

French and Art Departments Visit Paris

Friday 7th July saw a coach load of 51 excited new Y10, Y11 and Y13 students and six staff set off on a four day trip to the beautiful city of Paris. We were fortunate not to encounter any delays at Dover and we enjoyed a smooth crossing on the ferry to France and made our way south to the capital.

On the Saturday, we woke early and enjoyed a buffet breakfast before setting out to explore the wonderful sights of France's capital city. We started in the impressive square outside the Louvre museum and walked through the sunshine in the Jardins des Tuileries to cross the River Seine. Students made the most of the weather and the stunning sights and monuments, the beautiful architecture and sculptures to capture some fantastic photos for the Art department's photography competition. Our next visit was to the Musée d'Orsay, which was converted from a railway station to house paintings and sculptures from the last couple of centuries. Students enjoyed the opportunity to gaze in awe at world famous pieces of art by Picasso, Degas, Monet, Van Gogh and so many more.



In the afternoon, we travelled to the amazing and beautiful Palais de Versailles. Here Mr Dodkin explained the historical significance of Versailles before students set off to explore the corridors and endless vast rooms of the ornate palace. Again, many students took numerous photos in a bid to win the photo competition.

Our highly experienced driver took us back into Paris via the world famous roundabout of the Arc de Triomphe, where 12 roads come into the roundabout and there are really no rules!

The lovely weather continued into the evening, which was perfect for a leisurely riverboat cruise to see the sights of Paris – the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, Notre Dame cathedral, the two islands in the middle of the River Seine and much more.

Sunday saw some dramatic weather of torrential rain and thunder and lightning after our arrival at Disneyland Paris but this quickly cleared. The students thoroughly enjoyed the rollercoasters, water rides and the famous parade of characters at Disneyland Paris as well as purchasing many souvenirs.

To conclude our short stay in Paris we went to the viewpoint on La Tour Montparnasse on the final morning. From here, you can take beautiful photos of Paris, with La Tour Eiffel in pride of place and without all the crowds and queues involved in a visit to the more famous tower.

I would like to thank the wonderful staff team of Mademoiselle Briand, Mr Dodkin, Ms Hirst, Miss Lewis and Miss Noble who gave up their weekend to accompany the trip. Thank you also to our fantastic group of students who were excellent ambassadors for Vandyke and a credit to themselves.

Students were asked to keep a diary of photographs to document their time in Paris, and this turned into a competition where students were challenged to submit their best photos! After much deliberation, Harry H in Year 11 was our winner who took an excellent range of photos that embodied his time in Paris that were carefully edited in black and white (left). Jack M (below left) and Rosie M (below right) were our well-deserved runners-up.



Open Evening 6pm-9pm, Thursday 5th October

We look forward to welcoming Year 8 students and their parents/carers to the school next week.

Please share the details if you know any families who would like to attend. Thank you!



VANDYKE Voice



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Public Services Achievements

Before the summer break, Y13 Uniformed Protective Service students took part in their two-day expedition. They were all amazing and worked well as a team. They demonstrated leadership, teamwork, resilience and excellent map reading skills – well done to all of them.

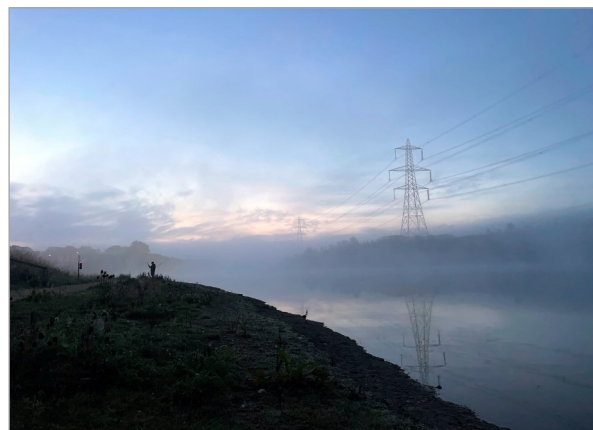


And our Year 11 Public Services students were equally busy, taking part in a range of teamwork tasks. They have been learning about the importance of working together and have examined some of the

activities that they may learn about in areas such as public order training, team building exercises and cooking on an open fire.

Artist of the Fortnight

This fortnight, our award goes to a talented photographer. Congratulations to Drew M, our Artist of the Fortnight. Drew has captured a beautiful early morning scene of a fishing lake at sunrise, under the harsh shroud of an electricity pylon. Drew's juxtaposition of man-made and nature, coupled with incredible lighting conditions has led to a truly outstanding photograph.



Impressive Public Speeches

It was an exciting final half-term for student in years 10 and 11, as they completed the spoken language element of the GCSE English course.

This requires students to write, rehearse and perform a 5-minute speech to the rest of their English class. Students who were feeling particularly brave were also able to perform this in the theatre in front of the whole year group.



To launch this part of the course, students gathered in the theatre to watch some of their teachers perform speeches

with topics ranging from life in the army, to the harmful effects of casual racism, to the importance of football as a sport. This provided inspiration for students to then write their own speeches. All students approached this with

enthusiasm and excitement and a large number of the speeches were truly inspirational.

Many students were confident enough to stand up in the theatre and the audiences were respectful and supportive while they were treated to a range of inspirational, heart-warming, heart-breaking and, at times, comedic speeches. It was a wonderful way to end the academic year.

A huge well done to all of our year 10 and 11 students who should be commended for their approach - it was an outstanding and exciting end to the term.



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Local people working for you.

Wednesday 27th— Friday 29th September	Year 11 day trips to the Olympic Park, London
Thursday 5th October	Open Evening: 6pm-9pm Year 8 students and parents/carers
Monday 9th—Friday 20th October	Open Mornings for Y8 students and parents/carers. 9am-11am every day.
Monday 9th October	Vandyke Voice published