

Dear Rotary Richmond,

Long time no talk! These months seem to go quicker and quicker, and every time monthly report writing comes around, I'm increasingly more astonished at how much faster it went this time around. My month has been busy, and quite irregular.

I started off the month with a Sunday trip to Bilbao with the other girls from my district. It was specifically for a small rotary gathering where we saw some other exchange students from the cities up north. Every exchange student had to make a tortilla de patatas to take, and the rest of the food was fantastic. The girls and I also spent the morning in the Guggenheim -which I have been to before- and it was so nice to explore with friends this time. There is a video on my YouTube channel about it as well as a blog post if you want to read more.

For the first two weeks of March, we had some pretty cold weather, which was surprising, and we even had a few days of snow. It all melted pretty quickly because the weather didn't stay below zero for very long. I spent the next couple of weeks going through the motions of daily life, going to school, socialising and learning more and more.

I have become quite close with the two girls from the US here, we get along very well and have a lot of the same values and ideas as me, I think due to the reason they come from the same sort of background as me. At school I am becoming more and more just like 'one of the girls', through being able to understand jokes, stories and general conversation. My language is coming along steadily, and I start to notice what 'sounds right' and what doesn't, therefore being able to tweak my ability to talk with correct grammar etc.

The past two weeks I have been on Easter Break, and we went down to the beach on the Costablanca. The weather was fantastic, very warm and sunny the whole time. I was there with my host sister who studies in Madrid, my host parents, my host mum's parents, sister and niece. I loved seeing the south- it is so beautiful! And the typical Spain everyone pictures.

Wednesday was my birthday, and I can't believe I am already 17. It brings me back to exactly a year ago when I sent in my short form application for exchange. If anything has taught me how much time flies, it's rotary youth exchange. I spent the morning at home while my host parents were at work, and then we had a birthday lunch where my closest American friend here came over and ate with us. After lunch we went to her house and cooked a feast for dinner. I had a great day.

Monday it's back to school for me, and then only 8 weeks until Eurotour, as well as a few weekend trips to Barcelona and Toledo in between. After Eurotour I am headed down south for a couple of months. It's all very exciting.



Me with my Birthday Cake



Host Parents and I in San Sebastian!



View from the apartment in Benidorm



Snow in Pamplona! The building on the left in the distance is my school.



Pamplona girls in Bilbao