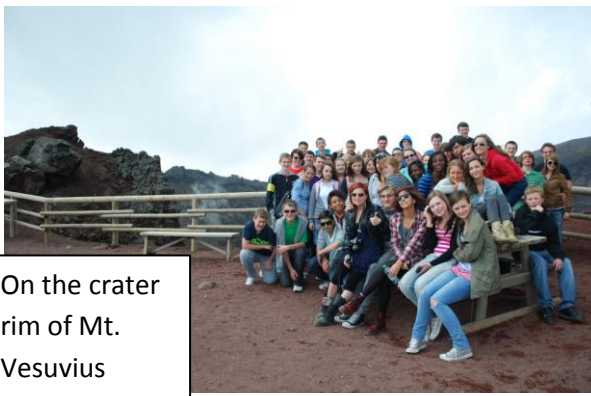


The 2010 Geography Tour to Italy

Once again the Geography GCSE students went to Sorrento in Italy for a week of geographical experiences! It all started on Saturday 10th April with a 4am departure! On Sunday 11th April the tour visited the sulphur volcano Solfatara where fumaroles fiercely belch noxious gases from the hollow ground. The highlight of the afternoon trip to Magic World theme park was a ride called Mars Attacks; Mr Zweistra kept going on again and again! On Monday 12th April in the morning we visited the remains of Pompeii and climbed Mt. Vesuvius in the afternoon.



On the crater rim of Mt. Vesuvius



Unexpected coach tour of Switzerland

Tuesday 13th April was a very wet trip to the island paradise of Capri, but we still had a lot of fun walking down the 1500 steps to the harbour. On Wednesday 14th April we heard that an ash cloud spreading from Iceland had grounded some flights, but we were not due to fly out until Friday so it wouldn't affect us, right? La Sorgente was a Mozzarella farm we visited with a fat dog called "the mozzarella dog", Mr Kingdom was surprised it had not died yet! On Thursday 15th April Mr Kingdom told us at dinner that we might not be going home!! Everyone had seen the news so knew it wasn't a joke. We carried on with the itinerary which included the Amalfi Drive, Amalfi Cathedral which was like something out of the Da Vinci Code. We went shopping in the mountain town of Ravello, but nobody had any money left. On Friday 16th April we should have been leaving at 3am but instead the flight was grounded by the volcanic ash cloud, apparently this was really ironic that we'd come all this way to see a volcano but it was a volcano stopping us from getting home, plus we had to borrow money from the teachers to survive. The teacher organised an emergency itinerary which involved a walk to Piano di Sorrento to get an ice-cream, a game of football on the beach and an evening-time trip to Sorrento. The extra day was great and we all had a great time. At 3am on Saturday morning a coach with two Italian drivers picked us up. At dawn we were driving up through Northern Italy through Genoa and into the Alps! The scenery was amazing and the coach stopped every 3 hours which was necessary! Eventually (and I mean eventually) we got to a place called C.I.A.R.U.S. which is a massive youth hostel in Strasbourg. It was 10.30pm a drive of 19 ½ hours! On Sunday morning we looked around the magnificent town centre and had our photo taken in front of Strasbourg Cathedral then it was back on the coach for another 8hrs to Calais. We got back to school at 11.45pm on Sunday night, only 36hrs late and having had an experience that was totally, well, GEOGRAPHICAL!!