

February 2023: Learning by observation at the Cité Scolaire de Mirepoix

As part of our accredited project for the 2022-23 academic year, we carried out a teacher exchange (*job shadowing*) with the Cité Scolaire de Mirepoix, in the French village of the same name.

Our collaboration began in October 2022, with the visit of Sylvie Wesolowski, a Social Studies teacher at the Mirepoix high school. She was able to observe classes of various levels and various subjects and participate in a meeting of our Student Council. She also did an interview with the director of the center and with our Coeducation coordinator. She was especially impressed by the autonomy of the students when it comes to carrying out cooperative tasks, the relaxed atmosphere in the classrooms, with a very good relationship between teachers and students, and the school's coeducational project. It was a very enriching experience for all the teachers who participated in it !



Later, in February 2023, two teachers from IES Antoni Maura made a five-day visit to the *Cité Scolaire de Mirepoix*, in the south of France. The objective of this visit was to get to know the French education system, observe foreign language classes, exchange on school absenteeism prevention systems and **Erasmus** projects and observe research projects of French Bacculaureate students, since we were implementing Bacculaureate research work for the first time in the school.



The visit was very inspiring in many ways, although we encountered some unforeseen events, such as a call for a general strike against the French pension reform on the day of our arrival ! We were impressed by its sports facilities, shared with the municipality and sports associations outside school hours, and the collaboration with several companies as part of programs aimed at preventing school dropout and we were able to attend the final show of an artistic residency project with circus artists. We were also left with numerous ideas for pedagogical activities that were shared with all the teachers of Maura through a [presentation](#) and at the meetings of the foreign language department, and with contacts for possible future collaborations !





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