

## Upper 4 recreate the eruption of Vesuvius



Upper 4 went out with a bang at the end of this year's Latin course. Pupils have studied the dramatic events of 24<sup>th</sup> August, 79 AD, when Mount Vesuvius erupted, writing their own diaries and newspaper accounts and taking a virtual tour of the sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum to produce their own archaeological blog.

We finished this week by creating our own eruption, which brought the course to an end in style. A huge thank you to Mrs Wood, who made sure the pupils understood the chemical reactions at work in their models. She explains:

*To make the volcano erupt, the pupils mixed vinegar with bicarbonate of soda, which is an acid and an alkali (a neutralisation reaction), to make a salt, water and carbon dioxide gas. The chemical equation is: sodium carbonate + ethanoic acid → sodium ethanoate + water + carbon dioxide*

As the carbon dioxide gas was made the bubbles were trapped in washing up liquid, which foamed to the top of the volcano!

Mrs Alexandra Nightingale