



Lands End to John O'Groats

Dear Parent/Carer,

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who was actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood: who strives valiantly: who errs, who comes short again and again.

There is no effort without error and shortcoming: but who does actually strive to do the deeds: who knows great enthusiasms, great devotions and spends great time in a worthy cause.

Who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement... he is daring greatly....." Theodore Roosevelt

Mr Hall, Mr Nagle, Mr Welch, Mr Hobbs and Mr Winiacki delivered a stimulating assembly to our Year 8 students today. They described their cycling journey from Land's End to John O'Groats and the very simple message: hard work, effort and excellent teamwork always pays off.

They all shared their individual thoughts and feelings. Together they had to cycle 960 miles. They talked about their failings, their sense of desperation and despair, the difficulty of cycling in a peloton during wind and rain. Ultimately, they described their courage to be vulnerable and how their vulnerability transformed their attitude towards something which seemed quite impossible. You see, they did not compete with each other, they supported each other every step of the way, playing to strengths, realising weaknesses - but sharing a single inspirational, life affirming vision.

The Year 8 students sat there wide eyed, many of them in utter disbelief about this terrific sporting achievement. Mr Hobbs talked about the day when he had three punctures, lost his way in the pouring rain, and really wanted to give up because he felt he had let the team down. Mr Nagle talked about the first afternoon cycling through Cornwall during wind, rain and steep hills and he described the psychological terror, feeling that the task was too impossible, too big, and ultimately too ambitious. He had to break each day into small parts, into small wins, which eventually started to add up. Mr Welch, Mr Winiacki and Mr Hall also described their vulnerable moments in terrific detail. But the whole sense of their team identity shone through.

This is what great sporting moments are made of. This, to me, is what education is all about - putting your ten thousand hours in, facing your demons, realising that you do not have to be alone with the problems that you face, triumphing over adversity.

They will never forget this experience as long as they live. It was an incredibly emotional moment as they described their sense of relief as they reached the sign post at John O'Groats. I was particularly inspired by their team identity and their wonderful camaraderie as they engaged our robust and challenging Year 8 students.

This is a truly inspirational Hendon moment. I am so pleased that they will be sharing this experience with all year groups. I also want their experience to be recorded in the Hendon News. It is the 100th anniversary of Hendon School being at the heart of education. I will be writing to the Old Hendonians about this incredible experience. A privilege to be part of something so spectacular.

Human endurance at its best!

"Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar"

Traveller, there is no path, the path must be forged as you walk.

This line, from the Spanish poet Antonio Machaodo, captures the very spirit of this truly incredible journey.

Kind regards.

Kevin McKellar



Monday 21 October - Friday 25 October

Tuesday 22 October	Year 7 Road Safety Event (Hall)	Period 5
Wednesday 23 October	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (Hall)	
Thursday 24 October	Start of Japan Trip GCSE Maths Intervention	3.30 - 4.30 pm
Friday 25 October	No Events	

Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November

Half Term Break