

Dear Friends of Kirkley,

My name is Conner Wright and I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of my fellow students and expedition team at Kirkley hall campus. Your donation and contribution towards the funding of our expedition made a huge difference in helping us to represent the Outdoor Adventure Academy in North Africa. Without it, some of us would have struggled to take up this amazing opportunity to visit Morocco and attempt to climb mount Toubkal. It was a life changing expedition for all of us, getting to learn and understand different cultures, and it changed a lot of our mind-sets for the better.

I personally didn't reach the summit of Mount Toubkal unfortunately, as I got altitude sickness, but all of the other students who did absolutely loved it and came down on such a high. Even though I didn't reach the summit I still loved every second of my time out there. It was a real eye opener for me and everyone just walking around town talking to other people learning how their daily lives are totally different to ours was a great experience.

Your donation has been a huge part of something that has changed our lives and has helped fund us getting there. We saved up and paid for a significant amount of the costs ourselves and raised sponsorship money for 'Education for All', a charity in morocco that helps young girls living in rural areas into education - something that we take for granted in our country. Your donation however, helped to make all of this possible and we really are very grateful.

Our course tutors agree that even though they've been going for a few years they can just see how much it changes our lives when we come back because some students have never been abroad, and going somewhere with such a different and lovely culture like theirs is just perfect. As well as learning about Moroccan and Muslim life, we have developed a range of relevant skills for the industry that we are all training for. We are all hoping to work in the outdoor adventure industry ourselves after completing our courses at Northumberland College and this will include expedition leadership. The skills involved (planning, organising, teamwork, leadership, mountaineering skills, etc) were all relevant to our chosen careers and will be very useful in the future.

Thank you again on behalf of me and everyone else at Kirkley Hall Outdoor Adventure Academy. Your support is very much appreciated and has made a real difference to us.

I am hoping to be back at Kirkley Hall this coming year, as I have applied for an apprenticeship with the academy. If I am, I would be happy to come and meet some of you to discuss our experiences further when you are at Kirkley Hall.

Many thanks,

Conner Wright (Outdoor Adventure Academy: L3 student)

