

Editorial 2016

The Avignon Steiner–Waldorf School launches a new initiative to celebrate its 21st birthday, bringing our excellent teaching and vibrant spirit to an international audience by opening a French language Summerschool that runs in July and August.

Set up in 1993, the Avignon Steiner–Waldorf School now numbers 300–odd pupils from Kindergarten to 12th class and counts itself one of the longest–established Steiner–Waldorf schools in France. And definitely the best located! We are in sunny Provence in the South of France, only six miles from the medieval city of Avignon with its famous summer Theatre Festival, the Palace of the Popes and of course the Pont d'Avignon, celebrated in the ditty sung by schoolchildren across the globe.

Our school's Provençal setting is steeped in history and beauty, rich in cities dating back two thousand years, dotted with picturesque villages, bathed in the incomparable light admired by great artists through the ages...

For many years now, our school's desire to open up our children's hearts to the world has expressed itself through the wealth of trips and exchanges that are organised. In 7th class students go on a language exchange to Germany and in 10th class pupils spend two to three months abroad in linguistic exchange programmes with other Steiner–Waldorf schools in Germany, Britain, America and Australia. In return, we host foreign 10th and 11th class students for periods of four to six months, and sometimes for an entire school year. In addition, when our children reach 11th class, they raise funds together to finance their two–week class voyage to India.

How, we wondered, can we bring together all this rich variety of experiences with our school's deeply felt desire to share our love for the French language and our culture?

Out of this heart–searching emerged an idea that we are very excited about: we now offer young people aged 15 to 18 the chance to spend two summer weeks in our school improving their French language skills, discovering some of the highlights of Provence and getting a true taste of French life and culture.

To book a place on one of our 2016 two–week residential summer French courses, please fill in the registration form online and send it back to us with your deposit.

Details of the programme, dates and practical information are available on the English pages under the Summerschool heading on our website:

www.ecole-steiner-avignon.org

or feel free to email Danielle Sfez at summerschool.steiner.waldorf@gmail.com with any questions.