

Another year, another exciting start to RYG. As you may have heard from the previous parentmail, we were off to a fantastic start, making it to Bala in record time with only a single break to have some lunch at a service station, no extra toilet breaks needed! We commend the children's resilience - and their listening skills when Mr Marks told them not to fill themselves with sugar before windy Welsh roads. No sicknesses either, which we are all very grateful for.

To say the sun was shining would be an understatement, the rolling hills and were only made better by the empty blue sky and bright sun, and the children were amazed by the views of the country sides, and asking if every hill we drove past was the mountain we will be climbing (they were not).

There was even some lovely - definitely not deafening - music on our journey, including the annual favourites: Wheels on the bus, spring chicken and, of course, I Want It That Way. Somehow, the Backstreet Boys continue to make an appearance on these trips.

Once we arrived in Rhos y Gwaliau, we were greeted by two of our instructors, who gave us an insight into the week ahead. We had a tour of our new holiday home, a chance to unpack and prepare our beds, a fashion show - that is to say, finding waterproof trousers and shoes that fit us - and familiarised ourselves with the number system we use to know we have everyone present and correct.

Whilst we were unpacking, and Miss Ferguson and Mr Carey were collecting the last of the 'hidden' sweets and torches from the dorms, a few of the children were already put to work to set the tables for our lovely dinner - fish and chips, with Peach jelly for dessert. Yes, having to make their own beds and prepare the dinner table! They truly will be changed children... No guarantees.

Finally, as the day came to an end, our adventures had just begun. As the sun began to set over the Welsh hills, we reached the peak of our hill climb, getting a lovely view of the valleys, and having a short meditation session to calm our nerves and excitement for the week ahead. We travelled through the small town near base camp, eventually returning to settle down with some hot chocolate and games before bed.

Needless to say, despite all the excitement of the day, the children have certainly tired themselves out, and the silence coming from the dorms is wonderful. I look forward to updating you all tomorrow, and hope you enjoy the photos below!

-Mr Carey and the team







