

Heartbeat



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Issue 24



Students go marching in to Saintes on exchange trip

Last month saw the second phase of the French Exchange trip, Head of MFL, Mr Sayer, explains more.

Back in November, Sacred Heart played host to a group of 25 French lycéens (that's sixth formers to us) who stayed in the homes of some of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

They experienced our everyday lives here in College and saw what it was like to be Liverpool teenagers for a week. Last month, it was our turn to become French. At lunchtime on Monday, 2nd February, 15 Sacred Heart students, Mrs Callaghan and I, left for Liverpool John Lennon Airport, where we would check in for our flight to Limoges in France.

Excited for the adventure ahead, we embarked on the second leg of the French Exchange, which would see us spend seven nights with our French partners.

After the flight, followed by a two-and-a-

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

We spent our first morning becoming acquainted with our 'new school'.

We were given a tour of the building, seeing all their facilities and paying particular attention to their impressive Common Room. That afternoon, some of the older French students took us on a walking tour of Saintes and rounded it off with well-deserved coffee or hot chocolate in one of their favourite cafés. We were very impressed with their local knowledge and their organisational skills.

The Wednesday and Thursday were spent in school, where the Sacred Heart students attended lessons with their French partners.

continued on p2

News in brief

There is a Mass at Upper Site today and a Eucharistic Service, also at Upper Site, on Thursday.

Tomorrow sees a number of students involved in a visit to Goodison Park for an event about applications to Cambridge. Also tomorrow, Year 9 students will visit the Crosby Plaza cinema.

On Wednesday, our Year 11 Languages students will take part in French speaking tests. These will take place in the morning at the White House. A Level PE Moderation takes place in the Sports Hall on Thursday morning. Also on Thursday is the Year 7 Consultation Evening and, on Friday, the AS Drama Practical Exams will be taking place all day in the Prep Hall.



continued from p1

We went to everything from English and Maths, through to Russian and Latin. We were able to see what everyday life was like for a French student from the inside. Of course, we noticed lots of differences in the routines of the College, but it was also refreshing to note that school life still has its similarities the world over. On Friday, we travelled into the nearby city of Bordeaux, where we enjoyed the sights of this stunning town. We learnt about the city's rich culture, history and heritage before sampling some retail therapy. The weekend saw our students relaxing with the host families. Trips to interesting places such as the pretty port of La Rochelle and to the seaside resort of Royan were enjoyed by many. At Monday lunchtime, we started our

return journey back to Liverpool. A coach from the French school took us back to Limoges airport, from 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 enjoy an insight into French everyday life and culture as well as the famous cuisine. Most importantly, however, our students were able to fully immerse themselves in the language, gaining invaluable practice and boosting their confidence.

* Plans are already underway for the 2015/16 French Exchange and will be open to all students in next year's Year 11, 12 and 13.

Anyone who is interested in taking part, should see Mr Sayer for further details.

Views in brief

I was able to practise my French and build friendships. This was my second French Exchange and I was glad to be able to go back. My confidence in speaking French has grown and my understanding of the language has improved a lot as well.

Jane Rowley, 12T

The French Exchange gave me the opportunity to experience a different culture, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I'd definitely do it all again.

Jonathan Harrison, 12T

During the French Exchange, I made life-long friends. It was the best school trip I've ever been on. It was an amazing experience.

Joe Paton, 12S

Geography work gets boxed off

Students in 7A have recently completed a homework project about the British Isles, writes *Geography's Mrs Sinnott*.

The youngsters were asked what they think represents the British Isles and what makes it a unique and special place to live.

The project was completed in three sections. After their research and planning was completed, the students

were then marked on the presentation of their box and ability to present their work to the class, describing and explaining the relevance for each item they included.

Following this, they wrote an evaluation about what went well and what they may change if they were to complete the project again.

The work was completed to an exceptional standard.

