

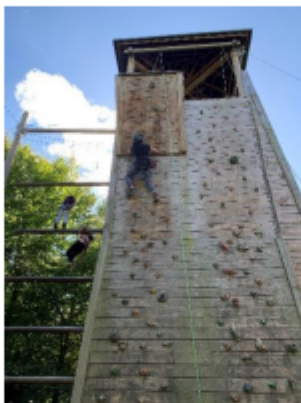
Year 11 Visit Thriftwood

On school birthday, Friday 28th September, Year 11 went to Thriftwood, an activity centre in Brentwood. The day was filled with various challenges including climbing, Jacobs ladder, sky high, zip wire, problem solving and rifle shooting. The day was extremely entertaining as there were numerous different activities available to us and we were all keen to experience new things!

We were placed in groups of 12 and designated three tasks. The first activity that our (Hanisha and Ramisa) group completed, was Jacob's Ladder, the aim being to try and reach the top of the ladder, but after each rung, the distance to the next rung increased in distance. This meant that the higher we went, the harder it was to climb onto the next step. We all got into pairs and helped each other progress through the steps. There were a few nervous faces at the start, but all team members gave it a go, and three students even conquered the maximum height possible. An activity like this, enabled us to become more confident and the pride after coming back down and seeing how high you actually climbed was a memorable feeling.

The second activity our group took part in was rifle shooting. This involved firing at targets with a rifle, requiring good precision skills. Only one student managed to aim it directly on the bullseye in our group, but the challenge of aiming it correctly, and the battle of holding the gun correctly is something that we all took away with us.

We then went on to a problem solving task which we weren't keen on as we envied our peers gliding on the zip wire but, rather surprisingly, this task ended up being our favourite by far because it involved us working as a team. We were challenged tactically and our group came up with some very abstract ideas- like does a dog really need a head (which we learnt it does). We overcame the 'Spiders' Web' which consisted of tangled ropes attached to two trees which we had to get our team through. Eventually we successfully completed all the challenges and decided to make a human pyramid to commemorate our success as a team.



At Thriftwood, our (Christa and Jashmiga) group started off with zip-lining, which, to many of us, was foreign. Despite the fact that we were all nervous at first, the anticipation wore off as our fears soon diminished to the point where you could call us 'experts'. The next activity we did was the water rollers which we found was the best activity from the day. The fact that we got to go into the water rollers in a pair was entertaining to both our friends watching us and ourselves. Even though, we fell down many times, it was always fun to get back up! To end the day, we finished with rock climbing. Although, a few people were scared at first, we all got the hang of it and made it to the top.

The day was definitely well spent as we gained a memorable experience which we wouldn't have otherwise embarked on. Visiting Thriftwood enabled us to try new things which we have never had the opportunity to try before. The aspect of spending more time with our friends made the day even more enjoyable and the fact that the sun was shining throughout the day made our moods even brighter! In the future, we hope to have more opportunities to experience new things that provide us with the exuberance that Thriftwood gave us. We'd also like to thank the staff for taking us and leaders at Thriftwood for helping us during the day.



Hanisha, Ramisa, Jashmiga and Christa, Year 11