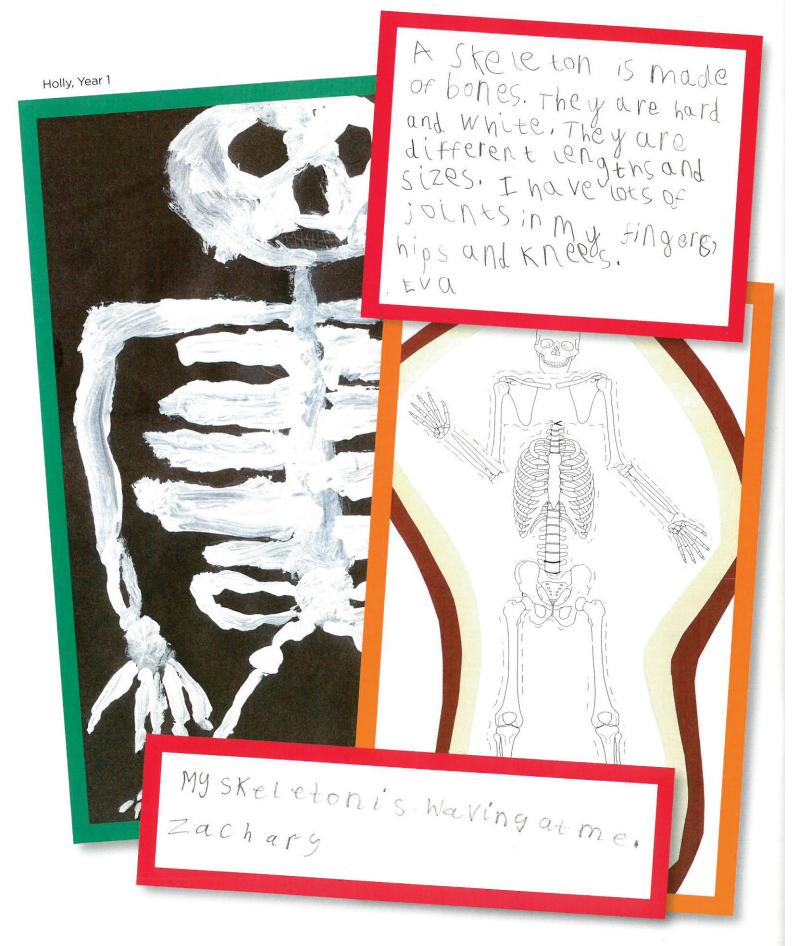


Pre-prep skeleton project



A work experience week in France

Claire MacNeill, Year 13

When Madame Houchin first introduced to us the idea of a week's work experience in France, we were apprehensive. Would we like our placements? And the hotel? Would we really get to practise our French? And most of all, would it be fun? However, a couple of cheques, two suitcases and one month later, we set off for Rouen.

We spent the first day exploring the city and visiting its most popular attractions, such as the square where Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake, and the chocolate shop that sells marzipan in the shape of vegetables. I was to spend the next five days with a photographer at his studio, whilst Lily was looking forward to her time at a Moroccan Restaurant. We were both apprehensive, and though we had tried to imagine what it would be like, we were both surprised.

It took me a while to find the studio, as it was situated in a little discreet alleyway. However, I eventually arrived to find Monsieur Laisne, my photographer, and his wife, Madame Laisne.

A family photographer in Paris and Rouen for more than thirty years, he came complete with a spotty bow tie and a white moustache, the two ends of which he gelled to a point.

Over the next few days, they gave me tour guides around Rouen, sent me on errands to buy sweets or collect camera films, I had a wonderful time with them. Unfortunately, Lily did not enjoy her experience at the restaurant as there were few customers, and only two unfriendly chefs for company. On hearing of this my photographer immediately came to the rescue and invited Lily to spend the rest of the week at the Studio with me (On the condition, of course, that we spoke only French...) Together we befriended customers, learnt the wonders of Photoshop in French, and even had time to see paintings at the City's museum, as well as enjoying plenty of wonderful French food from Rouen's numerous markets.

The Laisnes' daughter, a student, offered to show us around the University of Rouen, where she was studying History. She smuggled us into a lecture on 'European education during the 17th century'. which consisted of two hours of rapid French, I must admit that I still do not know very much about this subject! However, the experience of being a student for a day at a French university was unmissable.

One drawback of the week was the biting cold (I had unintelligently left my coat at home) but with the help of Madame Laisne's plentiful supply of jumpers, we survived. Overall, it was a well worthwhile experience, which we would recommend to anyone. And yes, our French did get better!

Do try this at home!!

Here is an experiment for you to try at home.

Salt Lava Lamp

What you will need:

Tall glass Vegetable Oil Salt Water

Food Colouring

- 1. Fill the glass three quarters full with tap-water
- 2. Add a few drops of food colouring
- 3. Now carefully pour a thick layer of oil onto the coloured water
- 4. Shake some salt on top of the oil and watch what happens

Oil floats on top of the water as it is lighter. Salt is heavier than water, so when you pour it on top of the oil it sinks to the bottom carrying a small blob of oil with it.

Once in the water the salt dissolves releasing the oil, which floats back up to the surface.



Best Friends

Friendship is something to hold on to, But for me that's not the case, Because I don't feel the need to keep, Something that will never be erased.

So many secrets you know,
Too many to ever let go,
But with you they will always be kept,
so I shall tell you with no regret.

This thing that we share Is usually very rare, Especially when there's nothing else That could ever compare.

Others always know, And so will we, That together we will be, By each other's sides for eternity.

As you are the "U", and I'm the "S" And forever that will be Because together we make "US" And that's the way it has to be.

So when you ask for a gift Be happy if they send, Neither diamonds nor pearls But the love of a true, best friend.

Jessica Kerrigan and Emily Pearce, Year 9

