# first attempts

Fun fact

Every July, Avignon transforms into a living stage. Centuries-old streets fill with actors in costume, handing out flyers and performing snippets under the summer sun. In the grand courtyard of the Palais des Papes, bold, boundary-pushing plays unfold beneath the stars — part of the official “In” festival. Meanwhile, the “Off” takes over cafés, schools, and alleyways with wild, experimental acts. Founded in 1947 by Jean Vilar, the Festival d’Avignon has grown into one of the world’s most vibrant celebrations of theater. For three weeks, the city pulses with creativity, where every corner tells a story and anything feels possible.

Max Van Grootheest

**weekblog week 21**

For all the glory

[How lucky we are, to have the beautiful ardeche region as our office]

Thomas, riverleader

This week marks the first arrivals; and it’s immediately busy. A fully booked week, right out of the gate. But that’s not all, we also had the PGL auditors coming by to see how we were doing. So high stakes from day one, however, this was also a good moment to learn. If we did anything wrong, we would be getting feedback from it, things gone right? Success messages. I had a lovely school from Ashford, the North school. They were a very lively bunch, especially the boys. Always playing one touch with each other. I wouldn’t say I did bad for my first week, however, there was a lot to learn. Especially timings were something I needed to take more control over. We weren’t late, per se, but it was always tight to get to the next thing. I got a really helpful tip from my colleague James on this. Have the kids gather at the meeting point 10 minutes before time, so that you can check if they have everything they need and are ready to go. We also had some kids that came back redder than a lobster, so I will need to check on them putting on sunscreen as well as water bottle checks.

# Doubts?

Gone like the wind

The last two weeks, I talked a bunch about having doubts for working with PGL, and whilst I will probably not come back next year, this week really dispelled a lot of the doubts. Seeing the kids have fun, seeing them overcome their fears, it really is a big part of why I do this job. The last few doubts and reservations are also the ones that will make me not return to PGL next year, and I think they’re here to stay, until they change their ways.