





Comenius Visit to Mostoles, Madrid 21st – 25th November 2009

<p>Day 1</p>	 <p>On Saturday 21st November our Chamber Choir Group; Helen Crilly, Jenny Hynes and Bethan Love flew to Madrid accompanied by Mrs Carlisle, Miss Penny and Miss Hayes. They were to take part in an international concert. After an uneventful flight and perfect landing, they were met at Madrid Airport by teachers from IES Clara Campoamor school and taken to Mostoles town. Soon the girls were chatting to their host families and were taken to their new homes for the next five days.</p>
<p>Day 2</p>	<p>Early Sunday morning found everyone at Mostoles train station eager and excited, looking forward to a visit to Madrid centre. The city looked splendid in the warm sunshine as everyone walked from the station to the Museo Del Prado art gallery. There they were treated to a two hour accompanied tour led by an English speaking guide. Fantastic facts and details of the work of El Greco, Velazquez and Goya were given as their amazing works were viewed. At lunch our girls tasted typical Spanish cuisine, an assortment of dishes and facial expressions followed. Later we walked through old Madrid and visited the Palace.</p>
<p>Day 3</p>	 <p>Monday was the day of the concert rehearsal, it started at 8.30am and everyone had much to practice. Jointly the English, German, Spanish and Estonian choirs sang a number of songs. The song that had been selected by the Spanish choir was a lovely African chant to which a dance had to be learnt! Later that morning everyone was treated to a recital of the history of Spain through song. Four very talented teachers from IES Clara Campoamor school presented fine renditions from Spanish culture. This was one of the highlights of the trip. Teachers and pupils continued to rehearse together until lunch at 3pm followed by a walk around Mostoles town centre.</p>
<p>Day 4</p>	 <p>Tuesday 24th November was concert day. Another early start then at 8.30am our teachers and teachers from Germany and Estonia were interviewed by Spanish students. This created a lovely friendly atmosphere around the school as the big event was anticipated. At 9.15am the choir was put through its paces at the dress rehearsal. Mrs Penny had to stop singing as she was so impressed with Mrs Carlisle's German accent during the singing of Ramona. Vandra Metsus was also sung in Estonian. At 11am everyone walked together to the theatre at the Caleidoscopio Community Centre. All the pupils from IES Clara Campoamor joined the choirs. Three rows of invited dignitaries and visitors were seated at the front, tension increased until the concert started at 12 noon. All of the countries had the opportunity to perform alone Broughton Hall's Chamber Group gave a very impressive performance of Lullaby of Birdland and Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. The concert ended with an amazing experience of all the pupils of the Spanish school standing and chanting names of cities around the world.</p> <p>Back at the school at 3.30pm there was a surprising sight, tables had been assembled throughout the reception area to seat all of the choirs, host families, teachers and helpers there were about 250 lunch guests in total. We were treated to a massive Paella cooked on a large plate, approximately one metre in diameter. Everyone received a large portion. It was delicious! Sadly the farewell ceremony followed with gifts to the other countries from our Spanish host school, IES Clara Campoamor. Every choir member, both pupils and teachers received a t-shirt embossed with the winning Comenius logo as a keepsake.</p> 
<p>Day 5</p>	<p>Wednesday morning found everyone tired, but relaxed, goodbyes were said outside the school with promises to write and email. With bags ready for the airport safely on board a coach, the English and German visitors were taken to the beautiful city of Alcalá De Henares the birthplace of Cervantes, a medieval town. After that it was onto Madrid airport and home!</p>