



St. Margaret's Co-educational
English Secondary & Primary School
聖瑪加利男女英文中小學

STUDY TOURS & EXCHANGES

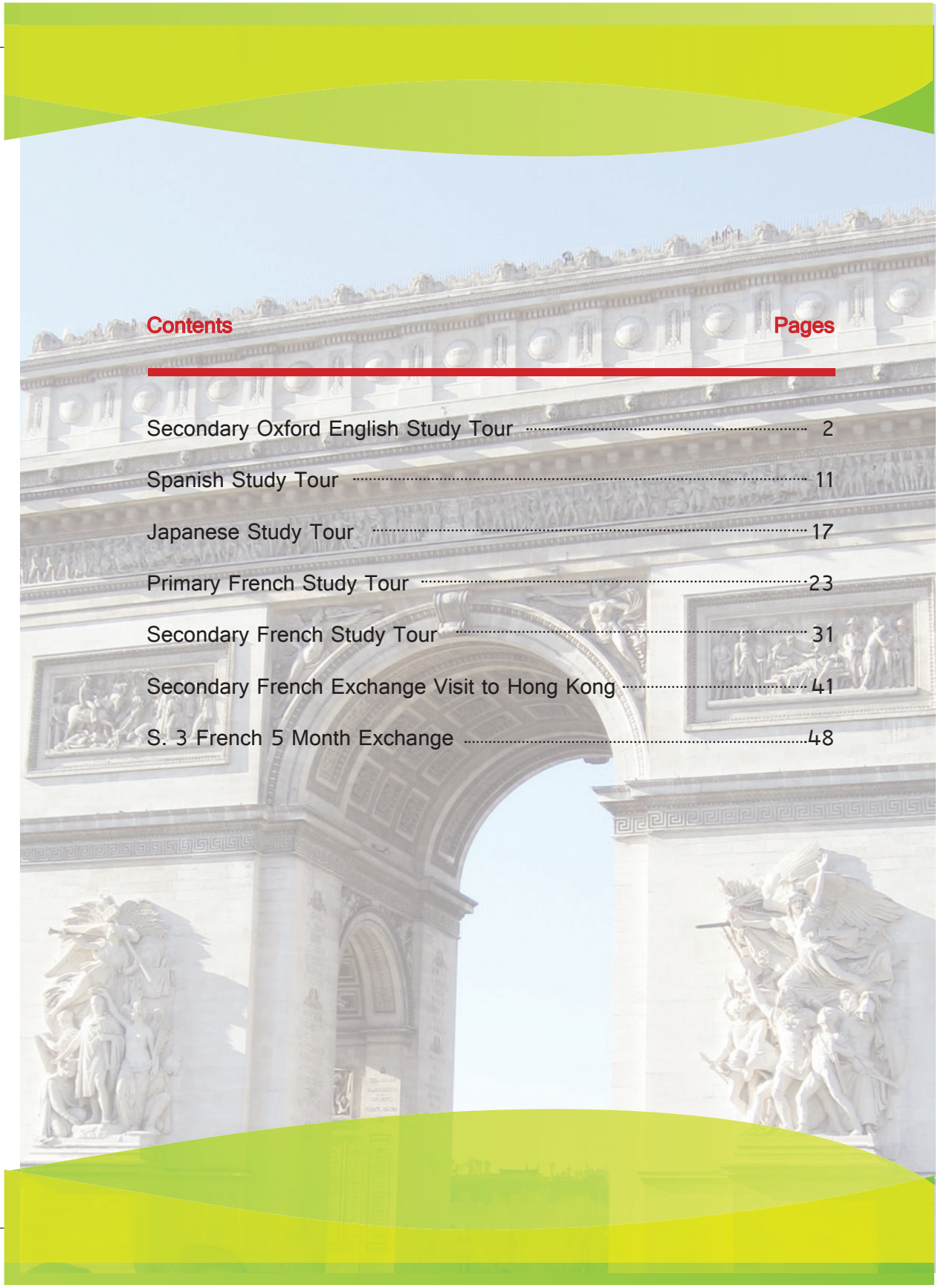












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Secondary Oxford English Study Tour

Itinerary

Date	Activity
26 July 2011	Hong Kong – Oxford, England
27 July 2011	Lesson, Oxford City
28 July 2011	Lesson, Bowling
29 July 2011	Lesson, Christ Church
30 July 2011	Lesson, Punting
31 July 2011	London
1 August 2011	Lesson, Bicester Village
2 August 2011	Lesson, City Centre
3 August 2011	Lesson, Bus tour, Disco
4 August 2011	Lesson, Carfax Tower
5 August 2011	Exam / Host family
6 August 2011	Graduation
7 August 2011	Bath
8 August 2011	Blenheim Palace, farewell dinner

THE SECONDARY OXFORD STUDY TOUR (25 JULY - 9 AUGUST)

Forty-one fortunate St. Margaret students from S.1 to S.3 went overseas to Oxford on the trip of a lifetime. This fantastic fourteen day adventure gave the students complete exposure to English in its native land and provided an excellent experience of authentic British culture. Students were also given the opportunity to enjoy beautiful British scenery and the romantic rolling landscape of the county of Oxford.

26 JULY 2011 HONG KONG – OXFORD, ENGLAND

After taking a 13-hour flight, we were physically exhausted but the fresh air in England energized us immediately. We were very excited to be given a chance to explore this beautiful country. After collecting our luggage at the airport, we spent nearly 2 hours on a coach to Kassam Stadium to meet our host families.

As soon as we arrived, we were welcomed by the EF staff in the stadium and our host families were waiting for us! All of us were looking for our own families enthusiastically and wondering what we should say to them. We knew it would be a remarkable adventure spending time in Oxford with our classmates.



Radcliffe Camera, Oxford



Friends in Oxford

27 JULY 2011 ATTAINMENT TEST, OXFORD TOWN

Here we go! After a long good rest, our host family first showed us how to get around in the local area, then they drove us to Kassam Stadium for an attainment test. We were allocated into different classes with students from other countries according to our results in the test. After the test, we walked around the campus and met some new friends. People there were very friendly and welcoming. It made us feel at home.

Afterwards, we spent our whole afternoon exploring Oxford City. Oxford is a spectacular city. The buildings were constructed in an old, traditional style. Unlike Hong Kong, where the buildings are made with glass and are towering and high-reaching, the buildings in Oxford were made with marble and are much shorter. We then had our first dinner with our host family.

28 JULY 2011
LESSON, BOWLING

This was the first day of English lessons with people from different countries. We were especially excited about meeting new friends. The teachers were very nice and friendly. Most of all, they were fun! The morning passed by quickly, then we were off to our bowling trip!



Bowling was the first exercise we did since we had arrived. Bowling was fun but tiring. We formed groups and competed with each other. At night, we went home for dinner with our host families. It was a great day with lots of fun.



Bowling in England: Great exercise after a long flight

29 JULY 2011
CHRIST CHURCH

We went to Christ Church on the fourth day of the Oxford tour. I was looking forward to having an exciting day because I love historical buildings. Moreover, the Great Hall in Christ Church was where Harry Potter was filmed.

Christ Church was a classic castle, surrounded by beautiful flowers and green grassland. This was my first visit to a historical church. The church gave me a peaceful feeling, and I particularly liked the colorful stained glass. We walked around the church and then followed the footsteps of the world's favourite wizard through Oxford's most spectacular College – the Great Hall.

All of us were very excited as we are all faithful fans of Harry Potter. We felt like we were in the Hogwart's Hall. We could not stop taking photos in the Great Hall. We could see a lot of portraits of famous people in the UK history too. It was totally an unforgettable experience.



The "Great Hall" – a dream come true for Harry Potter fans



The whole group outside the "Great Hall", Christ Church

30 JULY 2011
PUNTING

The most unforgettable part of the trip for me was punting in the river. I was with four other S.2 friends in a boat called a punt and I was the punter. We were supposed to go round an island and then back to the starting point. However, we weren't able to turn where we were supposed to. Fortunately, we found a man who helped us. Fifteen minutes later, they sent a punter to help us and we went back to the starting point safely.

Although it wasn't fun to stay in the middle of the river in such cool weather, we have something to laugh about now when we recall our trip.





Punting in Oxford, England! We could be in a tourism brochure!

31 JULY 2011
LONDON

London is a place that you should never miss! I always wanted to visit London when I was young. During the last summer holiday, I finally got a chance to do so.

When I first arrived in London, I was attracted by the fascinating scenery. The sunshine, the breeze and the historical structures were amazing. We first went to Buckingham Palace. It was really grand and I absolutely adored it. We then walked to St. James Park for lunch. We sat on the grass to have picnic, it was so relaxing.

After lunch, we went sight-seeing around London, I had heard about Big Ben and the London Eye for so long and I could finally picture them in my camera. Big Ben and the London Eye were magnificent. Besides that, we also went to Regent Street and China Town.

It was such a wonderful trip and I wish I had more time exploring London. Perhaps someday I'll have another chance to travel to London and it'll be another journey that I would look forward to.



London in the sunshine!

Big Ben

1 AUGUST 2011
BICESTER VILLAGE

Let the shopping commence! We loved London but we could not spend a penny there because everything was extremely expensive. Fortunately, we were given a chance to visit Bicester Village. It is one of the biggest shopping outlets in the UK and is only twenty minutes from Oxford City. The village offered a wide range of shopping choices from clothing to houseware. We were very excited because the outlet offered genuine products with up to 60% reductions. Although we did not buy a lot, we had fun shopping around the place.



Beautiful Oxford City

2 AUGUST 2011
CITY CENTRE

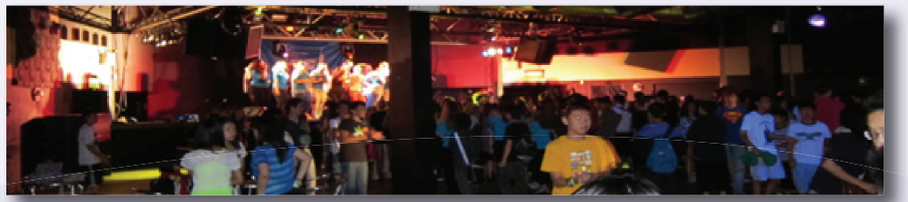
Today, we were given a chance to pay a visit to Oxford City on our own. Oxford City is reputable for its university. The city is very royal and scholarly and we particularly liked the historic buildings, colleges and museums. It is also a bustling cosmopolitan town where we could find various shops and business parks. We bought some snacks and sat in a park to enjoy it, it was really relaxing.

After lunch, we explored the city and we found the original Alice in Wonderland Shop! The shop is authentic because it is part of the original story – for it is situated across the road from Alice's childhood home! The shop is decorated in Victorian style and it gave us a taste of Alice's adventures. It is definitely a must to visit this shop if you go to Oxford.

3 AUGUST 2011
DISCO

Today, we had a very different experience after lesson. We went to a disco and all students enjoyed every moment of it. Don't worry parents, we were not allowed to have any alcoholic beverages; all we could ask for were glasses of water. It was safe and fun. I felt shy when I first arrived at the disco, especially when everybody was dancing. After a while, I invited my friends to dance together.

To my surprise, dancing in the disco was extremely fun. The music was so powerful that it made us dance. I also made some foreign friends while we were dancing. They were very friendly and kind, which made me feel comfortable while communicating with them. This was certainly a once in a lifetime experience.



Dancing "Saturday Night Fever" style!

4 AUGUST 2011
CARFAX TOWER

After a great dancing night, we were extremely exhausted. However, it did not stop us from climbing ninty-nine steps to see the magnificent view of Oxford City at Carfax Tower.

After a long climb, we reached the top of the tower to get a bird's eye view of Oxford City. The winding stairs inside the tower were remarkable because we rarely see this kind of stairway in Hong Kong, and I felt like I was back in the 16th century. Since the tower was located in the center of the four main streets, we could see an amazing full view of Oxford City clearly from the top. Other than the beautiful view, we also learnt the history of this tower, for example, how it was changed from a church to a clock tower.



A visit to Carfax Tower

5 AUGUST 2011
EXAM / HOST FAMILY



Snapshots of family life

After 8 days of lessons every morning, our students had their exam. The exam was not as difficult as the one they usually have in Hong Kong, but they still put a lot of preparation time into it because they would be given a certificate upon graduation.

Student reflection on their Host Families:

After a few hours of exam, all students were given a half day off to spend time with their host families. One of our students, Alice Li, stayed with a lady called Margaret. Margaret was very nice and friendly. She always chatted with Alice and taught her a lot about local British culture. There were surprises every now and then for lunch and dinner. One day Margaret prepared some traditional English food for Alice and another day she cooked her some Chinese food. Moreover, Alice enjoyed playing with Margaret's grandchildren in the backyard. They are adorable. Alice wishes she could stay longer with Margaret and her hospitable family.

Another student, Vanessa Sze, stayed with a local British mother and her 20 year-old son. Before Vanessa actually met her host she had always hoped that the family would have kids and pets in the house. But when she met her host, she found out that they only had a cat. However, it didn't spoil Vanessa's mood. The days she spent in her host family's house were happy and she really enjoyed them. She especially loved the soft bed that made her 14-day Oxford trip relaxing and comfortable.

The host families didn't just provide our students with a shelter - they gave them love and care. All students felt like they were a part of the family during their stay and they really miss the times in Oxford.

6 AUGUST 2011
GRADUATION

During this wonderful journey to Oxford, I had some fantastic experiences, especially the graduation ceremony. I consider the graduation ceremony as an important moment since we had studied a lot and finally we succeeded. During the two weeks, we learnt a lot about Western Culture as well as some local traditions from our host family. All of us got along well with each other and tried to learn from our mistakes.

I really think that the teachers had put a lot of time and effort to try to make this trip and ceremony as perfect as they could. During the ceremony, my friends and I wore a graduation hat. This was my first time to wear a graduation hat. Each of us went on the stage individually to get our certificates. When my local English teacher called my name, I felt extremely happy and excited. While I was on stage, I hugged my teacher and also my classmates. It was so brilliant that we finally graduated.

After the ceremony, my friends and I threw our hats in the air and ran out of the school immediately. I have had lots of unforgettable memories from Oxford. We developed a good relationship with each other before we left. On the last day, all of us were very reluctant to leave this amazing place.





Graduation from our English Course



A magical visit to the roman baths in Bath

7 AUGUST 2011
THE ROMAN BATH

My most memorable activity was the visit to The Roman Bath; We could see the full history of the recreational facilities constructed by the Romans a thousand years ago. The British had to serve as slaves and work for the Romans. We spent hours in that place and we loved it. We learnt a lot of amazing facts about this place, for example, the history of Aquae Sulis, the Temple Courtyard and the Great Bath etc. We took a lot of pictures with the costumed characters near the Great Bath. At the end of the tour, we visited the Sacred Spring fountain and had a sip of the water – the water tasted like metal, so none of us was a fan of it.

8 AUGUST 2011
BLENHEIM PALACE



The palace where Winston Churchill was born

Finally, it came to the last day of the tour. We went to Blenheim Palace. The weather was not too good – typically British weather – rainy. However, it did not spoil our mood.

Visiting Blenheim Palace was a superb experience. It is home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The palace was surrounded by beautiful lawns, gardens and a lake. What's more, there was a gigantic maze! All of us were very excited and we were so happy to spend a whole day there!

We were drawn by the tranquility of the palace. In the afternoon, we went to see a spectacular battle including a mighty jousting tournament called "The Knights of Royal England". The knights were all geared up as in the medieval times to compete in hand to hand combat with their choice of medieval weapons. It was eye-opening. Our hands were in our mouths as the battle was so tense and thrilling.

After the battle, we walked along the path through the woods and under the light rainfall. How romantic was that? We wished we could have stayed there longer to discover every corner of the Blenheim Palace.



The amazing Blenheim Palace and us!

Spanish Study Tour

Itinerary

Date	Activity
29 January 2011	Museum of Modernism, Sagrada Familia, St. Joseph Market
30 January 2011	Park Güell, Bus Tour
31 January 2011	Barcelona to Madrid, Palacio Real (the Royal Palace)
1 February 2011	Naval Museum, Museo del Prado
2 February 2011	Reina Sofia National Museum
3 February 2011	Bernabeu Stadium & Museum of Real Madrid Trophy
4 February 2011	Madrid Zoo
5 February 2011	A Day-trip to Toledo
6 February 2011	Last days in Spain

29 JANUARY 2011
MUSEUM OF MODERNISM, SAGRADA FAMILIA, ST. JOSEPH MARKET

We were all excited because it was officially the first day of our Spanish Study Tour. Our first visit was the Museum of Modern Art.

In the afternoon, we went to the famous Sagrada Familia, a big cathedral designed by Gaudi. Even though the anticipated completion date of the cathedral is 2026, the 100th anniversary of Gaudi's death, it was still beautiful.

Finally, we went to the St. Joseph's Market, a famous market where you can find all types of Spanish food. While we were walking, Mr. Adames bought us some typical Spanish food to try. Since most of the foods in the market is hard to find in Hong Kong, I bought some to share with my schoolmates.



At a typical Spanish Deli


At the St.Joseph market trying out Spanish food

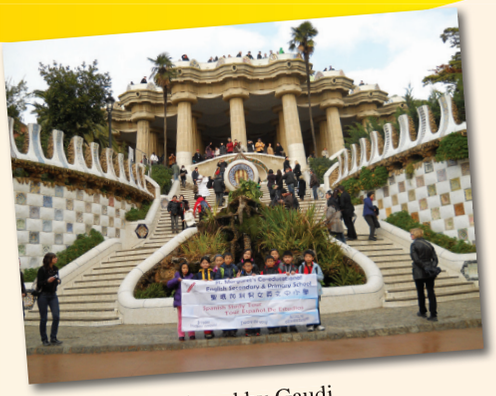

The Sagrada Família


In transit at Heathrow Airport

30 JANUARY 2011
PARK GÜELL, BUS TOUR

Today we went to Park Güell, a beautiful garden designed by Gaudi in 1900.

In the afternoon, we took a bus tour around Barcelona. We passed by many famous buildings and monuments such as La Pedreda, the Olympic Stadium and the serene waterfront of Barcelona.


Park Guelle designed by Gaudi

31 JANUARY 2011
BARCELONA TO MADRID, PALACIO REAL (THE ROYAL PALACE)

When we arrived in Madrid from Barcelona, our first stop was the Palacio Real (the Royal Palace). We passed by a big statue of Queen Isabel la Catolica and King Ferdinand el Catolico. During the visit, I learned that they tried to convert all the people in Spain to become Catholics, and that period of time in history was called the Inquisition. We were given a challenge by Mr. Adames to find out the meaning of the symbols found on the Royal Crest.


Enjoying a bus tour of Barcelona


Chinese New Year Celebrations in Madrid


Chinese New Year Celebrations in Madrid



Spanish lessons



Waiting outside the Prado Museum for our tour

1 FEBRUARY 2011
NAVAL MUSEUM, MUSEO DEL PRADO

After our Spanish lesson, we went to the Retiro Park for lunch. Then we visited the Naval Museum where we saw a map drawn up by Christopher Columbus. I couldn't believe that the map that was drawn more than 500 years ago.

We lined up in the post office and asked in Spanish for stamps so we can send some postcards home.

Then, we walked to the Prado Museum, one of the most well-known museums in Europe. There, we met our guide who took us on a tour of the museum. I found that most of the paintings were very dark, but I was fascinated by one of the paintings called the "Las Meninas" painted by Velazquez because we learned about the concept of perspective. I was amazed how it changed as we moved.

2 FEBRUARY 2011
REINA SOFÍA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Today, we visited to the Atocha Renfe station, the biggest train station in Madrid. It is amazing because there is a rainforest within the train station itself, and a pond with many turtles. We took some pictures with the turtles, and even managed to get a glimpse of the AVE (High Speed Train) which can operate to a speed of up to 300km/h. I was very happy to learn that we will take the AVE to go to Toledo.

We then visited the Reina Sofía national museum where I saw the Guernica, a painting of a monster with lion-like heads, chasing after people who were screaming, hiding, or escaping. Picasso drew many paintings showing a dark period when many people were killed.



In front of the Reina Sofía National Museum



Enjoying the sunshine at the park



Enjoying a game of tag at the main square

3 FEBRUARY 2011
BERNABEU STADIUM & MUSEUM OF REAL MADRID TROPHY

Today, we went to the Bernabeu Stadium, home of the famous soccer team, the Real Madrid. The stadium looks big from the outside, and we learned that it can accommodate more than 80,000 spectators! When we entered the stadium, we were amazed at how big it actually is from the inside. We went down to the field to the VIP seating area. I can only imagine what it will be like to watch a game with my favourite soccer players up-close.

Afterwards, we continued with the tour, and visited the players' changing rooms where we found a hot tub and a massage area. It was so high-tech and luxurious!



Bernabeu Stadium

4 FEBRUARY 2011
MADRID ZOO

We went to the zoo after our last Spanish lesson. We visited El Parque Zoológico de Madrid, Zoo Aquarium de Madrid, which means Madrid Zoo in Spanish, and its English name is "Zoo Aquarium Madrid". It was an exciting day because Mr. Adames told us that we would have a competition of boys against girls in the zoo. It was more like a treasure hunt. Both teams were given clues of characteristics of different animals in the zoo, and after guessing which animal, the teams had to find the animal using the zoo map and take a picture of it and to show it back to Mr. Adames and so on.



The Winning Twelve at the Bernabeu Stadium



Madrid Zoo



Souvenir shop at the Madrid Zoo

5 FEBRUARY 2011
A DAY-TRIP TO TOLEDO

This morning we were all excited to take the RENFE AVE (high-speed train) to Toledo. It was very fast and it took only 30 minutes to get to Toledo. I was very impressed when we arrived because we can see that the city of Toledo was surrounded by a fortress. I later learned that the reason was because Toledo used to be the capital of the Spanish empire, and the Spanish kings and queens wanted to protect their land.

The whole city was like what I have read in story books about medieval times. There were many narrow winding streets and houses with different places of worship. During the visit, I learned that Toledo is famous not only because it used to be the capital of the Spanish empire, but also because it was one of the rare places where people of different religions such as Muslims, Jews, and Christians co-existed harmoniously.



Taking the train to Toledo



Day at Toledo

6 FEBRUARY 2011
LAST DAY IN SPAIN

Today is our last day in Madrid. I feel a bit sad to leave this beautiful city, but we got to visit the big shopping mall near our host family. We had a bit of fun because Mr. Adames gave us a treasure hunt to find typical Spanish stores.

In the afternoon, we bought some traditional souvenirs for our friends and families in Hong Kong. What was a bit strange is that the teachers bought 3 grocery bags filled with Chorizo and Salami.



Girls!Show the souvenirs



Buying a few souvenirs for family and friends

Japanese Study Tour

Itinerary

Date	Activity
24 June 2010	Trip from Hong Kong to Tokyo
25 June 2010	Kendama is so fun!
26 June 2010	Visit to Hakone
27 June 2010	The 'Science' Day
28 June 2010	My first interview with Japanese people!
29 June 2010	Ordering food all by ourselves!
30 June 2010	Wagashi is so yummy!
1 July 2010	The last day, the unforgettable day!

24 JUNE 2010
TRIP FROM HONG KONG TO TOKYO

Today was a sunny day. Twenty students from P.5 to S.1 gathered at the Hong Kong International Airport early this morning for the flight heading for Narita Airport, Tokyo.

We arrived in Japan in the afternoon. Students were all very excited when the plane landed. After a long airport bus ride, we finally reached our hotel. We had a short walk around the hotel and had our first meal in Japan. We were all looking forward to the Japanese course starting tomorrow. Now, it is time for bed! See you!



Ready? Go! 元気に出発！



Obento (meal box) is so tasty! おいしい！

25 JUNE 2010
KENDAMA IS SO FUN!

Today was the first day at school! We had our first Japanese lesson after the opening ceremony and a school tour. The principal and teachers were all very nice. The principal even taught us how to play with a traditional Japanese toy called Kendama.

In the afternoon, we went to Asakusa by JR. The temples there were very beautiful. We took a lot of pictures.

After that, we went to Ueno to visit a wet market. We all accomplished our given task successfully of buying fruits using Japanese. It was such an unforgettable experience!



"I did it". Do you want to try playing with kendama? It's really fun!



Here we are in front of the Kaminarimon Gate in Asakusa. How can we miss this scene? Smile!

26 JUNE 2010
VISIT TO HAKONE

Today we went to Hakone and visited the beautiful Open-air Statue Museum. Our teachers designed a treasure hunt game for us. After finishing the tasks, we were asked to meet our teachers at the secret location called Ashiyu. But what is that? Finally, we discovered Ashiyu means foot hotspring! It was really relaxing to have foot hotspring.



Students enjoying ashiyu (foot hotspring) at the Hakone Open-air Museum



Finally we can find a comfortable place in the crowded JR train! Remember not to chat too loudly!



It is so exciting to ride on the cable car in Oowakudani, the famous national park in Hakone, with steam coming out from the ground below us!

27 JUNE 2010
THE 'SCIENCE' DAY

Our first task of the day was to go to a convenience store "Konbini" to learn new words and find out the difference between the convenience stores in Japan and HK.

In the afternoon, we got on the famous monorail which led us to Odaiba. Our first destination was the Science Museum. There was a special exhibition called "Doraemon's Science in the Future". We learned about how Doraemon's secret tools, such as the time machine and transparent cloak worked in the real life.

After visiting the Fuji TV building, we saw the beautiful Rainbow Bridge and the Statue of Liberty. We all thought that we were in New York!



There are different types of products available in konbini in Japan.

28 JUNE 2010
MY FIRST INTERVIEW WITH JAPANESE PEOPLE!

Day 5 was a day of learning! We learned how to design and draw a traditional postcard (etegami). We are so proud of our work! Then, it's 'tea' time!

We had our first tea ceremony lesson with a funny sensei. She was dressing in a beautiful in kimono and started to tell us the history and demonstrated the steps of tea ceremony. After that, we even got to make our own cup of tea!

We then visited the Waseda University, one of the best universities in Japan. We interviewed the students there in Japanese. Though we were quite nervous, 'we did it!' They were all very nice and helpful.



We have just finished our interview smoothly with Japanese students here at the Waseda University.



The tea ceremony sensei (teacher) is showing us how to make a cup of nice tea.



Do you like my etegami? I think my family will like them a lot! Hope they will reach Hong Kong soon.

29 JUNE 2010
ORDERING FOOD ALL BY OURSELVES!

Today, we visited the Hachi-kou Statue in Shibuya followed by the Electric Power Museum. We had so much fun in the museum. Then, we walked to Harajuku.

In Harajuku, we had an important task which was shopping for traditional Japanese products to decorate our Japanese Room. We also learned a lot of new words in the 100 yen shops when looking for different items there.

Going back to Ikebukuro, we first experienced having some time 'without' the teachers around. We went to the top floor of a shopping mall. Our task was to choose a restaurant there and order food and pay the bill by ourselves with our group! After getting our 'pocket money' from the teachers, we walked around and finally made our choice. It was a very unforgettable dinner!



Souvenirs that we bought from 100 yen shop. What do you think about these for decorating our Japanese Room?



At the Japanese language school

30 JUNE 2010
WAGASHI IS SO YUMMY!

Today we visited two very interesting places: the Tokyo Confectionary School and the Life Safety Learning Centre.

The Tokyo Confectionary School is a very famous for western and traditional Japanese dessert (wagashi). Once we stepped into the school, we were impressed as everyone looked just like a professional chef! But what impressed us most is the 'Japanese dessert' floor. We could not stop taking pictures when we saw the wagashi of different seasons.

After lunch, we visited the Life Safety Learning Centre. It is a place where people can learn how to respond when there is a fire or an earthquake.



This is one of our most unforgettable meals in Japan. We made okonomiyaki (Japanese pancake) all by ourselves!



Learning how to react in an earthquake at the Life Safety Learning Centre.



先生、ありがとうございました！
(Teachers, thank you very much!)



Mission accomplished! Japan, see you next year!

1 JULY 2010
THE LAST DAY, THE UNFORGETTABLE DAY!

This is our last day in Japan. In the morning, we had a writing lesson. The teacher taught us how to write about what we like about Japan, where we went, what we did… to summarize our tour. Then, each of us presented in front of the class which recalled many of our wonderful moments!

Next came the time for the closing ceremony!

After the closing ceremony, it's time for us to say goodbye to Japan and head to the airport! We are looking forward to the Japanese Study Tour next year! See you there!















Primary French Study Tour

Itinerary

Date	Activity
28 January 2011	Arrivals
29 January 2011	Settling in
30 January 2011	Learning to ski
31 January 2011	Touring the local town
1 February 2011	Hiking
2 February 2011	Shopping and Hockey match
3 February 2011	Travelling to Paris
4 February 2011	A day in a French School
5 February 2011	Time with our host families
6 February 2011	Discovering French Culture
7 February 2011	The French way of life
8 February 2011	A day in Paris

28 JANUARY 2011
ARRIVAL

I was very excited to go to France, so I went to the airport early. After checking in, we said goodbye to our families. We all were very tired on the plane. At night, I looked out of the window and I saw many stars: it was very beautiful.

It was very late in the evening when we had to go to the train station. It was very cold, and then we needed to wait for the French students so that we could meet them. When we went to the ski centre, we all were very tired so we had a sleep first.



At the airport in Paris!

29 JANUARY 2011
SETTLING IN

After breakfast, we tried on the ski equipment, and then we went skiing. The first time, almost all of us fell down, but it wasn't painful at all. The feeling of skiing was fun and new. I kept on falling when I was holding the rope. For dinner, we had French food. In France the dishes are served separately, but in Hong Kong we serve it all together. After dinner, we went to the classroom to write our daily journal.



Playing games with our penpals on the first day in Meaudres

30 JANUARY 2011
LEARNING TO SKI

We went up to the mountain and we saw a lot of special seeds and leaves. In the afternoon, we had our ski lesson, and this time we even went to a higher place. I have also learnt more new skills. I always fell down, because it was really difficult, but every time I fell down, the French student would help us Hong Kong students to stand up again



Hiking and enjoying some fresh air!



Learning more about cheese at the cheese factory

31 JANUARY 2011
TOURING THE LOCAL TOWN

(Reflection from different students)

We went skiing again in the morning. Today, I learned how to control the speed and how to turn left and right. Then we went to visit the cheese factory, We saw how the cheese is produced and they let us taste the cheese. After that we went to Autrans and we asked the guide why there were steps on the roof? He said it is because people believe that if they built steps like that then they would be rich.

We skied in the morning because we needed to visit Autrans and the local cheese factory in the afternoon. After we skied, we ate our lunch and went to the town. There, I saw a lot of old historical sites such as a church and a fountain... After that, we went to the cheese factory. We saw a lot of cheese. Some of these cheeses were young, some were old; some had fur and some didn't. In the shop, and we tried a lot of cheese. They were delicious and it was there that I ate the most delicious cheese I had ever had.

Today we went to the town of Autrans. The souvenirs there were very nice so I bought a lot. Afterwards, we visited the cheese factory. There were many different kinds of cheese: some of them were old, some of them were tasty and some of them were special. When we went into a room which had many smelly cheeses and some were really very smelly, my classmates covered their nose. We bought a lot of cheese that day but I didn't spend a lot.

1 FEBRUARY 2011
HIKING

The instructor told us that we were going to find traces of animals today.

When we went hiking, I found droppings from a deer, and some corn eaten by a squirrel. It was very challenging. After lunch, we had French class with the Principal, Madame Fauchon. We then went to the shops to buy souvenirs and Madame Fauchon explained the local food to us.

When we went down for dinner we learnt, from our French friends, that today was the Principal's birthday! After finishing the main course of the dinner, the light suddenly dimmed and we could tell a birthday cake was being pushed out on a trolley because the candles on the birthday cake shone so brightly. We all sang her a birthday song in French!!! We each ate a slice of cake, it was so delicious!!!

After dinner, we went for an ice-hockey match. It was very exciting!!! I collapsed on my bed and fell asleep almost immediately as it was eleven o'clock.

2 FEBRUARY 2011
SHOPPING AND HOCKEY MATCH

Today, we woke up a little bit later than normal, because as we would be skiing in the morning and in the afternoon, we would become very tired so we slept a little more. After breakfast, we walked to the ski place. We had the examination in the afternoon. After we finished skiing, we went back to the dormitories and had our showers. Everyone dressed beautifully after the shower, because tonight we would have the farewell party! We had a great night with the teachers and the French students, and we sang and danced together. We were very happy!!!



Some of the local products we could buy



For most of us it was our first ice-hockey match ever!

3 FEBRUARY 2011
TRAVELLING TO PARIS

The next day, we packed up our things and left the ski center by bus, and then we travelled to Paris by TGV. We were all very excited, because we were going to our host family. After the long journey, we all arrived at our host families late at night.

On the seventh day after breakfast, we packed up all our stuff and went to take the bus back to the train station, where there was a high-speed train to take us to Paris.



Last night in the mountains = party time!

4 FEBRUARY 2011
A DAY IN A FRENCH SCHOOL

Today we went to the French students' school to have lessons with them. The first lesson was French, and although we didn't understand everything very well, we still listened to what the teacher taught patiently. The second lesson was math, and as we are very good in math it was very easy. After this class, we had recess and we played football with them for the entire break and then we went back to the lessons. Two hours later, we had lunch. I ate some pasta and some bacon which was very delicious. In the afternoon, we were divided into groups to make pancakes and to play games alternately. It was quite a fruitful day for me because I learned a lot today.



Learning in our sister school in Hanches



Touring Paris In The “Bateaux mouches”



La Cathédrale de Chartres

5 FEBRUARY 2011
TIME WITH OUR HOST FAMILIES

Today after eating my breakfast, I had to go to the big supermarket with my host family. The supermarkets in France were really big. It was even bigger than three Park’n shop! There were many kinds of things there: for example fish, meat, snacks, vegetables, fruit, pizza, etc.

At night, some guests came. We ate hot cheese (raclette) together and this was the first time I ate hot cheese. It was very yummy. You just need to melt the cheese and then it was ready to eat. After we finished our dinner I showed them the photos of my cat, my house, my family and the famous places in Hong Kong. They said my cat was very cute. I think my cat is cute too.

We went ice-skating and I loved it a lot. Furthermore, we saw that Rex always fall down. I was so disappointed because we didn’t take pictures. We had pasta for dinner and I wonder why the food in France is so very delicious.

6 FEBRUARY 2011
DISCOVERING FRENCH CULTURE

Today I woke up very early because the host family told me that they would bring me to an old castle, so I was very excited. In the castle, I saw a lot of pictures and royal things. Furthermore, the castle was so big that the king’s bedroom was twice as big as my house. How amazing! I took a lot of photos in the castle. At night, we ate dinner at nine o’clock. Once again, the dinner was very yummy so I ate a lot that day.



Enjoying the last day in France!



The whole group on our final day in Paris

7 FEBRUARY 2011
THE FRENCH WAY OF LIFE

Today I realized that I had only two more days with my host family. After we had lunch we went to a smaller forest with the puppy and the host family played with stones and sand to make things. After that, we went to another town and looked around before we went back home and played games and sat in their garden. In the garden, they have their own little wooden house, a swimming pool and two swings. Of course, I first played on their two swings and at last I went inside the little wooden house.

8 FEBRUARY 2011
A DAY IN PARIS

Today in the morning, I woke up very early to make the glutinous rice balls. It is a famous food in Hong Kong and China. After we made them, we of course ate them all, and then my host family and I went back to the school to take a photo and say goodbye to the French students. I think I will miss them a lot after I go back to Hong Kong, especially my friend Joe and my host family.

I hope one day, the French students will come to our house. In the afternoon, we arrived at the Eiffel Tower. It was large and impressive but not as tall as I thought. We went up to the second floor, so we could see all the famous places on each of the four different sides. I bought some souvenirs there too. At night we took the long flight back to Hong Kong . I want to stay in France very much, but unfortunately, I must go back home.



La vie en rose : snapshots from France



Secondary French Study Tour

Itinerary

Date	Activity
27 January 2011	Paris - Toulon
28-30 January 2011	Staying with our correspondents
31 January 2011	Cannes, Grasse, Gordon
1 February 2011	Gordon
2 February 2011	Toulon, Bandol
3 February 2011	Toulon
4 February 2011	Ollioules
5 February 2011	Ollioules
6 February 2011	Toulon - Paris
7 February 2011	Paris
8 February 2011	Paris
9 February 2011	Paris

THE SECONDARY FRENCH STUDY TOUR
香港法國交流之旅 (27 JANUARY – 10 FEBRUARY)

From 27 January to 10 February 2011, 14 students from S.1 to S.6 went on a French study tour to Ollioules & Paris, France. With the assistance of our sister school, Externat Saint Joseph La Cordeille, students were paired up with French correspondents as pen pals and host families. Students paid visits and took part in wide-ranging learning activities in southern France. In Paris, students were responsible for planning the itineraries.

27 JANUARY 2011
PARIS - TOULON

After taking a long flight, we started our long-awaited journey. The flight landed at France's largest airport, Paris-Charles de Gaulle (CDG). We took the high speed train, TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse) that brought us safely from northern France to southern France. We were quite tired, yet excited when we met our host families, who gave us a warm welcome in the Toulon train station.

When my host mum came, I said bye to the others at the station and she drove to our sister school, Externat Saint Joseph La Cordeille, where my correspondent, Lisa, was waiting. It was a remarkable experience to explore a different lifestyle and to live with a local French family.



At the airport in Hong Kong, ready to embark on the Secondary French Exchange



Taking the TGV (high speed train) from Paris to Toulon



Arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris

28-30 JANUARY 2011
STAYING WITH OUR CORRESPONDENTS

During the weekend, I tried different homemade French dishes, like pâté (finely minced meat), Gratin de pommes de terre (a dish with potatoes and grated cheese), mille-feuille (a flaky dessert layered with cream and icing), and a variety of French cheeses. I absolutely loved the pâté but the taste of French cheese (le fromage) was too strong for me.

On Saturday morning, I went to the supermarket where my host family did their weekly grocery shopping. The trolley was much bigger than that in Hong Kong and it was filled with food as we zig-zagged from aisle to aisle. After lunch, my correspondent and I attempted to make chocolate macarons, a French dessert. At night, we were invited to a small party held at the apartment of another correspondent to welcome the Hong Kong students. What a fruitful and relaxing weekend.

On Saturday, I woke up at around nine o'clock and had already overcome my jet lag. My host family brought me to Marseille through different towns like Bandol and Sanary-sur-Mer.

On Sunday, on the way to Monaco, which is the smallest country (by size) in the world, my host family brought me to Cannes and Nice. What a day!



Taking a walk on the beach



Having a snowball fight

31 JANUARY 2011
CANNES, GRASSE, GORDON

Today was the first day we went to school with our correspondents. When the school bell rang, we had to go in to wait for the bus to go to the mountains. We were also very excited for that since a lot of us have never touched snow before, but before that, we went to many places.

First stop was Cannes. We went into a hill area to see the upper view of the city, as well as the Grand Auditorium, and then went on the beach for a small picnic. It was so nice and sunny outside, but a little bit hot with the sun. Then we headed to our next stop, the perfume factory in Grasse. Obviously perfumes are mostly for girls, but seems like the boys also enjoyed it. We learnt about how they make the perfumes and why perfume is so costly.

Then we stopped in an old small village very isolated from the city and after that, we finally headed to the mountains! We jumped and played into the snow. Snowball fights, fort building, pushing each other in the snow! It was so unforgettable.

1 FEBRUARY 2011
GORDON

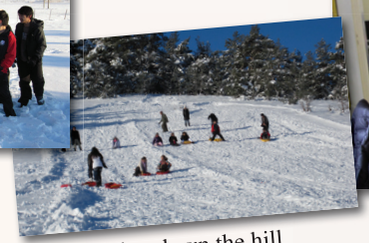
On our second day in the mountains, we went sledding. The mountains looked gorgeous - just like we were in a winter wonderland! As the sun rays hit the snowy surface, the mountains glittered with beauty. The cool wind blew on our faces as we went sliding down the mountains. Excitement filled our body throughout our rides.

We kept climbing up the mountains for more. After our adventure in the mountains, Madame Guivarch treated us some hot chocolate. Mmm, delicious!

We all had a lot of fun but we were exhausted, almost everyone fell asleep on the way back to the school.



Enjoying the peaceful tranquility of the snow



Tobogganing down the hill



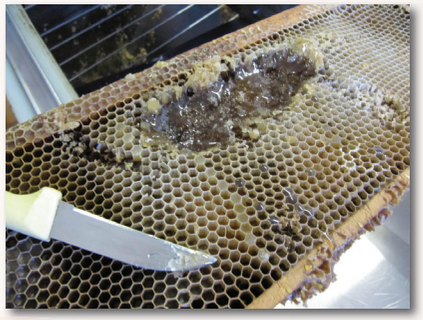
Working on our journal entry with our French correspondents

2 FEBRUARY 2011
TOULON, BANDOL

With the assistance of the parent volunteers, we drove to Bandol. We had a chance to visit a vineyard and were explained the procedures, techniques and standards in winemaking. Not far from the vineyard, we went to a honey factory. There was lavender honeys produced from bees that have collected exclusively from lavender. In the afternoon, we had cooking class with Mr. Roos-Jourdan and French students. We learnt the recipes and the customs of traditional food of France, such as "La galette des rois" (Kings' cake) and crêpes. Yummy!



Cooking with the French students at school



Learning about honey production

3 FEBRUARY 2011
TOULON

Today we were permitted to visit the Toulon Naval Base, which is the second largest naval port in France. When we arrived at the port, we weren't allowed to take pictures for security reasons. We walked along the port learning about the functions, equipment and facilities of the battleship. We even saw the battleship that was shown in the James Bond movies.

After this amazing experience, we went to have lunch in a hotel school. It was such a delicious meal and the student trainees served us with professional manners. We were all stuffed when we finished and we all agreed that it was a delicious meal.



Tour of the naval base in Toulon



Celebrating two birthdays in France

4 FEBRUARY 2011
OLLIOULES

Today we had a great time at school: we had a picnic, we played football against a group of students in the school and then we sat in some classes with the French students. We had a geography class, a French class and a music class. By the end of the day, we have learnt about their school life and got a little taste of it.

The school librarian taught us the game of boules, also known as pétanque. The rule of the game is that the players have to roll a ball to a point without hitting it and the closest is the winner. It was fun and educational!



Celebrating two birthdays in France



Celebrating two birthdays in France

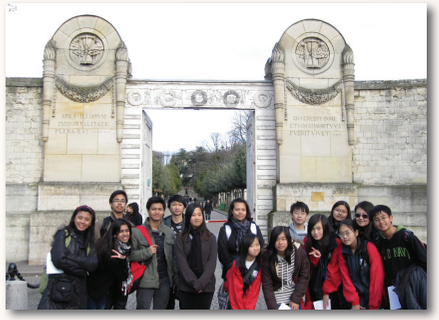
5 FEBRUARY 2011
OLLIOULES

Today was the last day with our host families. In the afternoon, we all headed back to our sister school for a farewell party in which all the participants of the French Study Tour, the Principal, Vice Principal, the teachers and our host families attended.

I couldn't believe that today was our last day in Toulon with our host families. Tomorrow, we will embark on the last part of the study tour to Paris. We will all miss Toulon and our host families.



Our last afternoon in Toulon



In front of Cimetière du Père-La chaise

6 FEBRUARY 2011
TOULON - PARIS

We were supposed to be excited by our visit to Paris but instead, most of us were very sad because we did not want to leave our host family's home… We arrived in Paris and went to visit the Cemetery of Père Lachaise. It is where some famous French people are buried, for example, singer Edith Piaf and composers Chopin and Bizet. Then, we went to a very old disctrict in Paris called Saint-Paul. Although it still has some old architectural buildings, parts of the district were renovated into a newer and more chic Parisian hangouts.



Our last day in Toulon



Bidding farewell to our correspondents at the train station

7 FEBRUARY 2011
PARIS

It was our second day in Paris. Our destination was the Louvre Museum! It was an eye-opening experience to admire all those world-known masterpieces. At noon, we bought some baguettes and had our lunch sitting on the grassland of the Jardin des Tuileries. After we had our lunch, we took a bus to the Champs-Elysées. We took a stroll along the Champs-Elysées which led us towards the Arc de Triomphe. From there, we took the metro to the world's most famous attraction: the Eiffel Tower. We took the lift to the middle level of the Eiffel Tower. The view was amazing. We saw many of Paris' attractions! Then we walked straight to the Bâteaux Parisiens, a boat that sails along the Seine River



Under the Eiffel Tower



In front of Arc de Triomphe



In front of the Louvre Museum, home of the Mona Lisa



Sacré Cœur



Versailles Palace



Enjoying our last meal in Paris



Travelling by metro around Paris

8 FEBRUARY 2011
PARIS

We woke up a bit earlier today because we were going to visit the Versailles Palace, the vast royal palace and gardens built by King Louis XIV. We had a tour inside the glamorous palace and out to the resplendent fountains in the garden. In the afternoon, we went back to Paris and visited the Moulin Rouge, a famous night club in Paris with its signature windmill on top, and the Sacré Cœur, a 20th century church build on a hill that overlooks Paris. We walked around the area and did some souvenir shopping in Montmartre.



Strolling along the streets of Paris

9 FEBRUARY 2011
PARIS

Today is the last day of our tour. We visited the Catacombs of Paris which is an underground ossuary. We were stunned as we were surrounded by the skeletal remains of about 6 million people in a narrow tunnel. The last destination of the trip was the Notre Dame Cathedral located on the Île de la Cité (City Island) along the river Seine. The French Gothic architecture of the Notre dame Cathedral is gorgeous and hallowed. After the visit and last minute shopping, we took the metro heading back to the hotel and from there, back to the CDG airport. What a wonderful and meaningful tour that bridged Hong Kong and France! We can't wait for our correspondents to arrive in Hong Kong in April!



Notre Dame de Paris



Secondary French Exchange Visit to Hong Kong

Itinerary

Date	Activity
11 April 2011	WUSHU, YUM CHA, Tour of School
12 April 2011	Wong Tai Sin
14 April 2011	The Peak
15 April 2011	Ngong Ping 360 Educational Tour
21 April 2011	Chinese Painting

11-22 APRIL 2011
STUDENTS FROM EXTERNAT ST JOSEPH IN HONG KONG

For our fourth year of exchanges with our sister school Externat St Joseph – La Cordeille, 21 French students and their 2 accompanying teachers landed at Hong Kong International Airport on 11 April 2011, ready for a very exciting experience: spending two weeks in host families in order to capture the real life of our students, practice their Chinese and discover Hong Kong, its heritage and its culture! Our 23 guests had a varied programme combining Wushu, Chinese Dance and Painting, Cooking and visits to various religious, historical and culturally important sites around Hong Kong. On 22 April 2011, after some heartbreaking goodbyes, our French friends went back to France, full of great memories, and forever changed by this amazing experience! Here are some of the feelings and comments of the French students.

LE WUSHU !!! (WATAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA)

From the moment they arrived at St Margaret's, there was no rest for our French guests but a nice way to get introduced to Hong Kong culture with Wushu.

Nous avons pratiqué le Wushu, un art martial chinois pendant plusieurs jours. Les séances étaient fatigantes mais ces moments étaient plutôt amusants et nous ont permis de nous rapprocher.

After landing at Hong Kong International Airport in the morning, the French guests full of energy enjoyed their first wushu class.



Après 3 jours d'acharnement, de souffrance et de discipline, nous avons acquis une souplesse hors-norme et une agilité de félin !





After only three days, the French students became masters in Wushu…^_^ !

12 APRIL 2011
WONG TAI SIN

A visit to Wong Tai Sin temple, one of the most famous shrines in Hong Kong.

Le deuxième jour de notre voyage, nous avons visité le temple Wong Tai Sin où nous avons brulé de l'encens. Cette visite du temple a été très intéressante et enrichissante sur la culture bouddhiste.





Wong Tai Sin temple



14 APRIL 2011
LA SORTIE AU PEAK (THE PEAK)

After their morning Wushu class, the French students headed to the Peak and enjoyed the amazing view and learnt some historical facts about Hong Kong.

Aujourd'hui, jeudi 14 avril, nous sommes allés au Peak, le plus haut sommet de Hong Kong. La vue était magnifique!



An afternoon at the Peak

15 APRIL 2011
LE BUDDHA GÉANT (GIANT BUDDHA)

The French students had the pleasure to discover the Giant Buddha, Po Lin Monastery and the Wisdom Path

Le vendredi 15 avril nous avons pris le téléphérique pour découvrir le Buddha, une gigantesque statue haute de 44 m et le monastère de Po Lin.



Group photo before climbing the 268 steps…

21 APRIL 2011
PEINTURE CHINOISE (CHINESE PAINTING)

On their last day at St Margaret's, the French students had a great time trying out Chinese painting for the first time. The artwork was impressive!

Le jeudi 21 avril nous avons eu le plaisir de nous exercer à la peinture chinoise. Nous avons tous été enchantés par ce cours de peinture chinoise!



At the Avenue of Stars in TST



Introduction to Chinese painting



Tai Chi in Tsim Sha Tsui



After only two weeks, the French students have a true feeling of belonging to St Margaret's.

S. 3 French 5 Month Exchange

Introduction of The 5 Months' Exchange and the lives of the French students in Hong Kong and our own students in France







Our life in Hong Kong

THE FIVE MONTHS' EXCHANGE (AUGUST 2011 – JANUARY 2012)

In 2011, we opened a new chapter in our exchanges with the Externat Saint Joseph - La Cordeille. For the first time, three students from our school Gian Del Mundo, Mary Mueller and Mickey Wong spent five months in France and swapped their lives, schools, families and friends with three students from our sister school: Brice Kanters, Charles Blondel and Maëlle Bénéfice. The experience was truly amazing for everyone – the students, their parents and their teachers! We hope that this five months' exchange will be followed by many more!

本校的法國交流計劃於2011年度展開了新的一頁。三位本校學生前往姊妹校——La Cordeille進行為期五個月的交流。同時，三位法國學生亦來到本校讀書，體驗香港的學生生活。



In a School Briefing Session



"L.E.A.D.E.R.S in Action" Camp



In an IT lesson



Maëlle is answering a question in class

FEEDBACK FROM THE HONG KONG STUDENTS

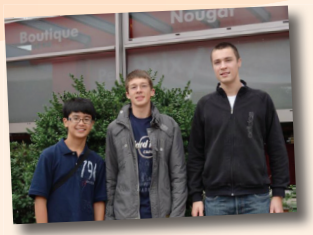
From August 2011 to January 2012, three S.3 students participated in a 5-month overseas exchange program to Toulon, France. We studied in a local school called Externat St. Joseph - La Cordeille.

In my opinion, this exchange program helped all three of us to develop many different skills. We learned to be more independent, learned about the French culture, and improve our French language skills. By staying in a host family during the exchange program, we were able to participate in daily French life. Our host families were very caring, and whenever we had troubles or difficulties, they would help us.

For the first few weeks at school, we were very shy. However, the students and teachers there were always trying to help us adjust to the French way of life, which made us feel very welcomed.

I think that this program should be continued as it helps students develop not only their language skills, but also their behavior and attitude.

- Gian Miguel Sero DEL MUNDO -



From youngest to eldest



Having a good time with my host family



Mickey in Toulon

Like Gian, I went to France for a 5-months exchange program because I learned French in school and wanted to spend a longer time there. Apart from me, Gian and Mary had also joined this exchange program. The school gave this opportunity to us to improve our French. We lived in three different French families and went to school just like a normal French student. The only thing that was different was that we would go around and visit a lot of different places.

I gained a lot of knowledge and I've a much better understanding of French culture. My French has also been improved. Because of this exchange, I could now communicate in French with no problems and I won't hesitate to communicate in French.

- Mickey Yuk Yeung WONG -

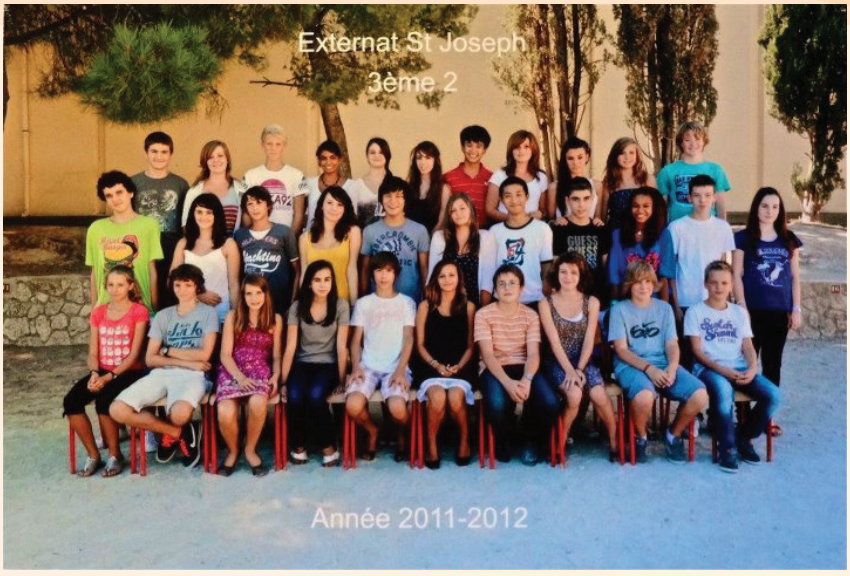
My name is Mary Shanet Mueller and I am from S3C. I participated in the 5-month French exchange program organized by my school. First of all, I have no regrets at all in joining this program. The experience and opportunities I gained was amazing. Not everyone gets the chance to study in a foreign country for 5 months. Therefore, I feel very blessed with this chance given to me.

Through this exchange, I have become more independent and have greatly advanced my level of French. Furthermore, my knowledge of French culture and skills and abilities to adapt to a whole new different environment and socialize has widened and improved. Although it wasn't that easy in the beginning not seeing my friends and family and having to adapt to a new culture, it didn't matter. In the end, it was all worth it. I also made a lot of new friends on the other side of the world! What an incredible experience!

- Mary Shanet MUELLER -



Mary hiking in Southern France





Gian and Mickey's class photo

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