



COMBE PAFFORD SCHOOL

Visit to China

Diary Entry 6

18th October 2017

Beijing Calling!! Day 6

We woke up to a rainy day which was disappointing as we hadn't seen any rain since we arrived.....and today was the day for the Great Wall. We set off at 8am, but the traffic, as we expected, was very heavy and we crawled out of Beijing, luckily the coach had reclining seats and several members of the group snatched another hour's sleep!

After an hour and a half of travelling, we started to go up a hill and 10 minutes later we spotted the fort in the bottom of the valley and despite the misty rain we could see the Great Wall snaking up either side of the valley. We got off the coach and the rain was very light, so we set off up on the East Mountain route, the beginning part is the steepest and it took us about 15 minutes to get to the first watchtower, after a short rest and several photos, we set off again towards the second and then third watchtowers. The sight, even in light cloud, was spectacular and everyone enjoyed reaching the top of that particular part of the wall. After a short rest we began to complete the downhill section of the circular walk, and if anything it was equally challenging as it was very steep. At the bottom we took a group photo and everyone agreed it was a brilliant experience.

I then needed to change the itinerary by popular request, a visit to Silk Street ensued and we had a late lunch before bartering skills were put to good use. We arrived back at the hotel by 5.30pm and showered and packed as we leave early tomorrow.....we then met Grace for a lovely evening meal.....everyone was in bed by 10.....

Tomorrow, an early start for Jinsong School and then a last shop and the railway station to Xian.....

Mr Lock