

Saturday - Travelling

The group of the 34 gathered around the coach on the Saturday morning waiting to depart Acle Academy. As the coach pulled away from the school, everyone turned and waved through the back window to where all our parents were standing. Six long hours later, after many stops along the way, we arrived at the ferry. Though it may have been a bumpy ride, there was still lots to explore to pass the time. Stepping foot in France, caused confusion for some who thought we had taken a detour to Spain. Back on the coach, we finished our journey with a couple of stops, a few movies and a lot of sleeping - for most of us anyway. Finally reaching Mimosa, on the Sunday morning. After dropping our bags off at our village for the week, we went straight to breakfast.

Sunday - Splash and Catamarans

After breakfast we met our group leader and were told our tent groups. We then got told our itinerary for the day. This consisted of Splash! In the morning, lunch, Catamarans in the afternoon, dinner then the big million in the evening. Once we got down to the beach we met up with our beach leader, Ollie, who told us about our 5 beach essentials (sun cream, t-shirt, water, towel, wet shoes). In splash we were able to get used to the water we would be doing most our activities in throughout the week; these activities included saving our partners from 'drowning' like Baywatch, creating a group whirlpool and other water based games which everyone enjoyed. After a short break, we were back down to the beach for our second activity of the day. For our first session of Catamarans we started to learn the basics of the boat as part of our Level 1 Sailing course. However, later on in the week we were able to take it in turns to sail it ourselves. After a well-deserved dinner, we had our evening onsite activities. The big million is a game where you are in groups of 6 and there are various ways to earn money such as being the loudest, winning challenges or giving compliments to the host. In the second round you watched a couple of videos of the PGL staff doing challenges then you had to bet on who you think would win.

Monday - Banana boating, Kayaking and fun Boats

After a good night's sleep in our tents, we woke up to the teachers banging on our tents, telling us we have 20mins to get ready before breakfast, with our five beach essentials for the day's activities. We started off with fun boats in the morning where we completed another section of our level one sailing course. We also did a lot of different games and activities on the fun boats then we got to sail around on our own; trying our best not to capsize while jibing (turning away from the wind). In the afternoon, we split into two groups. Half of us went and had a go at kayaking while the other half took turns to have a ride on the banana boats. While kayaking we had to try a series of challenges such as races, standing up, sitting in the front of the boat and turning around while standing up - many people fell in at this point. In the evening, it was Guess who. We got into groups and decided upon a well-known character or celebrity. We would then have to make 1-3 members of our group to dress up as that character. There were various stages and at the end everyone decided on a winner.

Tuesday - Snorkelling and Pico Sailing

Tuesday Morning we had an early start as we had to get on the coach to go to another beach so we could go snorkelling. We split into four groups, and while one group went out at a time we relaxed and sunbathed on the beach. The majority of us saw no fish at all, however we did see a sea urchin and which we were allowed to touch or hold if we wanted to. While we were out at sea we had to try and do flips and learnt how to duck dive. We then raced back to the beach. Most of us forgot we had the snorkel in and tried to breathe normally and ended up with a mouthful of salty water! After every group had had a turn at snorkelling, we packed up our stuff and headed back to the coach to get

back in time for lunch. (A couple of the students offered to take everyone else's wetsuits and wet shoes in one bin bag, little did they know how heavy it would be to carry up all the stairs from the beach!) After we had eaten we walked down to Mimosa beach, and began the next stage in our sailing course - Pico sailing. This was a lot harder than Fun boats as it felt very unstable and was a lot smaller. It was also a lot easier to sink and capsize which many of us did at least once. We also realised that there were jellyfish as big as our heads which made us worry more about capsizing and sinking. Although despite all of this, many of us found that singing helped calm down and get back on track. Coming back to the beach was the hardest part as about 5 boats were all attached to a heron bow on the back of a speedboat, especially when you come unattached from the rope, can't get the sail in and can't get the rudder up. On our line of boats, there were three capsizes and one sunk. However we all worked together to help one another when we needed it. In the evening we played our own version of Dragon's den. The topic was to create a set of headphones or speaker with a twist. You then had to present and bargain with the teachers.

Wednesday - Rock jumps, Archery, sailing theory and Puzzle Solving

When we woke up, we got onto the coach to go to the bay for Rock Jumps. We had to go down through some trees and rocks until we reached the actual beach. We split into two groups depending on whether you were an even or odd number in the register. The first group set of swimming until they were behind the rocks were they were about to jump. We took it in turns to practise jumping of smaller rocks to make sure we had the right technique before we progressed to the higher rocks, careful not to slip off. After that, we had to climb up to the higher rocks, using our hands so we don't fall. As we took it in turns jumping you had to shout out various phrases, some were weirder than others. Lastly we swam back round to do our final jump which was from the highest point. After lunch, we split into three groups depending on our number on the register. The first group did Archery, the second group did Puzzle Solving (which was more confusing then you may think) and then the final group did the theory part of their level one sailing course (which was actually quite enjoyable). After a little while on each activity we rotated twice so everyone got to have a go at all of them. After dinner it was time for our evening activities. We got straight on the coach to go to Cap d'age which was a little town about half an hour away from camp where we could go shopping, get ice cream and buy souvenirs and gifts for people back home. We then got back in time for the disco where a couple of students got offered a job to run the disco themselves. We also got a chance to meet and talk to the other schools and some are still in contact now.

Thursday - Excursion to Haribo Factory and Orgnac caves

On Thursday, we had our excursion trip to the Haribo factory and to the Orgnac caves. We got up bright and early to have breakfast and get on the coach. We travelled on the coach for about an hour and a half until we got to our first stop - The Haribo Factory. We were given 45minutes to explore and make our purchases. After everyone paid for their many boxes of sweets, the staff very kindly gave us five extra boxes full of freebies. We took some photos outside the shop then hopped back on the coach for a couple more hours en route to the Orgnac caves. The tour was an hour long and the actual caves were 720 steps deep. We learnt about the history of the caves and how they started to form. At the end of the tour there was a light show to show the deepest part of the cave that is accessible. Back on the coach, we watched a few movies and a couple of us had a quick nap. The entertainment for the evening was the world cup, England against Belgium. Although it ended in defeat, we still enjoyed supporting our country back home.

Friday - Stand up Paddle boarding, raft building and catamarans

After breakfast we were back on the coach again to go to a different river where it was open to the public to moor up their own private boats. We then got split into two groups. Half of us did stand up paddle boarding and then the other half did raft building. For Raft building, we were given 6 large barrels, five ropes and two wooden poles. The instructor talked us through how to make a stable raft for half of it then the other half was where we tested it on the water. We also had oars to steer ourselves around. We had to work as a team to make it work properly. For stand up paddle boarding we had to get on it while it was already in the water. Making it stable appeared to not be very easy as everyone had different techniques of getting on it, some more elegant than others. We also had to help one another up. Like the raft building, we had to work as a team and use the same steering technique to move about on the water. After a while of getting used to it, we had to do challenges against the other paddle boarders, and we also did this challenge where we all had to jump at once on the board and see who stays on the longest. In the afternoon, we did Catamarans again but this time we were allowed to steer it ourselves as the final part of our sailing course. We also came up with a song about our beach leader Ollie with the help of the other PGL leaders. After dinner, we got back on the coach to go to the local super market to buy things for our journey home. Before we headed back to the camp we had the chance to get milkshake and mcflurrys from MacDonald's. We also got time to spend time with everyone and get closer to the people we don't normally talk to at school.

Saturday/Sunday - Banana Boats, climbing and abseiling (travelling home)

After breakfast we had our second session of banana boating. After dinner, we packed for a little bit until it was our turn for either climbing or abseiling. It was a fun but calm activity to end a really great week. Before dinner we finished packing, had some arm wrestles and played volleyball. Finally it was time to load up the coach and head home. Overall it was a fantastic week that all of us will remember when we leave school and look back on. It is probably one of the best trips that Acle Academy offers. We met new friends and became closer to other students that we normally don't talk to or see at school. Thank you to all the teachers (especially Miss Burdett) that made this happen and top the PGL staff for making it so enjoyable and a holiday we won't forget. All of us would definitely do it again if we got the chance.

For a more detailed summary visit @RandomlyAbbie on YouTube for her Mimosa Vlogs!

By Rhianna Diven and Gabrielle Tooley