High School & Sixth Form



Upper 4 learn about the eruption of Vesuvius



The first book of the Cambridge Latin Course ends with the dramatic events of 24th August, 79 AD, when Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash. The pupils have been reading the accounts of the eruption by Pliny the Younger, who wrote to his friend Tacitus describing what he saw. Upper 4 have become vulcanologists themselves, writing their own diaries and newspapers, creating 3D models and even devising a re-enactment of the scenes in Pompeii.

A huge thank you to Mrs Sharrock, who has raided the library for fascinating books on volcanoes.

The towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum are still being excavated today and give a remarkable record of life in Italy in the first century. The pupils will next be exploring how archaeologists go about excavating and preserving these precious sites and will finish the term by making their own erupting volcanoes.

Mrs Alexandra Nightingale