

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

10.30am I arrived by taxi to the front of St. Josephs Academy and was met and introduced to Stephanie, Laura, Megan, Laurel and Daniel, who all attend St. Josephs Academy and were going to Dunoon as well. I was slightly apprehensive at first because I didn't know anyone however I was soon put at ease when I found out how friendly they were and we continued to chat all the way to Dunoon.

2.05pm We arrived at Benmore Centre in Dunoon and left the bus with all the many other people who had joined us at different schools on the way. We were led straight into the dining hall where we were greeted by those who had arrived earlier on another bus. We then were given our choice of lunch which consisted of rolls, soup, crisps and fruit. After we were all fed and watered, the organizer, Mark Pentleton, came and began to talk over what we were going to be doing over the weekend. Our excitement had been building up in the room and we then were informed that our film was to be a morning TV programme. We were then given out forms to show our preference to which part we would rather take part in, for example, fitness, news and weather, fashion etc. We were then told which rooms we were to sleep in. To my disappointment I was not put in with anyone from St. Josephs. However I soon found out that this was to my benefit as I immediately made many new friends. I was in a bedroom with five other girls, two of which I have since made great friends, Melissa and Aimee.

3.30pm Having taken our cases up to our rooms and unpacked we all met back in the common room. We were then split into our groups for the morning programme. Much to my delight I was put in my first choice group, DIY. The next couple of hours were spent on team building with the group of people we would be filming with the following day. I was in the drama workshop first of all which consisted of singing songs and playing games which made you do all sorts of silly things. However as we all were doing this, it didn't seem so bad and ended up in everyone with fits of laughter and having a fantastic time. The next task we had to take part in for team building was building an Eiffel tower from sticks of dried spaghetti and marshmallows. My DIY team were competing against the News team and I can safely say they won as, at least their tower was standing in the end, compared with ours which ended up in a big sticky mess stuck to the table! The final task was grass skiing, and once again it was our team against the News and Weather team. After a struggle at the start we won by far because when we finally reached the finish line the other team had hardly taken two steps!

6.00pm After our team building exercises we went back to the dinner hall for tea. It was a delicious meal of fish, chips and peas followed by cheesecake and after wishing everyone "Bon appétit" we tucked in.

7.00pm We all met back up again in the common room. Then we split into our groups to prepare for what we were going to film the following day. Our DIY team decided that we were going to film a family who had just found a secret room in their house and were going to redecorate it. After deciding how we were going to film it and the various filming shots we were going to use we went back to the common room to learn about different camera techniques. Mark explained that normally each group works on their own movie, but because there were so many of us, we were all working on parts of the same film which would be one long movie.

9.00pm After a break and some time to ourselves we met back down in the common room once again. In going into the room we had no idea what we were to be doing next, but Mark soon told us that we would be learning some Salsa dancing! Having never done this type of dancing before I was rather nervous. However by the looks on everyone else's faces I wasn't the only one. Once you learned the basic steps, it was very easy and soon everyone was having a fantastic time! After everyone had learnt the basic routine, we then made it progressive, so that everyone was changing partners, and I can safely say everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

11.00pm Sadly the end of the first day came to a close and as soon as everyone had finally calmed down we went to bed. Bonne nuit!

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

7.30am It seemed very early when we were wakened up at about half past seven, but we were all excited about the day ahead and got up for our showers quickly.

8.30am Once washed and dressed we all appeared down at breakfast. I had bacon, sausages and toast which all tasted very nice. Then we had a break so a group of us all went for a look around the gardens at Benmore to see if we could find good locations for filming our movie.

9.30am We all met back in the common room and were shown past films other people had made. This gave us the chance to see some good techniques, and other things which hadn't worked so well in their films. We then went into our groups once more and decided on the script for our part of the film. When we were planning the film we were helped by "mentors" - these were university students who are studying languages and who helped us both with the team work and the French. There were also teachers and language assistants to help us.

12.00am After fully deciding how we were going to make our film we went to lunch, where I had a BLT roll, packet of crisps and piece of fruit. We then immediately went into filming. We only had two hours to film and found it quite difficult to film everything in that small space of time. However we finally achieved it, after many, many, many different takes. It was really good using the cameras and as time went on we got more confident using it. We had to make sure we had all the takes we needed because we knew that we wouldn't be able to go back and film more the next day. Mark explained to us that normally groups get the whole day to film because they're each making a film which lasts about 5 minutes. We were all filming one section of a long movie and each group was only to film about 2 minutes. Each minute of film takes about an hour to film, so we had just enough time!

6.00pm After more time to ourselves we went down to dinner which consisted of steak pie, potatoes and broccoli followed by fruit salad. Then we all left to prepare for the disco.

8.15pm I went down to the disco and found that most people were just standing around the sides dancing, however the karaoke soon went into full flow when people began volunteering to go up and sing. By the end of the night we had all danced, sung and salsa-ed and we went exhausted to bed. Bonne nuit!

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

8.00am We were treated to a long lie this morning - although 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning still seemed pretty early!

8.30am Once we were dressed and changed we went down to breakfast. Today I had cereal, toast and bacon. Then after we had finished we were told to go and pack our cases so that we were ready to leave when the time came.

9.15am We all met back down in the common room, and were taught how to edit our films. We were using iBooks and the iMovie software which seemed pretty easy to use. We got into our DIY group again and began to look through all our shots labelling many of them as outtakes! Then finally when we worked out all the shots we wanted to keep we edited them so that they all ran smoothly with one another. This took us quite some time, but in the end I think we were all very happy with the result! Each of us took a turn to do the editing, but everyone worked together to make the decisions about how we would edit our movie. By lunchtime we had more or less finished the edit.

12.00am We went to lunch for our last meal. I had a tikka masala roll and a biscuit.

1.00pm We all filed into the common room to watch the finished film, now all put together with the various different parts of each group's section. It was very entertaining to watch all the people you knew, including yourself on the television! We all felt very proud of what we had achieved because we'd started from nothing and were now watching a film which had created from scratch. Finally, we had to get our cases back onto the bus, and say goodbye to everyone. We all swapped phone numbers and e-mail addresses and promised to keep in contact with everyone and meet up again. Then we were back on the bus and on our way home, all exhausted but very pleased with what we'd achieved. Au revoir!