

Year 7 residential trips to France and Germany

On 14th July, 54 excited year 7 students travelled to the beautiful Rhineland in Germany and 61 students departed to the Normandy region in France. On our trip, pupils learned about the culture and customs of these countries by visiting historical sights and tasting foreign food, they started to make use of their newly acquired language skills and grew into more independent young ladies. Students and teachers alike enjoyed the various activities and the sunshine during our time abroad.

Here is an account of the French trip.

At the end of the 2012/13 academic year, the CTH side of year 7 went to Le Baie de Somme, in France. The journey took about five hours, however half of this time was waiting at the Eurotunnel and sorting out passports and tickets.

Once we arrived, the owner of the small hotel (which was dominated by GCH), came out and talked to us about the rules and regulations. The main ones being "Don't run!" and "Don't shout!". We were told our room numbers and room mates and we settled in. Many people explored the grounds, whilst others unpacked, jumping up and down because of their excitement.

We had an excellent and really well thought through timetable for the week. Our activities included going to:

- Natur' Pom (an organic apple farm)
- Nausica Sea Life centre
- Boulogne (a town about half an hour away from the hotel) and a town trail there.
- Les Grottes De Naours (an underground city and awesome playground!)



Year 7 students enjoying their 'vacances en France' at the end of the Summer term

- Mini golf
- Journey on a steam train
- Bagatelle (a theme park that many enjoyed, even those who didn't like rollercoasters and rides!)
- Le Touquet market on the way home.

Every day, after dinner and these activities, we all came together to play games and spend time reflecting on the day. On the last night, we all had a talent show, with everyone performing. There was a varied range of talent, from horse drawings, to Irish dancing, to gymnastic performances, to songs composed by students themselves.

Also on the last night, we said good bye to Ms Miller, the former head of modern foreign languages, before she went off to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. To do this, we sang Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen to her, changing some of the lyrics like "Bismiller!" to "Ms Miller!" (etc). There was tears, laughter and hugs as we realised that she was leaving after 12 years of teaching at GCH.

It is pretty clear that everyone on the France Trip thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and it's something to remember in the future.

Kate Ratcliff and Bie Tu Seah 8T



Year 7 students in Rüdeshelm, Germany