

French

2007/8



In 1938, John Jacoby, the first headmaster of Vinehall and a modern languages graduate, used linguaphone courses for his French lessons with 78 r.p.m records. Following the move to Killerton in 1940, he wrote in the prospectus that in order to teach/learn French '*...not only books and pictures, but gramophone, wireless and when possible the cinema are useful aids.*' from 'A History of Vinehall' by Sally Chaplin.

Wireless, albeit of a different sort, is still popular today in French lessons. Use of IT in the French Department has developed and has become an invaluable tool in language teaching and learning. Pupils from Years 3 to 8 are now familiar with a number of different sites and language games which enhance their learning, development, independence and enjoyment. The whiteboards introduced into the language classrooms last year have proved an enormous asset.

This year saw the abolition of Paper 1 and Paper 11 at CE. Year 8 pupils have risen well to the challenges of the demanding, new, single paper and our scholars too embraced the challenges of their various French papers with enthusiasm and acquitted themselves well with a number gaining very high grades.

The Year 7 pupils improved their French skills at Le Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. The many and varied activities at the château were balanced by the more reflective, historical parts of the visit - the visit to the Bayeux Tapestry and the Musée du débarquement at Arramanches. The school trip was an enjoyable and invaluable experience for the Year 7s.

Next year's Normandy team will not include Christine Consul as she left for new adventures in Kazakhstan following six years of dedicated teaching at Vinehall. We wish her well on her new adventure and in her position as Head of French. We welcome Estelle Taylor-Langley, a former pupil, to the Department in September.

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Le Château de la Baudonnière



Fabrication du pain



Dans la salle de jeux