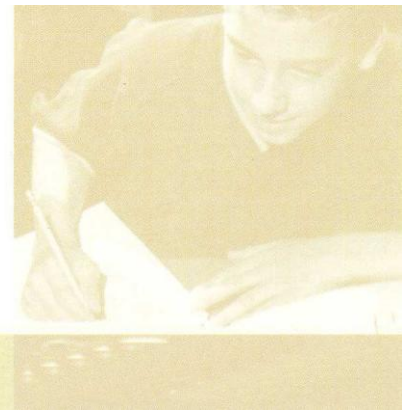




Nuntius

WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A Foundation Business & Enterprise School for Boys

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Nuntius On-line

Spring 2011

Lower Sixth Paris Trip

Friday 4th February

We woke up to our first day in the French Capital feeling tired from a full day of travelling. We had an early start so that we could see the sights of Paris before going to our first conference, at the Palais de Congrès. We took the metro to the Cité station, where we saw the Palais de Justice. We then continued to tour the area and went to the beautiful Notre Dame Cathedral, the prestigious Sorbonne University and the Jardin de Luxembourg. From here, we got on the metro again, to reach the Eiffel tower. The tower was amazing up close, and we had the option of going up in the lift, or braving the 674 steps to the second level. Perhaps foolishly, most of us climbed the stairs to the first level. By the time we got there, we were greeted with a beautiful panoramic view of Paris as our reward. Unfortunately, the top platform was closed due to the public that day (perhaps just as well; it was 1710 steps to the top platform!).

After leaving the tower we headed for the Palais de Congrès, for our first conference. The event lasted 2 and half hours and involved three French speakers describing their businesses and how France's role in Europe had helped them. It was a really interesting experience, although there were a few others in the conference room who had fallen asleep! It was followed by a riveting debate on the environment. Pupils from the boys and girls schools pitched together to come up with energy saving ideas.

Sean Lymn & Alex Chadwick

Saturday 5th February

The day featured the "Your Future in Europe" conference, which was held at the Palais de Congrès. Along with many other schools from around the country and chaired by the Sky News presenter Dermot Murnaghan, we watched a series of famous figures discussing the position of the EU in our lives. First was Peter J R Luff, the

Chairman of the European Movement UK and the director of Action for a Global Climate Community. He spoke of the birth of the EU and the advantages of our membership within the community. After this, the Director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti, gave a presentation on Human Rights, covering topics such as the extension of the franchise to prisoners, and the student riots throughout the country over tuition fees. This preceded Joe McEwan who is the Communities Manager for Innocent Drinks. He spoke of Innocent's business model which combines entrepreneurialism, innovation and ethics.

Then the respected economist Tim Harford gave a simplified, easier to comprehend analysis of the financial crisis, and answered questions on which strategy Britain should undertake to achieve financial recovery.



The final presentation was scheduled to be by the Rt Hon. Charles Kennedy MP, the ex-Liberal Democrat leader, but unfortunately due to illness, he was unable to make the conference, and instead Peter Luff replaced Kennedy and discussed the effects of climate change on our world. For the final hour of the presentation, a panel answered pupils' questions. We were joined by MEP for South East England Daniel Hannan (known for his

vociferous euro-sceptic presence in the European Parliaments), Tessa Jowell MP, Shami Chakrabarti and Peter Luff again. This was the most engaging of sessions throughout the conference, as members of the audience were able to ask questions to the panel. Our school was fortunate enough to have Nathan Walker ask a question to the panel on the topic of the Justice System.

Then we left the conference and made our way to the Champs Elysées. Here we made it to the centre of the infamous roundabout, beneath the Arc de Triomphe and here we appreciated the approaching Parisian evening. We decided to indulge in some retail therapy and went to Les Galeries Lafayette, a large shopping centre in which we spent around an hour. Then, we hopped back onto the Metro and went to the Palais du Chaillot, a grand building across the river Seine from Le Tour d'Eiffel where we took lots of pictures of the city and also the one shown in the article. We then proceeded to the Bateau Mouche, a boat that travels along the Seine allowing one to see many of the main tourist attractions in Paris from a different perspective.



Sunday

We got up bright and breezy on Sunday morning, looking forward to yet another interesting day in the beautiful city of Paris. After all the girls (and Andrew Arathoon) had done their hair, we made our way downstairs to sample the delights of the French cuisine that our hotel offered. After breakfast (and the wait for Matt Smith to style his quiff) we walked the short distance to the Chateau Rouge Metro station for our journey to the famous Bastille Market, where Alex turned into Pete Doherty with his amazing hat (bought for €20). We then moved on to the Musée D'Orsay where we saw famous impressionist paintings such as Van Gogh's self portrait. Next came the Louvre which usually takes a full day to walk around (we only had an hour!) We managed to view the famous Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo (who had huge arms). In the afternoon, we made our way to the Hôtel de Ville where there was a huge ice skating rink. Nathan and Sam spent the hour showing everyone how it's done whilst Matt was busy taking out anyone in his way. Elle, Rachael and the Zoe tried to teach the boys how to skate but their advice of "just do it" and "move forward" was not the most helpful! Whilst Mr Denby took a group off for a hot chocolate, the rest of us went to watch the second half of the Liverpool-Chelsea game with Mme. Craze (1-0!) Everyone headed back to the hotel to get ready for our last night in Paris. We were ready to head out for our last night and our final meal, one word to describe the atmosphere was EMOTIONAL. We tried not to cry but we wanted to enjoy our night

Thomas Lymn & Matthew Smith



Metz Work Experience Jack Mercer U6



Saturday

01:30 (GMT) Depart Knutsford Services (first pick-up point) for Dover
09:30 (GMT) Arrive at Dover
12:00 Arrive at Calais
18:15 Arrive in Metz
19:30 Evening Meal (hotel)
20:30 Stroll around city

Sunday

09:00 Breakfast 09:00
10:00 Receive briefing on visiting workplaces etc.
10:30 Find places of work and make informal pre-visits, followed by lunch
14:30 Ice Skating
19:00 Evening Meal (hotel)

Monday

09:00-10:00 Breakfast
10:00-12:00 Tour around Metz and meeting other *stagiaires* working in the gallery
12:00-14:00 Lunch
14:00-17:00 Start Work

On arrival we were introduced to our employer, Maryse Jeanguyot, and her work colleagues. As the gallery itself doesn't open until Wednesday, we were told that we will be spending most of the time in the office on the opposite side of Place St. Louis. We were given a brief tutorial on how to use the computer software, such as edexcel etc. (although it did take a while to get used to the keyboard!), and we were then shown to the local post centre round the corner (for which I was given the key in order to pick the post up, then sort and catalogue it every morning). Following this we were given a number of menial

administration tasks to complete around the office, such as filing and archiving etc., although as all instructions were conducted in French (especially as not one of them seemed to be able speak a word of English) this was still a challenge!

19:00 Evening Meal (hotel)

Tuesday

09:00-10:00 Breakfast at hotel

10:00-12:00 Working in the office

For the first half an hour my employers sat in the kitchen and gave me breakfast, talking to me about what it was like to live and work in Metz, as well as asking me questions about my interests and future plans etc. The tasks in the morning were fairly similar to those of the previous day, such as opening the post and filing, and I felt glad to have mastered the use of the keyboard at last!

12:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-17:30 Working in the office

With the gallery opening the next day, our boss decided it was time to give us an insight into



contemporary art. After realising I knew nothing at all on the subject (I decided to give in and admit it in the end), she spent 20 minutes searching for works that would suit my interests. She presented me with books that contained the work of various artists that the gallery downstairs had exhibited, many of which were related to history in some way (such as that of a Japanese artist who had been deeply influenced by the death of his parents during the bombing of Hiroshima at the end of the Second World War). After getting a grasp of my interests, Maryse gave me a number of videos to watch which presented works of other artists, such as the “Active Men” (a group of artists from Germany whose work covered a number of interesting concepts; such as completely filling a car with water and driving it through the streets of Berlin, and renovating small apartment buildings into complex labyrinth systems with multiple floors in order to create a small-scale mansion) and “le gentil garçon” (a Japanese group of artists who use series of still images to create complex video concepts).

19:30 Evening Meal (Pizzeria)

Jack Mercer U64BC