



St Michael's Catholic Grammar School

JULY 2011

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Year 8 Residential Trip to Kent/France 2011

On Monday 5th July, we gathered in the hall, ready to leave for our trip to Dover and Boulogne. We were all very excited. Everyone got into their groups, and off we went! We arrived at Dover Castle, looked around the site, and went up onto the viewing platform, from which you could see the whole of Dover. We then took part in Drama Silent Movie Role-plays. We looked around, went into the Castle's



chapel, and before we knew it, it was time to leave. We arrived at our hotel, unpacked, and then went down to dinner. The food was really nice. Afterwards, the teachers organised a Treasure Hunt around Dover town, which was really fun.

On Wednesday, we received our wake-up call at 7.00am, because we had to be down to breakfast at 7.30am. After breakfast, we got on the coaches to Canterbury. Canterbury is a beautiful old town,



with many historical buildings and lots of shops! We went into Canterbury Cathedral and drew sketches with the art teachers and some Sixth Formers. We then went under the cathedral and saw the spot where Thomas Beckett was killed. Then, we had free time to walk around Canterbury town, to have lunch and do a bit of shopping. After lunch, we went to see The Canterbury Tales. In the evening, we went to the leisure centre.

When Thursday came, much to our horror, we had to be down to breakfast at 6.00am! Feeling very tired, we got on the coach to Dover, and got the train to Bou-

logne. We went into the local church and looked around. Our groups walked around Boulogne town and we split off into groups of 4-5 to go to lunch. We were exhausted, so we had our evening meal and went to bed!

Friday came really quickly, and we were all reluctant to leave. We packed our cases, the teachers inspected our rooms and we were off! We walked to Dover and studied the sea defences in our groups. We went to lunch and did a survey of the environmental friendliness of the area. Extremely tired, we got on the coach back to school. Although we were sad to leave, it was nice being back at home.

Everyone really enjoyed the trip, and we would like to thank the teachers for organising it all!

Carys Bevan, 8S.

KENYA...the story so far....

By the time you read this, ten students and four teachers will have made it to Luanda in Kenya! They are volunteering in four different schools and a street children's project. They have gone with a large donation to share among the schools, thanks to the generous donations of pupils, parents and staff alike. *We really appreciate all the support that we have received.* Keep an eye out for e-mails! We have set up a blog (which we will try to update if/when it is possible) that you can access at:

<http://kaributokenya.wordpress.com/>

Miss Piddington

European Work Experience: ITALY



On March 19th 2011, a group of Italian A level students from seven schools in North London embarked on a one week linguistic trip to Florence, Italy and as we got off the plane we were all very nervous. After we arrived we travelled to ITCG Piero Calamandrei School where we were greeted by our exchange partners and their families. On Monday morning, the real work began as we were placed



in different work placements around the town, where we would have no choice but to use our Italian skills as best we could and although we were all terrified we knew it would be exciting! The placements varied from being in a primary school to a traditional Italian bar and we all met interesting people that we worked with for the duration of the week. This trip enhanced our communication skills and reinforced our confidence in our language skills. The evenings were spent visiting the beautiful sights of Florence and on one day, travelling the hour long-journey to visit Pisa. Overall, it was a very beneficial experience that I would recommend to anyone interested in experiencing new cultures and being involved in the community whilst working and improving linguistically. We would like to thank Miss Scarato and Mrs. O'Sullivan for taking us there and Mrs. Zinchiri for organizing the exchange.

Sofia Sartori, 12S

European Work Experience: SPAIN



On the 25th March our Spanish class along with students from other schools in the borough travelled to Santander in Spain for a week. We arrived at Santander airport and were welcomed by our exchange's parents, we then went out for dinner with the rest of the pupils and their exchange partners. At the weekend we explored Santander, taking in Spanish culture. Some of us visited the beach and others shopped. To add to this, we had the wonderful opportunity of eating Spanish food.

On Monday, we all began work, the majority of us worked in schools or nurseries, and we were all challenged to use our knowledge of Spanish. For the rest of the week, we practised and improved our Spanish whilst playing with and looking after the young children. A few of us even had the chance to teach English, which was a fun and interesting challenge!

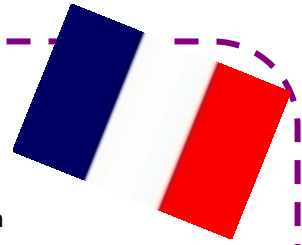


By the end of the week, everyone was exhausted and excited to return home to England. We all had a wonderful time and it was a very enjoyable and useful trip. We would like to thank Señor and Señora Zinchiri for accompanying us to Spain.



By Georgina Carvalho and Emma-Jane Bartlett.

European Work Experience: FRANCE



As part of the EWE, we were given the opportunity to spend a week in Meaux, a small town situated an hour from Paris. We arrived on the Saturday morning and were greeted by our host families with whom we explored the town. While some exchange partners spent the weekend in Meaux, others spent the weekend in Paris visiting many of the famous sites including the Eiffel Tower and the Champs-Élysées.

The majority of us enjoyed work experience placements in local primary schools, totally immersed in a French speaking environment. Whilst some of us were working with children, others were indulging themselves in the French cuisine and fashion, working in a café and a boutique. Throughout the course of the week, we experienced go-carting, bowling, shopping and even going to gigs! In France, students have Wednesday afternoons off school and we were given the day off to enjoy a day at Disney Land Paris. Having gone for days without speaking English, our French vocabulary and confidence in speaking improved dramatically, and we found ourselves able to hold a conversation in any situation. The exchange completely 'blew our expectations out of the water' and has provided us with an experience that we shall never forget. Many thanks to Miss Allee and Miss Ruzzante for taking us there and to Mrs. Zinchiri for organizing the exchange. **Juliet Kuo and Philippa Maxted Jones.**



European Work Experience: GERMANY



This year we spent a week in Herne, Germany. Herne is a small city, situated in the Ruhr area of North Rhine. The experience was both culturally and linguistically beneficial and also acted as great practice for our AS Level German oral exam.

"I worked at a local law firm. The lawyer I worked with explained, mostly in German, the differences between the English and German judicial systems and we visited various courts. The law firm I visited mainly worked cases at district level although I did attend a court session at the larger court in Bochum. My work experience gave me a valuable insight into the work of a lawyer and was particularly useful given that it is a profession I'm interested in." – **George Winterbourne.**

"During the week I worked at a primary school. Being surrounded by young, excited children made the experience equally enjoyable and educational. As the children knew no other language, speaking in German was imperative, and I found it became easier to speak German over a sustained period of time. I learnt day to day instructions such as "two portions of chips please" which really meant that I adjusted to daily German life! I found the experience invaluable to my learning and appreciation of the German language." – **Eileen Okorie.**

By speaking with the German students and the people we worked with, we were able to refine our accent, learn new idioms and broaden our vocabulary. We hope to visit Germany again soon.



European Work Experience: SWEDEN



On Saturday 19th February, we met at St Michael's to leave to go to Sweden for the week. We went to Stansted airport and took a two hour flight into an airport on the outskirts of Stockholm. The climate in Stockholm was completely different to London, as it was -7°C and snowing! We got the coach to the central bus station where we met our families and we spent the evening and the rest of the weekend getting to know them as we tried traditional Swedish food and went sightseeing in Stockholm. We were taught the routes to our individual work placements, which ranged from primary schools to hospitals.



"My work placement was in Cafe Mimer. Once I was there, I was utterly amazed at the busy workload and how many skills I picked up in my placement. By 12 noon each day, I had made 15 fruit salads and 24 rolls, despite the fact that, before the trip, I was not very skilled in the kitchen! Another problem was the

language: I don't speak a word of Swedish, but I found that most people there could speak English, and I soon picked up words and phrases. In the evenings we went shopping, to restaurants and even to CyberTown (like Laser Quasar).The experience gave me the opportunity to

think on my feet, use my own initiative and improve my people skills, and I am very grateful to the teachers who organised the trip." – Rebecca Mann 12k



European Work Experience: BELGIUM

On Saturday 19th March, we gathered at Kings Cross St.Pancras Station. We hopped onto the Euro Star, each and every one of us excited yet also nervous in meeting our Belgian exchange partners. When we arrived in Belgium, we were warmly welcomed by our exchange partners and their families, whom we would be staying with for the week.

From Monday to Friday, we were organised work placements. The majority of us worked in Pagode's Primary School and Nursery, whilst others worked in a bakery and hospital. After a day of teaching, helping and playing with the children, we were occupied with various activities. We went to visit the Atomium, we went bowling and had time to go shopping. We went to Le Grand Place, which was a beautiful tourist area where we sampled Belgian waffles and crêpes.

The weather was absolutely beautiful! Each of us learnt something new during our stay and it



genuinely boosted our linguistic skills since being in a Belgian environment meant that we were listening, speaking and communicating in French. On the whole, it was an unforgettable experience and we all had a wonderful time in those 7 days; managing to have a great taste of Belgium.

We would like to thank the accompanying teachers and Mrs. Zinchiri for organizing the exchange.

Louisa Chan & Kate Briggs



Language College News...

St. Michael's will continue to offer a variety of enrichment activities in September, on a Wednesday after school from 4pm. For further information and details please contact the providers directly:

Chinese

Huahsia Chinese School
0208 201 0698
office@huahsia-
chinese.org.uk

Japanese

Fumi_giles@hotmail.com
07880550243

British Sign Language

kbass@summerside.barnet.s
ch.uk
Please mark e-mails "BSL
ST.MICHAELS SCHOOL"

May we also take this opportunity to remind that there are also the adult language classes available on Wednesday evenings 7pm -9pm from September:

Japanese

Hitomi Topham
Hi-
tomi.topham@ntlworld.co
m
07903903638

Spanish

Clara Marshall
claram.marshall@btinternet.co
m
(prefers contact by telephone
07808912793)

Chinese

Huahsia Chinese School
0208 201 0698
office@huahsia-
chinese.org.uk



Lourdes 2011

On Sunday 24th July a group of seventeen students from Year 11, accompanied by Mrs Wallis and Mr Moloney, are travelling to Lourdes as part of the annual Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage. During our six days in Lourdes we will be working as Red Caps; volunteers who look after the "malades". All participants have taken part in a briefing day at Cardinal Vaughan School, including wheelchair training, to prepare us for this important role. This is the first time St Michael's has taken part in the pilgrimage and we are hoping it will become an annual event on the school calendar. In Lourdes we will remember all members of the school community in our prayers.



Mrs Wallis (RE Dept)

Year 9 Visit to London Zoo

On Tuesday 7th June, Year 9 went to London Zoo. We were split into teams, each with an animal 'leader', such as Terence the Tiger and Harry the Hippo! We saw a variety of different animals such as penguins, lions, giraffes and tortoises.



We also saw a show displaying many animals, including meerkats, armadillos and owls, doing amusing tricks! It was a very enjoyable, educational day!

(If you look very carefully at the picture on the right, you will see a small owl on Gabriella's head!)

Hannah Preston 9M



Year 9 Visit to St Paul's Cathedral



Despite the weather, Year 9 had an interesting visit to St Paul's cathedral on July 1st. There we watched a short video on some of the history of St Paul's and filled out a booklet whilst walking around the cathedral.

Later on in the day, after lunch, we went to the three galleries. First, the whispering gallery, which was inside the cathedral and if you whispered through the wall, the person directly opposite can hear you! Afterwards, we went up to the two other galleries but had to walk hundreds of steps to get there. However the view at the top was worth it!

Madeleine Rocco 9M



