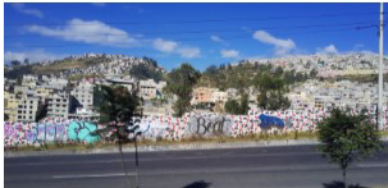
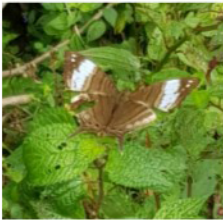


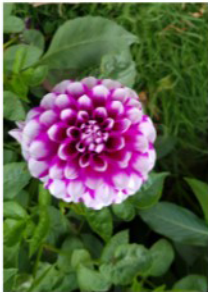
SPRINGWOOD VISITS ECUADOR



I had the great pleasure this summer spending four weeks in Ecuador with thirteen students from Springwood. We left on the 19th July after an 18 month period of fundraising just shy of £5000 each to cover the cost of their trip. During the four weeks we travelled around Ecuador going deep into the Amazon rain forest and up into the Andes near Volcán Cayambe. We were also lucky enough to spend four days in the Galapagos islands. At all turns during the trip we were surrounded by natural beauty and vast biodiversity.



The reason for the trip is not only for the students to travel and gain experience of different cultures, but for them to help the local communities by building storage blocks, roads, water collectors, cesspits and community centres. We also helped out environmentally by creating orchid gardens, organic farming sites and coffee bean planting.



The students took every activity in their stride, getting involved with tasks that most of them have never done at home before. Our time in Galapagos was to allow us to relax and enjoy such an iconic place. We were able to walk with Giant tortoises, visit the Darwin centre, and snorkel around the islands where we swam with sea turtles, sharks, penguins, sea-lions and a large array of different fish. The students have all returned with stories that they will be telling for a long time along with friendships that will last a life time. I look forward to the next adventure in 2020 to Costa Rica. Miss Davis

