

The 26th of August 2016,

I came to Ireland for the first time, I remember i flown from Madrid to Cork.

Rachelle collected me from the airport with a big smile which made me happy even though I was away from my family for the first time in my life.

We went to the house which i was assigned to, and i was really nervous when we knocked the door and they opened it, I met them and the first weeks were crazy, i really missed my family but as the weeks were going, I was getting used to it.

It was the 1st of September, first day of school and i still remember when my host parents called me to wake up, i was feeling very nervous but excited at the same time, i did lots of friends in school and still remember how they all hugged me, this made me feel a sense of comfort and forget about my family and friends.

It took approximately a month to get used to the school system, know what classes you had... but i started to feel like this life that i was going to have for a year was going to be great, and have lots of fun.

At first I joined the Kinsale soccer club because i also played soccer over in Spain but as the time went on, I start new sports which i didn't have played before.

I started rugby with the Kinsale sharks, which one month after joining them and training and playing matches with them we went to the final of the rugby cup, I also joined the GAA club(hurling & Gaelic football) it was a great experience to try new sports.

My family treated me as if I was one of the family and as if I lived with them since i was a small kid and this made me very happy.

I didn't feel alone any more, i spent a lot of time with my host brother and my friends, and something that i will never forget is the lovely food my host-parents made.

After coming back from Madrid to see my family for Christmas holydays i came back to Ireland again and the first week was hard again to get used to it like at the start of the year but got used to it in short amount of time.

In little words would describe this year as the best experience of my life and thanks to all the people that made it happen because now I'm half Spanish and half Irish, I will never forget them.

By Rodrigo Palomo Rey

2<sup>nd</sup> year