



SPODRAMUS

Comenius

E-Magazine



Issue 1

December 2009



Vändra Gymnasium

The first edition of the SPODRAMUS e-journal

I am very happy to make an introduction to the **Estonian section** of the first edition of our project's e-journal. Now, at the end of December, 2009 we may report that the souls of our schools in England, Germany, Spain and Estonia have been enriched by new experience of international partnership, having visited the fantastic Mostoles in Spain twice, had a joint concert which included quite a demanding but enjoyable repertoire, organised a logo competition, more actively than ever recorded our school events in picture and in word (which can be seen both on our constantly changing wall paper and school web page), had weekly meetings both with student and teacher activity groups and what is more important- having enlivened the whole school life of Vändra Gymnasium. Our part of the common e-journal will reveal only a tiny part of the activities taken place in the frames of our Comenius project- mainly some opinion articles/interviews, overviews of school events with pictures taken with our own Comenius camera. Enjoy our Christmas dish and learn some Estonian!
In the name of our school: THANK YOU ALL FOR SHARING THE SOULS OF YOUR SCHOOLS WITH US SO FAR!



REFLECTIONS ON THE TRIP TO SPAIN.

Sandra's and Grete's interviews with Merit, Marilin and Annika on their visit to Spain 21.-25.11.2009.

Interview (Sandra with Merit)

Did you fly by plane for the first time, how was it ?

Actually I didn't fly for the first time, I went to France through the youth exchange project in the summer of 2006. There wasn't anything bad, but when we were landing then my ears were locked and even hurt a little.

Was Spain like you imagined ?

Almost, yes. People are so positive and happy. The sun was shining.

Are the Spaniards friendly ?

Yes, sometimes even too friendly.

Was the time in Spain fabulous?

Of course it was, although I wanted to be there a little bit longer, enjoy the sun and walk alone and see the places that I want to see.

What was the most exciting experience?

Maybe that we (students) lived in usual Spanish families, we saw how they lived and what kind of homes they had, what they ate etc.

What did you do there ?

Sang, checked out culture, visited del Prado museum and also we saw Madrid and Mostoles. I enjoyed the new experience.

Is the travel experience positive or negative?

Rather positive.

What did you like most, what thing did you like least?

The think what I liked least was that most of the Spanish people don't speak English and if they do then it's not much. It was hard to communicate with them. Another thing that I didn't like was that in the program there was no familiarization and because of that I didn't get to know other people because the free time was spent with families. There could have been some communication games so it would have been better to talk with each other.



Interview (Grete with Marilin and Annika)



What was your first impression?

M: My first impression was elating, especially when we left Madrid airport and started to drive towards the teachers' hotel. Because the air was already warmer and the surroundings felt nicer, especially when we just came from rainy Estonia.

A: The first impressions were very good. So much new experiences and feelings. We could meet new people and that made the whole thing much

more interesting.

What was your purpose of this trip?

M: Our purpose was to sing, we learned three songs chosen by us and then some other songs that all four countries had learned. The result was cool.

A: The purpose of this trip was to communicate with people so to say through music.

What benefit did you get from this trip?

M: The benefit was so big, first we met so many new people from different countries. And second we learned so much about Spain, their culture, food and certainly about their people. Besides, I know something about the Spanish language and I had a chance to practise it.

A: We could meet very pleasant people and I even learned some words in Spanish. Certainly I learned to express myself better using words and very much body language. Spanish people couldn't speak English very well...

Did you have any inconveniences?

M; No we didn't. Maybe that Spanish people's English wasn't that good and when you are with them for several days, you feel like your English level starts dropping, too.

A: Reaching the host home I had a little inconvenience: I didn't have a separate bed but the next day that problem was solved and I slept on the couch during the rest of my stay.

How were you welcomed?

M: We were welcomed pleasantly. The anchormen were already at the airport and they took us to the teachers' hotel in three taxis and there people whose place we were staying at were waiting for us. Our host families also welcomed us nicely. They were very nice people, the room was already set and they gave us the family's food. Altogether I could say that they are very kind and it is common for them to say 'Mi casa es su casa' (my home is your home).

A: I was welcomed very pleasantly. Everybody giggled and kissed. The family was very friendly and emotional. The mother of the family wanted to communicate very much. She talked in Spanish and I said only „gracias”. She was very happy because of that.

What did you do with your family?

M: We didn't do anything with the family, only a group picture. I didn't communicate with them because they couldn't speak English. The sons of the family could, but they were afraid to talk. Generally they seemed very friendly. Most of the time we spent with other students, we went home just to eat.

A: Unfortunatly we didn't have time to do much with our families. When I got home it was always almost midnight and everybody was sleeping. At the host family I just ate and slept. The rest of the time we were exploring the city with other young people.

How were the Spaniards?

M: They were very energetic and happy, we got kisses on the cheeks all the time. Of course very talkative and happy.

A: They were very friendly. I didn't feel like I was dropped off. I got much attention. Very caring.



THE TEACHERS' OPINIONS- just two questions...

What are the main differences between Estonia and Spain and between our schools?

Ülle Tomigas: First of all the climate- more sunshine and warmth at the end of November, even hot during our first visit at the beginning of October in Spain. Then the way of life and everyday routine- we should also take some more time off to relax and just talk to our colleagues and family every day- as they do during their siesta. And people- they are livelier and more open-minded, we are more reserved and don't reveal our feelings so easily. However, we as a small nation, have to learn foreign languages to be able to communicate with foreigners- the Spaniards consider it natural that everybody understands Spanish. As to our schools- theirs has 800 students (12 to 18 year-olds) with around 10% belonging to minorities (mainly from Ecuador, Morocco, Bulgaria, Rumania, the Ukraine, Poland, China and Ecuatorial Guinea). We have only Estonians in our school and more than a half less students and teachers than their school (84 teachers). The surroundings of Vändra Gymnasium are green and nature- friendly- their school is an urban school surrounded by a high iron fence and little space around the schoolhouse. As to the relationships between students and teachers, it seems that we are more academic and matter-of-fact- they all seem to be great friends and have warmer relationships. At the same time both of the schools seem to give good education and maintain discipline and order- there was silence and a real working atmosphere during their lessons as it is the case in our school as well.

Riina Sikkal: Spain is a mountainous country and it is also much bigger, it could be already noticed from the plane window. We came from chilly and rainy Estonia to Spain, where it was pleasantly warm and sunny. What is more, people are very friendly in Spain. In the school there seemed to be a very friendly co-operation between students and teachers.

Liivi Lumijõe: The Spanish people are hotblooded, more temperamental, they hug and kiss while Estonians are more precautious, they think several times, before they act. However, Estonians know how to have fun, too.

Ülle Ütt: It's hard to tell something about their lessons, because we did not visit them. I don't know what is being taught and how it is being taught.

Katrin Palu: I noticed, that in Spain a lot of parents were included to organise and carry out the meeting.

Tiina Käärman: In Spain the position of teachers is very honoured. Spanish students and teachers are all very friendly and emotional.

The worst punishment for student is to eliminate him/her from school for a day or some days. They try really hard to avoid this punishment.

On a usual schoolday students buy a snack from the school buffet. Breaks are spent outside. During the lunch break students go home. In Spain lunch break is really meant for eating and chatting with friends. After this, the workday will go on again.

What is more, the smallest students carry their bags on wheels, just like „shopping bags.“

Peeter Putk: In Spain the climate is warmer. People are more dark-skinned, they talk more quickly and express themselves in a more emotional way than Estonians.

The school in Spain is surrounded by a high fence and the gates are locked during the schoolday. The surrounding area in Vändra Gymnasium is greener and verdurous when we compare it to the school in Mostoles. In our school paper trash is not dropped. Our classrooms are more modern than in Mostoles.



With what kind of emotions did you come back from your trip?

Ülle Tomingas: I as the coordinator in our school was very much satisfied with the whole trip- everything was organised well, as to the concert, we managed well (many thanks to our music teacher Liivi Lumijõe who had done a great job with us). Each trip abroad broadens your horizon- Toledo, Mostoles and Madrid are not unknown places for me any more. It was also a big opportunity to get to know my students and colleagues

better in a travelling situation and talk to new foreign friends. I became especially close with a teacher from Liverpool and I am communicating with a teacher from Germany via e-mail and of course with all the coordinators. So- looking forward to meeting the representatives of all 3 partner schools in Vändra in April, 2010 to do some sport together and gather new good emotions.

Riina Sikkal: From Spain I got a huge positive charge, although we had to practice singing, which is not my strongest side, a lot. The joint singing was really powerful.

Liivi Lumijõe: With extremely positive emotions.

Ülle Ütt: Every trip is nice, even if you are working. What I liked the most was definitely the Prado museum.

Katrin Palu: The concert gave me especially good impressions.

Tiina Käärman: I came back home with pleasant emotions – we got assurance that we had learned our music program well and we performed it very successfully. The audience liked our program, and it was warmly welcomed. As it was my second time to be in Spain, it was nice to meet the Spanish teachers again. In addition, our school-leavers are pleasant and sociable girls!

Peeter Putk: The strongest positive emotions gave me the common singing (with Spanish, English, German school singers). It is nice that all the schools started to work in the Comenius project so enthusiastically.

Interviewed by Merit Lukka, form 12a



News from Vandra Gymnasium

A vs B

On 22 October there was a competition between classes called „A vs B“. Before the teams started it they had to decide, which one of them from the group is going to attend in a challenge. Both of the classes got 5 challenges, where they needed to use their knowledge and skills. There were many different challenges for example: limbo dance, throwing the playing cards into the hat, watching the cartoons, guessing the music videos, word games, quizzes and so on.

Our team (form 10) competed against 11th class girls. At first, we had to guess the capitals of the European countries. The next one was to guess disfigured songs and videos and the third was the quiz. The fourth challenge was to put on frozen and folded t-shirt. This was a really cold and wet action. The last thing to do was twisting hula hoop which lasted for a long time. Unfortunately we lost.



In short, the competition was interesting and engaging. The evening ended with a small party.

Sandra Tomingas, Krista Soosaar, Lily Jaanus.

The foxes' baptising aka hunting season in Vändra Gymnasium.



The event is a welcome new students to the gymnasium and so to say „test“ them whether they are the right ones to be in the upper part of the gymnasium. It is a long tradition in our school. What was happening during that event this schoolyear?

Early in the morning, at 6am on the 25th September, 2009 schoolyear the foxes (10th grade) gathered at Vändra bus station. Huntsmen (12th grade) waited for them in the park at 6.15 am. Eventually Marilyn went to the bus station to tell the foxes, that they

are expected in the park. When the 10th grade was present, we lined them up and gave them tails, which we had made with love and care, we also made face paintings.

The foxes also had some homeworks. They needed to make a namesign, a cake, take a toothbrush, some white cloth and a flagpole with them and find suitable clothing for foxes. We took their schoolbags away. The class teacher of the foxes, Anne Vaher, received a tail from our class teacher Ülle Tomingas with open arms and she was positive and happy all day long. The first task for the foxes was to brush their teeth with mustard, at first it seemed unacceptable for them. After a discussion between foxes and hunters, hunters finally had their way and foxes brushed their teeth in an enthusiastic way. The next thing foxes needed to do, was to make a flag and everyone's initial needed to be on it. They also supposed to draw a fox, but they found it too complicated, so they didn't do that. The initials were written with gouaches and...noses. After that, everyone had a cute colorful nose.

Then we tied the foxes up with a rope, in order some foxes not to get lost during the schoolway, and made a nice walk in the park and near the stadium and moved towards the school. While going to the school, the foxes needed to greet people on their way with a bow. They also did some crouches and when they reached the school football ground, they had a nice morning gymnastics, weird press-ups etc. Latecomers Mattias and Kristjan also did all the things other foxes had done during the morning. Finally we gave them their new schoolbags – trash bags, where they had their books in and we wished them a stone to their bag (it's an Estonian proverb meaning Good luck!), in a direct way. Each trash bag already had a stone in it.



During the schoolday and breaks the foxes had different games: they needed to give a match from mouth to mouth, roll a potato with nose on the floury floor, make the longest chain from clothes. During the lunchbreak the foxes did not have chairs and they needed to eat or suck the soup with a straw. They also sang a hymn for the hunters. Personally I used my dominion over the foxes and before each lesson one of the foxes carried my bag to the classroom.

After the lessons the foxes had to go to the park again. They started there with throwing an egg, and it was quite funny. As a next activity they played a game, the aim of which was to pass a coin using your body, not your hands. Then we had prepared a path that consisted of disgusting components and foxes needed to go through it in several ways. After this we organised a relay, where they had to find a sprat from the flour.

And finally arrived the time when we gave the foxes a fox certificate, but before that they needed to give an oath of a real gymnasium student. Let's hope, they will keep their promises. The day went nicely and we were satisfied with the result! Hopefully so were the foxes!

Mari-Liis Alviste - Translated by Merit Lukka

Teachers' Day



On 5th October we had a Teachers' Day in our school, where senior year students could try out teacher's profession. At the beginning of a day we had a fake takedown to the teachers, later a coffee-table, a public ceremony and a training. At the end of a day teachers could be students again. Senior year students gave art, music and P.E. lessons to the teachers. We have to say that teachers still remember the time when they were young. 12th grade students had difficulties with teaching children and it was hard to have an order in the classroom. At the end they realized that teaching is not a piece of cake.



Some opinions of the day by the twelfth-formers.

Reimo

Being a teacher was a new experience for me and I would organize this day in the future, too, but I don't want to be a real teacher. When we taught teachers then they acted in the same way we usually act. The teacher's job is a very big responsibility and necessary. Students' behaviour depends a lot on the teacher's methods. As a teacher's child I felt that there are some teacher's characteristics in me.

Marita

I began my day happily because I had a very nice class. I learnt that a class teacher has to be very patient and a good listener. In the art class students asked different questions and I helped them with pleasure. It was a really positive day for me.

Kristiina Kuudisiim

A really positive experience. I was a teacher in the 3rd grade. The children wanted to learn and they were good. I gave lessons in the 5th grade, too, they were a little bit impatient but I managed.

Mari-Liis Jaanson

At the beginning of the day I was a little bit afraid because I thought that children would not listen to me and it would be difficult for me to be a teacher but luckily everything went well. The 1st grade was very happy and they understood me. I had a great time with them. The 5th grade was also rather OK. I had to say some tough words to them but after that they began to work. At the end of the day I felt so tired but I was happy at the same time. I was proud of myself that I did it. ☺

Annika Oja

Estonian Christmas Dishes

Roast pork with baked potatoes:

1.5 kg pork (neck)
salt and pepper and spicy mustard for rubbing
10 large potatoes
some potato-seasoning if preferred.



Buy the pork a day in advance and thoroughly rub it with salt, pepper and mustard. Keep it in the refrigerator until you're ready to cook it.

This chunk of meat along with potatoes will take about 2 hours to roast.

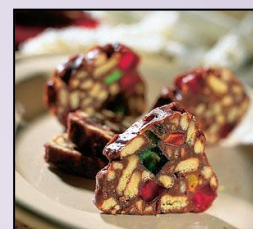
Some people lay strips of bacon between the potatoes, if you prefer not to go for such a greasy option you'll probably need to take your potatoes out a bit before the pork is done.

GET TO KNOW MORE FROM:

<http://www.foodbuzz.com/recipes/show/701207-an-estonian-christmas-meal-roast-pork-with-sauerkraut-black-putting-sausages-and-oven-potatoes>

Spotted dog- an easily made dessert

360g cookies
300g marmalade
200g butter
3tbsp sugar
0,5 dl 100% sweet cream
3tbsp powdered cocoa



Crumble the cookies and chop the marmalade. Whip the butter with sugar. Stir in the cream and powdered cocoa. Add cookies and marmalade, and mix thoroughly. Put the mixture on baking paper or food film and form into a roll. Roll tightly into baking paper. Put into refrigerator and leave overnight. Serve in slices.

Gymnasium Groß Ilsede

There is no use finding out why an idea has caught us to never let loose...

Cioran : The cracked curse

Thus it is not enough to have an idea. This idea must have caught us, so that we are frightened, so that we must be busy with it, and so that this idea is unbearable.

Jean Cocteau, Cinémonde, 25th September, 1950

We have an idea and this idea, " to share the different sensations of our schools, to heighten our motivation by music, theatre and P.E. (Sports)", has caught us.

Within the next two years we are going to make this idea come true together with the IES Clara Campoamor in Mostoles (Spain), The Vändra High School (Estonia) , and the Broughton Hall High School in Liverpool (Great Britain). We want to develop a keen sense of being part of the European Community by shared projects of drama, music, and sports.

This idea has just begun – thinking of the music project which took place in Spain in November.

You can read about several impressions of this music project in this e-journal, additionally, some other creative articles.

Christiane Gillner, Gymnasium Groß Ilsede (December 2009)

Our visions of the other three countries...

Sonja Grigat



Estonia: I think that in Estonia the people are very pallid. The weather is cold and the capital is called Tallinn. When I think of Estonia I remember a music group which was the German act for the Eurovision Song Contest once.

Spain: In Spain there it is often hot, the sun shines and so the people have a light brown skin. In that country there grow exotic plants like palms and there are lots of beaches on the Sea. Santiago de Compostela is also in Spain with its great and beautiful cathedral which is a nice place for pilgrims who followed the Way of St. James.

Great Britain: I think that the weather there is not so nice because lots of people say that. There is a lot of rain and it's not very warm. The people are polite and they admire the Queen.

Julia Nowak



England: I think England is a very interesting country where you can get a lot of new impressions. Many people say that the weather in England is not so good - I'd like to find out if it's true!

Spain: When I close my eyes and think of Spain, I can see long beaches, the sun and people with summer clothes. In the cities I can see beautiful old houses in small streets. Awesome.

Estonia: I image Estonia as a small country with a lot of forests and an awesome landscape. I don't really know a lot about it, but the photos I've seen are so beautiful!

Gymnasium Groß Ilsede

Comenius

Our first Comenius project - Music Day in Spain

The first of our Comenius projects is done, successfully done! The Music Day at I.E.S. Clara Campoamor on 24th November was very well prepared thanks to all participants (even if some earlier informations from the island might have been helpfull to reduce concert stress...) especially thanks to my wonderful colleague and - may I say so - friend Maria José Alvarez.

Every minute of our stay in Spain was a pure pleasure and worth the work we invested before and during these days. Our students can be said to be worthy representatives of our school and of Germany. Supported by my dear colleague Christiane Wolf they did a wonderful job in the concert especially regarding the short time of preparation. For everyone it was a welcome opportunity to learn about other mentalities, about how small the differences between young persons of Europe are - in spite of geographical distances - even if there could be noticed certain differences in dealing between teachers and students. If the idea of Comenius projects is to bring young people together reducing prejudices, becoming partners and friends this first project was a wonderful success.

To sum it up: "To be continued."

by **Klaus Henneicke**





Gymnasium Groß Ilsede

Report of a class trip of the fifth grade:

20.10.09

The Arrival

Right after Autumn break we went on a class trip to Ilfeld in the Harz. We, the 5b, went there with the bus. The 5e came with us. We needed two buses, one for the 5e and our girls, one for our boys. The bus ride was pretty long. But soon we were there and went higher and higher, passed the snow, but sadly we had to go down, and the snow was gone. After sitting for a while we reached a parking lot. From there our suitcases were brought to our hostel. We had to walk. It was a few miles and after the walk we were pretty exhausted. Soon we met our guides for the week, Keule and Marschl. They showed us the house and the garden. Then we had lunch! Tomato soup! It was pretty good. After lunch we had time to unpack. We had time for some games. Pretty late we had a night-walk, which was really scary. Everything was so dark. We didn't have one flashlight! At first we stayed on a normal trail. But then we went right through the swamp. Of course there was a normal trail too, but we were tripping over rocks and brunches everywhere. For a while we were walking in a single trail, before that we had gone in groups of two or three. All of a sudden everybody stopped. Marschl went ahead for about 300feet and told us to follow him one by one. The next person always started, when he could not hear the one in front of him anymore. I was at the end of the line, so I had to wait for my turn. When I went, I was really careful and didn't look to the left or right, because the trees looked like ghosts. After a few steps I heard a splash, I had stepped into a puddle. Marschl's light seemed to be further and further away, so I hurried. When I got closer to the group, all the kids look scary in the gloomy light. Waiting there with them, we saw the last kids joining us again. Everybody was safe. Finally we got back to the house, brushed our teeth and went to bed.

Marie Pape

Kl. 5.2

Gymnasium Groß Ilsede

Traditional Christmas Food...

'Christstollen'

Ingredients:

- * 750g flour
- * 60g barm
- * 1/4l milk
- * 130g sugar
- * 300g butter
- * 1 small bag of vanilla sugar
- * 1 teaspoon salt
- * 1 lemon
- * 2 yolks
- * 100g candied lemon peel (minced)
- * 100g candied orange peel (minced)
- * 100g raisins
- * 2 soup spoons rum
- * 100g almond (minced)
- * 75g butter (to butter the 'Christstollen')
- * 200g sugar powder
- * Flour and shortening for your work space



1. Put the flour into a bowl. Now configure a swale where you can disband the barm together with four soup spoons of milk, two teaspoons of sugar and a little flour (do not mix it with the rest of the flour).
2. Wait 15 – 20 minutes by room temperature. (The covered dough needs to swell).
3. Mix the butter with the rest of the milk in a second bowl. After the dough swelled you prepared before, mix it and add the milk-butter-mixture together with the rest of the sugar, vanilla sugar, salt, lemon peel (attrited) and yolks. Knead the compound for about 10 minutes. Place it in a cool room for 12 hours till the dough's volume has doubled.
4. Mix the candied orange peel, the candied lemon peel and the raisins with the rum.
5. Take the dough and mix it with the rum mixture you already prepared and with the minced almonds.
6. Now wait again 15 – 20 minutes.
7. Form this dough like a long 'sausage'. Use a rolling pin to form this 'sausage' like a flat 'u' which is 2cm thick (in the middle) and which has got a bulge on both sides. Now flap one bulge half over the other an press it on.
8. Put the 'Christstollen' on a baking sheet. It has to rest for 30 minutes. Than bake it for 1,5 hours at 180°C (fan oven 160°C). To finish the 'Christstollen' butter it and dust it with the sugar powder.

IES Clara Campoamor

Our Clara Campoamor school on the move

During this term we did not only receive the visit from our partners from Germany, Estonia and the United Kingdom. Apart from the Logo, Slogan & Acrostic contest and the concert, we have also carried out diverse school activities, some of which are mentioned as follows:

Our Biology teacher, Mr Andrés Montaña, organized his traditional *magosto* (baked chestnuts) in one of our school courtyards and also let us taste the delicious *membrillo* (quince paste) he prepares with the help of some of his students.



Magosto



Membrillo

The Spanish Department organized two school visits: a theatre performance in Madrid (17th-century Spanish playwright Lope de Vega's *¿De cuándo acá nos vino?*) and Móstoles Central Library. As part of their efforts to promote reading habits among our students, they invited a *magician* who cast a *reading spell* on our 3rd year ESO students (14- & 15-year-old students) and it has worked! Cuca Legaz, one of the Spanish teachers, prepared a poetry festival with one of her groups in our main assembly hall for the students' deeply moved relatives and classmates.

Two members from the Spanish Spinal Injuries Association shared their experiences and discussed risk behaviours with our Bachillerato students (16- & 18-year-old students).

Our town council organised a cross-country race for all the secondary schools in Móstoles and our students won 7 gold, silver and bronze medals.

Climate change is a growing worry and thus, the Philosophy and Biology Departments invited a university professor who gave an enlightening lecture to our Bachillerato on this topic.

The group of students with special educational needs visited the centre of Madrid (the Christmas market and street decorations) together with their teachers. At the end of their visit they fought the cold weather with some *chocolate con churros* (hot chocolate with fried pastry) before travelling back to Móstoles. Do not forget to try the recipe in this issue!

These are some of the things we have done this year so far!

The closing event of the term was our choir Christmas concert. The repertoire included Spanish and foreign carols together with Ramona, Vändras Metsas and The Rose.

IES Clara Campoamor

Our Concert on Saint Cecilia's Day

Last November 24 we welcomed the teachers and students from the Estonian, German and English schools to our Clara Campoamor school. They would join us in our concert on Saint Cecilia's Days.



This concert was held at the Community Culture Centre Caleidoscopio in Móstoles. It was a huge success as everyone present can attest. Each school choir sang their own repertoire before the four choirs got together to sing the shared repertoire. We loved the German voices. Our Estonian partners made us dance in our seats and we were astonished at the quality of the three English girls' performance. Once together on stage, the choirs sang four songs (I say a little prayer, The Rose, Ramona, Vändras Metsas) and we finished the concert singing and dancing a Swahili song, Siya Hamba, together.

Interviews

Before the concert, we interviewed our visitors. We asked each of them about their opinions and feelings about the project and their experiences in Spain. They were delighted to answer all our questions and we had a really good time together.

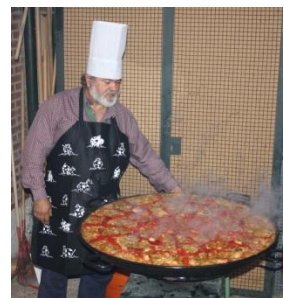
First impressions on their arrival

They mentioned that we are open and friendly, although they also noticed that streets in Móstoles are not so clean as in their home towns. They added the huge difference in size between Móstoles (206,478 inhabitants) and their home towns. They all agreed on praising Spanish weather. "Your sun is shining all the time", one of our visitors said, although they also valued white winters.

Food

Spanish food has been very well accepted among our guests, although eating times were different for them. They said that we eat late and in huge quantities, but they got used to it quite fast.

Most of them tasted our *tortilla de patatas* (Spanish potato omelette), *churros* (fried pastry), *flan* (crème caramel), *cocido* (stew) and *paella* (a big paella for over 100 people at the school cooked by some of our teachers; in the picture you can see our Biology teacher/ expert cook at work). The teachers mentioned the quality of fish, whereas the students had difficulties in choosing a favourite Spanish dish.



Spain

Before their arrival, most acknowledged that they knew little of our country, apart from Real Madrid football club. It made us grin that two of them mentioned Alcorcón FC (the team that had eliminated Real Madrid in Copa del Rey the week before).

According to their opinions, Madrid is a beautiful city with a great variety of historical sights. They have also gone shopping; however, it was mentioned that Madrid has turned out to be more expensive than expected.

Their Spanish partners

Both teachers and students mentioned the benefits of meeting other people and sharing experiences such as singing together (the best) or going on excursions.

In general, they think we Spaniards are very friendly, kind and open. Most of them praised our beauty and dark hair. We have to say that they are also very attractive!



The school

They found our school small and old compared to theirs. At their schools, the rooms are assigned to the subjects and not to the groups as we do in Spain. Regarding equipment, most of them have interactive whiteboards and computers in their classrooms.

Some mentioned the closer student-teacher relationship in Spain, which is different to that in their home countries.

About the Comenius project and the Music Day concert



The participating teachers and students belong to their school choirs. They all like singing. However, there are some differences. Some of them rehearse during school hours, where some others do it after school hours. All of our repertoires include songs in other languages such as French, German, Swedish or Swahili. Our guests like Spanish music: the English teachers said that we have the best guitarists in the world!



When asked what they enjoyed most, they answered that singing a common repertoire with teachers and students from other countries. So did we! Congratulations!

Next year, same time!

This meeting has been a success. All have had a good time and quite a few of the students have announced their wish to come back soon. We will be delighted!

*Thanks to all!
2nd ESO A*



IES Clara Campoamor

Our impressions on the visit

A teacher's perspective

A pupil of us often says Music is life and I cannot but agree with her completely. Music is life for students, life for teachers, life for a country, and life for us. Our Comenius Project, after the first logo, slogan and acronym contest, was started with a choral activity in which voices, feelings and languages were joined. Last November 24, a town in Spain, Móstoles, became the focus of interest for four schools and school communities. However, the hard previous work was as exciting as the concert itself: regular mails, planning, proposals, exchange of scores, etc. I must thank Stephanie, Ülle, and particularly Klaus, whom I have come to regard as a friend rather than a colleague. Klaus is a real pleasure for me to work together!

Out of all my memories of this experience I would like to share an image: over 50 people dancing and singing joined in a common language: the Music.

María José Álvarez Borondo
Music teacher

The students' perspective

Last November, it was the first Comenius meeting at our school Clara Campoamor. Our German, English and Estonian partners arrived here on 21st November. They stayed in Móstoles for four days, during which they were preparing Saint Cecilia's Day Concert. On Sunday 22nd we took them to Madrid by train and they visited El Prado Museum and the most important sights in Madrid.

We had a great time with all the students, who were friendly. The Estonian students were very nice and they were always smiling. The Germans tasted all kinds of food and they were very polite and the English girls sang beautifully. At first, we were shy and didn't speak a lot. Finally, we became good friends and it was difficult for us to say goodbye.

It was a fantastic experience and we have made good friends. Furthermore, we practised English a lot. We hope we will meet them sometime again. We encourage you to participate in the project's future activities.

Laura, Rebeca and Sonia (17 years)
2º Bachillerato B

IES Clara Campoamor

Churros Recipe

During the winter, and especially at Christmas, everybody loves a hot chocolate with *churros* in Spain! *Churros* are easy to make (however, be careful when frying the dough!). *Churros* are also popular at breakfast. You can always dunk them in your *café con leche*.

Ingredients

- 1 large cup of white flour
- 1 large cup of water,
- 1 teaspoon of oil
- a pinch of salt
- olive oil
- sugar



In a saucepan, heat up the water, salt, and a spoonful of olive oil. When it comes to a boil, add the flour and stir rapidly until it forms a smooth, thick mixture. Wait a few minutes for it to cool and then place the mixture in the donut maker. Shape the dough and fry them in ample hot oil until they turn golden. Now and while hot, sprinkle them with sugar, cinnamon, or just dunk them in thick hot chocolate.

From <http://www.enforex.com/culture/churros.html>

Broughton Hall High School



Hello and welcome to Broughton Hall's section of the e-magazine. We are very pleased and excited to be taking part in our second Comenius Project! We know from experience how much mutual benefit such schemes bring to all those participating. Already 3 staff and 3 sixth form pupils have travelled to Madrid and thoroughly enjoyed contributing to the choral festival. They have also made new friends and have had their cultural horizons broadened by their visit. We are very much looking forward to the next stage of the Project in Germany and of course eventually welcoming all our partners to Broughton Hall. **Mrs Fielding (Comenius Co-ordinator).**

News from Broughton Hall...

Building schools for the future

Broughton Hall is part of the building schools of the future programme in the UK. Currently the school is undertaking a massive redevelopment project. The vision of the new school is to provide a 21st century learning environment which ensures that each individual fulfils their potential by providing continuous, relevant and adaptable learning opportunities. Progress is well and truly underway at the site and students are being provided with the opportunity to visit the site and learn more about the construction industry.



Our sixth form students on a site visit.



Celebrating European Languages Day

Broughton Hall's languages department organised various activities in order to help students celebrate the European day of languages. Pupils played a French game 'Les Boules' made Spanish fans and participated in a quiz about world music and languages. Students have also been given the opportunity to attend a trip to Paris; the purpose of the trip was to promote cultural awareness and language learning.

Celebrating success in Sports

Broughton Hall is proud to provide its students with a wealth of sporting activities, after the Football team's successes last academic year in becoming Matrix Shield and Merseyside Champions; the team began this sporting year with rigour and as yet remain undefeated... Well done girls! Broughton Hall girls are also intent on remaining City Champions in Badminton and Regional Champions in Cheerleading. A special mention must also go to Paige Williams and Alex Poole who have represented their country in Football and Karate respectively. Huge congratulations go to both the girls and the PE department, whose ongoing support of the girls makes this all possible.



Broughton Hall Comenius



Some very privileged members of Broughton Hall staff and three sixth form students, had the opportunity to join the three other partnership schools in a combined concert, which was held in Spain. In this section of the e-journal they discuss their experiences.

Broughton Hall would like to take this opportunity to thank our Spanish hosts, for their kind hospitality and efforts. The hard work of your staff, students and host families ensured success and enjoyment for all who participated.

Aquí a Broughton Hall nos gustaría tomar esta oportunidad para agradecer nuestros anfitriones españoles por su hospitalidad y esfuerzos buenos. La dedicación de su personal, estudiantes y familias de anfitrión aseguró éxito y el disfrute para todos que participaron.

On Saturday 21st November our Chamber Choir Group flew to Madrid to participate in an international concert, although initially nervous the girls soon settled in with their host families. Whilst in Madrid the girls had the opportunity to experience the culture and they did this with enthusiasm. They tasted new foods, visited new places and met and made new friends. It was a fantastic opportunity for them and they embraced it, all of the staff that accompanied the girls were very proud of them, not only for their singing abilities but also for their maturity and conduct throughout the trip.

Mrs Carlisle



Whilst on this trip I had the pleasure of watching three young ladies grow in confidence and learn so much about themselves. Three individual journeys. Overcoming their own fears. By the end of their experience in front of us stood three ladies, who were learning the language, embracing Spanish culture, trying new foods, singing, talking and enjoying being in the company of new firm friends for life!!

Mrs Penny

The students and staff on the Madrid trip found the musical experience both demanding and rewarding. Learning a range of music, including folk songs in the native languages of other countries, is highly challenging linguistically and harmonically but it certainly exercised our mental and musical skills! The experience of being conducted by other music teachers and the ongoing discussions about phrasing, tuning, breathing and articulation made us constantly consider how to improve the quality of our performances. The opportunity for the Broughton Hall students to engage with and direct their accompanist highlighted their musical knowledge and confidence in a new professional context: we were blown away with the students' maturity, clarity and skill in working with each other and directing other musicians. The final Concert performance gave all the Comenius students the opportunity to showcase their musical performances and the Broughton Hall students' vocal and harmonising ability was seen to be outstanding. Discussion with staff and students from other European countries highlighted the differences in music education across Europe and made us appreciate the wide classroom opportunities within the National Curriculum for Music in the UK. Music is such an inherent cultural aspect but its importance can be overlooked; in the sharing of songs and our unity in participating we found how music is a language that educates and unites with an unrivalled, immediate depth of experience and impact.

Miss Hayes

Broughton Hall Comenius

On 21st November, the chamber group (Bethan Love, Jennifer Hynes and Helen Crilly) began our journey to Madrid, where we were performing for the first time as chamber group. We were all nervous about what Spain, the food and our host families would be like! As we laughed and joked with our teachers, Miss Hayes, Mrs Penny and Mrs Carlisle, we boarded the plane and began our adventure!

After collecting our bags, (once Jenny had remembered which bag she had brought with her) we were greeted by a lovely "chauffer," who drove us to the hotel to meet our host families. We were very quiet, nervous, and worried all the way there! Once we had met with our host families we had dinner (a lot later than usual!) and went out with the girls to tour the main attractions of Móstoles, like the town hall and theatre. Feeling slightly apprehensive about our first night away from home, we split up and went back to our host's houses for the first time.

On Sunday morning, we got up around 8.30 (that's 7.30 in England – ON A SUNDAY!) and met all the other students who had come to Móstoles to sing with Comenius, we had to get used to toning down our scouse accents when speaking to the Spanish, German or Estonia students! On the train to Móstoles, we were thoroughly entertained by a man tap dancing with his walking stick – it felt like we were back in Lime Street station! Our first stop when we got to Madrid was The Prado museum, which was full of beautiful architecture and art. We learnt so much about famous Spanish painters like El Greco and Goya, and we even had little headsets so we could hear our tour guide which we all got very excited by. After the museum, we went to our very first Tapas restaurant, and all tried (especially Helen and Bethan ... Jenny will eat anything!) traditional Spanish foods, including some cheese and some soup!

After a good night's sleep, we arrived at the school for rehearsal. The teachers of the school put on an amazing presentation about the history of Spain, and we sang through all of the songs for our performance we really got a taste of the Spanish culture. Seeing a Spanish school was really interesting, we all really liked the relaxed and calm attitude both students and teachers had towards school. That evening, we all got the bus to the nearest shopping centre, and shopped till we dropped!

Tuesday, performance day! After arriving at the school, we had a quick run through of the songs and dance routine. All of us were feeling very nervous, but we couldn't wait to show everyone what we could do! When we arrived at the community centre, it was a lot bigger than we first thought! We nervously sat through the Estonian and German performances, and finally it was our turn! All our songs went really well, particularly 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,' which everyone loved! Mrs Penny even cried, (we didn't think we were *that* bad). After a big cheer we walked off stage and settled in to enjoy the rest of the performances. When we arrived back to the school, they had set chairs and tables for a big meal. We all tried the tapas and there were even homemade dips and cheddars! There was a small presentation where we were given attendance certificates and t-shirts, and a group photo was taken outside! It was all very emotional to say goodbye to everyone and leave the school and community we had felt so at home in. Everyone had been so generous and kind and we made memories and friends we will never forget. It enriched our lives and truly was one of the best experiences of our lives. We really enjoyed and embraced the Spanish culture and feel much more confident about travelling and meeting new people now we have taken part in this event.

Bethan Love, Jennifer Hynes and Helen Crilly



Broughton Hall High School

Traditional Christmas Foods...

Mince Pies

In the UK one of the first signs that Christmas is on its way is that the shops fill with mince pies. Some say it is good luck to eat one every day in December!

Ingredients

225g of cold butter, diced.
350g plain flour.
100g golden caster sugar.
280g mincemeat
1 small egg, beaten
Icing sugar, to dust



Method

1. To make the pastry, rub the butter into the flour, then mix in the sugar and a pinch of salt. Combine the pastry into a ball – don't add liquid – knead it briefly. The dough will be fairly firm, like shortbread dough. You can use the dough immediately, or chill for later.
2. Preheat the oven to 200C/gas 6/fan 180C. Line 18 holes of two 12-hole patty tins, by pressing small walnut-sized balls of pastry into each hole. Spoon the mincemeat into the pies.
3. Take slightly smaller balls of pastry than before and pat them out between your hands to make round lids, big enough to cover the pies. Top the pies with their lids, pressing the edges gently together to seal - you don't need to seal them with milk or egg as they will stick on their own. (The pies may now be frozen for up to 1 month).
4. Brush the tops of the pies with the beaten egg. Bake for 20 minutes until golden. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, and then remove to a wire rack. To serve, lightly dust with icing sugar. They will keep for 3 to 4 days in an airtight container.

<http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/2174/unbelievably-easy-mince-pies>

A funny few...

When a family sits down for Christmas Lunch in the UK, they will first pull a cracker. Crackers usually contain a novelty gift, paper hat and a joke which the family will share before beginning their Christmas dinner. Here are a few examples...

What did the snowman say to the other snowman? ... Smells like carrots

Did you hear about the two ships that collided at sea? One was carrying red paint and the other was carrying blue paint. All the sailors ended up being marooned.

What athlete is warmest in winter? ... A long jumper.

