

## Canford Argentina Partnership 2019

Canford pupils spent 16 days in July in Argentina on this year's Partnership to the Hogar el Alba children's home in Buenos Aires. Here, pupils take up the story of the group's diverse experiences throughout this adventure.

The group diligently engaged in voluntary work during the trip, making a real difference to the local community. After sanding the walls of houses, Canford pupils painted the walls of three boarding houses. Pupils highlighted their contribution to creative aspects of the project, as Jessye was *"commissioned to think of a theme for the front of the sports hall"*. Their work was clearly highly valued by the community, as the group excitedly reported that *"the ambassador is coming to pay is a visit to see our good work!"*

During breaks, the group enjoyed playing football matches with children from the Hogar. After building a relationship with the Argentinian children, later in the trip Canford pupils were invited to their school festivities where they were treated to a performance by the children. Canford pupils began to plan a reciprocal dance performance, documenting *"ideas are flying!"*, and contemplating a tango competition after learning some steps.



As the trip continued, the group also visited San Telmo market, the presidential palace and the cathedral during their Argentinian adventure. After this, the group returned to base for a *"tango lesson followed by a tango show"*, after which group *"spirits were high!"*

The hands-on involvement of Canford pupils during this annual trip remains highly valued by the Partnership, as Canfordians once again helped organise the annual Megafestival. This was attended by one thousand locals, including the UK ambassador Mike Kent.

After a busy day at the festival, the pupils documented that *"[the] children from el Hogar treated us to an Argentine show"*, after which the group read by the fire, played cards and watched the highly anticipated England versus Argentina football match.

They also had time to tour some of the sites of Buenos Aires during the trip, re-enacting the famous Beatles 'Abbey Road' crossroads in the City centre! As the trip came to an end, reflecting on their fantastic experience, the group reported:

*"We completed our DIY work, we painted the inside and outside of 3 boarding houses (bedrooms, kitchens, lounges). A lot of hard work from 9 to 12 and 2 to 4pm. Then play time with the children, arts and crafts and of course FOOTBALL! Testimonials in the evenings made us realise what these Hogar children had to go through. A lot of reflection has taken place. Emotional goodbyes. A big thank you to the team! Going home full of souvenirs and moments in Argentina!"*



Once again, Canford pupils have made a visible impact to this Argentinian community and came away having learned many personal development skills of their own which will stay with them for many years to come.

Additional reporting by Alice Martyr