



Erasmus+ - Abraham

Rob: And I'm now talking with Abraham Macanjola, who's here with us in St Brieuc today. You're in SVE, I understand?

Abraham: SVE in French, but European Voluntary Service in English.

Rob: Okay, and what kind of things are you doing?

Abraham: Right now, I am working at the MJC, which is a youth club of sorts or more so a community centre for local people in the town that I live in, called Quintin. There, I do youth work three or four times a week, and I also coach basketball on the side as well, as a part of my project. I also do youth work within the MJC itself and also within the local high schools, and sixth forms, and colleges within Quintin. Three times a week I go into the sixth form in school, the local high school. Right now, for the moment, we're doing a film project. What the idea is, the kids write and draft their own, um, film, or movie if you will, it's a short film. And right now we've written all the back stories and all that kind of stuff, the scripts and all that, and we're going to get ready and start filming, so that's quite cool.

Wednesdays, I go in with the Year 6, I believe that's the equivalent in England. I go and I do some more youth work with them, so it, it varies to be honest. Sometimes it's sporty, sometimes it's artistic, sometimes it's musical, it really depends. Then Monday afternoons we have our ??? – that's the name of the youth club that takes place every Wednesday, and there it's really, really because it's so varied. Yesterday, we had a talent competition. So it was really great, because we, we had.... welcomed kids that we don't usually see for the youth club, but they came specifically to participate within the talent competition – that was really great to see. Also, we do random, funny events, so we had, like, a shooting day, and that is to say we had darts, we had the mouth darts as well so you can, like, kind of spit darts. Then we saw like a little competition, and we put balloons up and they pierced them with balloons, and we just had little funny things like that, but also in the more structured sense, we're in the process right now of creating a outdoor living room. We were kindly given some wooden palettes by Leclerc, and we're in the process of, like, trying to create a table and sofa with the stuff, all the palette we've been given, and that's really, really good.

Rob: It sounds like a very full programme you've got there.

Abraham: It is.

Rob: Have you done this kind of thing before?

Abraham. Never ... I've done some youth work before in London.

Rob: You're a Londoner are you?

Abraham: I'm a Londoner. I've done youth work for ... now it would be six years that I've done it for. But it's very, very different, the French style in comparison to the British style. Yeah, it's



really, really enjoyable, like I would really, really recommend for, for young people that are aged between 17 and 30 to go for the EVS programme because I have really, really benefited from it.

Rob: Er, how is it different, the youth work you might do here to what happens in England?

Abraham: The French style is a lot more relaxed. It's led more by the kids, should I say? In the UK, I'm used to us setting a programme and usually the kids that want to .. want to participate they come and participate and they come in numbers, but in France it's a case of if they come, that's great, but if they don't come, well it's not so much a bad thing, but it's very, very calm, and I find that it, it allows them to progress as well, because both systems are really good. I have....naturally, I'm used to the British system but the French system I find is quite interesting to see as well and it works.

Rob: Is this the first time for you in Brittany?

Abraham: Yes, it is.

Rob: And how are you finding it? You've been here since October, I gather.

Abraham: I've been here since October, yes that's right. And oddly enough, Quintin is a town of only 3,000 people, and London is ... however many million? I do not miss London at all. I've never once been bored in my time here because I'm always involved in something. Obviously, there are little things that I miss, like gravy, for example, or being able to go to Tesco at, like, 11 o'clock at night, because here the shops close a lot earlier. It's little things like that but in terms of integration into the local area and stuff like that that people have been really welcoming and I really, really enjoy it and I think after I finish my studies and all of that I will try and come back to France. Whether it be Brittany or another part, I definitely feel welcome in France.

Rob: Abraham, thank you ever so much for taking time to talk, and good luck with the rest of your stay here.

Abraham: Thank you very much.

Rob: Okay, thanks.