

Italy Bay of Naples 2019

On the cold, dark evening of Thursday 24th October, 38 Sixth Form students and 4 members of staff embarked on the journey from Netherthorpe School to Gatwick Airport. Leading the trip was the ever so excited Mr Clark who had dragged himself out of retirement to lead this trip one last time before hanging up his legendary trip leading boots.

Students were also joined by previous Head of Year 12, Mr Brennan, who had recently returned to work after a bout of amateur bull fighting. It was lucky that Mr Brennan was able to make the trip as he spoke the most Italian; a lot more than the half-Italian photographer who accompanied the trip and proved less than useless when it came to interpretation.

Excitement was in the air as the coach dropped everyone off at the airport and students were handed their passports ready for check-in. More excitement followed with the self-checking element of the process. For one student it was a whole new experience and he learnt very quickly that it is not a good idea to leave your passport on top of your suitcase. He watched as it disappeared down the self-check-in conveyor system... After a worrying wait he was thankfully re-united with the passport but only after staff had checked CCTV footage to see where it had dropped off the conveyor system.



Flying over to Italy students used the time to catch up on some sleep. Mr Clark, however, took a turn for the worse - and at one point it was touch and go as to whether he would survive the flight. And on landing at Naples Airport in Italy one student realised they had left their phone on the plane! This was a sign of things to come!

Day 1

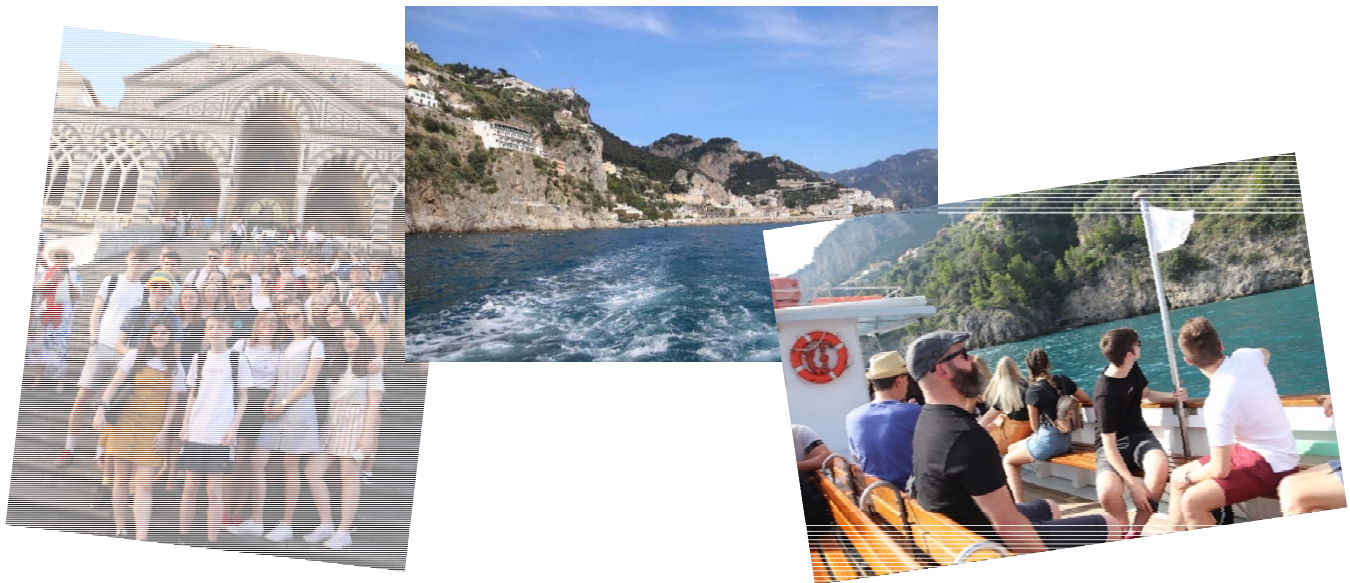
After a long journey from the school through Thursday night, they were off on the first tour of the trip to the Flavian Amphitheatre in Pozzuoli. Students explored the Amphitheatre and learned about its history. They then got their first taste of Italian dining which obviously included pasta. Most were very happy with the cuisine on offer, however the vegetarian options were limited and 'interesting'.



The coach then took everyone to Herculaneum where students toured the city which had been buried under volcanic ash; in fact Herculaneum is one of few ancient cities to be preserved more or less intact.



After a hearty continental breakfast at the hotel - and the legend that is Mr Clark returning to life after his near death experience on the plane – everyone was happy to be heading out for a tour of the Amalfi coast. The guide showed them the beautiful beaches (not quite how he pronounced it much to the amusement of the students) along the way. This was followed by a boat tour of the coast, an opportunity to explore some of the Italian towns en route and experience some of the delights of Italian ice cream. Mr Brennan used this time wisely and purchased a selection of nautical memorabilia whereas Mr Clark was just enjoying being alive.



Students enjoyed an evening meal of Pizza which was a great delight after two days of pasta. They then used public transport in the form of the train to return to the hotel. Some locals provided the entertainment as Tony and Mr Brennan became the bodyguards for the carriage that Mr Clark and Mrs Phillips had requisitioned for the journey.

Day 3

Another hearty breakfast and students were ready for a full day exploring the island of Capri. There was a very exciting bus trip towards the middle of the island where the busses were within millimetres of hitting each other.



This was followed by the chair lift up to the top of Capri with breath-taking views. Students then enjoyed their packed lunch that the hotel had provided; most of the enjoyment came from trying to work out what was on each sandwich.



Students descended the chair lift and then took time to tour the middle of the island.

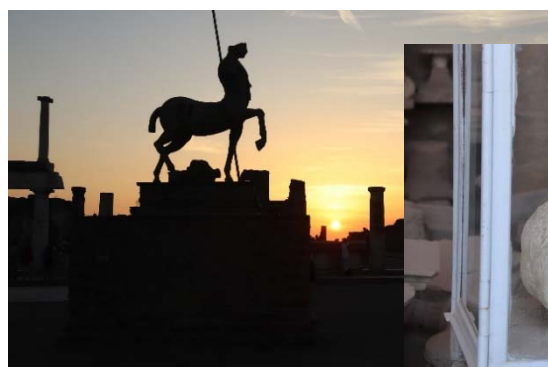


Day 4

The Coach arrived early to collect students from the hotel as they had a mountain to climb that day. It wasn't a great start when one student decided to head-butt the door that every other student had avoided, but luckily that was the only disaster of the day especially when it's a day spent exploring a volcano. The coach took the students most of the way up Mount Vesuvius and they walked the rest of the way up to the crater's edge. Students were then taken on a tour of the volcano where an expert guide explained its history.



Halfway down the volcano students enjoyed a Pizza pit stop before they journeyed to Pompeii; a large city that was mostly preserved under the ash of the exploding volcano. Organic remains, including human bodies, were entombed in the volcanic ash leaving voids, these were used as moulds to make plaster casts of unique and often gruesome figures. Students had a brief tour and some words of advice from Mr Clark before they were free to tour the bits they found most interesting.



Day 5

A restful coach journey to Rome airport before flying home and landing in London city airport. As usual this went **with** a hitch, Mr Brennan and Mrs Philips took the brunt of the angry airport staff as students had been sent through incorrectly, even though their procedure was correct at every other airport. Students then enjoyed their return to British food and wolfed down their McDonalds. A very good time was had by all on another legendary Netherthorpe 6th Form trip. Lots to see and do and plenty of pizza, pasta and ice-cream.