

Paris Visit 2014

Twenty five students from Years 11, 12 and 13 spent 5 days in Paris in February. They were staying with French families, here are some of their impressions:

Over the half term we went on a trip to Paris, and it was my first experience of French culture. It was an awe-inspiring experience that I shall never forget, we passed under the iconic Eiffel Tower and then we made our way through the beautiful streets of Paris.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to the Louvre as we were able to see so many renowned paintings and stand under the famous glass pyramid. We walked in the Jardin des Tuilleries as the sun was setting and it was just a stunning image to see.

I loved visiting Notre Dame de Paris as I learnt so much about the history of its creation and was able to admire the beauty of its stained glass windows up close.

I really loved the fact that we stayed with French families as I was able to have a truly authentic Parisien experience and it ensured that I spoke French almost continuously over the duration of the trip. The family was very entertaining and we even had a competition of England vs France as we had to figure out some games that the family played against us.

Hafsa Mugal Year 13



In half term, we went to Paris for 5 days. The week was packed with activities and lots of walking but was also very beneficial for practising French as we stayed with French families.

My personal highlight was the day in Disneyland Paris as we got to spend to the whole day there.

I also really enjoyed visiting the Jardin des Tuilleries, which was a great chance to get some really good pictures of Paris.

The families we stayed with were absolutely lovely and they made our experience really enjoyable with their hospitality and kindness - especially the riddles and quizzes they gave us in the evenings after dinner.

It was a great experience and something that I would definitely be willing to do again. Overall it was a really enjoyable experience even though I think I walked more than anyone ever should over 5 weeks, let alone 5 days.

By A.C. Year 13

On the 13th February we left St.Pancras International on the Eurostar. Destination: Paris. It was fascinating to explore both the ancient and modern city, the vast historical culture within the Louvre and contemporary masterpieces in the Musée D'Orsay. A boat cruise on the Seine allowed us to view Paris from a whole new perspective, whilst sky-line views from the Arc De Triomphe and the modern skyscraper Montparnasse were simply breath-taking. However, the highlight of the trip was definitely the home-stay experience. Although I was slightly apprehensive about the idea at first, our home-stay families were incredibly welcoming and the time we spent there allowed us to completely immerse ourselves in French culture and practise our French speaking skills. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Paris trip.

By Zofia Duffy, Year 13



Paris was an exciting and insightful experience which everyone enjoyed. It was a great opportunity to speak to and get to know other girls that we maybe would not have had the opportunity to otherwise. Of course the best part of the trip was going to Disneyland and luckily the weather was also on our side that day. It was a very enjoyable experience. Staying with the families was also extremely helpful as it helped us to expand our vocabulary and get to

know more about French cuisine and culture.

By Elika Moradi Year 11N

Our trip to Paris was thoroughly enjoyable. The most important thing I learnt was not that there are double decker underground trains in Paris, nor that French people put *slices* of butter inside sandwiches instead of spreading it. The most important thing I learnt was that French was actually an “alive” language it isn’t something you choose to study in AS or something that only the French teachers can say, oh no! A whole country of people use this language and it really is wonderful. It makes you appreciate learning French even more and it makes you realise that it is wonderful to learn a foreign language, because it isn’t just the language you learn, but the culture, history and special things you would not have been able to know. This trip has definitely augmented my love for learning French, thank you Dr Maldjian.

By Songyan Year 12 BM

We visited so many iconic and well-known landmarks during our trip to Paris – the Louvre, Notre Dame, L’Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower – but the best experience we gained was from staying with French families. Living in another culture and being forced to speak their language helped us appreciate the similarities and differences between life in the two countries. One thing I definitely won’t forget in a hurry is the sheer amount of chocolate we were “made” to eat, it put me off it for quite a while! We were really made to feel at home, so much so that it was actually a bit sad to leave them and come back to England!

By Paavan Bansel 11W

As a student wanting to read French at university, I found the Paris trip an extremely worthwhile and enjoyable experience. It gave me the chance to practise my speaking skills and improve my language, at the same time as exploring areas of French culture. Personally, I most enjoyed seeing the impressionist artwork and the sculptures in the Musee d’Orsay, but visiting famous sites such as Notre Dame de Paris and learning about their history in depth was also fascinating.

By Charlotte Dowling Year 13