

Contribution au dossier de presse des JNCI

Interview de Sarah Foster

1. Is t impression of France ? Dardilly? our pupils? our food ? our customs.....

My first impression of France was that everyone was very lovely! Yourself and Nathalie picked me up from the airport and introduced me to everyone, which meant it was very easy to settle in because everyone knew who I was and was very friendly to me. My first impressions of Dardilly were very different to what I expected because when I'd googled it beforehand I'd seen a small village and couldn't really work out where the school was in relation to that, and when I got there I realized it was different and the school was kind of in it's own little world which I actually really liked (it wasn't too far to the town centre though!). My first impression of the pupils is that they were really well behaved and probably less cheeky than I was expecting. I loved all of the French customs, especially because most of them involved wine and food. Haha! but seriously, it was really useful working in a school for understanding all of the customs/ traditions otherwise I wouldn't have understood what was going on and why some of them were celebrated.

How did you imagine us before coming here ?

I tried not to imagine too much before I came because I didn't really know what to expect, and that was a good thing I think because I was open to anything. Everyone was lovelier and the school was better than I could've imagined! I didn't realize how helpful everyone would be and how easy it would be to find help if I had a problem (for example when I was ill you took me to the school nurse)

What made you decide to come to France ? why France and not another country?

I chose to come to France because I love the French culture and language and wanted to see what it was like to live there. (it was also part of my degree, but I'll ignore that part!) I have always wanted to visit France for a long time since I was younger. As a European citizen things like health insurance and visas (you don't need one) are obviously much easier than other French-speaking places outside of the E.U. which I could've visited as part of my studies but I was keen to be in France for French culture.

good and bad surprises ?

Good surprises was that my accommodation and food were free- I'm still surprised by that now, it was ridiculous! Thank you again. Also I was pleasantly surprised by how well behaved the pupils were and how friendly all of the staff were, I didn't expect them to be unfriendly but I could never have imagined that so many friendly people could work in one place!

Bad surprises - I don't think there were any, maybe that there was no internet where I lived but because everything was free I was able to afford a USB stick 3g internet key from SFR which was no problem.

difficulties in everyday life ? at school ?

I don't think there were any difficulties. It was sometimes hard to live with the students because even though I wasn't a real teacher I think they kind of saw me as one, but this wasn't a big problem because it was still lovely to live at the school and I made friends out of school instead of with the students.

do you feel you have "grown up? learnt ?

Definitely! I can't explain how much!!

what do you consider as your best contribution to us?

Haha! I am unsure! Maybe I hope I helped your students learn more about British culture?! Also extra time, because I think there was so much for the English teachers to cram in that there wasn't time for some of the things I was able to do with the pupils.

(how) did we help you in your project ?

You helped me so much! I was given plenty of guidance and allowed to use my own ideas in classes, I discovered that I really want to teach!

how did you manage to make friends or meet people outside school ?

I met people all over the place, In bars/pubs, in the park, through other friends who were at the universities, once I met one friend they introduced me to their friends and then I knew more and more people in Lyon!

*Propos recueillis par Monique FORAZ,
enseignante à Dardilly*