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SUR IN ENGLISH

St George changes name to The British School of Malaga

:: SUR

MALAGA. A well-known Englishlanguage private school in Malaga city has been marking its official name change. St George, in the east of the city, is now known as The British School of Málaga after it joined the International Schools Partnership Group. The relaunch took place last Friday, 15 March, at an event attended by members of the school community and local area.

It was a student-led event, with eight prominent members of the school and local community asked to become champions of the school's eight core values. Among those taking on the corechampion role were; Malaga gourmet chef, José Carlos García, representing aspiration; SUR journalist, Pilar Rodríguez Quirós, representing communication; and British artist, Felicity Hindmarsh, representing creativity.

The eight champions, with help from the students, each planted a tree in the school grounds.

The morning ended with cello, violin and piano recitals from students and speeches from the principal, Fiona Lee-Allan.



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Belgian investors eyeing up city's old post office

Before it can be auctioned, debt and disagreement between different local authorities need to be sorted out

:: JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. The Correos building, once Malaga city's main post office, is getting closer to being bought and redeveloped, and it looks like a group of Belgian investors is the most interested so far.

However the building has been blighted by a game of pass the parcel between different public authorities, and getting it to a stage where it can be bought and turned into a hotel has so far been far from easy.

The modern block, on the edge of the city centre near El Corte Inglés, has been an eyesore for some time. The Junta de Andalucía, the current owner, needs to arrange a public bidding process in order for anyone to buy it.

The building, which has been wrapped in protective netting and suffers from graffiti on its lowest floor, was handed over to the regional government by Madrid in 2010 as a way of cancelling out a historic debt of 30 million euros between the two public bodies.

The situation was further complicated by an embargo placed on its sale by the Diputación provincial authority over a debt the Junta has outstanding with them. Sources say that only around 1.5 million euros is still outstanding, meaning the embargo could be lifted soon.

However the final hurdle has still to be jumped as the Junta still needs to get the city council to change the site's planning designation. Currently it is earmarked for public use but councillors needs to update its status to allow a private business to use it. However the town hall has so far said 'no' as it wants the Junta to give the city a similar-sized piece of public infrastructure in compensation.



The old post office building has been disused for some time. :: SUR

Malaga's telephone boxes to become information points

:: JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The council in Malaga plans to give a new lease of life to several of the city's disused telephone boxes. The rise of mobile phones has contributed in recent years to a huge fall in the use of telephone boxes –

of 300 across Malaga, only half are used each day. As such, there are plans to turn several into tourist information centres. These new facilities will feature tablets equipped with detailed local maps showing key information such as monuments and attractions with their opening hours. They will complement the city's six staffed tourist information centres, and will be accessible 24/7, unlike the existing centres, which are only open from 09:00-18:00 (or 22:00 during designated periods).