



COMBE PAFFORD SCHOOL

Visit to China

Diary Entry 6

4th November 2019

Day 6

Well today has been one of the highlights of the trip, we were up early, the sun was shining and after breakfast at 7am we set off with much excitement at 8am for the two hour journey to the Great Wall. We were not disappointed; it is a very special sight to see the Wall meandering up some very steep and rugged terrain, with little 'watchtowers' every 200m. It was very crowded to begin with, a large group from a Chinese school were there dressed in red uniform, who beside climbing the wall had to ask any foreigners a series of questions Several pupils took part; it was a good excuse for a breather! We also met a school group from Tibet and had a joint photo taken after some brief exchanges at trying to chat.

We then set off, each walking at their own pace, we waited for everyone at each watchtower and eventually after about an hour and a couple of thousand steps up, we reached the top, where the last watchtower sold ice cream! (It needs to be recorded, that despite age, Mr Lock was the first to reach the top!) After spending 20 minutes enjoying the fantastic views on such a clear day, we began to go down by a different route meaning we had completed a circle.....half way down, we stopped for picnic of rice biscuits and dried plums! Eventually, we got back to the carpark where "I've climbed the Great Wall T Shirts' were snapped up for £2! Everyone completed the route and most decided that it was the best thing they had done in China, so a very worthwhile trip!

Then after a quick Chinese lunch, we headed for Olympic Park, the massive complex includes the Birds Nest athletics stadium and the Cube swimming Pool. We went into the Birds Nest and walked around the whole stadium, pausing to sit and watch the big screens play some of the Olympic events that had taken place in 2008, the sun was beginning to drop by now and it was getting chilly, so we walked to the cube and then back to the coach. On the way home, we stopped for a McDonalds, which meant we caught rush hour and an hour and a half's journey back.

We are now packing, as this is our last night in Beijing, tomorrow we visit Dong Fang School for a tea ceremony, some flower arranging and some dumpling making! In the afternoon, we will spend time at the Pearl market for some last shopping before going to the main railway station for the overnight sleeper train to Xian.

There will be no update tomorrow as we will be on the train, but everyone is really enjoying the trip, no problems and we are all looking forward to the trip to and exploring of Xian.....more on Wednesday

Mr Lock