

Solway Mexico Link continued

Story & Pictures sent in by:
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During the first week, students took part in some school activities during the mornings and went on various trips around Mexico City in the afternoons seeing and experiencing the sites of the city, from the Presidents Palace and Cathedral to the Aztec ruins of the Mayor temple in the City centre, from the Franciscan Monastery high in the pine forests on the outskirts of the city to the colonial area of Coyoacan and the house of the famous artist Freda Kahlo.

On the Friday a goodbye ceremony took place, like us their school broke up for the Easter holidays. Once again the thought and attention to detail in this ceremony was incredible. One of the most moving parts for me was the folding and presenting of the Mexican flag to us. In recognition of their role in this exchange, our staff and students each received a certificate from the Headmaster and our students also received individual shoe boxes full of letters messages from students in the school.

In the afternoon we had been invited to the residence of the British



Ambassador, Mrs Holt. Mrs Holt had very kindly invited us for a lunch/swimming afternoon at her home and the afternoon was spent relaxing and having fun. Mr and Mrs Holt made us most welcome and were very interested to hear about the link, as they have in the past visited Silloth and thought it was wonderful that we have this exchange programme. Over the weekend we travelled to the Malinche National Park with our link partners, and spent the

two days at camp, walking and relaxing in beautiful surroundings. The second week was spent visiting museums, markets, and a castle; and were honoured to receive an invitation to Los Pinos, the actual home of the President of Mexico.

One of the most memorable places for us all was the Pyramids, where we walked to the top of the Sun Pyramid and looked down over the excavated site of Teotihuacan. Each day new and exciting things were

discovered and all the time relationships developed and deepened.

During the fortnight we witnessed something very special; the bonding of students from different cultures in genuine friendship and the widening of horizons for all involved. The impact our visit had on the whole school community has further enforced our belief that this does not just effect those who actually travel, but all within our respective communities, and I hope that in July many of you will be able to meet with our Mexican counterparts during their stay with us. It has been a wonderful trip: the experiences we have shared will last a lifetime and have changed us all. It has been a privilege to accompany our young people on this exchange, I am extremely proud of them; they have been wonderful ambassadors for our school, community and country.

If you would like to read more about our visit, copies of our "Diary from Mexico" are available from our school office, price 50p.

