

## Our Amazing trip to Madagascar

This year Mr Howard and Miss Keitch took 13 KS4/ KS5 Students to Madagascar, Africa. The 3 week expedition was almost too amazing to put into words. The trip included trekking through a rainforest with David Attenborough's personal guide, sleeping under lemur families and going on midnight walks to see some of Madagascar's most elusive wildlife.

Our team also went to the most remote village, 2 hours from any concreted road and was met by the most welcoming community. The community had no running water or electricity and were self-sufficient. They kindly gave up their school so that we could stay somewhere dry for 4 days. They built toilets and a bucket shower for us. We ended up working with them to build a nursery as they only had 2 classrooms for over 200 students and nothing for infants. In 4 days, our team and the locals worked together and completed the project.

When we weren't building, we were teaching the Malagasy children basic English, numbers, English school games and more. Our team also had a daily football match against the local villagers in a field that had bamboo sticks made up of goals and the sidelines for the pitch were made up of the herd of Zebu. This activity attracted hundreds of locals to come and watch. The World Challenge team beat the Malagasy team on each occasion. The rivalry was well received by all.

Finally, the team went on to trek the highest climbable peak in Madagascar before heading down to the coast for some rest & relaxation. This included whale watching & snorkelling. After a nervous flight back to the capital, the team went to a lemur sanctuary and spent their final day collecting souvenirs for families before heading home.

