



Year 10 Paris trip July 2018



On Sunday 24th June 2018, 19 students from Year 10 accompanied by Mrs Kenyon and Mr Crénel set off by Eurostar from Ebbsfleet International station for a four-day cultural trip to Paris.

A power outage in the Eurotunnel meant that our departure was delayed, but spirits remained high and we still arrived in plenty of time to enjoy our evening cruise along the Seine on one of the Bateaux Mouches. It was an excellent and relaxing introduction to the city.

This year we stayed in the FIAP Jean Monnet, an international youth hostel in the leafy 14th arrondissement. This meant that we became experts at negotiating the Parisian metro

system as we travelled into and out of central Paris each day. However, it was also a very active sightseeing trip and we walked a great deal, including up the Eiffel Tower. It was a wonderful experience to climb up through the famous iron structure and view it at such close quarters.

We also visited Notre Dame, the Louvre and Jardin des Tuileries, the Musée de l'Orangerie, the Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe and the charming Marais area around the Centre Pompidou.

One of the highlights was our visit to the Montparnasse Tower. This very ugly skyscraper has the fastest lift in Europe, travelling up 56 floors in just 38 seconds! The panoramic view from the open-air Observation Deck at the top was spectacular and allowed us to admire all of Paris from afar, with the added bonus of not having to look at the tower itself.

On the third day, students spent a very enjoyable and informative morning in French lessons at the Accord Language School. They were also responsible for ordering their own lunch each day and really enjoyed having the freedom to go and eat in smaller groups in the local cafés and bistros.

We ended our visit with a walk along the banks of the Seine in beautiful morning sunshine, followed by some free time spent shopping in the newly-refurbished Forum des Halles.

It was an extremely enjoyable, whirlwind tour of Paris and we all returned to school exhausted, but very happy.



