



Churston Ferrers Grammar School



1st Teacher visit to Cusco, Peru 2008



Discover the Latin Spirit



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Acclimatisation

After 24 hours travelling to Lima Peru our Torbay teachers; Lyn, Head Teacher from White Rock Primary and Annie, Spanish teacher from Churston Ferrers Grammar School, had a short flight up to 3 000 masl and Cusco the ancient capital of the Inka empire.

Lyn was keen to start learning and practising new phrases in Spanish. Annie, unchallenged by spontaneous conversation with the locals, took to building her relationships with our cameloid friends.

We spent two days acclimatising to the lack of oxygen before taking on the non stop week of school activities.



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Pisac..... our very own 'Inka Trail'

Arriving in Cusco at the start of the high season for tourism, the popularity of the tourist trails can erode the experience in this mystical land. Fortunately there are extensive Inka sites close to Cusco that rival any other and you can still have them all to yourself.

From the valley there is absolutely no sign of what is hidden high up on ledges and ridges. Only the terracing, fashioned in the shape of a condor with the early morning solstice shadows playing games with the eyes of the observer.

Anyone wanting to follow their own Inka Trail, Pisac is a must.



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Mach Picchu

Our teachers lost their GlobalEd guide for the day (that's him 10 years or so ago perched on top of the tall mountain behind Machu Picchu) and picked up professional guides for their day trip to the famous Inka city.

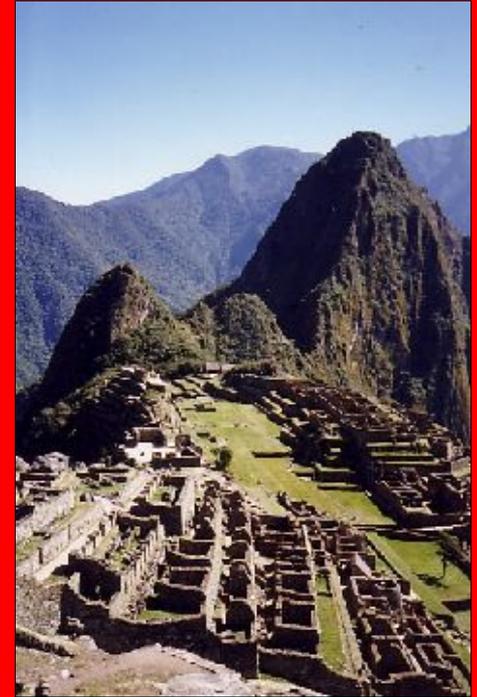
Travelling to the site takes four hours on one of the most spectacular train journeys on offer worldwide. The Sacred Valley of the Inkas is renowned for its varieties of maize called 'sara' in the Andean language of Quechua.

The Spanish never discovered Machu Picchu, not merely because of its specific discrete location high above the valley. This very valley would have been impenetrable for the invading soldiers.



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Day 1 schools tour

Our day started at a local educational NGO, Asociación Pukllasunchis. We wanted to show the UK teachers what is possible for rural schools in the region.

We then had a whistle stop tour of the majority of the schools that are linking to schools in Torbay. We visited Tupac Amaru Primary in Cusco, Oropesa Primary and Secondary, Vilcabamba Huacarpay Primaries, finally ending up at 1pm exhausted and just in time to meet Manuela, the Director at Lucre Primary and our main point of contact.

We ended the day in a meeting with the Director of Education for Cusco, who was very pleased to hear of our initiatives.



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Day 2

Bienvenido and planning

We had two last schools to visit, Yanamanchi Primary linked to Ilsham Primary in Torquay and the infant school that Lyn will be partnering with her early learners at White Rock.

We then enjoyed the hospitality of Lucre Secondary School. After a quick lunch we began planning with teachers and students what Annie would be getting up to with them.

The afternoon was passed checking out the primary school and discussing finer planning details with Manuela, the Director from Lucre Primary. Tom's meeting with the secondary Director was of a more spiritual nature.



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Day 3

Classroom activities

Both Lyn and Annie had wisely chosen to bring lots and lots of images from Torbay and their respective schools. Photos, tourism leaflets, maps and so on are a great stimulus for learning.

Teachers from the schools were keen also to see how we run our classrooms, what pedagogic techniques we employ and so on (although we do not have the band practice as Annie did throughout her lessons. Student based learning through investigation and peer teaching were the order of the day; Oh, and marching.



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Day 4 Classroom activities and more marching

Classroom activities continued in both schools and different groups. Lyn passed on her White Rock Scrapbook and left an identical empty one for Lucre to fill and send over.

Meanwhile Annie and Tom had been selected to be sole judges of the 'best classroom' competition.... A fine opportunity for all our good will with the students to disappear....and in both schools, more marching.



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Day 5 Next steps and despedidas

Time inevitably quickly came to an end on the fifth day with the schools. Lyn managed to get around all primary classes and Annie managed to grab the last few Megabytes of memory on Tom's camera to shoot some footage of 2b, glorious winners of the best classroom prize; 'El Premio GlobalEd 2008'.

Final plans made and Goodbyes were exchanged over coffee and apple pie in what had become our office; Cafe Ayllu on the main Plaza.



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Azul Wasi and back to UK via the Pacific Ocean

Ten homeless boys live at the Azul Wasi home in Oropesa. It was boys from a former home in Lucre that introduced GlobalEd to their schools.

We managed to squeeze in a brief visit to see the boys and how they are getting settled into their new home.

An action packed week at altitude was concluded with the spectacular flight back across the Andes to Lima and a quick bite to eat overlooking an overcast Pacific Ocean.

Ten out of ten to Lyn and Annie for making this first exchange a success. I have resisted so far any references to

Sr. Schwarzenegger but one phrase springs to mind..... **"...We'll be**



back"



Nos vemos Cusco...
...pronto



