

Peru Expedition 2011

During the summer months this year eighteen Students from St. Gregory's completed a month long Expedition to Peru as part of their 20 month long World challenge Programme. I would like to thank all those who helped in the fundraising for the expedition. The pinnacle of the expedition was an eleven day trek in the Andes up to an altitude of 4,800m in places followed by a day trek up to Machu Picchu at 4am; being among the select few to climb Huayna Picchu overlooking the Inca ruins.



The program is specifically designed to challenge the students which helps develop confidence in themselves and a can do attitude. Each day a different student leads the Team whilst the others work in groups to source accommodation, transport and food. Learning to work as part of a Team is key to the success of the Expedition and despite the language barrier they managed this successfully.

Other aspects of the Expedition included day treks in the sacred valley, white-water rafting in Arequipa, amazing wildlife tours at the Paracas National Park & Ballestas Islands and visits to the Euros "Floating reed "Islands at Lake Titicaca.



We worked for five days helping to construct a Medical centre for the Local community at Chillipawa, a remote village a day's walk from the nearest town deep in the hills. I would like to thank the parents of the students for donating medical supplies and funds to the centre. The community is very poor and the contribution was deeply appreciated.



I think the Students gained a lot from this Expedition in terms of self-development. Many of them are brimming with confidence and have gone on to take up Lead student positions in the 6th form this year.



There will be another Expedition in 2013 to Nepal which will combine the same personal development programme, trekking and sightseeing. If your child wants to be part of an amazing, challenging and rewarding experience then this is the programme for them. A parent Information Evening will be hosted on the 14th November at 7pm in the School chapel on Nepal 2013. Ideally we are looking for students currently in Year 10 & 11. You can email me if you require more information at nronan@sgschool.org.uk and I will hold a session before this date during a lunchtime so that any interested Students can talk to those Students who took part in the Peru Expedition. They can also find more information on past Expeditions on the World Challenge Website on our FROG learning portal in the Subjects area.

Lastly I would like to really thank all the Students for their fantastic attitude, team work and banter throughout the expedition.