

Classics visit to Greece (July 2019)

As soon as we approached the land, rocky terrain from a bird's eye view built anticipation in us, and we stepped out. The warm Mediterranean air graced our features; we knew we were on holiday.

The first two days we had the privilege to spend in Athens, we aimed to immerse ourselves within our curriculum, understanding as much as possible about Ancient Civilisation from the heart of the nation itself. Equipped with our layers of sunscreen and two litre water bottles, we set off to venture to the world-renowned Acropolis, a fundamental aspect of our Women in the Ancient World, specifically Religion, studies. The Acropolis is the apex of the city and placed upon it is the great temple of the Parthenon, dedicated to the city's patron goddess, Athena. Our knowledgeable tour guide took us to the Acropolis Museum, where the friezes from the temple were taken and preserved – though only some of them reside in Athens itself, and the rest are housed in our own British Museum. Another highlight of Athens was the famous man made, brilliantly azul Corinth canal, also known as the Isthmus Canal, built to link Grecian mainland to the Peloponnese.

After Athens, we headed due south to Tolo. Coupled with its close distance to Ancient landmarks, such as Epidauros; the sanctuary of the god of medicine Asklepios, and Mycenae; the ancient Peloponnesian city, Tolo was also a beautiful town. The hotel was quiet and serene and in the neighboring town of Nafplio, we had the freedom to wander down the high street and buy as many souvenirs as our Euros could provide. One of the highlights of the trip was nature itself; wading around in the waters of Tolo and watching the sunset dissolve into stars was incomparable.

Overall, the excursion not only broadened our academic horizons but also exposed the beauty of Greece and was undoubtedly the highlight of our summer.

Noor and Meerab, 10R

