



## FRENCH EXCHANGE TRIP TO NANTES

34 students from Presdales and Richard Hale returned the joint annual French exchange to Nantes last week. As usual, we were made very welcome by our French hosts, including an official reception at the Hôtel de Ville which, for a city of nearly 300,000, is a sign of the importance they place on such linguistic and cultural links.

Natalie Grimes and Hannah Davies prepared a short speech of thanks which they delivered in French! The French school and families were also hugely welcoming, with staff and parents bringing the best of French homemade food for a special lunch and evening event. Nantes is a thriving city with plenty to see and do, so our visits included the impressive Château des Ducs de Bretagne and the Machines de L'Île de Nantes with a ride on its 49 ton, 60 foot high mechanical elephant.

We also had day visits to the ship-building town of St Nazaire to see the construction site of the world's next two largest cruise ships and the regional capital of Rennes, combining some 16<sup>th</sup> century streets with some 21<sup>st</sup> century shopping. Most importantly our group embraced all that an exchange offers with great enthusiasm and were a real pleasure to accompany on the trip. Thank you to Mr Nesbitt-Larking and Mr McAleese from Richard Hale for their joint organization of the trip. We would also like to thank the other accompanying staff, Miss Terretta and Miss Waite (who stepped in at the very last minute) and to Mr Davies from Richard Hale.