



**FARINGDON**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# EDUCATIONAL VISITS

## 2022/2023

3,033 student places · 73 day visits · 71 nights away · 19 residential visits

### UGANDA

14 - 27 October 2022

This week a group of Year 13 students found themselves in Uganda as for the first time in three years we can revisit the pearl of Africa on our annual trip.



After a long flight via Qatar we found ourselves in Kampala and wasn't long before the students quickly made themselves at home in the accommodation.

The first day we went to the money exchange where we quickly all became Ugandan shilling millionaires and then it was off to the craft market to spend our new found wealth.



While this was the first of two visits to the market some of the group quickly accumulated a haul of gifts and clothing.

Day two it was an early start for the day of white water rafting. Although some members of the group were distinctly nervous we all managed to negotiate the rapids with only one capsized. I personally had a marvellous time in the safety boat!



Day three saw us off to Kazo Hill, our partnership school for a day of introduction and planning. The ice was broken with a magic trick from Amelie and some nifty and unique dancing from our president Euan. This quickly evolved into the hokey kokey, some serious Uno games and finally some hair braiding.

Day two at kazo was the main event. It started with a very serious quiz. Which resulted in a victory for FCC. ( not quite sure how!). Then came the main event, a debate between the East African nations and guests from GB. FCC were representing Burundi, the D R C and South Sudan. After some tough judging (by me!), Burundi came out victorious.

Day three was the big netball tournament. After a reluctant start and some of the boys having to watch an introduction to netball video in the morning, FCC quickly got into their stride. Although we only won one of our games the others were close and the students did us proud. We still have visits to the primary school, the equator and safari to go. So far the students have been amazing and a real credit to FCC.

## BATTELFIELDS

13—17 October 2022

Early on the morning of 13th October 2022, 61 year 11 students and 8 staff set out to visit the Western Front Battlefields of World War One. This site visit aims to give students an understanding of the key battles around Ypres and on the Somme to support their GCSE Studies. Students studying Warfare through Time look at the Battle of the Somme as a case study in developments in warfare, while those students studying Medicine through Time look at the impact of the trench environment and weapons on health.

Over the duration of the 5-day visit, students visited the Commonwealth Cemeteries at Essex Farm, Tyne Cot, Lijssenthoek hospital, as well as the Thiepval Memorial to those who died on the Somme, but who have no grave. Students also visited a number of trench sites, including the fully preserved trench system at Sanctuary Wood, The Passchendaele Museum and the Lochnagar Crater.

One of the many highlights was a visit to Talbot House in Poperinge. Talbot House was known as the 'Everyman's Club' – being a place where soldiers, not matter what their rank, could come for rest and relaxation away from the trenches. Built over a number of floors, it is a working guest house and charity. Students were able to roam through the house and get a sense of what Talbot House provided for the soldiers of World War One, be it spiritual relief in the chapel in the eves of the house, relaxation with a game of chess in the lounge or coffee and music in the kitchen.

As with all visits to the battlefields of the Western Front, remembrance played a large part in the visit. Students were fortunate to attend the daily remembrance ceremony at the Menin Gate, and hear the last post sounded as part of daily ceremony that has taken place here every day (with a small break during World War Two) since 1928. Students laid wreaths on behalf of the school at Thiepval Memorial on the Somme, remembering those who gave their lives but have no grave, and at the 'Shot at dawn' memorial in Poperinge, where we remembered those executed by their own forces for what was then seen as cowardice.



Our group of students were exemplary in their attitude and behaviour at the various sites visited as part of this visit, with members of the public, seeking out staff to explain how impressive they were. Overall, this was a powerful and thought provoking trip, made so much more meaningful as a result of the maturity demonstrated by year 11.

Richard Hill, Subject Leader— History

The battlefield trip was one of my highlights of my 4 and ½ years so far of being at Faringdon Community College. The trip was engaging and informative during the day when going through battlefields, graves, museums and monuments. The hotel was great with the boxing machine and table tennis being top attractions. I made great memories that I will remember for a long time and made better relationships with people that I wouldn't have done otherwise.

Lewis

Recently, I was fortunate enough to go on the Year 11 Battlefields trip to France and Belgium. It was a fantastic few days, as I learnt do much more about the Great War. My background knowledge of the war was so small compared to what I learnt on this trip.

After 8 hours of travelling we visited our first cemetery. This was very sobering, as we saw the graves of 12 and 13 year old boys. Later in the day we visited Ypres, where we went to an exhibition called 'In Flanders Field', inside the medieval cloth hall. We continued our focus on the Ypres Salient on the second day where we visited our first set of preserved trenches, at Sanctuary Wood. We then attended a ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, where wreaths were laid and the Last Post was sounded.

We also visited the site of the Battle of the Somme, one of the most well known and bloodiest battles in World War One. We visited a number of cemeteries showing the scale of the conflict, but one that stood out was a small commonwealth cemetery, where our bus driver, Ken, found an unexploded shell from World War One.

On the fourth day, we continued our visit by going to the Wellington Quarry in Arras, where thousands of soldiers excavated a series of underground tunnels for weeks on end, waiting for the signal to attack.

All in all, it was a fantastic opportunity that I am so glad I had the chance to take. The trip has really assisted my learning





throughout my course, and I would highly recommend you go!!

James

The battlefields trip was a very educational trip organised by the school for around 60 year 11 students to go and see the historical battlefields of WW1. It was relevant to both pathways 1 and 2, as it looked at both trench warfare and the impact of Trench life on the health of soldiers in World War One.

I personally enjoyed this trip because it was incredibly interesting. Admittedly, the days were long and sometimes we didn't get back to the hotel until late, but it was definitely worth it. We'd visit around 4-5 sites per day and all of them were filled to the brim with interesting historical displays and artefacts. We also got an opportunity to have some time for ourselves and spend some leisure time in Ypres and to get souvenirs for our families.

All of the staff were fantastic, especially Ms. Armstrong, who came back especially to be our guide as a WW1 specialist. The bus driver, Ken, was also incredibly helpful and had some really interesting things to show us, including WW1 shrapnel – an even finding an unexploded shell!

We visited many cemeteries, the last resting place of fallen soldiers and many students got a chance to visit relatives and pay respects to those who sacrificed their lives in the war. We laid 2 wreaths on the trip and held respectful silences. We visited some interesting museums including Hill 62, where real life trenches have been preserved that we could walk through.

We visited the Beaumont-Hammel Newfoundland Memorial, which also preserved some of the WW1 first-line battlefields. There were many immersive experiences and it was all



incredibly well planned, everything was handled really sensitively and it was an overall enjoyable experience.

I would 100% recommend that, if you ever have the chance to go, you should absolutely take it.

Eowyn

I have recently returned from the FCC Battlefields Trip to France and Belgium. It was an experience I will never forget, being surrounded by amazing staff and a lot of my friends made this trip one I will love forever.

We did so many activities everyday while abroad the days felt like a week, this trip opened my eyes to how many people died and suffered during World War One, and I learned so many things I didn't know before. This trip is a topic me and my friends always talk about, like how much we miss Ypres and want to go back. Seeing everything for ourselves like the trenches, the cemeteries and the war memorials. I was so lucky and privileged to be able to go on this trip.

During one of our stops, we went to the Somme Memorial, where I found two relatives. This made me sad discovering how they died and that they did not have individual graves, but at least they had their names somewhere which a lot of men did not.

This trip is definitely one of the best in the school and I would 100% recommend going if chosen, it is an experience where you will make amazing memories and one you will never forget.

Ellie



## GOOD SHOW, NEC

24 November 2022

Year 10 Food and Nutrition, and Hospitality and Catering students took a trip to the BBC Good Food Show at the NEC in Birmingham. Students had the opportunity to watch professional chef Gennaro Contaldo cook pumpkin risotto and vegetable tagliatelle. This was a great chance for the students to see how a professional chef multitasks, manages his time and plates food. They also had the chance to taste, try and buy from over 300 producers and big brands!



## OXFORDSHIRE BOOK AWARDS 2022

24 November 2022

On the 10th November our fantastic Oxfordshire Book Awards book group went on an adventure to Oxford to attend the 2022 Oxfordshire Book Awards Ceremony at Magdalen College School. 16 students, Mrs Tsolakoglou, and Mrs Brame travelled by public transport to Oxford, admiring the local architecture as we walked along the High Street to MCS.

Once settled into our seats, we were welcomed by the OBA patron, Jo Cotterill, watched and listened to several authors receive their awards online, had an art lesson from the amazing illustrator, Sam Usher, and met other authors attending the actual event, including the wonderful Onjali Q. Rauf. It was a very busy but exciting afternoon which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved. The delicious cakes on offer may have helped along the way too!

Mrs Brame, Librarian

After completing a book challenge of reading six books in six weeks, my book group was invited to go to the Oxfordshire Book Awards and hear the winners and runners up of the event.

We caught the public bus to Oxford and walked through the city towards the school that was hosting the award ceremony. We read a book called 'Barbara Throws A Wobbler' and participated in an art lesson by an illustrator for the first part,

during the results for the younger years' competition. Occasionally, some questions would be asked, and we had the opportunity to win a golden ticket which meant we could have a free book of our choice for our school library. Unfortunately, we did not win one.

When the awards were announced and prizes were given, I went to meet an author named Onjali Q. Rauf, who wrote the book 'The Night Bus Hero', a nominated book for the award. She signed a postcard for me, and others interested in her work.

We then had the opportunity to buy books from nominated authors and meet the authors that could be present at the ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, we played games and won points for our school, and then set off home on the public bus.

It was a lovely trip and I enjoyed having a day out with my book group. It gave me a chance to see people I would not usually see daily and meet others from different years, and to be openly passionate about books and reading. Thank you Mrs Brame for the experience!

Megan (9AMD)

The Oxfordshire book awards (or OBA) is an awards ceremony that awards certain authors for their book. I found OBA very interesting, and it definitely opened my eyes to new book genres. There were 2 sections to the OBA awards ceremony: junior authors and secondary authors. There were lots of things to do during the book ceremony, an illustrator came in and did a drawing of a pirate (I don't think mine was that good), which was named Iron Beard. We then moved onto the secondary book awards. The senior book award was won by When the Sky Falls, written by Phil Earle. I personally enjoyed this book as it was a completely different book type than I am used to reading. Overall, I think the OBA ceremony was absolutely amazing (and so were the cakes!).

Lily (9RJA)





## SKI & SNOWBOARD TRIP, ITALY

1—7 January 2023

41 sixth formers welcomed in the New Year with the bi-annual ski trip to Alpendorf in Austria.

After a 22-hour coach journey, we arrived at the resort to springlike temperatures and very little snow. This did not deter our enthusiasm and spirit.

There was enough snow on the slopes to allow the beginners to become proficient, for the advanced group to tackle black runs on ski safari and the intermediates to have the confidence to ski down the mountain, in the dark, on the first day. They missed the chair lift down so the only way down was to ski. The true grit award goes to Amber.

The evenings were spent experiencing an Austrian version of Bowling, visiting the spectacular city of Salzburg, which still had a Christmassy feel, and visiting a local pizzeria, followed by card games in the hotel. We celebrated three 18th birthdays whilst away and hope Alex, Nathan and Adam will have lifelong memories of how they spent their birthdays.

The camaraderie of the students and the relationships we built with the coach drivers, hotel staff and ski team were fantastic. It was a fabulous trip and an excellent way to welcome in the new year.

The special awards go to Kevin for defying gravity by getting up a slope faster than going down it; Lucy for potentially saving the lives of Kevin and Djillali by realising the safety bar had to come down on the ski lift; Zac for initiating a new sport - coming down a black run on one ski - and Jake for getting himself noticed all week.

It was an incredibly special week, and I would like to give heartfelt thanks to Mrs Canniford, Mr Harris, Mr Vallely and Mrs West who gave up part of their Christmas break to support the students, making it a wonderful week.



## POETRY LIVE!, BRISTOL

30 January 2023

Poetry Live! Was an extremely enjoyable experience, which was an eye opener into the world of poetry. As GCSE students being able to hear the poets and receiving their own insight was an unforgettable moment that will help us throughout the rest of the year. Alongside this, receiving tips and advice from an examiner will be useful, not only in poetry, but all English exams.

The poets were lively and full of character, showcasing their love of poetry, which spread to the crowd. Not only did we hear present poets but how past poets such as Wilfred Owen influenced their work. Most poets performed multiple examples of their poetry to us which we are extremely grateful for as it gave us a view into their styles and methods.

Having such a wide range of poets who write about such a wide range of topics, from War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy to Checking Out Me History by John Agard, really amplified the experience.

We were also lucky enough to see Jasmine in Year 12 perform her excellent poem which won the poetry competition last year. We had an excellent time at Poetry Live! and would recommend going if you get the chance.

Elsa and Isabelle

## SKI & SNOWBOARD TRIP, ITALY

14—21 January 2023

On Saturday 14th January 2023, 83 students and 12 staff departed for Italy for the year 9 ski and snowboard trip. We didn't leave until the evening, but we had a good journey through the night, which saw us arrive at Aosta Valley around lunchtime on Sunday. Following equipment fitting sessions, the students had some time to unpack and relax in the hotel, preparing for a full on week of skiing and snowboarding activities.

Overall, we experienced very good skiing and boarding conditions. On arrival, we were greeted with cloudy conditions, and it snowed for the first 2 days. We were then fortunate to have blue skies and cold temperatures for the rest of the week. This meant the snow cover was good throughout the resort for the duration of the trip. The group were very lucky to experience such good weather as it meant excellent ski conditions.

A superb amount of progress was made by all students in their chosen discipline of either skiing or boarding. With a large number of beginners taking part this year (57 out of 83 participants), it was encouraging to see most of these students completing some challenging runs by the end of the week. Those with a higher level of proficiency to begin with improved both competence and technique, making progress in their own right.

## OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

23 January 2023

Thank you to Kit, and all the other staff, from Brookes University for hosting us in their PE labs. The students were involved in interactive V02 max practicals and had an extensive tour of their facilities. It was an inspiring visit, and we are so grateful for their time and genuine interest in our FCC GCSE and A-level students.

## STRESS BUSTER WORKSHOP

2 February 2023

This week a group of Year 10 students attended a workshop run by Active Oxfordshire based on 'Stress Buster' techniques. The group had the opportunity to attend workshops on healthy eating, self care, benefits of exercise and a very interesting workshop delivered by 'Sport in Mind'. The students were well engaged and hopefully received techniques to help them alleviate stress in the upcoming months.

Mrs Greenaway-Byrne



Throughout the week we got to enjoy a range of après ski activities. On Monday evening we went to a local Pizzeria and got to enjoy all you can eat authentic Italian pizzas. This was a particular favourite of students and staff alike. Tuesday we went into Aosta for ice cream and an opportunity to do a little shopping. Wednesday after an early dinner in the hotel we went ice skating at the local rink in Courmayeur. On Thursday, a presentation was made by the instructors to each student, issuing them with a certificate, outlining the level of progress made. This meant an action packed and enjoyable week.

As well as the progress made on the slopes, I am delighted with the conduct and attitude shown by the students. Interski staff, hotel staff and ski/snowboard instructors commented on the friendliness and positive attitude shown by the group. This is extremely pleasing and made the college staff in attendance feel very proud.



## FOLLY FEST

7 July 2023



On the evening of 7th July, the community of Faringdon was treated to a showcase of the musical talents we have here at FCC.

After a successful performance last year, we came back bigger and better with even more students to open the stage at 'The Crown'. Overall, 30 students from all year groups performed on the stage during the evening. We were also really lucky to be treated to a performance by the Folly View choir!



# UCAS

## UCAS EXHIBITION

27 June 2023

On Tuesday 27th June Year 12 visited the NEC in Birmingham, where there were over 160 stands of businesses, universities and apprenticeships all providing information surrounding the experiences they offered along with goodies, pens, bags, hats etc.

Leading us to contemplate universities and courses whilst concurrently weighing up which stand has the best freebies. Ultimately, attending this event helped me realise what course was right for me.

When I was discussing general engineering with the University of Sheffield, it allowed me to discover my fascination with software engineering.

Overall, this day made the application process to university much less daunting through helpful stands and friendly faces.

## BATH

4 July 2023

My English class and I went on a daring adventure to Bath on Tuesday 4th July!

The focus of the trip was to explore the nature and history of the book 'Frankenstein'. We went to a museum to learn all about the true development of the book. We also visited a challenging Escape Room which was heavily influenced by the novella Frankenstein in which, I might add, we completed in no time... With a little help from the staff!

We then explored the streets of Bath, looking at the local shops, and taking in all the sights Bath had to offer. We took a little time out to enjoy our lunch overlooking the Mary Shelley Institution, reflecting and discussing the novelist's work.

Even though we used our brains a lot me, Zelda, Ralph, Jasmine M, Jasmine B and Ice had so much fun. However, Zelda and Jasmine.M were screaming all the time in the Escape Room, the others and I found it very funny.

Overall, we would like to thank Miss Smith and Mr Adams for making the trip possible. I enjoyed it very much it was a 11/10 - would recommend!

Api, 12SHa

## THANK YOU

An enormous thank you needs to go to all the staff and students who have been involved in trips this term. Thank you to the students for their exemplary behaviour and acting as excellent ambassadors for the school .

A special thank you for all the staff who show a great willingness to go beyond to organise, lead and support the many activities that FCC are proud of. Many staff give up their time at weekends and evenings to give FCC students as many opportunities as possible.

Trips this term include: Residential at Croft Farm and STEM, D of E Silver Expedition. Day trips to Coleshill, Big Pit, Salisbury, Curriculum trips to HMP Huntercombe, the UCAS convention, Careers Day at New College, Common Leys, Festival of Friends, Girls into Engineering, Music at the Primary school and Faringdon Fest, JET visit and Forest School Tutor reward trips Bowling and finally cultural trips to Lion King and Theatre Trip to Bath.

This is a tremendous effort by staff and students alike. However, not one of these opportunities would take place without the marvellous organisation and planning by Charlotte Heath (EVC). My final BIG thank you, is to Charlotte for her dedication and commitment.

Mrs Button

