

This year in Seville marked my second year as an English Auxiliar. Last year my work was divided between two schools in the Balearics. This year I had the great fortune to be one of the two Auxiliars placed at IES Murillo.



Unlike working with adults last year, working with teenagers in a secondary school provided me with a whole new opportunity. I worked with these students in a wide range of subjects from Philosophy to Art and Citizenship to Math. This allowed me the chance to experience a variety of teaching styles as well as the experience of working with students of all grades.

Although the main focus of each class was the subject at hand, I always tried to connect the days lesson with any relative cultural tidbits from America. The lessons I enjoyed most had to do with explaining interesting American customs or



traditions while engaging the students to compare and contrast the two cultures. Two good examples of this were when we celebrated Halloween and Thanksgiving. The former being a holiday that has migrated to Spain and the latter being one that remains wholly American.



Throughout the year I joined in many of the school's different activities. In the middle of the year I helped with the activities fair Scimanities. This fair allowed students to create group projects for each subject related to a common theme (travel) and present their project in English to their classmates. It was a massive success for the participating students. It was also an amazing opportunity for the students to be both teacher and student in a cross-curricular experience.

Later in the year I accompanied a cultural excursion to Cádiz with both Spanish and Dutch students. It was a wonderful experience to see two distinct cultures meeting and using English as their common language. Towards the end of the year I was able to help a relatively new program called Murillo News. This radio broadcast is an opportunity for the students to take part in their classmate's education of current events while also improving their speaking skills.

I have been so blessed to work with such dedicated teachers and hardworking students. This has been an incredible year filled with new relationships and unforgettable memories. Overall, it was a priceless year that I will always cherish.

