WORTH
SCHOOL

Geography trip to Iceland

Worth students relax at Thingvellir National Park in southern Iceland, on the first night of the field trip.

James Sparks and Jeremy Man report on the school's first ever geography trip to Iceland in summer 2013.

During the holidays a group of optimistic Worth students set off for Iceland. After negotiating Heathrow and Reykjavik airports, we stepped out into the cool, brisk Icelandic summer. From the airport we drove a couple of hours to a breathtaking lake named Vatnskot. In the far distance we could see geothermal plumes of steam made golden in the midnight sun.

Day Two involved potholing down an extinct lava tube. The size of the tube varied from that of a London underground tunnel to a small gap that the younger years managed with ease, but for some of us it became quite a contortionist's act. Nevertheless, it was truly humbling to walk within the Earth's newly formed crust; indeed throughout our trip we came to understand that Iceland is continually forming and growing as a land mass.

On **Day Four** we travelled to Husavik, a small fishing village just south of the Arctic Circle. From here we ventured out into the bay to watch the whales. Whilst we were lucky enough to glimpse them, something we did not find was our sea legs! Mr Kaabar described it as a scene from *Titanic* as Worth students lay stricken across the deck suffering from violent sea sickness. Once we were ashore and Mrs Hall Palmer had finished taunting all those who had been sick, we returned to our northern base camp of Myvatn.

Day Five was another utterly amazing day as we visited Askja, a nest of calderas in the centre of Iceland only accessible for three months of the year. After off-roading through lava fields in one of the last genuine wilderness areas of Europe, we hiked to

up the side of Askja to Viti Crater. In true Worth style, we took every opportunity to slide down seemingly endless snow covered flanks and snowball fights became the norm. However, once we reached the caldera the laughter stopped as we were struck by the vastness of the lake in front of us. Our amazement was heightened when both our Icelandic guide and Mr Lavis explained that this lake was formed from one volcanic eruption ejecting thousands of cubic metres of rock into the atmosphere.

As students with a keen interest in the natural world, visiting Iceland fulfilled our ambition to see iconic geological features that are being created as we speak. We would encourage everyone to go on the next trip to Iceland.

Whale watching – great fun if you find your sea legs