



Orchard Manor School News

# The Apple Press Orchard Manor School Updates and Communications

1 October 2024



*"There is a time in late September when the leaves are still green, and the days are still warm, but somehow you know that it is all about to end, as if summer was holding its breath, and when it let it out again, it would be autumn." – Sharyn McCrumb, Author*

Hello everyone!

We have some extremely special news to tell you about and I am so proud of our Residential Team for all their hard work in making this possible! We are very proud to say that we have been awarded Outstanding from Ofsted for our Residential Provision! What a year for OMS! Well done to absolutely everyone for all their dedication and hard work. You are amazing!



There are some extracts from the report:

*"The residential special school provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the school contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people."*

*"Children enjoy their residential experience and make exceptional progress because their health, education, well-being and independence skills are prioritised by the adults who care for them. Their outcomes have significantly improved since they moved to stay here. The children say that they feel they really belong, and they can trust the adults who are caring for them. The tremendous progress that children have made is as a direct result, not only of the skills, knowledge and experience of the staff, but also due to their impressive hard work and commitment to the children."*

If you would like to read the full report—[click here](#).



Our Gran Canarian travellers who you heard about in the last newsletter, have touched down to an autumnal welcome, which is a stark contrast to the fantastic weather they experienced there during the 10 days they were away. As I have mentioned before it was some of our students first time travelling, being on a plane and being away from their parents and I can safely say that they took everything in their stride. Their days were planned out meticulously by the group of staff who accompanied them, including meals, trips, wake up times, bed times and of course when they could swim in the extremely



popular pool on the patio. They all had a fantastic time exploring the island and having experiences that not many tourists do when they visit the area. From sand dunes to coffee plantations, quaint towns to mountains in the clouds, they had a trip of a lifetime. Thank you again to the staff who accompanied them, to the parents who were brave enough to let their children join the expedition, and to the students themselves who took everything in their stride.

On the following page of this newsletter, you can see exactly what our young explorers thought of the trip, how their boundaries were pushed and their confidence grew. All in all, an amazing trip!

There will be more photos of the trip on Facebook this afternoon, so, if you have time, take a look. Lots of smiling faces and glorious views!

All that's left to say is have a great week everyone!

*Nicola Jones, Headteacher*



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27 September 2024



## Feedback from Orchard Manor learners (Sept's trip to Gran Canaria 2024 )

**Briefly describe what you have gained from this experience based on the following: Cultural awareness, Interpersonal skills, Independence skills, Open-mindedness, Culinary exploration, Language skills, Resilience, Social skills, Personal growth, and Global perspective.**

- KG "Sunset was amazing. A Lot better than I expected. Usually have a fear of heights, but just stand focus on. Aquapark: I have never experienced before, but really enjoyed. I feel that I came out of my comfort zone. At the language school, I would usually sit at the back of the room and don't speak out. By the time of day, I felt confident to sit with the group and speak out. I feel now able to try at Oms to sit and participate with the group, using the skills I have learned and adopted in Spain."
- TB: "Walking around the towns and learning about the culture and history. More confident with foods, exploring and happier to try new foods and drinks. Social skills better understanding of my friends within the group. It has been a very good experience, I feel better about myself."
- CH: " I will definitely come back. Nothing really bad has happened. I really enjoyed watching the football and the atmosphere. Everyone is so nice over here, and I will definitely come back."
- BN: "The best thing is getting to learn the language. Trying new foods has been good – I don't think I would have done it if I hadn't been here. It is always sunny and the views were fantastic."
- HL: "I have enjoyed all of it. It's hard to think of the best bit because it has been all good. The mountain was cold. The villa was good. I might come back in the future with my family."
- JN: " I enjoyed visiting the Spanish school – the tutors were very funny and I learned lots of new words and phrases. I gained independence as I had to ensure I wore sunscreen. I really enjoyed all the Canarian dishes I got to try. A highlight for me was visiting the school."
- MA: "I loved swimming in the sea. It was the first time on a plane. I liked learning Spanish. I enjoyed meeting the Spanish children and talking to them."
- SJ: "The beach and pedalo was a great experience. The sunset, amazing views, clouds looking like an ocean, and the sunset was red. Really enjoyed bowling."
- HS: "I saw some cool fish in the ocean. I loved the beach and sea. It was the first time on a plane and I did it. I have the confidence to do new things – I survived this."
- MB: " I feel more able to try more foods as sometimes you find something you like. I also went on a plane, to a waterpark, been abroad – all for the first time. I'm happier to try new things, I'm more resilient – I have pushed the boundaries. I learned about the animals on GC. I found it a bit hot."
- JJ: "I liked learning Spanish at the school. I have really enjoyed the beach and swimming. I would definitely come back in the future."
- PG: "I enjoyed going to the football to watch Gran Canaria. Views from the mountain were great. I will come back to GC – it's a nice place."
- EB: " I really enjoyed going up the mountain and the view. I liked that it was cold up there. I loved the ocean and the pool. It has been good to stay in Arucas and the villa. I might not be able to afford it though. I like the food – all of it."