

# Activities Week

## Coral Reef Restoration Project

During activities week, a group of students from BSM took part in a coral reef restoration project at Bluzone diving centre. This especially benefited the reef because of the recent hurricane, *Gonu*, which severely damaged the coral around the Gulf of Oman.

Usually, concrete reef balls are placed in the water as coral needs a hard surface to grow on. However these were not available to us, so we used alternate means. Our team of divers entered the water at Cat Island and descended to the sea bed twelve meters below the surface. Our first responsibility was to dig large holes, in which we placed the concrete pillars. Different size pots were attached onto the pillars using screws and bolts. Finally, these structures were balanced securely by placing stones around the pillars which were descended on a rope from the boat above.

Over the five day period, we learned that cooperative teamwork and effort was essential. We feel that what we have established will positively contribute to the marine life in Oman, preserving sea life and making Oman a nicer place for divers everywhere.

*Daniel Street, Yr 13*

## China Trip

As you are all aware, BSM took 54 students on a trip to China to absorb the culture and history of the country. We set out in two different groups: Group A, being the larger group with 36 students consisting of Years 7, 9, 11, and Sixth Form, being lead by four teachers, Ms Fensome, Ms St Hilaire, Mrs Howland and Mrs Robins.

It would take me too long to describe my whole trip so I've decided to only tell you about the best parts of the trip. The highlights of the trip would have to be walking along the Great Wall of China as it is one of the only things that you can see from space and the fact that if you climb it you are considered a "hero". We also experienced a rickshaw ride through the Beijing streets which Ali and I enjoyed the most as our driver was Bruce Lee.

It was snowing in Xian and Shanghai. It was

the first time some of the students had seen snow and was very impressive to see once again. We had a full day at Terracotta Army and met the farmer who rediscovered them. He was surprisingly unfriendly and snappy but he signed our books about the army.

Pizza Hut on the last day but it was a relief from Chinese food for breakfast, lunch and dinner for the entire week. By the end of the week I was happy to get home and sleep without rushing around again but I had so many great memories of China which I'll never forget.

*Jeremy Zinsli, Yr 13*

## London Performing Arts Trip

This trip could easily be described as an unforgettable experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity by all those who participated. The London Performing Arts Trip was extremely enjoyable thanks to the wide range of stage shows on our itinerary, along with the extra sight-seeing we did. The West End shows included *Wicked*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Billy Elliot*, *Chicago* and *We Will Rock You*, each of which was extraordinarily breathtaking in every way. We travelled and explored some of the major tourist attractions, such as Madame Tussauds and the famous Jack the Ripper tour, along with several shopping places such as Covent Garden and Stratford-upon-Avon. Lastly we would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mrs Witcomb and Miss Papworth for their amazing support and the ability to cope with us on the trip. Without them, we would probably still be stuck in a tube station!

*Marium Chaudhry Yr 13*

