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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Peruvian Football Team visit Carmel RC College**

Carmel RC College in Darlington played host this week, to a group of talented young footballers from Peru. The team are in England on a two week tour which has been organised by Father Joe Plumb of the Newcastle and Hexham diocese who has been working out in Peru since 2000.

Father Joe has been working with the young men in Peru and set up the football team "Club Deportivo Juventud Bellavista" as a way of developing responsibility, commitment, discipline and self esteem amongst them. In return for their commitment to daily training in 40oC temperatures, Father Joe's mission sponsors all the young men in their further education studies and apprenticeships.

The team's visit started with a brief presentation by Father Joe showing the town of Iquitos in Peru and the Amazonian jungle area surrounding it where all the team live. His talk highlighted the lack of basic facilities, such as running water, in their homes, and the types of lives led by the people of the local tribes. Students at the College were then treated to the "Dance of the Anaconda" a traditional Peruvian tribal dance which was performed by the whole team.

The main business of the day then got under way, a football match between "Club Deportivo Juventud Bellavista" and Carmel. Despite the grey clouds up above, both teams put on an excellent display of footballing talent for the gathered crowds with the Peruvian's just getting the better of the Carmel team.

The visit closed with presentations from both sides. All the Peruvian students were presented with a commemorative T-Shirt and trophy. Father Joe was presented with a cheque for £1000 from Principal Maura Regan and a further cheque from Director of 6th Form Tim Madeley. Both cheques were the result of fundraising activities by the students at Carmel and were given as a contribution to the work of Father Joe's mission in Peru with the footballers. In return the team presented Miss Regan with a beautiful hand painted plaque made from local Peruvian wood and a pennant for the Carmel team containing the words "Your sons will make you great" written in one of the Peruvian tribal languages.

Father Joe and the team thoroughly enjoyed the day at Carmel and commented on how welcome they had been made to feel by the whole college community. "It was a fantastic day" said Mr Madeley, "...the Peruvian lads were great, so proud of their culture and keen to share it with us. They were also extremely good at football!"

## Notes to Editors

Please find attached the following pictures:

- Carmel Peru 1: Club Deportivo Juventud Bellavista (Green) play Carmel students (Blue and Black) in a game of football.
- Carmel Peru 2: The two football captains exchange gifts.

Further details of Father Joe's tour with "Club Deportivo Juventud Bellavista" including an itinerary and background to the trip can be found at:

- [http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/overseasperu2/peru\\_visitmany.php](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/overseasperu2/peru_visitmany.php)  
<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/overseasperu2/letter30marchfootball.php>

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