



Edale: Rock Climbing, Abseiling and More

Student reflections:

By Mariyam Azeez (Year 10)

During my recent trip to Edale. I experienced an incredible adventure filled with breathtaking landscapes and challenging activities. Our group arrived in the afternoon, greeted by the stunning views of the Peak District. The trip began with a hike along the rolling hills and greenery. As we set off, eager to explore the natural beauty that surrounded us. The hike was very fun and exciting. We hiked from gentle slopes to steeper inclines. Along the way, we encountered vibrant wildflowers and bilberries that were delicious. After minutes of hiking we reached a scenic viewpoint that offered a panoramic view of the valley below, providing the perfect opportunity for a photo to capture the moment.

The next morning we woke up with an early start to the day. I was really excited to do something I have never done or heard of before, weaselling. This activity involved scrambling over rocks and navigating through narrow passages, which was both challenged and thrilling. As we donned our helmet and protective gear. The weaselling route took us through a series of challenging and tight spaces and climbed over big rocks. The sense of accomplishment upon completing the course was readily rewarding. Laughter and cheers

filled the air as we encourage one another, that made the experience even more enjoyable. We also got the most delicious ice cream afterwards.

Later on we went on a drive to the water, after putting on our safety gear and listening to instructions I grabbed myself a paddle and carried my Kayak 90% into the water along with other people in my group. I had great fun. I had no idea how to kayak. It was the first and very fun activity. We got wet and played some games while learning how to paddle properly. As that activity passed. We did some challenging riddles to test our sharpness and soon it was the next day.

It was already the last day. I was quite tired by that point but still had a part of me that was very enthusiastic. I rushed to breakfast and started my day with crate stacking which was my absolute favourite. It was a game of stacking crates as 2 people balanced on them. My partner and I went through an impressive 22 crates until we fell down. We had archery after that. Shooting arrows and competing against the best pizza. We played a game on shooting arrows on colours on the board to make our own pizza. For example blue is toppings etc....

But last but not least we had abseiling. (which was unfortunately also our final activity of the trip). The thought of descending a steep side of a bridge was both intimidating and exciting. Our instructors provided us with a thorough briefing on the techniques we would need to safely lower ourselves down. As I stood at the edge, looking down at the ground below, my harness in tightly, my heart raced.

However, with the support of my friends and the guidance of our instructors, I took a deep breath and stepped off the edge. The feeling of free-falling was exhilarating, and as I descended, I felt a mix of fear and thrill. Reaching the bottom, I was met with cheers from my friends, and I couldn't help but smile at the accomplishment. The day was a perfect blend of adventure, teamwork, and the beauty of nature. Reflecting on our experiences in Edale, I realised how these activities not only challenged us physically but also strengthened our bonds as a group, leaving us with memories that would last a lifetime.

Safa Akbur (Year 10)

Our trip to Edale was a whirlwind of activities, challenges, and building stronger friendships. We were assigned into groups, and I appreciated the way the teachers mixed us up with people we wouldn't usually work with. It felt different, but in a good way. Everyone got along well, and it gave us the chance to bond with others outside of our usual circles. The first activity was problem-solving, which was a lot of fun. We worked together as a team, and we all enjoyed the games we played.

On the second day, we started off with a warm breakfast, which gave us the energy we needed for the day's activities. The first adventure of the day was abseiling. The drive to the location was picturesque, and once we arrived, we couldn't wait to start. Abseiling was an exhilarating experience - climbing down the arch of the bridge, while feeling the warmth of the sun, and looking at the beautiful view was unforgettable. Afterwards, we headed back to the hostel for a quick change and lunch.

The afternoon's challenge was raft building. This was another chance to work with people I normally wouldn't group with, and it turned out to be a lot of fun! We all shared our ideas, and our teamwork paid off - we built a sturdy raft that didn't sink! I personally wasn't eager to fall into the lake, so I was relieved our raft stayed afloat - though a few brave souls decided to jump into the water for fun. After raft building, we enjoyed a well-deserved dinner before changing for our night hike up Mam Tor. Hiking in the evening was magical. The sunset was breathtaking, and the excitement of using torches when it got dark added to the adventure. This was definitely my favourite day of the trip, we caught some amazing photos of us all.

On the final day, we started with caving. Exploring the natural formations inside the caves was fascinating, and we even had the option to take on some extra challenges. Manpriya and Felicity were particularly brave, weaselling through the tight spaces! After the thrill of caving, we had lunch and then moved on to bush crafting. We worked together to build fires, and the highlight was toasting toast with chocolate! To top off the trip, we ended with Jacob's Ladder, which was not only fun but also a great test of our strength and teamwork. Felicity, Moriah, Charlie, and Manpriya impressed us all by climbing even higher than the rest of us - especially Felicity with her 'sloth' method!

Overall, the trip to Edale was an incredible experience filled with fun, challenges, and memories that will last forever. I'm grateful to the school for organising such a memorable adventure, and I'm already looking forward to future trips!