

Trips

6th Form Lake District Trip 2003

After a gap of two years the Cumbrian Fells were again the location for the 6th Form post examination trip. In those two years several major changes have taken place to the trips that we used to take in the Lake District. Firstly is the accommodation, no longer the Mountain Hut but now the well appointed Langdale Youth hostel with showers and toilets and kitchens. What luxury! We had sole occupancy of the youth hostel and this provided us with our base from which to explore Lakeland.

Another major change was in the activities. We did not do three big fell walks as in previous trips but this year brought in the expertise of Summitreks to lead our activities and were they fun or what? Gorge Scrambling at Stickle Ghyll proved to be the most popular of the activities but equally successful was the Canadian canoeing on Lake Coniston (Delete "canoeing" and add "capsizing" for the true picture!) A more educational study of the impact of tourism in National Parks was less physically demanding and provided the students with an insight into this problem.

We did have a full day's walking as we attempted to ascend to Bow Fell. In low cloud and strong winds we had to opt for plan "B" at Angle Tarn and took a more low level but equally scenic route back to base. We felt it too risky to attempt Bow Fell and the only thing that fell was Mrs Callard who twisted her ankle! Poor thing!

The students had a wonderful time in Lakeland. They enjoyed each others company as a year group on a trip for the last time and I think by helping to do the chores / cooking in their groups they learnt a lot about team work and about themselves. The staff also enjoyed themselves and as party leader I am indebted to them for their support because without their willingness to face 5 days away from reports, exam marking and invigilation all this would not have been possible. Thank you!

The students will take away happy memories of the trip and I hope that at some time in the future they will revisit Cumbria having been educated into the problems of National Parks and having had a taste of what the Lake District has to offer.

Thank you all for making the trip a success. (We have already paid the deposit for next Year!)



Vinehall School

2002-2003

