



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Paris Residential Report

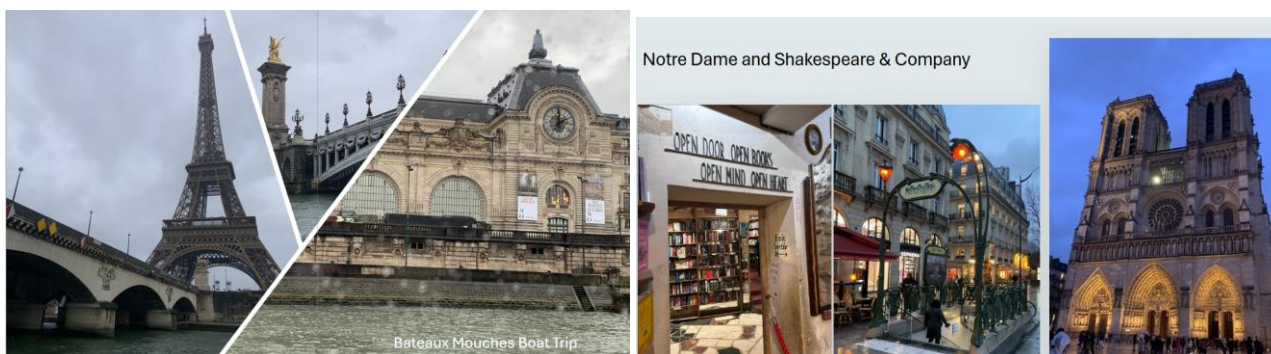
Ms. Kirk (College Leader and Visit Leader)

Last week, thirty-nine A-level students participated in a weeklong residential to Paris, organised by the English faculty, which they will surely never forget. Most were English students, although a few others joined the trip to soak up the many cultural highlights on offer alongside the four members of staff leading the trip.



The schedule was jam-packed but full of delights. A 5.30 a.m. start on Monday kicked off a day of travel by coach and ferry, three days crammed with sightseeing and walking (all the big hitters), and a day of travel.

On Tuesday, it rained persistently and ferociously, but we ploughed on, and it ended up being a fantastic day. As a measure, several umbrellas had to be binned because they were distorted beyond repair by the wind. However, we still wandered down the Champs Elysee, saw the newly restored Notre Dame, visited the Shakespeare and Company book shop and soaked in the sights of the old city (literally) from a boat trip on the Seine. The blue sky over the Louvre on a Wednesday morning was all the sweeter for what had come before. Another memorable moment was starting the Thursday with another blue sky over the awe-inspiring and gilded environs of Versailles.



The experiences we had whilst in Paris were formative for the students. We saw world-class art at the Louvre and the Musee D'Orsay, evocative and atmospheric strolls around Pere Lachaise and Montparnasse cemeteries, walking 284 steps up a spiral stairwell to the awe-inspiring views from the top of the Arc de Triomphe, and 56 floors in a lift to the top of the Montparnasse Tower at inhuman speed. We also went souvenir shopping in Montmartre at the end of the week.



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Arc de Triomphe

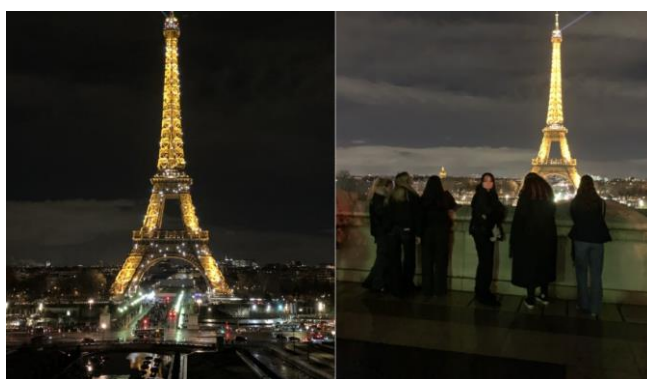


The Louvre



Pere Lachaise Cemetery

Although students had many opportunities to broaden their curriculum-based knowledge, the real value was in terms of personal development, and this was beyond measure. No one forgets standing in the Trocadero looking at the Eiffel Tower when it starts to sparkle at night.



The students' conduct was equally fantastic. On our return to RSA, the coach driver remarked that this was the 'best school group he had ever worked with.'

It is easy to wax lyrical about all the things we did and saw, but the last words should go to the students themselves: "My favourite trip ever, I have loved it all." "Overwhelming in the absolute best possible way." "I've fallen in love with the city of Paris." "Truly unforgettable."



Summary

I sincerely thank all staff members, including Ms Kirk, for facilitating a memorable, life-changing visit to Paris last week. This is just one of many visits during the academic year, and we hope to hear great things from staff and students returning from the **Cornwall Residential** when they return next week.

Mr D Cleary
Principal



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