

Wet and Wild

On Thursday 14th June, all Year 8 girls met outside the dining room, carrying big, heavy bags: we thought we were ready for anything. Anything but...

Our bags were packed, and we were about to spend three days at Blacklands Farm, working together all day and spending nights in tents. The members of staff that came with us were: Miss Whittaker, Miss Gale, Miss Jensen and Rachael Smith, Rachel Boxall, Natalie Banfield and Charlie Leak from Year 12; Miss Gale's dog, Megan, also joined us during the trip. As we loaded our entire luggage onto the "Gingerbread Bus", we were all extremely excited and we could not stop yelling and hugging each other.

We left St Mary's Hall at about 9.00am and we got there at 10.30am. We had to store all our equipment in a large shed and start 'building' our own tents. Our group, "The Toasted Marshmallows", was helped by Miss Martin and we finished first. We had never done this before so we found it a funny experience. After that we had a school packed lunch and were split into 3 groups of 10 people in each. There were many different activities such as water and wood collecting, cleaning and washing up, which each group took turns in doing.

Next we had a quick snack and then got changed for kayaking. We were split into 2 groups. We didn't like this activity because we were scared of falling into the water and the instructors behaved in an odd way.

At the end we were all wet and cold. When we got back to our campsite, we had a shower and a pleasant dinner: pasta with tuna and sweet corn and a slice of cake, with cherries on top, for pudding. During the evening we played volleyball together, whilst the teachers were preparing a cup of hot chocolate for us.

In the morning we did Crate Building and an Obstacle Course; we really enjoyed the activities because it was nice to work with people you sometimes ignore when you are at school. Afterwards we had to prepare sandwiches which we had with some crisps and fruit for lunch. During the afternoon all Year 8 girls went Abseiling and Rock Climbing. Both towers were really high (around 30 feet) and most of us were extremely scared but the ones who tried enjoyed it a lot.

After that almost everyone went to the swimming pool, while a few other girls stayed at the campsite and had a shower. We all had dinner together (pasta with tomato and ham sauce) and then the Year 12 girls organised a game for us: we were blindfolded and had to hold onto a rope, while they were guiding us and playing some jokes with cold water, wet cloths and brushes on our faces. We also had to bend down and crawl on the ground.



Picture: Genevieve Southwold
Story by: Rebecca Brambilla, Rosie Moss,
Sophie Ebeling and Laurel Stean

One great adventure after another

Before going to bed, Miss Gale prepared hot chocolate for everyone and some girls roasted marshmallows on the open fire. This was one of our favourite activities as we felt like being in a big family. The second night in the tent was better than the first one as we were more organised against the cold weather and managed to fall asleep earlier.

The following morning, after having breakfast, which consisted of bacon sandwiches and sausages, we had to start packing up, cleaning the toilets and doing the washing up. We were unlucky because the weather was miserable so we couldn't remove our tents. At last, the sun came out and we had lunch, followed by the "Awards Ceremony", during which the teachers gave a sweet to the best girl or girls in different (and sometimes funny) categories.

Sadly, during the Awards Ceremony some parents started arriving and, as soon as we finished, we had to go home. This experience taught us the value of friendship and team work and we'll never forget it.

Picture: Ellie Royston, abseiling





Hold on tight!



Mandy Yau & Alice Kerrigan



Jessica Price & Romina Duplain