

Report on Year 12's trip to Madrid

Introduction

This report describes Year 12's recent trip to Madrid and its aim is to assess the success of the trip in order to recommend it to future Year 12 students of Spanish.

Host families

All students agreed that the hospitality of the host families exceeded their expectations. Not only did they make our students feel welcome in their homes, but they went out of their way to ensure that the British exchange students experienced the Spanish way of life, including the culture, language and cuisine. Many students commented that they showed exceptional kindness and generosity. However, some host-family homes were located great distances from the school and, as a result, they had to leave extremely early in the morning to guarantee they got to school on time. I propose that on future exchanges host families are selected within a 5-mile radius of the school.

Cultural activities

The Spanish school staff ensured that our students got the most out of each visit by contracting tour guides who were entertaining and spoke Spanish at a comprehensible level for our students. Consequently, the cultural activities were a resounding success. Not only were our students shown most of the city's main sights, they also had the opportunity to visit stunning nearby towns of historical interest, such as El Escorial, Segovia and Toledo. Unfortunately, the Spanish exchange students had to attend school while their British counterparts were sightseeing. This was a shame as they would have welcomed the chance to spend more time with the host students. I would suggest that next time the Spanish students are invited to go on the day trips.

Language

The majority of our students made the most of the opportunity to practise their Spanish with their host family and exchange partner. In addition, a few students made a real effort to converse with the tour guides during the day trips. However, some students were reluctant to speak Spanish with their exchange partners, who had to speak to them in English. On future exchanges I would recommend students complete a travel journal of their visit, as this would benefit their language development and provide a reminder of the trip.

Conclusion

On the whole, both Spanish and British students found the experience a positive one from a cultural and an educational point of view. Provided that opportunities to use Spanish are extended on future trips, I have no hesitation in recommending this language exchange for students taking Spanish at our school.

Top Tips for writing

1. Use formal or semi-formal language.
2. Inform the reader with positive points and make recommendations for improvements.
3. Include an introduction, two or three sections and a conclusion.
4. Give each section a clear heading.
5. State the reason for writing the report in the introduction, and include your overall evaluation in the conclusion.