

YEOVIL COLLEGE STUDENTS RETURN FROM SRI LANKA

A group of Travel & Tourism students from Yeovil College has returned from a successful ten day trip to Sri Lanka, put together by STA Travel. The trip forms part of their Level 3 qualification, which has an element of focus for learners to experience the culture and diversity of their selected destination.

The trip was a wonderful experience, but it was also an important part of their curriculum and during the visit, students were required to complete coursework and assessments of skills needed to work in the travel and tourism industry. Each was allocated a day of responsibility, acting as tour leaders and ensuring that the holiday-maker was entertained during their day.

The party visited Bulagala Primary School in the Matale region of Sri Lanka where they were able to meet and work with children aged 6 – 11 years old, including delivering an activity for one of the classes. The Yeovil College Student Union had donated a pack of study resources which the students transported to Sri Lanka and presented in person.

The trip involved lots of activities beyond the classroom, too, including the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Dambulla Cave Temple, and the Temple of The Tooth Relic, Kandy. They were all kept active with a hike to the top of Sigiriya Heritage Centre, a cycle tour of Polonnaruwa Ancient Ruins, and a walking tour of a tea plantation at Nuwara Eliya.

Kathy Potts, Travel and Tourism Lecturer at Yeovil College said, *“The students were exemplary ambassadors for the College and have come back with some wonderful experiences they’ll remember forever. This element of the course is always exciting. In the past we’ve visited China, Dubai, Morocco, among many other wonderful places. The learners can now show an appreciation of different cultures to help inform their future decisions about working and living abroad.”*

No cultural trip is complete without a shopping trip, so on their return to Colombo the students visited the bazaars and prepared for their trip back to the UK.

Sri Lanka proved to be every bit the perfect destination for the learners, and offered the breadth and scope for them to complete their relevant coursework with plenty of first-hand experience.

