

## **In conversation with a Spanish speaker...**

I am now in Year 11. This is my fourth and last entry in this school diary.

This year was a bit different than the others due to the pandemic and due to the unexpected news that I was moving back to Spain because of family issues.

At first I was frustrated because I didn't expect to have to move back to my country. I was already settled in England and happy with it. However that changed when I looked at the benefits a life change would bring. Firstly, the weather in London is not very good if you compare it with Spain and secondly I could spend more time with members of my family I hadn't seen in years. My grandmother is very important to me and I missed her not being able to drop by her house and spend time with her. She would always support me and I knew she would be there for me so that also helped me to come to terms with the situation.

Speaking about family, an interesting anecdote is that when I went to visit my cousins after 5 years, I was shocked because I was much taller than them, including my uncle and aunt. This impressed me because when I was younger they were too tall for me and I never thought that I could become taller than them. This made me realise how much I changed and grown while living in England.

Starting in a new school was not as difficult as in England because I already knew the language and also had knowledge of how to adapt quickly. To make friends was easier because I was very popular coming from the UK and looking cooler in front of my peers.

Some subjects were made easier thanks to what I learned in the UK and in the first instance, English. My writing was a lot better beyond learning the language though because I learned how to structure a paragraph including evidence and analysis.. In Science it was easier because some topics were the same so that helped a lot. When I finished high school and they gave me my grades, I was pleased with them, I got (marks out of 10) : Maths:5, Biology:8, PE:9, Physics:6, Chemistry:6, Spanish Literature:7, English:9, Technology:9, Geography and History:8.

When I arrived in Spain the weather was great because we were close to summer. It was always sunny and this allowed me to go with friends to the beach near my home after school. I also started to have a healthier lifestyle because I spend my free time cycling or any other forms of sports and exercise. I started to feel healthier and it helped me stay positive.

One of the most important things that I learned with this unforgettable experience is that time passes very quickly and it never stops for anyone. It affects us all and it is important to live in the moment because you never know what you have until you lose it.

I was very grateful for everything I learned in London, especially my teachers at Carshalton Boys who helped me and put in a lot of effort to make me progress.