



*Oban high pupils with three of the Americans, Deon Harrell, Sara Ingram and Emily Ryba and chaperones Donald McLeod and Jillian Gibson on the mountain trip.*

Times Square and Central Park. The group also went to the popular restaurant Planet Hollywood to celebrate the seventeenth birthday of Oban high pupil Jennie MacLennan.

Whilst in Laurinburg the Oban pupils spent some time at Scotland High School. Although they were impressed by the pupils' support of school activities such as American football matches, most favoured their Scottish schooling over an American education.



'Their education system is not good,' said Robbie.

Among the activities the group took part in while in North Carolina the most memorable was the trip to Ocean Isle beach where both Americans and Oban pupils stayed in a

beach house, and a visit to the Great Smoky Mountains where the pupils stayed in accommodation complete with a hot tub.

Oban high student Rochelle McMahon said: 'I preferred the scenery of the beach but enjoyed the whole experience of the mountains much better.'

For the group the two weeks flew by, and when it was time to say the final goodbye of the exchange, nobody found it easy.

'We didn't really know what to expect when they came to Scotland but when it was time to leave America it was like saying goodbye to your best friend,' said Steven Kersley.

'I think our trip was different to the others in previous years - I think we'll stay in touch with the people we meet.'

Some Oban high pupils are already thinking about heading back to North Carolina.

One who went on the Laurinburg trip is planning to take part in a year-long exchange where he would attend Scotland high on a full-time basis.

'I think it is a great opportunity to be able to go back there,' said Iain Boyd.

'I enjoyed the exchange so much that I can definitely picture myself going staying there for a year.'

Steven Kersley said: 'We (the Oban high pupils) all owe a big thanks to Mr McLeod and Jillian Gibson for taking us to Laurinburg.'

'Everyone in the high school should apply for this trip - it's the best thing ever.'



*Oban high's kilted lads Steven Kersely, Iain Boyd, Steven Brady and Robbie Kupris with Scotland high's tartan-clad supporters at an American football game.*

in to raise money for the Laurinburg exchange.