

D of E Bronze award and Howstean Gorge

Three Students set off from school on Tuesday 18th July on the drive to Howstean Gorge near Harrogate to complete the expedition phase for the D of E Bronze award. They left school at 7.30 am with plenty of kit for the walks and overnight camping.

On arrival at Howstean Gorge near Harrogate the students set off on a 17K walk with two school staff and an external Assessor monitoring the students. They were required to carry their sleeping bags and food etc to make them totally self-sufficient for 24 hours. The students were very resilient when they went off track and needed to support each other with their map reading and leadership skills at this time. However, they were very dedicated in completing the walk which took the whole day.

The end of the walk took them back to Howstean Gorge where the students then needed to set up their own tents for the night. They cooked their own food using Hexi Cookers and they were certainly ready to eat. They all had a reasonable night due to feeling exhausted from the arduous walk during the day.

The following day the students made their own breakfast and then set off again on a 6K walk before returning back to base. All three students have now achieved the D of E Bronze award.

Following on from this other students set off from school on the Wednesday morning to meet up with the others that were already there to be part of a two night residential trip at Howstean Gorge. After lunch all students and staff took part in a Canoeing activity on the reservoir where everyone was supposed to keep together but for some reason we kept drifting apart! It was good fun and a laugh and no one got wet!

After dinner everyone took part in accessing a small cave at the campsite with an Instructor leading the activity and a camp fire was lit with students and staff chatting and relaxing as they sat around it.

The following day after breakfast everyone took part in abseiling off the bridge into the gorge. This was more nerve wracking for some than others but they all overcame their fears and successfully reached the bottom. It was a mixture of swimming through water, climbing over rocks and trying to get themselves up onto ledges to navigate the gorge. The worst thing was trying to get a wetsuit on and off!

After lunch, everyone took part in a further activity which was Caving. There was a variety of small spaces to crawl through as well as larger spaces where you could see a selection of fossils.

After dinner, everyone sat around the camp fire and toasted marshmallows as well as enjoying a game of hide and seek.

On Friday morning after breakfast everyone set off back to school.

It had been a new experience for some of our students whilst others had been before with us. It was lovely to see the camaraderie from our students especially when supporting others to have a go and try their best.



