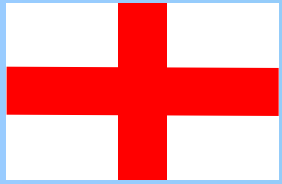


Warrington – Igualada Comenius Exchange 2007

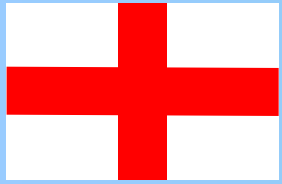




The Journey Begins...

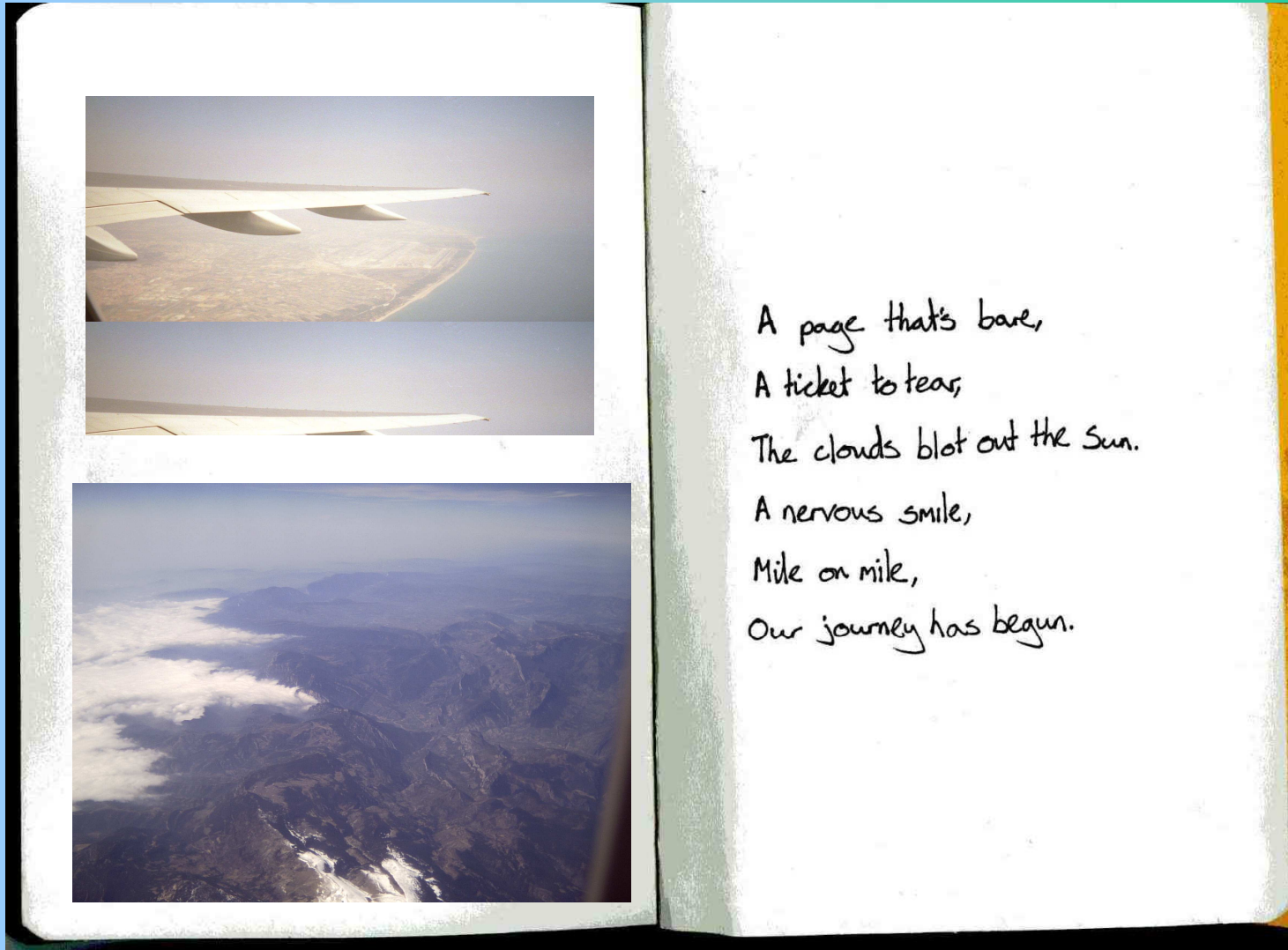
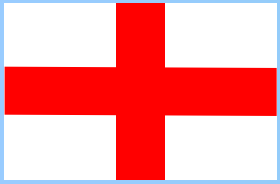
- 4th – 17th March:
Yr 10/6th Form Padgate students with teachers Miss Reardon and Miss Markham visited Spain.
- 15th – 27th April:
Yr 10 Pere Vives Vich students with teachers Señor Mariomon and Señor Ramos visited England.

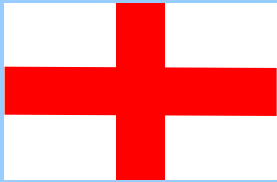





Exchange Part 1 – To Spain

- Each English pupil stayed with the family of their Spanish partner for two weeks.
- Several days were spent in Pere Vives Vich with the Spanish students.
- Others were spent making visits to various places around Catalonia (the Northern area of Spain around Barcelona).
- A final meal was held at a restaurant which was attended by all the host families.





Day 1



Boarding Pass
Tarjeta de embarque
Carte d'accès à bord

Name of passenger
FLETCHER/C MISS

From
MANCHESTER

To
BARCELONA

Flight **ZB 518** Class Date **Y 04MAR 1540** Time

Gate Boarding Time Seat **28B** Smoke **NO**

PCB WT UNKED BAGGAGE ID NUMBER
2:3 DOCUMENT **99020** CK
071

Day One (The Arrival) Sunday

I was sooo nervous when I woke up! my stomach was everywhere :). finished packing and then me, mum and dad made our way to the airport. By that time I was very scared but still excited about the trip. We said our goodbyes and checked our luggage in. Everyone was very nervous about their baggage allowance! but it was all ok. Had some time to shop and stuff before we went to security. Lucky me! I was the only one to be searched and so was my bag! Typical! We got onto the plane and I end up sitting with ~~Moose~~ and will. Was a bit disappointed but I ended up having a good time with them! While Played cards most of the time and listened to music. When we got off the plane and got on the Bus to Igualada I made new sixthformer friends, kate W. katie J. and Naigley W. they were very funny and kind. Met the family and they were lovely to me but I just felt a little homesick and didn't have much of an appetite. So I didn't eat much of my dinner. Phoned my mum to say I was here and safe but I got a little upset. I didn't show it though because I was determined to be happy :). bed time now though
Night xxt



Day 2



monday 5th march
2007

Today was my first day
in the school, uoahn
scary...

woke up about 7ish, got
ready, missed the bus
haha! then Raquel's mother
gave us a lift

The first part of the day
was just being shown
around, the went for a
walk around Iguieda! the
place is very nice, but
my feet were hurting. (x)

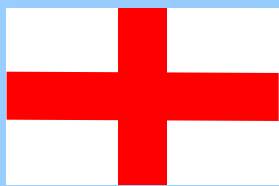
then we had lunch but
I didn't like it
so I didn't eat much

After lunch we went into
a classroom and watched a
film in spanish, also we had
to answer questions on the
film, also in spanish.

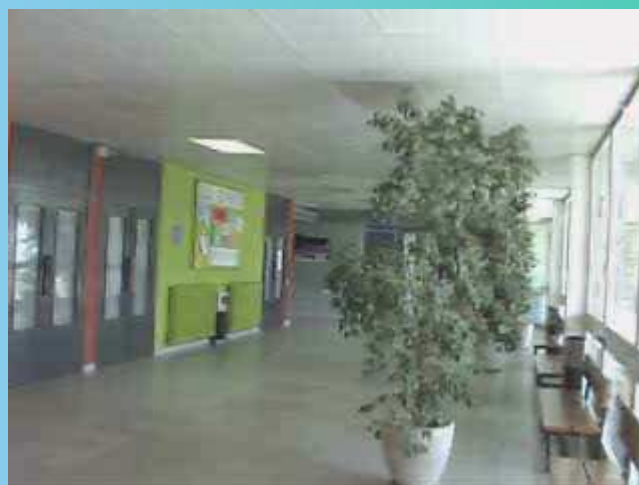
After school I went to
Raquel's friends (carla) house
with Carla and Raquel.
then we went to central
Iguieda and had a look
around. then Raquel's ~~dad~~
dad came and picked us up
and we went back to hers
we had dinner and then
I went to bed.
Had an exhausting day!

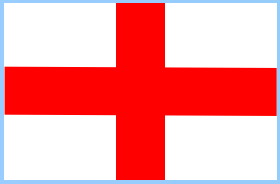
(x) we also went and had a
tour of the leather museum



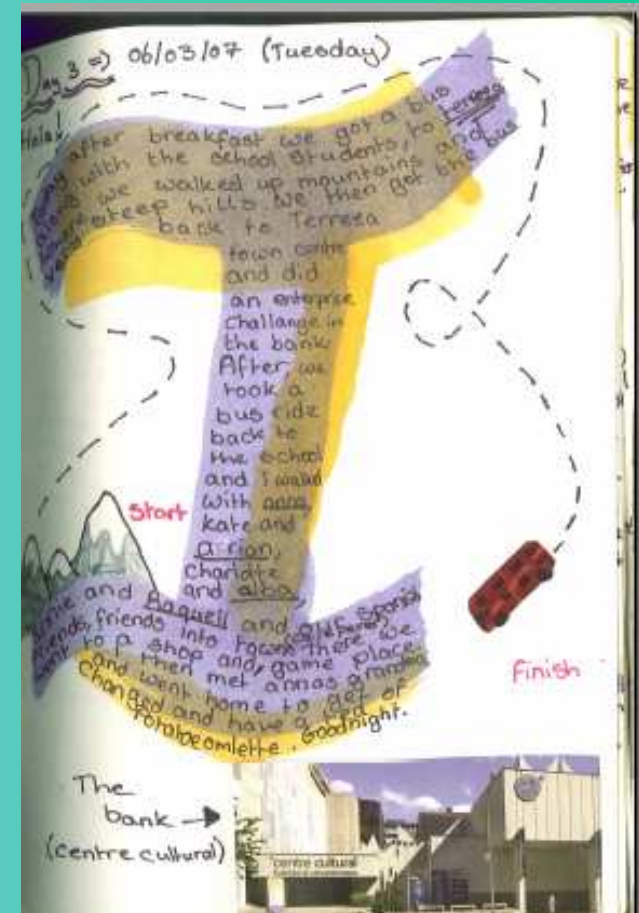


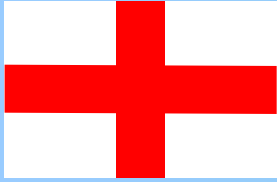
Pere Vives Vich





Day 3





Day 4



Day 4 - Wednesday 7th March

Today was my first proper day in the school. I had to attend all of Marc's lessons. Fortunately, Matthew and Sam were in most of them with me, so they were quite enjoyable. During the first lesson (maths) I was given a game to play with Marc, the object being - as I eventually discovered - to remove the final counter. Unable to understand the instructions I lost most of the time, until I finally worked out what to do.

Next there was an art lesson, followed by English - the lesson we had all been looking forward to! We had to speak to

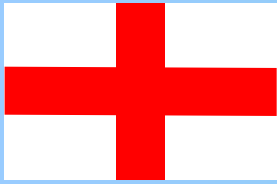
A different people in the class (we English people in Spanish) and describe what hobbies we did, what subjects we liked, a happy moment of ours. My happy moment was being on holiday in America with my family who I am missing greatly... Speaking to the students was fun as it helped me to break the ice between myself and them.

After English we had a half hour break in which I ate the sandwich prepared for me by Marc's mum (the Spanish seem to like off ham, cheese and chorizo sandwiches!) During the break Marc and I began a game of chess, which was interesting. The science lesson was pretty boring; the pupils just sat there whilst the teacher babbled on! The final lesson, Spanish/Catalan, was interesting if not embarrassing. The teacher wrote some fairly simple questions on the greenboard (not black, green!) such as ¿Cómo te llamas? What is your name? Sam, Matt and I had to stand up, repeat and then answer the questions, and then ask someone else the same question. It should have been easy, but the instructions were all in Spanish, so we (and especially Matt) kept

E getting it wrong to the amusement of the other pupils!
On Wednesdays and Fridays the school finishes early - at 1:30! This I was hoping to go out somewhere after lunch with Marc; everyone else seems to have done so except for me! But instead of suggesting that we go out, when Marc's mum asked me what I wanted to do I shrugged my shoulders, and said that whatever Marc wanted to do was fine. Unfortunately Marc doesn't seem to like going out: so when Marc's mum went out after lunch, we watched a Simpson episode (one that I hadn't seen, but in Spanish!) and spent two hours on the Playstation. At first we played on Lord of the Kings, The Return of the King, which I have completed at home - thus I was able to help Marc get past some levels that he got stuck on. However, we soon moved on to sports games like basketball and tennis, which bored me quite a bit! I wished I could have gone out, but when I heard the rain bucketting down I soon changed my mind!
Later in the evening, Marc and I had the tensest game of chess that I have ever played. Throughout the game Marc set up cunning traps to take my pieces - he reminds me of coach Mark, and how good he is at chess when I had



N lost most of my strong pieces, I think Marc began to relax - a mistake, because I chanced a pawn forward and replaced it with my Queen! Now I was the one in control. I only had my King, Queen and a Castle remaining, but I managed to reduce Marc's pieces to his King, a Knight and a Pawn. I was sure of victory - so sure that I decided to get rid of all his pieces. I sent in my Castle to crush his pawn - only to get a shock when his Knight took my piece! Deflated but still confident I kept forcing his King into check with my Queen... but I failed to take it. On the contrary, the Knight pelted my Queen, leaving my King standing alone. I fought valiantly against his two pieces, but eventually I surrendered. I have learned never to be over-confident in chess.



Day 5



Thursday 3rd March.

I thought by today I would be more happy; but im not!

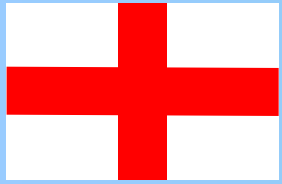
At 8 o'clock I had Maths, the maths teacher was Carlos (the headteacher) he seems very nice. Because today in Spain they celebrate the "working week" we talked about that, and did a wordsearch. Next was English; finally something I understand. In the lesson the pupils asked us questions in English, we replied in Spanish! At 10am we went into the hall to watch a play, it was very boring because I didn't understand much! At break we all went outside and loads of Spanish pupils come over to talk to us, it was very strange!

Then we spent an hour just with the "English pupils" to prepare questions for the headteacher of a primary school. Then at 12:30 I had IT that was a lot of fun because I was the only English pupil, so I couldn't ask anyone to "translate" for me, I had to do it myself and I did, I listened and understood most of the lesson! Also I made some new friends because I was with them all morning in lessons! At 1:30 we went home for lunch,

It was good because normally it's 30 mins there, 30 mins back but after lunch we were going to the primary school across the road, so we stayed at home! Hayley + Ester came round! The primary school was lots of fun because it was so different! We had a chance to ask all of our questions! We finished at 5:15 and me, Alba, Annie and Rachel (Annie's partner) stayed at Alba's house, it was fun, taking photos!!! Later we had to go back to school because Alba plays Vollyball, when I got there I seen Catherine and I could tell she was upset, she didn't speak at all, so I asked her to come inside with me and when we sat down all she did was cry + cry and cry she was feeling v.v. homesick!!

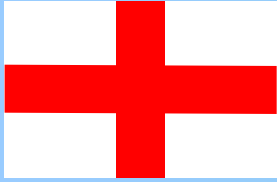
Alba her partner is v quiet and doesn't have many friends so she feels bad on her! So we sat and had a chat, I really wanted to tell her I was upset too but I couldn't! Then I came home and my mum rung me (for 3 mins) and I missed her so so so much! I wish I was at home but I know this is something I have to do!!





Primary School





Day 6



Day 6 :- 09/03/07 (Friday)

Today everyone on the exchange (including Spanish people) went to Barcelona. We saw the local museum it was mucho grande! It had animals, like piranhas, birds, crocodiles etc. It was good. Then we stopped for dinner at Parc Guell - a park with the largest mosaic seat in it. After lunch there we got back on the coach and saw the famous cathedral made by Gaudi which is supposed to be finished in 100 years. Then we went back to the school and Arian and Kate came to Anna's house to sleep. For tea we had pizza.



Day 7 :- 10/03/07 (Saturday)

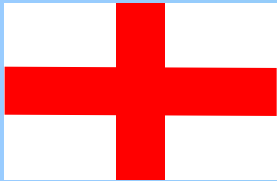
Today we got a lie in, and me and Kate washed our hair. Anna and Arian had a basketball match at 6:00am, but we didn't go. Pep-anna's brother showed us around the Jorba town. Then Arian and Anna came home we all went to Arian's house for tea - we had prawns, olives, crisps, then macaroni, strawberries and cream. We then went to Gürru the disco and danced 6:00-9:00. Then we all (all exchange people went to disco too) went to a pub to watch Barcelona vs Madrid - 3/3. Then we went to bed at 12:00.

part of the Gürru ticket (worth 1 free drink)

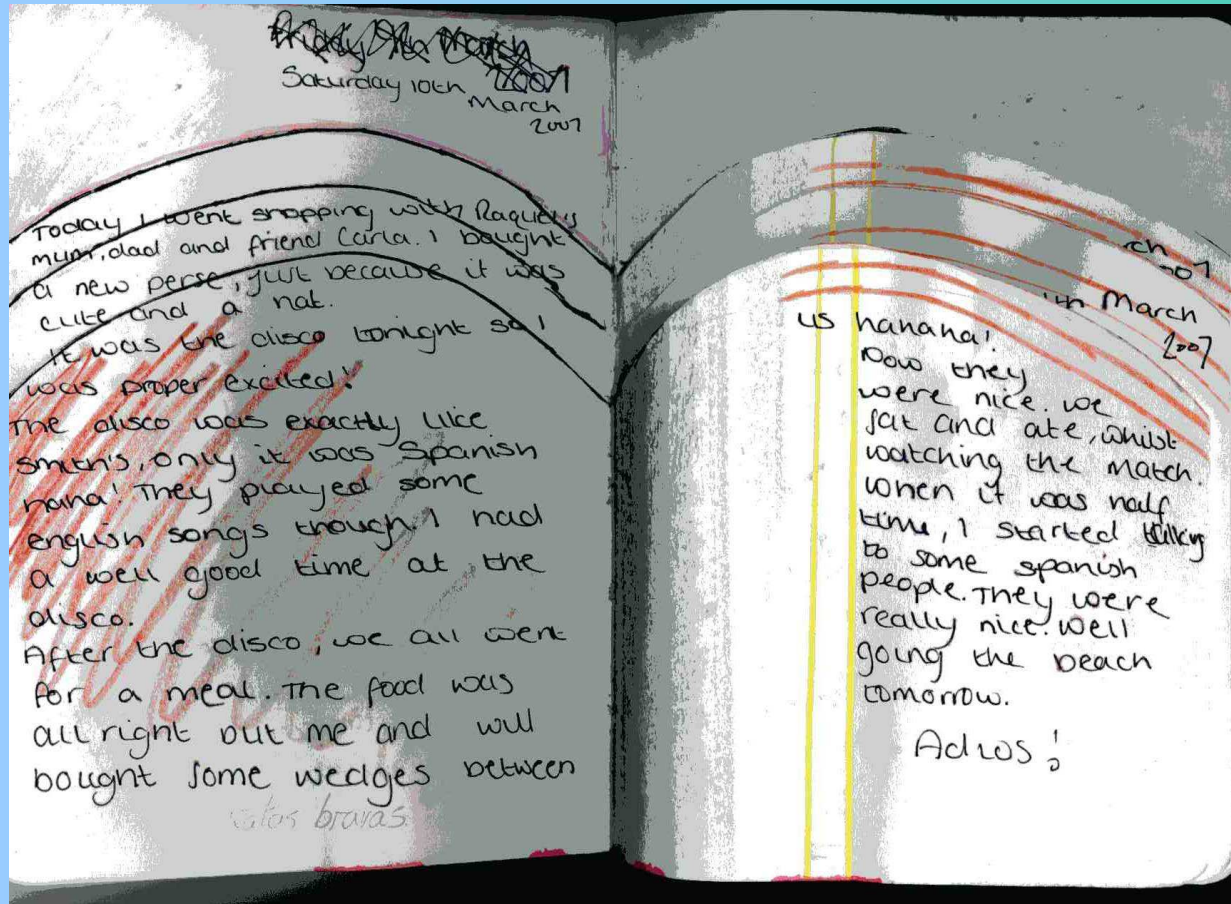
we also had a go on Arian's karioke

Some of the pub's table doth





Day 7





Day 8



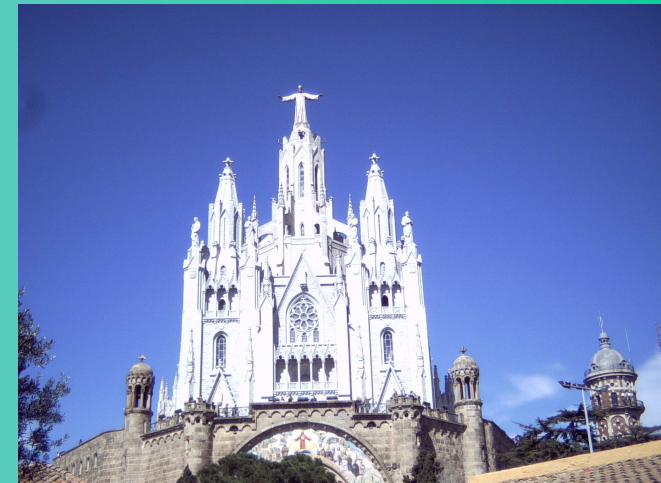
Day 8.... Sunday

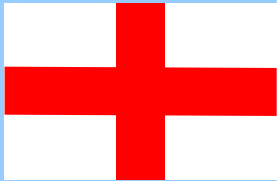
Today we went to the theme park called Tibidabo! Was really good we went on lots of different rides and the view was amazing!! It was of the whole of Barcelona and the sea as the theme park was on top of a big hill on the outskirts of Barcelona. Was amazing. We went on the pirate ship first but me, Kobie and Will ended up in the middle sort was a little bit boring". Then a funny ride called Aladin or something looked boring but we took pictures of the view when we got to the top. After that; Me, Will and Kobie wanted to go on the swings as the queue wasn't so big. But NO! we had to go on some ride that was like the rip-saw in Alton Towers. I think we went on it 3 or 4 times because it was so good". Then they wanted to go on the swings and the queue was huge!! But we waited and we finally got on.. Sam made himself a mission to hold onto my swing for the whole ride.. Weird but quite funny. Then we went upstairs for lunch and it was really sunny. I was in a bit of a mood though as her mum wouldn't let me pay my dinner and she sat on a table without me!! Finally we went to camp on with the rides. First we went on the dodgems but me and Simon got held

back. So then they waited for us while we had a go and then we got in the queue for the haunted house. Apparently it was the best thing in the theme park according to the English people! The Spanish people though, left us in the queue while they went on the log flume! We were in that queue for about half an hour and they said they'd meet us outside the haunted house when we came out.. They came back from the log flume when we were still in the queue and decided to ~~leave~~ stop in front of us! We were NOT very happy!! Andive thought they were being a bit selfish. to be quite honest! But we still went nice and stuff. The queue was quite long and Sam + Will went to the Arcade, they wore a Jebra and a Bull called Bully (V. Original) and they were really soft! V. cute as well! FINALLY we got to the front of the queue!! And the haunted house was V. scary! The actors were really good! I was quite scared at first but then I put my Health and safety head on saying, they can't touch you, They won't scare you on stairs... blah blah blah. And then I suddenly had some Really random Spanish girl on my back saying that she was V. Scared and could I help her!! Funniest! got out of the haunted house and made our way to pendulo. the biggest ride in the park 45 min wait but worth it! was really fun!! I have pictures so I might show them in.

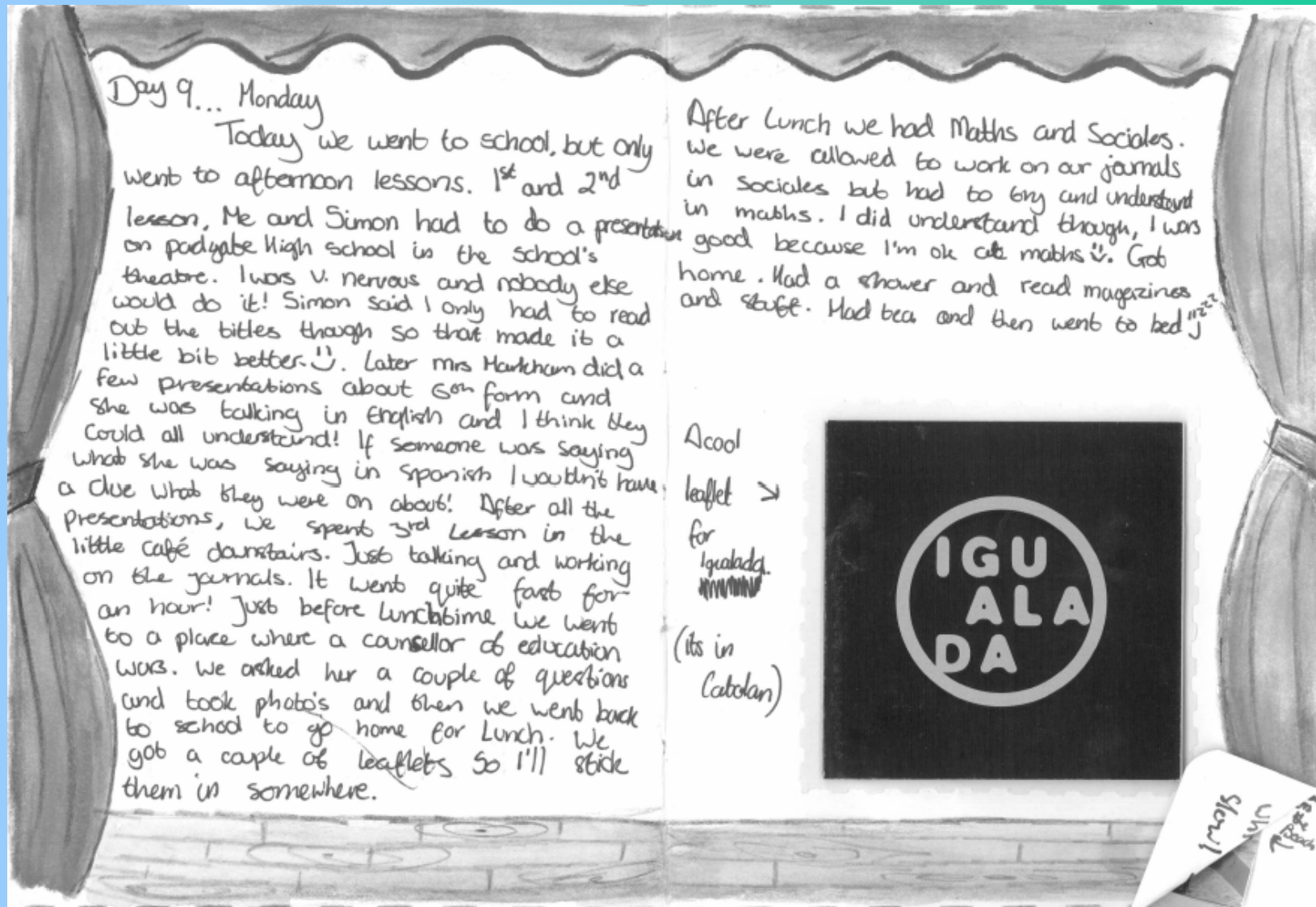
Later we went to Loid's grandmas (Abuela's) house, she'd made grape cake for me and it was very nice". It meant I couldn't phone my Grandpa as I was busy but its okay. I'll do it later.

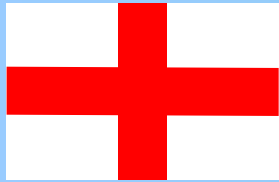
Pendolo!





Day 9





Day 10



L Day 10 - Tuesday 13th March
Tarragona today! Hoorah!

The coach trip to the town was a long one - about an hour and a half. During the journey I mainly read whilst everyone else watched 'Superman' - in Spanish of course. Upon arriving we were given half an hour to ourselves, which Will, Mat and I spent searching for a toilet. After that we all congregated before an ancient Roman wall, and our tour began. Our tour guide switched confidently between English and Spanish when talking us around, so both the English and Spanish people understood most of what she was saying.

She began by showing us a detailed 3D plan of the Roman town of Tarraco (the name was changed later). The city was built on a hill for mainly military reasons (to halt the attacks of the Carthagenians) and, being on the coast, had access to the sea. It was split into three main areas - the villas and cemeteries outside the walls that encircled the town; the general buildings inside; and upon three separate levels at the top of the hill, a large temple which was turned into a cathedral, a massive forum, and a circus area. The forum was actually the largest place ever constructed in the Roman Empire, commissioned by Emperor Vespasian!

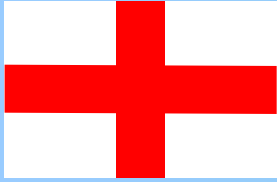
Only a small section of the huge town walls remain, but those that do are very impressive.

A About 6 metres high and 4 metres thick, they certainly made very good photographs! We actually walked outside the walls, in an area closed to the public. To our right were the town walls, and to our left was a smaller parapet, interspersed with several large cannon (obviously not from Roman times!) We also passed carved Turkish columns, fountains in the walls, tablets with Latin messages, and bronze statues - a statue of Augustus Caesar, and of the babies Romulus and Remus being suckled by a wolf. Apparently, the latter famous statue used to only have the wolf; as the legend of the creation of Rome grew, the babies were added later! As we walked we passed 3 large towers, one of which had served as a prison. The tour guide said that a custom of Roman jailers was to carve the faces of executed prisoners into the walls, so that their spirits would not return! She also said that when examined, parts of the walls dated back to 200 years before the Birth of Christ, making them some of the oldest walls in Spain.

After the wall-walk we were guided through the old part of the town - through the place where the massive forum once stood. Then we reached the 'circus' - a massive structure where chariot races were held. Once again only a small part of the circus remains above ground, but we visited the tunnels which the spectators passed through as

N well as a small section of seating (just steps where the audience sat). Once the circus would have been able to hold 30,000 people - 10,000 less than the population of the city. In Roman times the city's population was larger than it ever was in later centuries - it was only in the 1960s that Tarragona's population reached 40,000 again!

After the circus we were guided outside the city to an amphitheatre (an oddity itself in the fact that it was built outside the walls). Most of it has been excellently preserved, and we were able to sit on the seats and rest under the scorching sun. There I learnt some very interesting facts: e.g. the first amphitheatre built (in Rome) comprised of two semicircular theatres, one of which could be swung around to make a complete circle; also the symbol in films meaning 'death' - a thumb down - was created in Hollywood! The name of a sword in Latin came from the name of a thumb - thus a thumb sticking out with the four fingers downwards meant death for the gladiator. The symbol for life was a pict (the thumb is completely hidden). Also when gladiators didn't receive pity they were not killed by the victor, but actually committed suicide, aided by the winner! The amphitheatre in Tarragona had underground pipes that let in water from the sea, so gladiators could recreate naval battles! A very very interesting and enjoyable tour, although only I seemed to really appreciate it! I know my family would



Day 10 continued



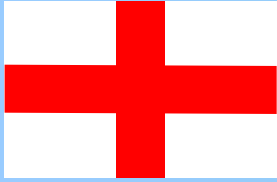
D have loved to visit the ruins at Tarragona. After the tour we descended to the beach for lunch. The sand was pure and golden, the sea was beautifully blue, and the weather was perfect... I and a couple of others had brought swimwear, but although many of the group dipped their feet in the sea, only Sam and I actually dared to swim in it! I had swam many times with Dad and Jonathan in the Welsh and Scottish seas, but never in the Mediterranean Ocean; I figured that it must be warmer than the British seas. I was thus shocked when I realized how cold it was! I swam for a bit, and, to keep with a family tradition, built a sand castle (a very quick and poor affair!) My time on the Spanish beach was great!

We were then given until quarter to four to explore the town and do some shopping; unfortunately - as with most of Spain - the majority of the shops didn't open until the evening. Thus I bought nothing - I shall have to finish my shopping on Thursday in Barcelona. My group got slightly lost, took the long way back and thus were late getting to the meeting place. We were not lost however; the rest of the English people took until quarter past four to reach us!

Before we completely left Tarragona we stopped to visit the Roman aqueduct there - incredibly preserved, it was something that I'd never seen before. Wonderful!

Today was a fantastic day - I learned so much and took about 200 photographs! The only things that went badly for me today were the two chess games I had

I with Marc in the evening. I played appallingly badly (far worse than on Wednesday) and was left feeling ashamed and stupid. Still, the great excursion in the day has left me on a high that even my personal embarrassment cannot dampen!



Day 11



Wednesday 14th March

As always today started the same, got up at 7am got ready and i was at school for eight. Lesson 1 alba had French so me sam and Laura went with Abel to his lesson because he was teaching a group of 11/12 yr olds English so we sat with them for an hour while they practised their English by asking us questions. Lesson 2 alba had 2, so me, annie and Catherine went with the group over to the Sports Center we were also joined by Kate, Katie and Hayley so we all sat for the hour and had a chat because some of us were feeling a little down.

From ten till eleven all the English pupils went to see Carlos, the Head teacher, to ask him a few questions and to listen to him explain a little bit about the school.

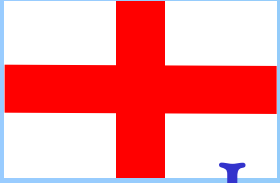
It was quite interesting because there school and the systems they have are quite different.

After our break we had Sociales, but as always the teacher just left us to get on with "things" so we just sat at the back for an hour and did nothing!!! (I hate that lesson) Next alba had Catalan so me, annie and Catherine went down to the library where the Sixth formers were studying and got on with a bit of work

As it was wednesday they finished at 1.30 so me and alba started on our long walk home, we arrived around 2.15 had some lunch then just chilled out for the afternoon it was alot of fun just me and alba.

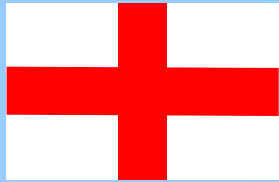
After that we went to esters around six, i had a fantastic night! Me, Alba, Esther and Hayley we played Sing Star, watched a film, went on the computer, had a chat and had pizza just a general girly night in, i loved it, it felt just like home! Finally i got in at 11.10 and its now 11.28 so im off to bed





Interview with the Head Teacher





Day 12



Barcelona



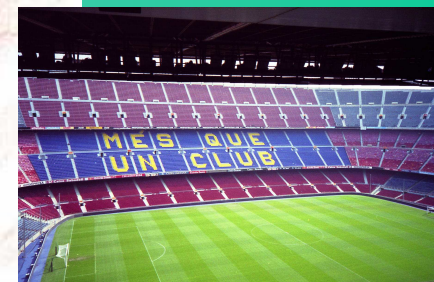
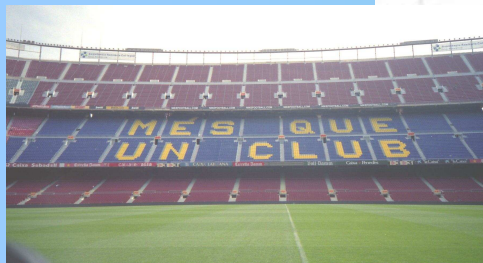
The Biggest football stadium in the world.
The Best Players in the world.

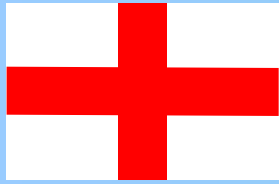
For me this was the highlight of the exchange because I have never seen a football stadium this way before. I was delighted to get my photo with two of the worlds best Players, including the best Player. It wa

Afterwards we had a short coach trip to the university. Once there we were able to have a look at the language department. Most of the buildings are seperate from each other. The highschool is considerably different from the university. For example, the ICT suite is alot better at the university.

We're having tortilla to night!
Hang on! I don't like egg.

Nou Camp





Day 13



Day 13..... Friday

So today is the last whole day we have in Spain. Now I regret coming down the steep hill until I got home because there's only one left! Got to school and had to get the coach to the bottom of this hill maintain thing so we could walk to the top of it. What a break!! me, Simon, Mayley and Sam played a whole alphabet game and we weren't even half way up! There were nice views but oh my gosh was the breeze near the top hard - really hot and really steep... tired as anything but we got to the top and had breakfast by a massive wind turbine. It was good!! did lots of signing journals but I'm getting them to do it at the end of the Engl. Yr side of the exchange. We walked about half way back down the hill and met the coach there got back to school and me and Lina got a lift with Maria's mum back home. At home I had to get ready and pack my suitcase but it was really hard and I phoned my mum to ask what the best way was to. She can't believe that I phoned her because of that hee hee!! Then I had to get showered and ready for the final meal. The final meal was very posh! And the Disco was super too!! I'll put some photo's in below. ↓ ↓ ↓

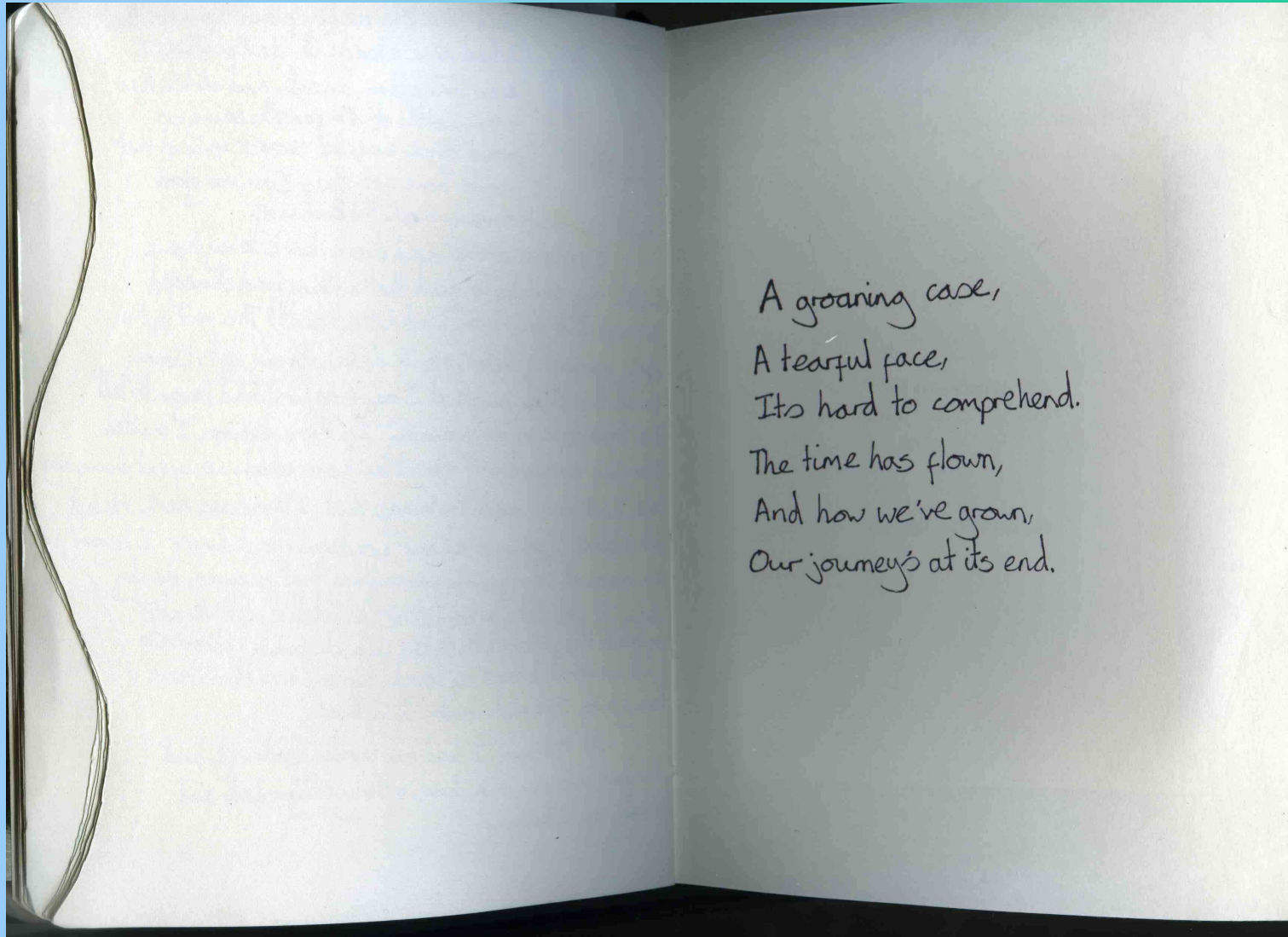
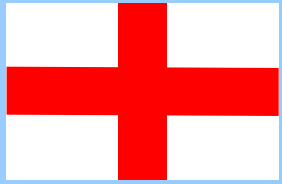


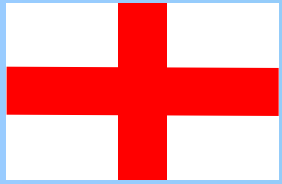
Day 14



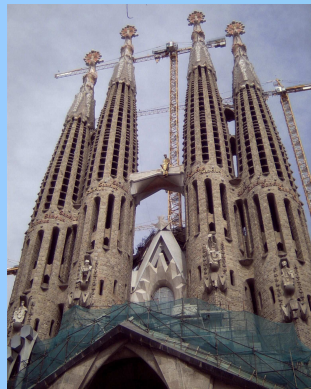
Saturday 11th March
Home Time!
 It's finally here! after looking back on today, I was much more upset than I thought I would be! I got up at 8am got dressed and had my last breakfast then left for the bus station. On arrival, I could feel myself getting upset, we all got together and the tears started I don't think there was a dry eye, we all knew we would see each other in a month but that wasn't the point!! It was the end of a journey so photos were taken and last hugs and kisses were given; the most meaningful for me was from her dad! Then off to the airport we went! Had a fairly quick check in and a bit of last minute present buying and we were ready to board the plane for the last part of the journey home!

At this point most people were looking forward to going home to see family however it was different for me because I knew I would not see them until much later! See them until.
 This time the plane seemed to take much longer, it felt like 12 hours not 2! But we finally arrived back in England and I was greeted by Catherine's mum who was taking me to my grandma's house. The drive home was fun being able to tell them all our stories and adventures!
 I got to my grandma's just settling in and there was a knock at the door, my mum and dad had come home early from a once in a life time experience (my mum's 1st time at a Man U match) Because she wanted to see me, so we went home had a catch up and some dinner and it's now 10:30 so I'm off for the last time (to catch up on some sleep)
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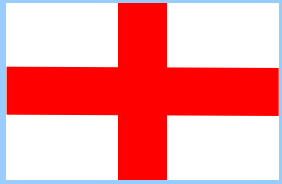


Exchange Part 1 – Excursions



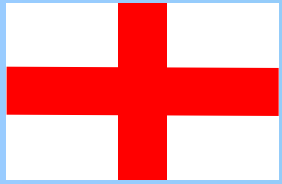
- Igualada Textiles Factory.
- Igualada Town Hall.
- Igualada Primary School.
- Caixaterrassa Bank.
- Terrassa Natural Park.
- Barcelona:
 - Cosmocaxia Science Museum.
 - Güell Park.
 - Sagrada Familia Church.
 - The Ramblas.
- Roman Town of Tarragona.
- Mountain Hike.





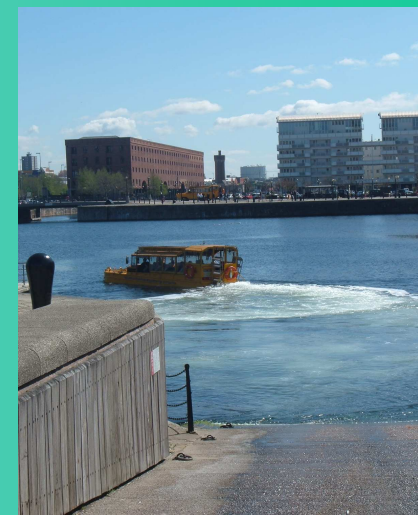
Exchange Part 2 – To England

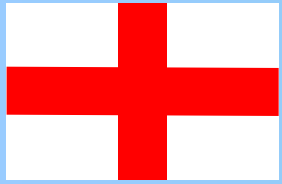
- The process was reversed with the Spanish pupils staying with their English partner's families.
- Days were spent in Padgate High School attending lessons.
- Several visits to places around the North-West were arranged.
- There were also evening activities organised by Padgate High School.



Exchange Part 2 – Excursions

- Cinnamon Brow Primary School.
- Liverpool:
 - University.
 - City Centre.
 - Albert Dock.
- Styal Mill.
- Roman Town of Chester.
- Manchester:
 - Science Museum.
 - City Centre.

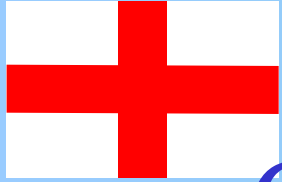




Comparisons – High Schools

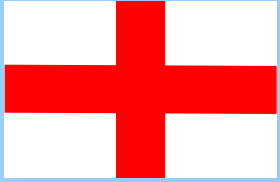
- Padgate High School:
 - School day 8:45 – 3:20
 - 5 lessons per day
 - Break 11:00 – 11:15
 - Lunch break 12:15 – 1:10
 - Canteen – Wide choice
 - Good ICT, Science, Technology, Art, Drama and Sports facilities

- Pere Vives Vich:
 - School day 8:00 – 1:30/5:30
 - Break 11:00 – 11:30
 - Lunch break 1:30 – 3:00
 - Canteen – Free but no choice
 - Limited facilities but much larger drama theatre.



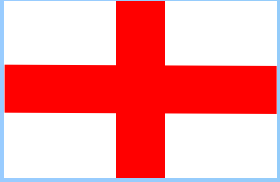
Comparisons – Primary Schools

- Cinnamon Brow Primary School:
 - An hour and a half for lunch.
 - Good ICT facilities.
 - Study other countries/cultures.
 - Foreign languages are not studied.
- Igualada Primary School:
 - Several hours for lunch – including siesta time.
 - Good ICT facilities.
 - Study other countries/cultures.
 - Begin to study foreign languages.



Comparisons - Culture

- England:
 - Shops are open 9:00 – 5:00
 - Evening meal generally in the early evening.
 - Diet contains wide range of foreign influences.
 - Accommodation usually houses with gardens.
- Spain:
 - Shops are open in mornings and late evenings.
 - Evening meal generally in the late evening.
 - Diet mainly meat/fish based, with limited vegetables.
 - Accommodation usually flats/apartments with no gardens.



Exchange Benefits

- Opportunity to experience a different culture.
- Excellent way to develop language skills.
- Develops independence.
- Creates life-long friendships.

