

School visits

As you know, we don't usually report on private events such as school visits unless they subsequently send us letters or school magazine articles and allow us to publish them on our website. It is very pleasing to know that we are having a good impact at school level. I know that a talk by Koldo (John) Sanz to a school in Cumbria was also well received.

Following a talk in December to the Year 13 Spanish Class students at Sandringham School, St Albans, we received the following letter:

Dear Carmen,

Thank you for coming to visit Sandringham and for giving us such an in depth view on information that will be vital in our studies, but also that broadened our horizons in terms of the extent of the Spanish civil war. You taught us a lot, from more detail about the camps and the conditions the children were in, to all of the adults that travelled with them as well that were rarely mentioned in the book

You shared with us an intimate story into your family history, helping us to see what the reality of travelling from Spain to England was like from a very different perspective to the perspective that we see in our textbooks. It was much more personal and will be something that we will always remember, far past the end of our exams because your presentation truly brought the information, that we had only studied previously, to life.

Also, you allowed us to ask you a lot of questions, no matter what they were or how difficult they may have been for you and we really appreciate this because the question session taught us even more as it ended the queries that we had been asking while reading the book but couldn't quite get the answers to. You provided a full overview of everything before, during and after the evacuation of the Basque children to England and this gave us a more cohesive idea so that we can relate this to the book that we have to study.

The work that you and your colleagues do is invaluable, not just for students like us who have an interest in furthering their knowledge, but also for many others because it shows a side that we don't see in our normal curriculum or a side that we generally don't talk about which is much more personal than reading stories online or watching a film about the event.

The stories of your parents and family, as well as those of the children, have truly inspired us. Thank you so much for coming to our class and helping us, we really appreciate it!

Thank you,

The Year 13 Spanish Class at Sandringham School

In January I spoke to Year 13 Spanish Class at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, where I also spoke last year. They have kindly sent me a link to their School Magazine where they talk about my visit and one the following week by Jim Jump - the Chair of the IBMT:

<https://www.mggs.org/latest-news/history-lessons-for-a-level-spanish>