



Spanish Exchange Programme

In 2013 Top Valley Academy established a pupil exchange link with a school in Caravaca, a modern city with an old and historic centre in the region of Murcia, Southern Spain.

We have established a very warm and close bond with the staff and pupils of 'El Instituto San Juan de la Cruz' school and we now have a full exchange visit programme between our two schools.



In March 2014, Top Valley Academy welcomed **27 Spanish pupils** and their teachers for a week long exchange visit. The week, organised by TVA's Señor Straw, began in the Academy where pupils took part in TVA lessons including Science, Mathematics and Dance. The group then visited **London's** top tourist attractions, the historic city of **York** and many tourist hotspots in **Nottingham City Centre**, including the Nottingham caves.

In May 2014, Top Valley Academy flew to Caravaca, Spain, to spend the week with our Spanish friends. Through this educational visit, Top Valley pupils had the opportunity to **speak Spanish in real-life, everyday situations** as well as joining in with Spanish lessons, **having meals with the families** of their partners and **understanding the culture and traditions of Caravaca**.

Pupils also got the chance to visit the coast at Cartagena, the city of Granada and the Alhambra Palace whilst building upon the bonds they had made with the Spanish students.

"It was an unforgettable experience getting to know their culture and meeting the Spanish students' families. I'd do it again in a heart-beat." Top Valley Academy pupil, Sam, 15.

Following on from the success of this year's exchange, the Spanish exchange scheme will be open to future **Year 10 students** who choose **Spanish as a GCSE option**.

Securing a place on the exchange is a reward for all those who **work hard, attend well**, show a **willingness to improve their Spanish**, and show the desire to achieve their very **best grades** in the subject. This year's group of students have been a real credit to Top Valley Academy, and we look forward to giving many other students the opportunity to experience life in Spain over the coming years.



"I'd recommend it to all the years below because it gives you more confidence in Spanish and it can influence you to learn the language." Top Valley Academy pupil, Louis, 15.

You can see more pictures in the Gallery on the TVA Website!

"Absolutely amazing, couldn't have asked for a better time:" - TVA pupil, Chloe , 15.

Sam and Liza in the Generalife gardens in the Alhambra Palace.



Señor Hallgarth, Señor Brown and Louis on a tour of the Alhambra palace in Granada



TVA students in class in El Instituto San Juan de la Cruz



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Students on a 'barco' on the Mediterranean sea near the town of Cartagena



"The opportunity to take part in the Spanish Exchange is one of the best things Top Valley can offer any student who wants to develop their language skills in an authentic, real Spanish setting. Visiting Murcia and then receiving Spanish visitors back in Nottingham has led to friendships that could last for many years."

- Mr Brown, Top Valley Academy Principal.

"To see how much their culture means to them was heart-warming, and trying different foods and seeing what they do in school was a new, enjoyable experience:"

- TVA pupil, Simran, 15.



Group photo in the city of Granada, in front of Alhambra Palace.