

Spanish Diary - November 2010

Miss K Graham

It was a very enjoyable trip that allowed me to think about other cultures and make some lasting friendships. On our arrival in Spain we were greeted by one of the Spanish teachers who in his free time kindly drove us to the town where we were staying. The first day was spent getting to know the town and we had a tour of the school and saw our pupils in action. They were interacting with the Spanish students and helping them in an English lesson. That first day was the start of many late lunches where I remembered the true Spanish way of life - a long and filling lunch for a couple of hours which was then followed by another small tour. That evening like every other evening, the Spanish teachers showed us excellent hospitality and took us out to experience a real taste of Andalucia. I don't think I have ever eaten so much!

On the second day each school made presentations of their school so we could see what school life was like in different countries. This was very interesting, especially for our pupils as they realised how good the facilities at Failsworth are and how big their school is compared to others. We went to the town hall where the mayor introduced the project to the local press so they could ask any questions about it. We had a tour around the old part of the town and later on that evening the pupils presented the results of the Environmental survey. This highlighted to us and all the pupils the different environmental problems we are most aware of and what we need to work on in our local communities.

The third day was spent in the lovely Cordoba where we had a tour around La Mezquita which is an amazing building. We also walked round the rest of Cordoba and had some free time to do some shopping which the pupils enjoyed.....as well as their trip to Burger King! It was a late night home so pupils went straight with their families to enjoy an evening meal while yet again we enjoyed a lovely meal as well.

Our last full day in Spain was spent in Sevilla where we visited the Alcazar which was once a Moorish palace and then the impressive cathedral. We made it to the top of La Giralda as well which is the bell tower at the top. We returned in the afternoon to conclude our meeting and discuss plans and activities for the next meeting in Poland. In the evening the Spanish school put on a show for all of us and the host families to show us some typical Spanish dancing and singing. The host families had also made a selection of home-made traditional tapas for us all to enjoy. After some tears and sad farewells amongst the pupils, they returned home with their families and we went on to enjoy some typical flamenco in a local flamenco club. This was something new to me as I always thought flamenco was just dancing rather than the type of music so was surprised when our entertainment for the evening was flamenco singing. It was very enjoyable and yet more delicious tapas were available for us to try. All in all it was the perfect end to a successful trip.

The pupils really saw different cultures first hand and realised that there was more to life than the "English" way of life. It also made them realise the importance of learning another language as they were very impressed by how well pupils could speak English from the other countries. The environmental survey highlighted to all what they already do quite well and what they must improve in the future. It was interesting to see different outcomes from the various countries obviously clearly showing that it is important for us to get together and share ideas