

The Visit to Spain February 22nd – March 1st 2025

This visit to Spain took place as part of our school's ongoing partnership with Susarte School in Las Torres de Cotillas, Murcia, Spain, which originally began as an Erasmus+ Robotics Project. This was our third visit to this school, and as previously it was a week of great fun, brilliant learning experiences, and the very new but enjoyable experience of living for a week with a Spanish host family! Six Holmleigh children went on the trip, and had a wonderful time. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future, including the Spanish reciprocal visit to Holmleigh from March 24th – 28th 2025. Here are a few of our pupils accounts of the visit.

Luke Year 6

'The journey there and back was tiring but enjoyable. We took the bus to Seven Sisters then took a series of tube lines and trains until we got to Gatwick. The flight took 2 hours and we were allowed to buy things at the airport. When we arrived, the host families were waiting for us.

The families were very nice. They paid for all the trips and made us feel at home. Despite the age difference you really felt like they're people you see every day. You can see why they were picked to host.

As you will have read, the families paid for the amazing activities that were planned by the teachers. The main two were caving and canoeing. We paddled down the River Segura for 2 hours. In the two hours we went down 2 waterfalls and flowed through a few rapids. Although we got soaked, it was a lot of fun. The caving was a great experience and also tons of fun but at the same time very mesmerizing. It took an hour or two to get to our destination but felt shorter. We got to witness the minerals glow in the dark and it looked magical.

When going to the school it may seem like it could be quite boring but it wasn't. The school also planned things to entertain us, for example orienteering, football matches and more.

So to sum it up, I would definitely recommend the trip!

Zac Year 6

'The trip was solely made on public transport and a plane. We took a bus to a train station and then a train to a station that had the Gatwick Express that took us to the airport. The flight was about two hours and then when we had got through security, we were met by the host family.

All of the host families were exceptionally kind and paid for everything we did. They bought me a present and took me to lots of places that were extra/off the schedule. They made it very comfortable even though we were without our parents and not at our actual home, although it did sometimes feel like it.

The host families took us on lots of activities: canoeing, caving and swimming to list a few. My personal favourite part was the canoeing which was a two hour ride down a river. It included rapids and two waterfalls. The swimming was a special spa pool which was a fair drive away and the caving was a guided tour around some local caves.

The host families all went to the same school and the school arranged a multitude of activities for us. There was a school trip, which was orienteering with their class 5, lots of lessons with them, in one of which we got to be assistant teacher, the school carnival (where each class had a theme and we got to help judge which class won) and a school football tournament - plus a match which was English vs Spanish. We lost on sudden death penalties!



