

EBIS PUPILS' INDIA ADVENTURE

During the last two weeks of February KS3 students from EBIS were given the opportunity to visit India. From the moment they landed the traditional 'Namaste' gesture - two hands joined in welcome - greeted them and for the staff and pupils that went this greeting encapsulates the warmth, hospitality and culture that made their journey so memorable.

The journey started in Mumbai, The pupils were astounded by how modern, clean and organised everything was, how grand some of the buildings were and how everyone respected the traffic rules! There was of course time for shopping and the group spent time in Mumbai's local markets and the grand shopping arcades that.

Following their time in Mumbai the group travelled firstly to a village on the outskirts of Mumbai. Here they observed village life, took part in various outdoor activities and even helped walk a buffalo.

Next stop was Delhi - the pupils travelled to Agra to see the world famous Taj Mahal and it was definitely bigger and grander than any of them had expected. It was obvious to the pupils why this is one of the seven modern wonders of the world and it was a privilege to be able to say they had now visited it.

Culturally the pupils visited Sikh, Hindu and Muslim temples and spent a morning in the Haj Ali Dargah Mosque in Mumbai. The great diversity in such a large country was something that will stay with the staff and pupils for a long time. India is a model to many other countries of how a population can contain many faiths and religions and live and work together.



The pupils throughout the trip were amazed at the colours and richness of the Indian clothes and following a trip to one of the famous clothes markets and shopping malls all found themselves the proud owners of a traditional Indian outfit.

The support that the school and the group received from the Egyptian Embassy in India was fantastic. Each day the ambassador Mr Hatem Tag El Din was in contact with the group leaders and both the Mumbai and Delhi consulate offices were on hand to check in during the stay. A highlight for the group - and the perfect opportunity to wear their new outfits - came when the Ambassador invited the group to his home at the embassy for a meal to end the trip.

This was indeed a fantastic occasion and a very memorable and fitting end to an amazing, awe inspiring adventure in a wonderful country.

