

MOROCCO



On 10 April fourteen Year 9 students led by Mr Deighton, Mr Mossop and Miss Hale, set off for the Jebel Sahro Mountains in Morocco, located between the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara Desert. After a night in Marrakech, the group travelled south over the mountains to Tagdilt, a small remote settlement where they stayed for the night before starting the trek the next day.

The first day's journey was mostly uphill, it snowed, but helped by the guides and the mules who carried the heavy gear, the first night's camp was reached near a nomadic shepherds' small village. Local children soon found the group and unpacked their little shop, students tried to barter with skills practised in Marrakech but their prices were fixed.

After a frosty night they set off – the first challenge of the day was to get to the top of a rocky peak which involved a scramble. The students moved on quickly when they discovered a snake swimming in one of the pools trying to catch some frogs. The second night saw the group camping at the bottom of some cliffs near a compound. On the third day they started to leave the mountains and pass through villages; it got hotter too. On the last night of the trek everyone slept out under the stars.

They then travelled to Ait Ben Haddou the next day – a famous Kasbah or fortified village. There was a swimming pool, shops, everything that the students had been without in the very remote mountains! Another adventurous night was spent bivouacing on the roof of the hotel before exploring the kasbah and returning to Marrakech before heading home.

Resilience, energy, adaptability and a sense of humour were important factors in making this trip a success and everybody demonstrated these qualities to a massive extent.

Thanks to Mr Deighton, Mr Mossop and Miss Hale but most of all to the team for being brave enough to take on a big challenge far from home and being such a pleasure to take away.

