

Internship report at Book Ends, July 2026

Méline Boulineau

First things first, I would like to express my gratitude to the twinning program for giving me the opportunity to do this internship at Book Ends and to spend those three enriching weeks in Winchester.

When I first heard about the exchange program between Saint-Germain-En-Laye and Winchester, I instantly knew that if I got lucky enough to be a part of it, I would live a once-in-a-lifetime experience that would definitely teach me more things in a few weeks than a year in my « normal life ». Because that's what this trip was to me: I got to live a completely different life.

For three weeks, I lived with the most amazing host family and they welcomed me warmly into their home. When I first met them at the airport, all four of them were waiting for me: Emily, Chris, and their two beautiful children, Nico and Zaza. From the moment I met them, my small fear of being away from home disappeared in a second and I felt safe and comfortable, realizing how great those 3 weeks would be. We spent a lot of time visiting together while I was there, which I am so grateful for because I got to discover two sides of the Boston area. We visited the must-do places like the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum but we also went to more local places like Salem and a beautiful beach. In addition to this, I got to see a Red Sox baseball game in the famous Boston stadium Fenway Park. But we also spent time cooking together, going on walks around the neighbourhood after dinner, playing with the children, going to the farmer's market or just talking and enjoying each other's company, and it was those every-day-life moments that were definitely my favorites.



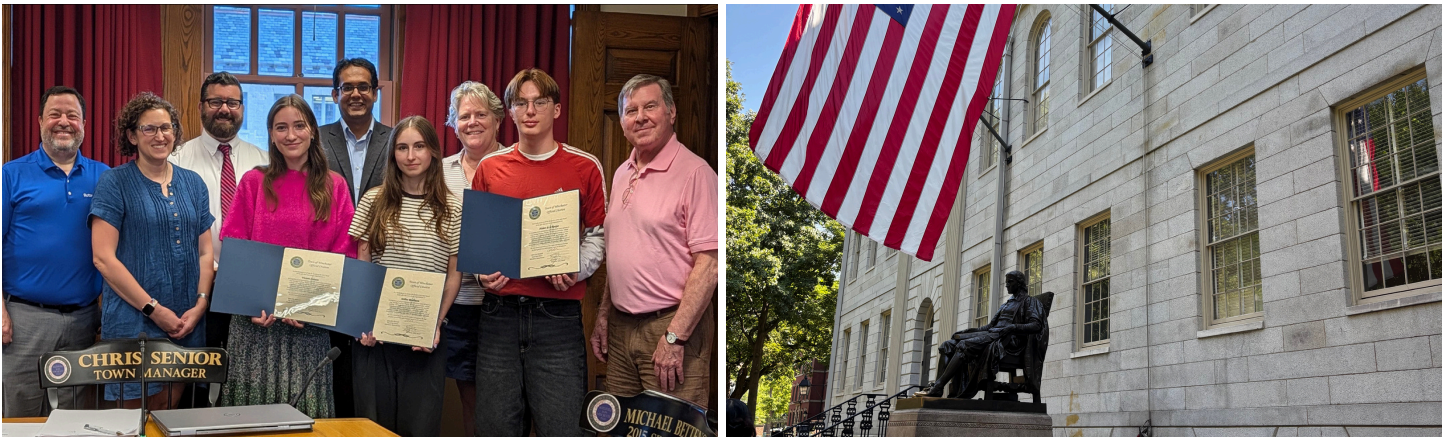
My days were occupied by my internship at Book Ends, a local independent book store in the center of Winchester. There, I was mostly working at the register, shelving books and helping whenever I could. I should admit that my favorite thing was doing the register because that's when I got to talk the most with the clients, I learned so many new vocabularies and now I can confidently say that I am really good at dealing with US coins! But I would be missing something here if I only talked about work, in fact Book Ends is so much more than that thanks to the people working there. Everyone received me enthusiastically and was so sweet and patient with teaching me how to do things. I would also like to mention Kaitlyn and how she recommended the most perfect science fiction/ fantasy books, thanks to her great advices I got so much better at reading in english !



While I was in Winchester, I also got to make new friends that lived there. We visited Boston together, went shopping and hung out together, I truly had so much fun and got to know more about how life is really like as an highschooler in the United States. However, the friends I spent most of my time with were Victoire and Hubert, the two other French students I came to Winchester with. We did so many things together like walking the freedom trail in Boston, watching the world cup soccer games or eating out.



Winchester is truly a lovely town, I got to discover local stores while doing the “Where’s Waldo?” quest with my host family. This quest was so fun, you had to go from store to store to get a tampon and then a reward. Nico got lucky and won a Waldo book from Book Ends at the Waldo party! The people in Winchester were so kind, especially the members of the twinning committee that we got to meet a few times during our stay, for instance for the Bastille Day celebration. John, the president of the twinning program from the US side, even brought Victoire, Hubert and I to an enriching visit of the university of Harvard where we learned so much about the university and its history!



My time in Winchester made me discover a new culture, I got to meet amazing people and I learned so much about myself. I feel so grateful that I got to spend those three weeks in Winchester thanks to the twinning program and I am looking forward to the day that I’ll be able to go back to the US and Winchester. Thank you so much!

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