

Czech mates loved checking out town

SOME students from the Czech Republic have been improving their language skills and learning about English culture while spending two weeks on work experience placements in Totnes and the local area.

The students, all from the field of IT, have been working in a variety of companies and organisations, including Totnes Town Council, a recruitment company and a graphic design studio.

They have been participating in the European Union's Leonardo da Vinci programme - a mobility project to promote lifelong learning - through Totnes European School, in the Civic Square, which had a long experience of organising such programmes.

During their stay, the students have visited Totnes Castle, Plymouth Gin Distillery, Kent's Cavern and Exeter's Underground passages.

But the high point of the visit was certainly seeing Torquay from 400 feet in the air in the High Flyer balloon, said a spokesman for the European school.

The Plymouth Aquarium visit also caused much excitement and interest, as the visitors had never experienced anything similar.

The spokesman added: 'The work placements have also proved highly successful and beneficial to the students, as well as the companies. One employer is looking forward to cooperating with his Czech student in the agricultural machinery sector and another, from a graphics company, was very impressed with the ideas the Czech students came up with.

Olga, the group leader, said how friendly and helpful everyone she had met had been - the locals, the host families and the employers.

She said: 'I would like to return to Totnes again and I hope it will be as soon as possible, because thanks to Totnes European School, everything was arranged perfectly.

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