

# Heartbeat



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Issue 32

## French bliss for Y7 & 8s

*Earlier this month, 29 of our Year 7 and 8 students visited France to help broaden their knowledge of another country's culture and help with their MFL studies. Among the staff accompanying them was Mr Thirlwall, here is his account of the trip.*

Twenty-nine Years 7 and 8 pupils returned to school last Monday morning – tired, but full of joie de vivre after their return from the French trip the evening before.

To shouts of “bon voyage” the excited party had boarded the coach outside upper site at 11.30pm on Wednesday night for a smooth journey to Dover and a 7.30am ferry crossing to Calais.

Back on the coach and thrilled to arrive in France, the students were quiet and thoughtful as Mr Clarke took to the microphone and poignantly pointed out the immigrant camp site known as ‘The Jungle,’ just outside the port of Calais, which is currently being cleared by the French authorities.

The Sacred Heart tourists’ first stop in France was the beautiful city of Boulogne-sur-Mer.

After a welcome leg-stretching stroll atop the 2000 year-old city walls, the group made their way into Boulogne Notre Dame Cathedral. There, after marvelling at the view from beneath the 101 metre high dome, staff and students lit candles for loved ones and spent a few moments in quiet reflection.

With the sun now shining brightly, lunchtime offered the students their first opportunity to practise their transactional French – with some success, as all managed to get something to eat.

After a short onward journey to the Kyriad Le Touquet Hotel, which was to be home for the next three days, the group unpacked and took the chance to relax for a couple of hours before being served generous helpings of spaghetti Bolognese. The wait to ex-



perience French haute cuisine would continue...

Following a brisk evening walk to a restaurant on the bank of the river Canche in Etaples, the students impressed the restaurant staff with their ordering of soft drinks, mocktails and hot-chocolate in their already improving French, before heading back to the hotel for a very welcome night's sleep. With warm croissants in their stomachs, the party hopped on the coach for the short journey to the Friday morning market in Etaples for another opportunity to practise French when buying plastic swords, miniature Eiffel Towers and fridge magnets.

Next up was a visit to Boulogne's Nausicaa Marine Centre aquarium – a firm favourite

with students and Miss Lynch alike – before a picnic of baguettes at a picturesque Aire de Service overlooking Boulogne. On the way back to the hotel, Paul, the coach driver, kindly agreed to stop at Etaples CWGC military cemetery for an unscheduled visit. The Sacred Heart students – whose behaviour during the visit was exemplary – were amazed to learn that the cemetery contained more than 11,500 graves – mostly belonging to British soldiers killed in the area during WWI.

Justin Evans (8R) was one of a handful of students who discovered graves belonging to soldiers from as far afield as

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# By George! What a result

A project from a Sixth Form student has helped raise nearly £500 for an Alzheimer's charity.

George Brinkley (13A) organised a Staff versus Students charity football match as part of his Media Studies extended project. The project focused on the debate over football's greed-orientated culture against the good the sport can bring. The charity match, which saw the students win 4-1, raised £480 for an Alzheimer's charity, chosen by George (pictured back row centre) after see-

ing his grandparents suffer from the disease. George said: "My late Grandmother had Alzheimer's and my Grandfather has got it, so I thought it would be good to raise money for that.

"The football match was brilliant, a really great day and I can't thank the staff and everyone who came along enough."

George's project earned him in an A, which he is confident will help go towards securing him a place at John Moores University, where he wants to study Sports Business.

## News in Brief

Year 8 Examinations continue in the Lower Site Hall throughout the week. On Friday, there are Sixth Form MFL Speaking Tests taking place from 9am in Conference Room 2. Also on Friday, sporting team photos will be taken at Lower Site from 10.40am. Finally, College finishes on Friday for half term. We return on Monday, June 6. Enjoy.

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**India, Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany.**

A brief visit to a French supermarket gave pupils yet another cultural experience before returning to the hotel for a dinner of chicken leg and carrots. The wait for haute cuisine continued...

Friday evening saw the pupils enjoying some free time in the glamorous town of Le Touquet – locally known as Paris-on-sea, owing to its popularity with Parisiens seeking a seaside break. The crepes and waffles on offer proved to be really popular.

It was an early start on Saturday morning for the two-and-a-half hour drive to the Parc Asterix theme park just outside Paris, but tired eyes soon began to sparkle when, from the coach, the students first noticed the theme park's largest rollercoaster looming above the trees in the distance.

Armed with more baguettes for lunch, the pupils excitedly headed off in search of thrills. Meanwhile, the staff headed off to what was to be their solitary ride that day: The Rapids. Mrs Fagan, Miss Lynch and I were all very



grateful to Mr Clarke for getting in the way of the considerable wave that had threatened to soak them.

It was at this point that Mr Clarke possibly began to regret wearing only a tee-shirt and shorts on what was a cold day. Bravely, he shrugged it off, saying it was 'only water'. However, 20 minutes later, after spilling coffee all over his already soaking clothes, it was time for a change

Five hours later, the exhausted but happy group made their way on to the coach for the journey back to the hotel. The youngsters had built up quite an

appetite and were looking forward to finally sampling that famed haute cuisine. Back at the hotel, they were surprised to find that in France, French fries are served chilled, and meatballs are not served with sauce. This must have been what they call Nouveau Cuisine.

The final evening involved a walk into Etaples for more crepes, waffles, nougat, granite (French for slush) and hot-chocolate.

The following morning, after packing, a breakfast of warm croissants was enjoyed before pupils and staff boarded the coach for the start of the long journey home.

Ten hours later, outside Upper Site, the coach was met by a sea of excited faces of various family members, all eager to greet their returning French tourists with a warm bienvenue.

Mrs Fagan, Miss Lynch, Mr Clarke and I all agreed that the pupils were a credit to Sacred Heart, not to mention a pleasure to be with. Special thanks go to Mrs Fagan for a superbly organised trip that all involved enjoyed enormously.