

THE CLUSTER LEADERSHIP DAY CAMP

A recount by Rahni Ingram

On Friday the 9th of September, all the student leaders -from Madeley, Lansdale, Carnaby Rise, Ashdale and Ashdale Secondary- were going to Ern Hallidy Recreation Camp to do some fun activities. The students from Madeley were some of the first people to arrive, but soon, the leaders from the other schools turned up.

Then, we got split up into groups, which would do a rotation of three activities. These activities were team building, archery and the crate climb.

For the team building, we did five different games, all meant to improve our team work, communication, sportsmanship and leadership.

Game 1: There was a big rope circle laid out on the floor, with mats with numbers 1 to 30 on them inside. We had to step on each of the numbers, but each person could only tread on one or two mats. To make it all trickier, we were timed!

Game 2 : You have a disc with a couple dozen strings attached to the sides. A hook on the bottom of the disc can fit into a notch in a block. You need to work together to pick up a block by fitting the hook into a block and moving it to a preordained spot.

Game 3 : A 'bomb' (a bunch of cut up pool noodles tied together with a bit of rope poking out the top) was placed in the centre of the circle and could only be diffused if lifted out of the circle. You only had ropes, a deflated bike tire and a box. If the bomb was dropped, boom. If the bomb tipped over, boom. If you touched the bomb, you guessed it, boom.

Game 4 : This is basically floor is lava, and you and your team have some squares of carpet. You need to get all your team to the other side of the field, whilst everyone stays in contact with the squares of carpet. If you lose contact with the carpet, it 'sinks into the lava', or is taken away by a team leader.

Game 5 : First, you form a pair. One person is blindfolded and goes into a circle filled with beanbags. The person outside the circle directs the person inside to a beanbag, then which way to throw it to hit an

opponent in the circle. The last person left in the circle who hasn't been hit wins!

Next up : Archery! Four targets were set up within a metre of one another. The bows we had were called recurve bows. They had long limbs that curved out back and then in, and a wooden area in the middle. We learnt about all the different parts of the bow, then had a go at shooting!

And the activity that we had all been waiting for...the crate climb! We got inside the central building and were taught about how to put on the helmets and harnesses. Then, we got to work! The design we had decided on was a staircase built with crates. We had to stack them up very carefully.

If they fell, we were told to shout "Below!", which would warn other people nearby that the crates were falling, and to stand up straight so that if the crates fell, they would hit our head and shoulders and not damage the rest of our bodies.

To climb to the top, we were harnessed to a pulley system, with one end of the rope going into a pulley attached to the ceiling. The other end of the rope came down from the ceiling and clipped onto the instructor's belt. We had a nerve-racking, wobbly but overall great time at the Crate Climb!

And that wraps up our time at Ern Halliday. I think it's safe to say we all had a great day at the Cluster Leadership Day Camp!