

## TESTIMONIAL



I graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University (UK) with a First-Class degree in French and teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages in July 2015. Having already spent an academic year in France teaching English in 2013, I relished the idea of participating in the British Council's Generation UK-India programme. The new scheme aimed to build on the existing relationship between the UK and India, and inject some fresh learning methods into a variety of subject areas in Indian schools. I was fortunate enough to be offered a place at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior, through the scheme.

Having already worked in India for 5 months, adapting to VDJS didn't pose too much of a problem. Long gone were the days of pondering over how to carry out daily activities that you take for granted. I appeared to easily slot into life here, thanks to friendly staff and students.

Two weeks at VDJS has passed in the blink of an eye. I had just about established a routine before it was time to start thinking about moving on. But a short period of time here doesn't mean that I've been unable to experience a range of activities and not get to know people. In fact, it's been quite the opposite!

I've been teaching both English and French to classes 4 and 5, and English to class 12. What I've admired the most about the girls in VDJS whom I've taught French is their enthusiasm and motivation. There's not been one class where I've not been stopped and asked several questions. It is not an easy language to learn, and in just 2 weeks, they've all learnt so much and progressed.

In classes, I've moved away from the traditional perspective of learning from a book. I've been able to use videos, games and other visuals and adapt resources to a variety of topics. I've also been working with a few girls from classes 4 and 5 in a French activity class after school. This class has moved away from the topics covered in class and incorporated different tasks and materials, allowing students to make quick progress.

During my time at VDJS, many people asked questions such as 'Why are you here for such a short period of time?' and 'What will you do after you leave here?'. Both these questions can be answered with one simple word – travel. India has always been a country close to my heart, and I'm determined to make the most of my time left here before I must return to the U.K. When you spend a long period of time somewhere, you don't appreciate as much the beauty of your surroundings. For this reason, my 3 weeks will be spent in a variety of different states which will offer an array of the culture, weather and perhaps most importantly – food! Many of you will know about my love for all things spicy, so different cuisines are something I'm particularly looking forward to.

**Ms. Michaela Wright**  
**(French Teacher on Exchange to VDJS)**