



On 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 37 students and 5 teachers travelled to Pélissanne. After a fun, yet long journey we arrived at the airport at around 11:30am. After checking our bags in, and making sure we drank all our drinks, we got through customs. Our plane was delayed, which meant we had plenty of time for shopping. After two hours or so, we were ready to head to the boarding gate. We boarded the plane and we were off!

It was around 4:45 when we touched down in Marseille. We made sure we all had our luggage, especially Mrs Jones; last time she lost it! It was so hot, especially in our hoodies! We found the bus and we were off to meet our families. As we arrived at the school, they were jumping up and down, waving flags and greeting us. It was very sweet. We had a few moments all together, before we were off back to their houses for dinner. The first night was wonderful, I had so much fun. All of the family was very kind and welcoming, not to mention patient with our French. It was an early start the next day, so were off to bed after some games.

The next morning, we were off to La Barben. In the morning, we had an amazing trip to the local zoo! We all had so much fun exploring the zoo and the different animals. After lunch, we had a trip to the castle. It was great learning about the history, and seeing the views. After a fantastic day, it was back on the bus to meet up with our families again.

It was finally the weekend! On the Saturday, it was yet another early start as we were off to the beach! When we got there we were surprised to see, that most of our friends were already at the beach waiting for us. We had a quick swim, before snorkelling to see the fish. Next, we had a picnic on the rocks, looking out to the sea. It was great! After such a wonderful lunch, we were back to jumping into the sea. We were there all day. We said goodbye to all our friends in Marseille and travelled back to Pélissanne. We then had a lovely dinner and watched Harry Potter! We all played games all night long. Finally it was time for bed!

The next day, we met up with all of the family in the mountains. We walked seventeen miles together, singing songs and dancing. It was lots of fun learning French songs. There were very surprised when I knew the words to *Vois sur ton chemin* already! When we got back to the camp house, we ate and played more games! When we got back to Magali's (my partner) house, it was a quick change and we were off into the town. There was a gigantic medieval festival there. Hundreds of people crowded the streets to see the parade. It was so much fun. After that we learnt all about the history from the local people. It was a long, but wonderful night to end the amazing weekend.



On Monday we visited Glanum, a Roman town. We had an amazing tour guide who explained everything in detail. It was really interesting to understand how the town worked back then. "Most of Glanum is still underground," he said "but just look and see the beauty of what has been discovered." This was such a fascinating trip. We spent the rest of the day with the families.

On Tuesday we travelled to Cassis. This was by far my favourite day. We went on a boat trip around the Calanques, and it was absolutely beautiful. The water was bright blue, and the rocks were stunning. It was such a pretty place and we all enjoyed it greatly. After the boat trip, we spent the rest of the afternoon shopping in the area.

Wednesday, our final full day, was very enjoyable. We visited Salon de Provence market. To make this trip more exciting, Madame Clay created a quiz to fill in whilst we were there. We saw some of the local products as well as the ones we already know. We all said the strawberries were great! We returned at around 13:00pm, and spent the afternoon with the families. We went in the pool yet again and had great fun!

Thursday, the day we went home. It was hugs and kisses from the French families in the morning. It was time to go home, and we were all going to miss our new friends and family. At the airport, Mrs Jones still had her luggage! Even though the bus journey home was very long, the teachers made it very interesting with the announcement of awards. This were very creative, we have to admit.

Overall it was an amazing trip, and we cannot thank the teachers and the families enough. We all had a great time and wanted to say...  
**THANK YOU!**



Lara Sanderson 8S