

John Lyon School Greenland Expedition 2012

The Greenland expedition could not have been more of a success than it was. With two years preparation, it's very hard to fathom that it comes down to one month of expedition. The Preparation phase is definitely a contender for most important section, a quote I think is most suitable is 'fail to prepare, prepare to fail'. Fortunately, for us our preparation was done to such a good standard that there was very little that could go wrong and if something did go wrong nine times out of ten there was nothing we could do about it; for example, some food rations arriving late and them having to be helicoptered in.

Moving on to the main phase of our expedition, which inevitably was trekking. Greenland provides some of the most unique landscapes known to man, with nature's most spectacular icebergs and glaciers being owned to Greenland, it is no wonder why it provides such wonderful landscapes, but they are just a bonus; 'icing on the cake', for it is the sense of isolation that makes Greenland so unique. While we were out on trek, it was just us, no one to aid us along our journey us, no one to point us in the right direction and definitely no one to purchase food from. For it is all of these factors that make Greenland what it is, there are no other areas in the world quite like Greenland and I honestly feel privileged to have been part of what in my opinion has been a life changing experience.

We achieved more than we set out to achieve, scaling 14 peaks and walking on uncharted land, what 13-16 year old boys can say they have done that? Let alone adults! It is wonderful to think that we are also furthering society by conducting geographic and scientific studies whilst in Greenland. Our links with the Royal Geographical Society have proved to be very exciting and I look on with eager to see how this unfolds.

The geography aspect involved mapping the area we were in; a member of the team took great interest in this and decided he would do a sketch of the surroundings facing each point of the compass; at each campsite.

The scientific process consisted of taking water samples along the Hurray Fjord. This was a very tedious process to begin with, however it was evident we were improving as we progressed down the fjord as the time taken to retrieve the sample was minimised drastically. The results and findings were given to Dr Helen Findlay at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. I feel honoured and privileged to be part of such a unique experiment.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of this expedition, I would like to thank the entire team for being exceptional throughout the expedition but more importantly a huge thank you, to Mr Durbridge; for whom without, this would not have been possible.