

Holy Cross College departed on 24th October for a 5 day trip to Italy with 5 staff and 38 pupils. The trip was evenly split between Rome and Sorrento.

The first day saw a visit to the Coliseum in Rome, before a walk through the Roman Forum and on to the open dome of the Pantheon.

Day 2 was more leisurely with a visit to St Peter's Square and the Vatican museums with the highlight being the time spent in the Sistine Chapel viewing the artwork of Michelangelo. A sumptuous meal beside the Vatican was followed by a return to the centre of Rome and a trip on the 'Time Elevator'; a 3D Interactive cinematic tour through the ages of Rome.

Day 3 saw us leave our hotel on the outskirts of Rome to go to Naples to climb the majestic and active volcano Mt Vesuvius. All of the group made it to the summit and looked into the steaming crater. That night saw a supervised disco in the centre of Sorrento.

The penultimate day saw a visit to the volcanic area of Solfatara with its pungent volcanic gases, boiling mud pools and steam vents. The rest of the day involved leisurely shopping in Sorrento before the highlight of visiting an Italian ice cream parlour where the pupils had the opportunity to make their own ice cream, which everyone really enjoyed. A final evening meal in Restaurant Fuigi ended a great day.

The final day saw shopping in Leonardo Shopping centre before going to Fiumicino airport to return home.

It was a very enjoyable trip. Highlights of the trip included walking up a live volcano, Mt Vesuvius, experiencing the active volcanic springs and sweltering steam of Solfatara, a trip to the Vatican and Ice Cream making in Sorrento.