



COLLEGE MARKS BASTILLE DAY WITH PETANQUE EXHIBITION MATCH

St. Ambrose College sealed an entente cordiale with French speakers all over the world on a day dedicated to our closest neighbours.

To mark Bastille Day they invited their new Biology teacher Karine Rousseau who hails from Bordeaux to teach the boys the national pastime of Petanque.



Karine Rousseau is pictured with St Ambrose's Petanque champion Rory Corran aged 12.

Karine, who has been in England for 18 years working at both University College London and Manchester University as a research scientist, said: "Petanque is a national obsession especially in the south and east of France and it was lovely to be reminded of lazy Sunday afternoons playing boules with friends and family."

Some 180 Year Seven boys have just returned from the Hale Barns Catholic grammar school's annual pilgrimage to Normandy visiting Mont St. Michel, the Bayeux tapestry and the World War Two invasion beaches, museum and cemeteries.

St. Ambrose's Head of French Martin Toal said: "Brexit means it will be increasingly important to learn European languages as we will have to negotiate more and more with our European partners and we feel it is essential we reverse the national decline in language learning."

He added: "All 180 boys in each year group study French in Year 7 and 8, with about 40 going on to take GCSE and probably about six or seven A Level. This is better than the national average, but we are doing everything we can in the department and with the help of Ms Rousseau to increase interest."

He added: "Our trips to France have shown the boys that the old fashioned image some Brits may have of the French as an arrogant people is nonsense. They are very friendly, love the British and are a fun nation, with an amazing history and culture."