

Kingswood House School

French Trip 2017

On 19th June Year 7 went on a 5-day trip to France. Here is an account of the trip in their own words.

Derek the Coach Driver (by Theo B)

Derek works for Travel C and G and other coach companies. He also sometimes drives lorries and dune buggies. He was our coach driver for the week and he is very funny and likes a good laugh. We made him welcome and he joined in with our trips in France, and came down to the beach most nights to play French Cricket and football. Derek got so involved he even gave a prize at the end of the week. He was liked by everyone.

The journey there (by Harri)

When we left school in the coach there was a mixture of nerves and excitement. Half of the way to Dover everyone was getting bored. When we got to the ferry port we went to the terminal and there were lots of shops like WH Smith, Burger King and Costa. We waited at the port for 1 hour and then we boarded the ferry. When we got on the passenger deck the teachers split us into groups and we went around buying stuff. When we got to Calais everyone was stuffed. Then we went to the aquarium. After that we drove to the hotel. It was a very dull journey because I left my book in my suitcase!

Nausicaa Sealife Centre (by Seb and Arad)

At Nausicaa Sealife Centre we were put into pairs. I was with Harri but he kept the tickets as I had lost my bag twice that day (and just managed to find it again), and we had a map of exhibits. The teachers asked to meet everyone at stop 8, then stop 16, and so on. Harri and I got lost on one stop as we went to the wrong floor. We did not realise this until we saw Mr. Wells and other groups on the right floor near stop 8. We went down the escalator and stopped outside stop 8, which was a restaurant. There was a cheeseburger and fries for €5 but that was all of my money for that day so I didn't bother buying it. We didn't get to spend any euros at the gift shop either as we spent that time watching a 4D film. I enjoyed the trip and the highlight was when we saw penguins whilst eating our lunch. I thought about giving them one of my Aero chocolate sweets but I didn't. PS – Ethan bought a shark called Binky.

When we arrived some security guards checked our bags. First we went to see the sharks. They were really cool and very nice to look at. There was an area where we could go underneath the tank and watch the sharks up close. We were also allowed to go in groups of 3 looking at specific areas. After that Mr. Marler said we could look at the dolphins but we had to meet at a certain point. The dolphins were quite playful and were always interested in us. I

tried to make seal sounds so I could get their attention but it didn't work. Afterwards we went down a long corridor where there were reptiles including lizards, chameleons, snakes and poisonous frogs. Then we saw caymans (a type of alligator) and unfortunately they didn't move a muscle. Jude thought they were fake but I saw them move. Then Mr. Wells took us to the penguins. They were adorable, hopping around from rock to rock. Jack made an owl sound and luckily the penguins called backed to him.

The Hotel (by Michael)

We stayed at a hotel in Le Touquet, called Les Embruns, a three star hotel just a short walk from the beach. This hotel was also very special to me as I have stayed there before! The rooms were done to a high standard and each had character as they weren't your standard hotel room design. Whilst this varied from room to room, our room included 3 beds (some rooms had 4), a bathroom, wardrobe, safe, fridge, cupboard and chest-of-drawers. Every day we ate breakfast and dinner in the hotel dining room. Breakfast was more or less the same every day: a croissant or Pain au Chocolat, cereal, warm milk and Nutella. It was arranged in a self-service fashion. Dinner was always a hot meal and was not self-service. The hotel also made us lunch which we ate wherever we happened to be at lunchtime. Lunch would always be a baguette with a choice of ham, cheese, tuna or crab filling. There were also crisps and fruit or yogurt. The people who worked there were very friendly. However they spoke very little English, so we had to speak to them in French.

The beach (by Mustafa and JJ)

Every day 7C and 7H went to Le Touquet Plage. The two classes did four activities – digging, football, catch and finally, suitable for the country, French Cricket. A mixture of boys from 7C and 7H played bare-foot football. A series of matches occurred. Some of the people were Josh Johns (winner of the Bus Driver Award for Football), Matty Hill (winner of the Mr. Wells Award), Conrad Burton (winner of the Goat Whisperer Award) and many more. A special mention to Derek the bus driver! The other popular activity was digging. This activity consisted of two companies – MC Mining and JT Mining. MC Mining's owner was Michael Cleaver. The other company's owner was James Totham. "We're going to be the first people on the beach to dig and reach water!" exclaimed an excited Michael Cleaver, using tactics such as building anti-wind and avalanche walls. Unfortunately, none of the diggers achieved their targets but both companies dug deep holes. Our diggers' mining was interrupted by two dogs, one of which did its business in a hole!

The beach was fun. We played beach football and some boys dug holes. Louis almost killed Jack!

The caves (by Ethan and Eddie)

The Cité Souterraine de Naours was dug between 200 and 800 AD and was rediscovered in the 1700s. It could shelter 3,000 people and it was used

during the first and second world wars. When we first went in we went down a 33m ramp dug into the ground. We then went down a straight corridor and turned right into the chapel. The chapel had 2 rooms. The first room had a statue at the back of it in a niche. We walked into the room next door, which was empty, then down a corridor, and looked up at the chimney which ended under a windmill. We saw a memorial to all those who died during the construction of the city and a shrine to Jesus, which had two demons at the front corners. We then went through the museum that showed us how people had lived when it was used as a village and what jobs they did.

I found the caves very interesting. They were massive. They could fit 3,000 people in. They were actually a city. There were different parts of the city – a farmers' part, an army section and some peasants. The average temperature was 9 degrees. They started to dig it in the Stone Age.

Agincourt (by Louis and Olly)

Agincourt was a very long and deadly war. When we got to the museum we went through the toy shop to drop off our bags. The lady showed us a model with castles and weapons as well as a video. Then we went to see a room where the army was (talking models of soldiers.) Mr. Marler was amazing at taking pictures of the relics which were hundreds of years old and very heavy. The guide showed us a horse with armour and a show of flags of the different countries involved. At the end of the day we got to buy toys and relics.

We saw a massive thick glass case full of miniature soldiers re-enacting a battle. Next we went into another room with 2 statues in each corner telling us what the battle was like. There were 3 rooms of this re-enactment. In the 2nd room was a big screen in the middle and on both sides were stairs going at least 3 feet up to a watching area. The 3rd room was more cinema-like. There was a screen at the front with benches facing it. After that we went up some stairs to 4 glass cases. One case contained a long bow with some arrows and opposite was someone holding the bow, showing us the scale of it to a fully grown person. Next was a crossbow with much smaller arrows and again someone holding it to show us the scale. Fun-fact: The English used the long bow because it was faster to reload. The French used the crossbow but it took at least a minute to reload. Then we saw a suit of armour which you could put your head into and a glass case containing a bunch of weapons which you could pick up to feel the weight. In the last room were 3 suits of armour – one for poor people, another for people with a bit of money and lastly one for stinking rich people, with golden painted shiny metal. In the middle of the room was a big horse wearing armour. Finally we went to the shop where the vending machine was the main attraction!

Bagatelle (by Hugo, James and Josh G)

I thought Bagatelle was going to be fun; it was until someone stole my bag (I don't want to talk about that. I'll focus on the fun part.) Anyway, when we

were let free to explore the park my friend and I decided to go to wet rides first. Here is a list of the rides we went on:

The whirlpool ride – basically it starts at some slow rapids, then you go down a whirlpool, then more rapids.

The log ride/flume – you go down some rapids, then up a conveyor and down a hill, and get soaked.

Famous Jack – when I first got on this ride I thought it would be calm. It was so shaky but I definitely was not screaming, definitely!

Le Triops – let's just say it's fun and I recommend it, but, warning! Its nickname is the big ride, so be warned!

My favourite ride was Triops. I went on it 4 times. Few people wanted to go on it because it was very scary. It went round a loop-the-loop, a corkscrew and flipped from one side to the other. We met with the teachers for lunch at 1 o'clock and sat behind the tuck shop to eat sandwiches. After that we went back on the rides for 2 and a half hours till we met the teachers again. I went on a ride called the Grand Prix 5 times because Jude and Mete loved it. It went round a track in 1 line and I kept bashing into Mete. It was really funny!

My favourite part was also Triops and the moving aeroplanes. The theme park was very good and I enjoyed it.

The market (by Freddie and Jack H)

On the way to the market we stopped outside President Macron's apartment for a picture and learned that he thought Le Touquet was an amazing place to go on holiday. When we went to the market, the first thing I noticed was the big clock that was not a normal clock. It was massive and fancy. The French love their markets so they have them normally 2 to 3 times a week whereas in England it is relatively rare to stumble across a market. When Mr. Marler said that we could go, everyone went for the fidget spinners and as we were in such a big group of about 15, we got all the fidget spinners reduced from €5 to €3. Then we looked around the actual market. They were selling sweets (100g for €1.50.) Then many of us bought hats and Ethan got something close to a voodoo doll. Luckily it was not a voodoo doll. They were selling metal fidget spinners and one that could hypnotize you. Some of them even played music. Eddie bought a metal fidget spinner for €6 when it really cost €15, by saying he only had €6!

Mustafa and I saw a dog in the market just wandering around so we stroked it and told Mr. Wells. He said the dog's owner was in a stall next to us. Some of the stalls had hats and a section of the market was a fish market. I did not go in. Mr. Wells judged our fidget spinners and told us whose was the best. Mine can spin for 1 minute 20 seconds, but was not the best.

Everyone went crazy and bought fidget spinners but we were not allowed to buy bombs, guns, gum or over-aged DVDs. People got very hyper on the sweets.

The Goats cheese farm (by Jude and Conrad)

On Thursday afternoon, we arrived at the farm. There we met the farmer and learned what animals she had; several goats, a few cows and a horse. Then we tried some of her lovely, home-made waffles. Next, we went into the barn and saw the goats eating. We learned that she had 3 kinds of goats (Mr. Marler got in trouble a few times here for taking photos whilst the farmer was talking!) From there we went into the barn where we were able to hold, cuddle and feed the goats, but for some reason they also got Josh's hat. Ethan called one "Bob the Avenger" and Conrad called one "Jordan". After that, we discovered how the cheese was made and even got to try some cheese, which were 1-day-old, 2 weeks old and 6 months old (my favourite was the 6 months). Next we bought cheese from the shop. From there we went back into the barn and played with the goats and went to our next stop.

I thought the goat farm was one of the best trips. We met Eliane who was the farmer. We first saw the male goats, then Eliane put a goat in my arms and I named it Jordan. He was a very good friend. Then we went to see how cheese is made. I bought some cheese and went back to see Jordan, but I didn't succeed in smuggling him back to the UK!

The chocolate factory (by Tom and Theo G)

On Friday we went to a chocolate factory and watched all the steps of making chocolate. We all enjoyed the tour and, of course, eating the chocolate at the end! All the chocolate was beautifully made and absolutely delicious! We were very grateful for the experience.

The factory smelled of chocolate and they told us how to make it. We then got to taste the chocolate. They made 3 types – dark, milk and white - and there was a shop at the end with lots of chocolate in shapes of the Eiffel tower and different animals.

Bécasuc sweet factory (by Mete and Matty)

At the sweet factory the man showed us 2 kinds of sweets – soft and hard. He was very funny and made really bad jokes. Even though he didn't speak English he had a translator. The hard sweets tasted nice. I bought some squishy sweets and a really rare type of Fanta which was decent.

When we arrived Mr. Marler had already been told off. He was so bad he was going to be punished by dipping his hands into the sweets but the man wasn't that mean so Mr. Marler didn't do any punishment. There were boiled sweets and jelly ones which had gelatine in. The mould was different for the boiled sweets. The mixture went through a machine which moulded it and there was a long conveyor belt for the sweets to cool down on. They landed in a bucket and were separated. We got to taste them and they were cola flavoured. There were plenty left so we got to have more. It was hard to choose what to get in the shop – there were very nice-looking things to buy. So I bought a

toffee caramel sort of thing. It was delicious. I bought 2 of them for 1 euro 50 cents each. (BARGAIN! – Best toffee caramel thing ever, and it was cheap!)

The journey home (by Theo B and Jack L)

After the sweet factory we re-boarded the coach and set off for Calais. We waited in a long queue of other coaches, then disembarked from the coach and went through passport control. We then entered the ferry. The journey took about an hour but it went quickly due to the fact that there was plenty to do and buy. As well as that we had to eat lunch (yum). The ferry crossing back was quite choppy and we wanted to see what it was like on the sun deck. Derek came too and said, "I like walking around the ferry when it's choppy because it looks like everyone is drunk!" It was very windy and we got sprayed. Derek found one of his fellow driver friends but I couldn't understand a word he said because he had a very, very strong Scottish accent.

After the journey on the rough sea (I felt a bit queasy) we drove out of the Dover terminus and began our journey back to school. We watched the movie, "Despicable Me," on the way. Finally we arrived back at school and eagerly met our excited parents who asked us loads of questions about our trip. This was the end of our excellent week away.