

## Disney delights for ICT students

*Our sixth form ICT students visited Disneyland, Paris recently to learn about how the parks use ICT. Accompanying them was Head of ICT, Mrs Askew. Here is her account of the trip.*

Day one was spent taking in the sights of Paris, starting with a quick photo stop at the Eiffel Tower, followed by a visit to The Arc De Triomphe.

It was a long climb to the top, but well worth it. Fantastic views of Paris and the rain held off too.

A leisurely walk down the Champs Élysée brought us to Le Louvre, where students were able to view the Mona Lisa and other important artistic treasures. On the second day, students took part in a seminar presented by

the Disney team where they gained some really useful information from behind the scenes of the theme park and the many roles that IT plays .

This proved to be good content that will help with the current units of study. An opportunity to sample this ICT in action followed, with a day in the parks culminating with an amazing finale fireworks and projections show that brought the Disney castle to life.

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# Other cultures explored

Our Year 12 students visited a Mosque recently, as they spent time learning about the Muslim faith.

The visit to the Al Rahma Masjid Mosque in Liverpool was part of the National College Open Network (NOCN) course the 6th Form students successfully completed.

Students from 12R, such as Olivia Martin, spoke of what they learned: "I learned about a different culture, which was fascinating. It was a great opportunity and I thank the RE department for arranging this."

## **Enlightening**

These thoughts were echoed by Jessica McGuire, who said: "There is so much negative press about Islam and, going first hand to meet an Islamic community was very enlightening. They were so friendly and welcoming.

Nicola Cavanagh and Zoe Morgan added: "Exploring other cultures is very important, as it celebrates the importance of variety. There is nothing wrong with being different.

Head of RE, Mr Moorhead, was delighted with the trip, saying: "It was a wonderful experience and the students found it very enriching and they were a credit to the College."

## **News in brief**

Welcome back and we hope everyone had a nice break.

We also welcome back those who ventured a little further afield last week on the trips to the Austrian ski slopes and to Prague. More about those two trips in the coming editions.

Back to this week, Year 9 Options Evening takes place on Thursday.

This will be held in St Edward Hall and assorted classrooms.



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It was really good to see the product of all the creativity and technical hard work that takes place behind the scenes.

Today's seminar explained just how these fabulous effects happen and what is involved and, in many cases, taking years of planning and production.

The last day around the parks started precariously when one of our students unintentionally checked how good the park's IT systems actually were.

Having misplaced his park pass, Disney staff were able to check the schools booking and the tickets already scanned into the park that morning. Luckily for our student, he was issued with a replacement pass and off he went.

In Seminar 2, students learned about Disney's use of relational databases and SQL, digital marketing and the algorithms used to improve guest experiences.

We looked at their use of CSS in the

development and design of their websites, along with the use of GUI software to develop intuitive apps for Disney visitors.

The seminar concluded with an insight into their emerging use of AI to mine customer data, giving Disney an invaluable understanding of their current and prospective customers. After an exhausting day we returned to the airport for the flight home, our three days in Paris had come to an end but it has to be said, a great trip with great students. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

"It was a trip that I'm not going to forget any time soon", said Caitlin. Steph really enjoyed seeing the Eiffel Tower. It was 'an amazing experience' for Dan.

The trip was made much more enjoyable due to the impeccable behaviour of all of our Sixth Formers. They were really mature, polite, respectful and reliable throughout the three days; exemplary in every way. A real credit to the College and their parents.

