

# Heartbeat



Monday, April 29

Issue 29

## Exchange students swap Crosby for France



Back in November, Sacred Heart played host to 15 French *lycéens* (that's Sixth Formers to us!) who stayed in the homes of 15 of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students, *writes Head of MFL, Mr Sayer.*

They experienced life at our College and saw what it was like to be Liverpool teenagers for a week. During the Easter holidays, we embarked on the return leg of the Exchange, which saw us spend six nights with our French counterparts.

Our adventure started at 4.30am on April 2, as our 13 students, along with fellow French teacher, Mrs O'Grady, and myself, met at Liverpool John Lennon Airport. Bleary-eyed but excited for the adventure ahead, we checked in for our flight to Bergerac in France.

After the flight and then a two hour coach trip in France, we arrived in the French town of Saintes, home to our host school, the Lycée Bellevue, and our French partners. We spent the next six nights living as guests with our host families and living the lives of French teenagers.

On the Wednesday, we travelled into the

nearby city of Bordeaux, where we enjoyed the sights, and shopping, of this stunning town. We learnt about the city's rich culture, history and heritage before sampling some retail therapy.

The Thursday and Friday were spent in the French school where the Sacred Heart students attended lessons with their French partners. We went to everything from English and Maths through to Russian and Latin. A special history-geography lesson, organised solely for our students, saw us learning about the main geographical features of France.

The weekend saw our students relaxing with the host families. Trips to interesting places such as the pretty port of La Rochelle and the seaside resort of Royan were enjoyed by all.

On Monday morning, it was another early start, as we took the coach from the French school to Limoges Airport, where we boarded our Liverpool-bound flight.

We said farewell to our French hosts, sad to be leaving, and sorry to be saying goodbye to our new friends.

Our stay in Saintes allowed students to

### *Here's what the students said...*

The exchange was an amazing experience. My family was extremely welcoming and by the end of the week I felt part of the family. I now have a lot more confidence with my French and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

*Alicia Burke (12R)*

The French exchange was an amazing experience and it helped me a lot with my spoken French. Visiting Paris was such a surprise I won't forget.

*Jenny Nolan (12H)*

Experiencing the French way of life has given me the confidence that I needed for my French AS level. It was an amazing experience and I will keep in contact with my new found friend

*Rebecca Appleton (12S)*

I had a lovely time living with my French student and his family. I feel that my conversational French has improved a lot and I can't wait to go and see them again.

*Ellie Haines (12H)*

enjoy an insight into French everyday life and culture, and the famous cuisine. Most importantly, however, our students were able to fully immerse themselves in the language, gaining invaluable practice and boosting their confidence.

## Year 12 sweeties do eggcellent fundraising work

Well done to our sweet-natured girls from 12C who recently raised £30 with the raffle of a large Easter Egg and chocolate hamper. The girls all contributed to the hamper by bringing in chocolate and sold raffle tickets during lunchtimes. The money raised will go to Cafod, along with £60 raised at Christmas through a candy cane delivery service. English teacher Mrs Weekes said: "The girls are developing quite a reputation for 'entrepreneurial flair', as they persuaded a local florist to wrap and decorate the egg for free."



# Jack wants to be the lad for future singing success

Sacred Heart could well have the next big singing talent, in the shape of Year 8's Jack Gillard.

After hearing about the competition, Teen Star, on the radio, Jack (8D) decided to apply online.

Despite this being his first ever attempt at singing in a competition, the talented singer and musician sailed through the first round of auditions at Liverpool's Liner Hotel.

Jack, who wowed judges with his version of The Fray's, *How To Save A Life*, to progress through to the Regional Final, said: "It was the first time I had ever entered a competition such as this, so I was nervous but really happy to have passed the audition and make it through to the Regional Final."

Jack then prepared for the next round by

choosing Jeff Buckley's version of *Hallelujah*, which would see him perform in front of a live audience for the first time. Along with 15 other contestants, Jack finished a very credible fourth, narrowly missing out on a place in the Grand Final. However, Jack was pleased with how he did. He added: "For a first attempt, both at competition level and singing in front of a live audience, I am very happy with how it all went."

"The judges said they were impressed with me and said it was only a lack of experience that prevented me from going further."

"But this has definitely spurred me on and I am now looking to enter more competitions and maybe even try to have a go at the big competitions such as Britain's Got Talent."



## Students' transition is the primary focus

Students from Years 7 & 8 returned to their old primary school last week to give a special assembly.

The youngsters visited Ursuline to give their young counterparts a talk on the transition from their current school to secondary education. The talk involved a Powerpoint presentation, discussing issues such as uniform, planners and activities and a

Q&A session. Among those who helped organise the visit was Head of Year 7, Mrs Campbell. She said:

"Both the pupils at Ursuline and our own students found it to be a valuable and informative experience. They all really enjoyed it."

Visits to Great Crosby and St Edmund's & St Thomas' will take place over the forthcoming weeks.

## News in brief

Year 11 & 13 students will have their photographs taken at 8.45am to 1pm today in St Edward Hall. Also today, there is a meeting at 6pm for the parents of those students going on the French trip. Silver Surfers meet at 3.45pm in G16 on Thursday, while on Friday, there is a Multi Skills Cluster Competition for Y3 at 9.30am and for Year 4 at 12.30pm.