

Hola ! ¿Que tal ? How are you ?

Our Spanish project started off with a simple notice sheet going round the classes, asking for students who were interested in an etwinning project with a Spanish partner school in Barcelona. Contacting Spanish students by e-mail and then meeting them in an exchange sounded very promising to me. Especially the travel to Barcelona in the coming autumn and the good opportunity to put my English skills to the test, draw my attention. Always being interested in foreign languages, cultures and people, I signed off and found myself, a few weeks later, in Mrs. Fritsche's English advanced course, already preparing the visit of our exchange partners who would already come to Luckenwalde at the beginning of May. There was not much time left until then, but the course instantly got down to plan trips and activities for our guests with an enthusiasm and excitement, I have rarely seen before.

I often found it very hard, because I was not used to work with technical equipment, like the Internet, that much and it was a bit of a problem, that I didn't have proper technical facilities at home.

With the help of our teacher, the students managed to set up a perfectly-organized program for the exchange week that was coming closer and closer.

German and Spanish students didn't have too much time to get to know each other, especially in my case, because my partner didn't reply to my e-mails.

Soon the day of the arrival came. It was a sunny Friday afternoon, when the group of nervous and excited German students assembled, together with their parents, at the train station in Luckenwalde, to pick up their guests from Barcelona.

It was a very strange feeling for me to take a person home with me, I had never seen before, apart from a photo. But the Spanish would not much longer be strangers to us, because they were very open-minded, honestly-interested and extroverted.

Although long, profound conversations were slightly hindered by little language handicaps, we found a good way to communicate in various languages, such as English, German, Spanish and even French and in the worst case also with hands and feet.

We had a great week together with our Spanish guests who were obviously enjoying the trips and activities, we had planned for them. I was impressed by the Spanish zest of life, that couldn't even be let down by the bad weather, that we had the whole week. The easygoing Spanish mentality even made us German a bit livelier.

Although it was a bit of a shame, that German and Spanish students kept quite separated, it was a good possibility for us classmates to get to know each other a little closer. All the hard work and preparations made us a great team and fortified our unity.

At the end of the week, that seemed so much too short, it was a really sad farewell. It felt very empty and lonely without the Spanish.

For all of us, the exchange was an enrichment and a lot of fun. Now, we can't wait until we see each other again in autumn. I'm so looking forward to Barcelona!!!

