



My name is Paz and I am an international student from Spain living in Kinsale.

When I first came to Ireland, I didn't know what to expect, because it was my first time coming to a different country and leaving my family and friends in Spain. To be honest, on the first day it was a bit hard saying goodbye to my parents, but that feeling disappeared quickly.

Rachelle met us in town, and she was nice. Since then she has always cared about us, and if we had any problems, she was always there for us. She went with us to meet my host family.

When I first met my host family, the only thing I knew about them was that they had 3 children. I loved meeting them and we bonded fast. They eat healthy, which is good because now I eat healthy too. I genuinely think that I am with one of the best families in Kinsale. The 3 kids are lovely, and I love them and the parents are also nice, and they are always there when I need them. They treat me like one more person in the family, which is great. We went to places like Dublin, which I loved. They have a big garden with a trampoline, so we also spent time there. Even though I'm going back to Spain soon, I am always going to be in contact with them, and I will miss them a lot.

I go to Kinsale community school, and it's a great school. I think going to school on the first day was a bit scary, but I made friends quickly, and by now they are my best friends, and I will also be in contact with them. Together we've been to Cork, Mahon Point, Kinsale town, Cork on Ice... And I loved hanging out with them.

We have some good subjects, like metal work and home etc, which I never had before but I really like them. I think my English also got much better during the past year.

Here in Ireland I played basketball with the school, and I recommend doing a sport a lot because you get to meet new people and you also get to go to matches. I think it was a great sport for me this year. I also played tennis and I used to go swimming.

What I liked most about my experience here was the friends that I made and the family who took such good care of me and I will always remember them.

I also celebrated my birthday here, and even though it is a bit sad to not be with your family, it was one of the best birthdays of my life because we went to Mahon Point shopping and then we went home and had pizzas and a cake. I loved how I got to spend it with my friends and my host family.

I am very grateful to Educate With Friends, for giving me this amazing opportunity which I will always look back at with a smile. This has taught me new skills, and I will use them in the future. I am very sad that this past year is ending, but I hope to come to visit them soon.

Paz Portilla Sánchez

25th May 2019