

Residential visit to Château Beaumont, France

Threshold Concept: Understand the culture of the countries in which the language is spoken

This concept involves the background knowledge and cultural capital needed to infer meaning from interaction.

Milestone 3: Give detailed accounts of the customs, history and culture of the countries and communities where the language is spoken. Outcome verbally achieved throughout the residential.

Milestone 3: Describe, with interesting detail, some similarities and differences between countries and communities where the language is spoken and this country. Outcome verbally achieved throughout the residential.

Art Gallery



During the visit, the children had the opportunity to visit an art gallery in the centre of Laval which displayed work from Henri Rousseau who the children studied in great depth before the visit. Children were able to view, celebrate and reflect on authentic work created by a range of French artists during different art periods.

Bayeux Tapestry



Children were able to visit the 'Tapisserie de Bayeux' where they had the opportunity to view the tapestry alongside an audio version of the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England, culminating in the Battle of Hastings. They gained a clear understanding of how this helped to shape French history and how the relationships between England and France have changed overtime. This was developed further through history sessions after the visit.

Le Mont Saint-Michel



A guided tour around this iconic attraction was provided in order to enlighten the children to the religious origins of this site and its colourful history. Children were given the opportunity to explore the site including the alleys, church, memorials and shops in groups to form their own conclusions about its origin and contribution to French history.

Fougères



The children had the opportunity to visit Fougères (the largest medieval castle in Europe) where they discovered the castle's history. After a guided tour of the fortress, the children had free time to investigate and uncover some of the château's secrets for themselves. They compared their findings to the Inverness Castle in the United Kingdom which they had studied during their Macbeth unit of work.

Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët Market



En route to le Mont St Michel, children had the chance to explore the diverse market of Saint Hilaire which boosts local produce from across the region including the legendary crepes and galette-saucisse. This allowed children to communicate with local people in the target language and explore typical French culture first-hand whilst purchasing some souvenirs.

Des escargots et des cuisses de grenouilles



In order to be fully immersed in the French culture, children were able to try a range of traditional French foods including snails, frogs' legs, ratatouille and bourguignon. They were able to give their opinions of the different foods and compare these to meals that are common in England. Children asked for their evening meal and hot chocolate in French every day. During the visit, children had the opportunity to celebrate and challenge French stereotypes during a French themed evening where they were able to dress up and compete in a cultural quiz show.