



Hough LIFE

Having studied in a British school in Málaga for 16 years, I felt the desire to push myself into a different multicultural community, which drove me to board at Brentwood School. I was ecstatic to start a new life in the UK but anxious as I did not know what boarding was actually like.

I can still remember the first day I arrived very clearly. I was quite surprised by how sunny and hot it was in England that day, however it was not long until this started to fade away. My first impression of the boarding house was its welcoming and familiar atmosphere. I first knew I was going to love my stay at Hough House when I overheard several old boarders laughing while playing table tennis. I could feel the warm environment.

*I went to leave my luggage in my room,
quickly got changed into sports clothes and
put my boots on ready to play the traditional
'new vs old boarders' football match*



I loved my first few weeks in the boarding house. I was learning things about other cultures and countries that I would have never learnt if I stayed in Spain. It was fascinating to me to be speaking in English with people from all over the world, including Germany, Hungary, Bosnia, Singapore, Nigeria and even Iran. The fact that everyone in the house had to speak English in common areas, as insisted by Mr and Mrs Taylor (the Housemaster and Housemistress), seemed to foster a sense of unity and confidence among the boarders, which I believe is a key element of the success of the boarding house.

It is truly inconceivable the range of facilities the School has for day students, but as a boarder, I find it even better. I usually go out to play football on the School fields, but boarders are also allowed to use the gym, athletics tracks, swimming pool and Courage Hall - where volleyball, badminton and basketball is normally played. When I initially arrived, I was really taken aback by this because I wasn't used to having so many amenities available for students in my old school, which made me appreciate the School even more and made me realise how lucky I was to be part of such an amazing community.

The final day of school last year stands out as one of my favourite Hough experiences so far. Many of us said goodbye to boarders who wouldn't be returning on an emotional yet fun night. We had to get takeaway to get the energy levels up before we could have a round of brief speeches thanking everyone for the incredible year and finish the night dancing endlessly to music. It was the ideal way to say farewell to many boarders, and I even considered convincing my parents to let me resit the year so I could spend 3 years in the boarding house instead of only 2!

Alberto



If you are inspired by **Alberto's** boarding experience, please contact Brian Hays, Boarding Manager, via his email haysb@brentwood.essex.sch.uk