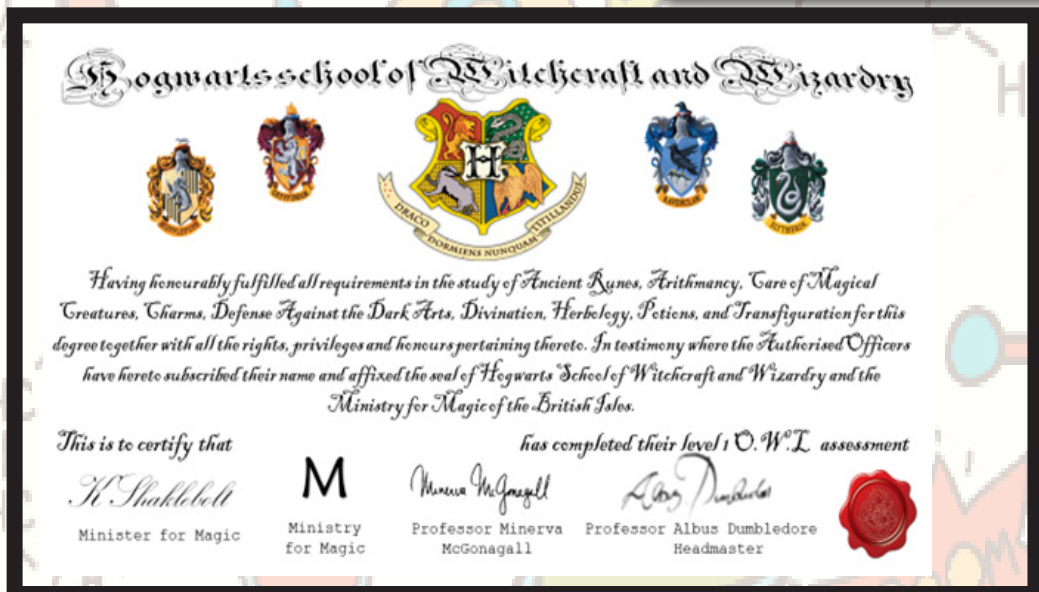


Subject Focus - Chemistry

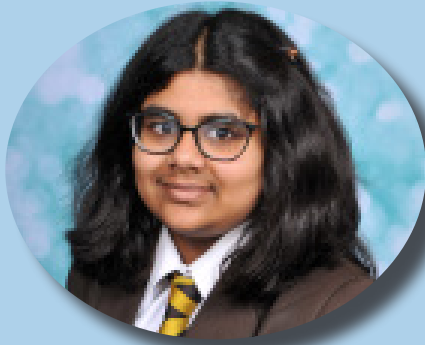


The chemistry department were again busy in the summer term visiting local primary schools with their mobile laboratory. Pupils in year 5 from Norristhorpe Junior and infant school, Gomersal primary school, Birkenshaw CE primary school and Roberttown CE junior and infant school all took part in a Harry Potter potion-making workshop. Potions included skele-gro, Beautifying potion, Polyjuice Potion and felix felicis.

The chemistry department are pleased to announce that all the children were successful in their potion making and were awarded their Level One OWL (Ordinary



Student Achievement



We are delighted to share that Bhoomi Marathe (Year 8) has achieved a perfect score of 162 on the Cattell B Mensa IQ test that she appeared for this summer vacation.

She has a real talent for maths and a great interest in coding, so we were keen to do this test.



Bhoomi's Mensa IQ test was marked and her results were: Cattell III B scale - 162 (1%) Culture Fair scale - 134 (2%) A score within the top two percent on either scale is required for Mensa membership. Due to this excellent score Bhoomi has been invited to become a member of Mensa, the High IQ

By taking up the invitation, Bhoomi will join a community of more than 20,000 people with a high IQ just like you.

Fantastic news Bhoomi. Well done on this excellent achievement

Young Persons' World of Work 2022

Emmanuella Olatoke

Participated in
BAE Systems' Young Persons'
World of Work Virtual Event

1 to 4 August 2022

BAE SYSTEMS



During the Summer holidays, Emmanuella Olatoke (Year 9) participated in the 'BAE Systems Young Persons World of Work Virtual Event' which took place from the 1st to 4th of August.

The participants were given an overview of BAE Systems Business, introduced to the Business Groups, Functions, Products & Services, Regions in which BAE Systems has operations, Skills required, Apprenticeships, plus took part in a daily interactive Hands-on STEM Activity.

Athletics Success

Anna McArdle (11H2) competed in the West Yorkshire track and field championships at Spens Princess Mary Stadium on Sunday. She competed in the Under 17 ladies discus and hammer, winning first place in both, throwing a hammer PB which beat her own club age-group record by over a meter. This confirms that Anna tops the girls athletics league table for the second year in a row at her club, Rothwell Harriers, after a successful summer outdoor season, culminating in a silver medal in the Under 17 ladies hammer at the Yorkshire County championships held at Cudworth.



Well Done LEO BEEVERS

Ex-student Leo Beevers attended the Tower Poetry Summer School in August. He wrote the winning poem *As a Moment Glimpsed Only Through Migration*



This is an excellent achievement of which HGS is really proud!

If you are interested in joining the 2023 summer school click [here](#)

Or would like to take part in the 2023 competition click [here](#)

“As a Moment Glimpsed Only Through Migration

Not knowing how to order their lives if not

by burning, they moved from room

to room. If there was something more than that

taking hold, deep where the dreamer can't touch,

I couldn't say. Outside, as usual, little resistance

at the flesh. Having reaped the lightning, they bound it

steadily and with tenderness, endless, rain

frailing the afterthought. Then winter, already. Then dew

along the windows. A still-flowering maple branch,

which is to say an artform, of their survival. The wild geese

have escaped from their paintings—feel the wound. As if

painting is nothing more than the sound the sky makes

in hunger. Paletteless. As if even that was enough

to live in. The hands you fell into were the colour

of cut stems. Or the raw, unbitten blue

their wings turn to, before they heal.”

Extra-Curricular



Warhammer Club

Interested in playing Warhammer 40K and other games?

Every Thursday After-School
3:30 - 4:30

Contact For Further Questions
Thomas Haigh
18thaigh@heckgrammer.co.uk

YEAR 9 - 13

WOMEN IN STEM

THURSDAY LUNCH
S 0 1 7



Share your interests, work with others, hear from inspiring women who work in the field!

Diary Dates

19 Sep 2022

School Closed
Funeral of Her Majesty
The Queen

20 Sep 2022

Entrance Exam
School closed to students

22 Sep 2022

Year 11 Information Evening
Reserve your seats using
this link

<https://heckmondwikegrammar.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

29 Sep 2022

Year 12 Information Evening
Reserve your seats using
this link

<https://heckmondwikegrammar.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

HOUSE EVENTS

Whole school events this half term

House Dance launch—September 20th

House Art launch—October 10th

w/c Monday 3 October

Senior Girls Netball (Y11 to Y13) - Lunchtime

Senior Boys Football (Y11 to Y13) - Lunchtime

Junior E-Sports —Lunchtime

Days TBC via House assembly

w/c Monday 10 October

Senior Debates Heats (Y10 to Y13) - After school

Inters Girls Netball (Y9 and Y10) - Lunchtime

House Dance Finals – After school Thursday 13th

Days TBC via House assembly

w/c Monday 17 October

Senior Debates Finals (Y10 to Y13) - After school



For more information see your Head of House!



HGS

trips



Year 7 Residential Trip

Monday 26 - Friday 30 September 2022



Year 12 Induction

Team Building Trip

Friday 16 September 2022

Keep an eye on this page as staff are busy preparing trips for the new school year 2022/2023

