

All about

A 16-page Olive Press special supplement

Education

February 2020



DIFFERENT STROKES

WE'VE all been there on the first day of term with butterflies in our stomachs – and that's just the parents. For children and adults alike, starting a new school can be one of the most memorable and/or nerve wracking days of our lives.

You can tell from the number of anxious mums and dads pacing outside the school gates long after their little one has walked through them. Although some parents leave them to get on with it independently, which older kids far prefer. But one thing all parents have in common is wanting the best for their children.

Preparations for the big day get going long before the final tweak of the noose (aka the school tie) and the cry from the kitchen 'Don't forget your packed lunch!'

Before new shoes are purchased and buffed to a shine, parents

With so many good schools in southern Spain, picking the right one is a multiple choice question. Charlie Smith prepares a cheat sheet of answers to help you decide

will have thought long and hard about which school will suit their child.

Fortunately in Andalucia, you really are spoilt for choice when it comes to a quality education, along with some of Spain's premier sporting facilities and the perfect climate to enjoy them.

Unfortunately, it makes picking the perfect launchpad for your

child's education as confusing as algebra - but we've worked on it with a cheat sheet checklist to help simplify your choice.

It's all about balance

"Exam results and activities after school are certainly a driving force but some parents don't want a barrage of academia," says James Kearney, head teacher at Sotogrande International School (SIS). "They want a balanced school, and I don't think schools should be exam factories."

Parents want to see children develop into the best versions of

Continues overleaf



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GROWING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



The
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By Mrs Lee-Allan, Principal

We place significant value on developing opportunities that offer a range of cultural, social and creative experiences for youngsters to discover and develop new interests. Through such opportunities we develop learners' understanding that whoever we are and whatever background we come from we are all citizens of the future who can learn from one another's skills and experiences. Our philosophy that underlies how we grow and develop is based upon respect for ourselves and others and for our learning environment.

We pride ourselves on being positive and enthusiastic role models for all our young people to be enthused by. Our learner-centred approach to education, our passion for all young people to be ambitious and successful and our dedication allows youngsters to feel valued, respected and supported. Building relationships with our young people, our families and staff are important to everything we do; we always aim to listen, learn and reflect together.

We are very proud of our school and look forward to welcoming you in the near future where you will see for yourself what a unique learning experience we offer.

Listen carefully

From previous page

themselves they can be."

It's worth considering as you mull over the first item on your checklist, headed Public or Private. Do you opt for an international college or a Spanish state school?

It's generally an easier decision to make for younger children, as primary schools throughout Europe are more or less comparable. Around two thirds of expats send their children to local state schools – called 'colegios' (primary schools) and 'institutos' (secondary schools). There are two serious advantages to Spanish schools.

One – children will learn Spanish fast and should integrate well into their new home country. Younger children, in general, thrive in state schools with the under nines normally picking up impressive spoken Spanish (usually, far better than their parents) within a year, just by socialising with their friends.

Two – state schooling is free of charge from the age of three, when children can begin attending 'infantile' or 'pre-escolar', equivalent to a nursery in the UK. The only costs you'll have to cover are books, trips and, if the school has them, uniforms.

There are also plenty of downsides to Spanish schools. Older and less extrovert kids with limited Spanish can have trouble adjusting. Learning maths and physics in a foreign idiom isn't for sissies!

Also throwing them into Spanish schools if they are over nine can be daunting in the extreme. It is definitely worth considering extra language tuition outside school hours to help ease the transition.

Budget up to €20 per hour for private lessons – although there are plenty of excellent local academies offering Spanish and some town halls even give free classes.



Your child will not only be more able to keep up with lessons but is far more likely to make friends if they can socialise in the same language.

"It is fine if you get the kids into school early, at a young age, but if they are nine or 10 then they will find it harder," advised one English parent whose two children have been through the local system in Manila.

"They will almost certainly need some extra tuition and watching carefully. It also helps if the parents get involved in the school and try to get to know the other Spanish parents. Joining the parents/teachers association certainly helps." If you decide against the Spanish state system

– either because you fear educational standards are low (according to reports, Andalucía does indeed come well below average), or because you prefer to have your children educated in English – then you will have no choice but to go private.

Top of their class

It's likely you've already heard of some of the region's more well-established private international schools.

Benalmadena International College (BIC) is well established, as is Sunny View for nearly half a century.

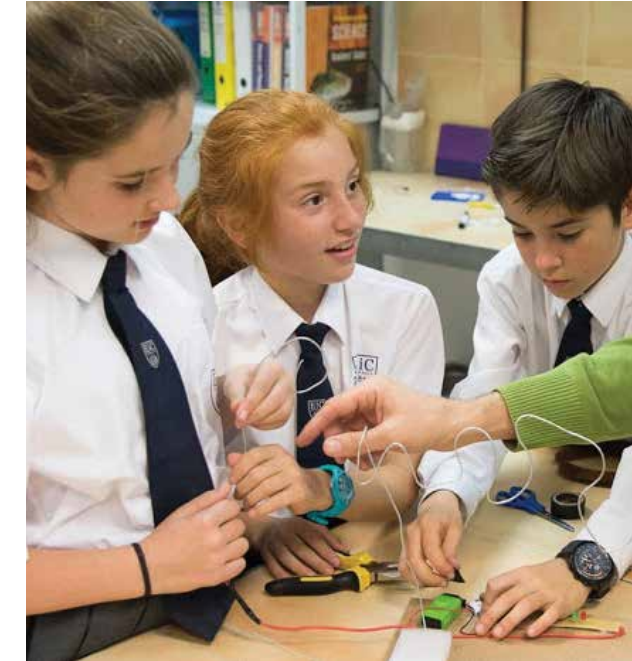
Laude in San Pedro, which is part of the UK's International Schools Partnership, is one. The grouping includes the British School of Malaga and the highly-respected Lady Elizabeth school in Javea, Alicante, as well as dozens more globally. Laude has a roll call of nearly 1,000 pupils and has grown consistently over decades.

Sotogrande is another of the biggest and best-known schools, established in 1978 and now totalling around 1,000 students of over 50 nationalities.

The English International College (EIC) in Marbella also has a prestigious reputation based on results and its high teacher-to-pupil ratio (currently 66 teachers to 450 pupils).

Over 60% of its pupils get into Oxbridge and Russell Group universities each year and the school is regarded as the most academic on the coast. EIC head teacher Ron Griffin said: "We follow a British curriculum and get our pupils into the top British universities, apart from those who want to go elsewhere."

"With so many teachers we can guarantee that pupils get the education they deserve." And let's not forget the highly-rated Prior Park in Gibraltar and Cameron International nearby.



STANDING OUT: Get counted and have fun

What do they offer?

Most international schools follow a UK curriculum of GCSE and A-levels but many also offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme as well as the local secondary school qualification, the Bachillerato.

The IB – which may be unknown to some English readers – is the normal route to university for European students.

The main difference is that IB students take six or seven subjects – which often include elements of community work and public-speaking – as opposed to just three or four at A-level.

Counting the cost

International schools are widely considered the best learning environments, although the most obvious downside is the cost.

Schools range from basic to luxurious but they all come at a price.

Fees range from €3,000 a year for primary school to between €6,000 and an eye watering €17,000 per year for secondary schools.

And that generally doesn't include the cost of books, school trips or uniforms.

A further downside is that children may find themselves in something of a language vacuum, unable to integrate with the local community outside the English-speaking classroom.

But international schools are beginning to fight this effect, with many more Spanish extracurricular activities available, more access to local culture on school trips and after-hours classes such as flamenco dancing.

Wrapping it up

When it comes to education, there is no 'one size fits all' approach, and what school you choose for your children will depend on their individual needs.

Just one final tip for parents who decide to go with the Spanish system: learn the language yourself. How else will you chat to your kids' teachers at open days?

And, more important for your kids than that, how will you help them with their homework?



MIXED BAG: International schools offer both academia and excellence in the arts

NEW HEIGHTS



Sunny View School continues on its exciting path of growth and improvements, with more students than ever this year and further upgrades to the school's facilities.

Following last year's addition of a fourth science laboratory and an onsite urban garden allotment, this school year has seen the launch of new libraries for both Primary and Secondary students, as well as a sixth form study area with an adjoining outdoor terrace. Playgrounds in Preschool and early Primary have been remodelled and outfitted with new equipment.

The school, located in Torremolinos, has also launched a bus service with two routes offering transport to/from Málaga and to/from Mijas Costa.

The additions and improvements are aimed at meeting the needs of the growing student population while maintaining focus on what Sunny View School does best – delivering quality, British education here on the Costa del Sol. This is achieved through a professional team of experienced and inspirational UK-trained teachers and a school-wide ethos that emphasises not only academic achievement but also personal and social development.

The school also places a high value on learning outside the traditional classroom environment, which has been shown to raise attainment and achievement, improve behaviour and increase the engagement of students. In addition to end-of-year trips, the school offers a broad range of visits and excursions throughout the year which support the curriculum, offer students the chance to experience something new or inform them about their options once they leave Sunny View.

Helping students plan for their future studies and career choices is further enhanced by the school's annual Careers Week, when visiting speakers come to discuss their professions with students.

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Posh private or Joe public - is paying for an education worth it? Olive Press reporters Dimitris Kouimtsidis and Charlie Smith compare their own schools to find out

To pay or not to pay

PLAYER 1



PRIVATE

WHEN my parents told me they were sending me to private school for my GCSEs, I didn't know how to feel. When you're 14, all you think about is how sad it is leaving your friends and changing environments – from something where you felt comfortable to going somewhere strange and new. But the older I get the more I realise how grateful I am to my folks for providing me with a jumpstart to adult life. I did quite well in my GCSEs (A*s and As) and on my first day of Year 12, our Head of Sixth Form had a surprise for me and around 20 of my classmates: we were to be 'tutored' because we were considered prospective Oxbridge students. Already we were a step ahead of other kids who were thinking about Oxbridge, as we had teachers actively helping us not only with our applications but with those all-important extra curricular activities. The school actively promoted as many outside interests as possible so that we could become 'well-rounded individuals'. I may have not gone to either Cambridge or Oxford in the end, but I chose Leeds, a Russell Group University where emphasis is placed on developing students' potential. Unlike my friends from state schools, most

of my year ended up at Russell Group unis – it was the norm, not the exception. Most people tend to not name their secondary school on their CVs but mine takes top billing, along with my university degrees. That's the sort of confidence that a private school education gives you, because I know what sort of closed circle it is. Anyone in West London will have heard about my school and know I've had a good education, automatically seeing me in a more favourable light. It's my Gold Card.



TALE OF TWO PUPILS: Privileged Dimitris (left) and achieving Charlie (right)

STATE

MY state education gave me three qualifications I never expected: the confidence to perform on stage, the chance to experience new countries and the best way to deal with bullies.

I attended a secondary school and sixth form centre in Oldham for a combined seven years.

My C of E school definitely stood out from the rest in what is one of the most deprived areas of the UK. Indeed it was frequently rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Students were from a range of backgrounds, from the less affluent to those used to being ferried about in mummy and daddy's Land Rover.

We were lucky enough to visit some amazing corners of the world on school trips, including Iceland, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Paris and of course, Chester Zoo.



However, closer to home, you didn't need 20-20 vision to see that the facilities could have done with a lick of paint – or two.

Martin – the school's beloved janitor – was tasked with keeping tabs on pretty much the whole school grounds, from the decrepit lighting and plumbing to the decades-old wood-work machinery.

Even as a young teen, you got the sense that the budget of a private institution might have made school a more comfortable place to learn, especially in winter.

There were exceptions, such as our fantastic drama studio and science labs, however the yellowing and dogeared 1970s textbooks in our language classrooms left a lot to be desired. I had some inspiring teachers, who helped me in my successful university application to study Geography at King's College London.

But lessons often spiralled out of control. With classes frequently numbering 30 students or more, things can get rowdy.

Smaller class sizes and more one-to-one contact time, in line with the private school model, would definitely have been beneficial.

Apart from having to stand up to the occasional bully my school days were some of the best of my life. But there was always the feeling that a private school might have done just that bit more. Hence, my report card to my alma mater reads: Needs to pay more attention to detail.

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

It's bound to be a momentous year for Sotogrande International School with expansion keeping up with ambitions

IT'S shaping up to be an exciting year for Sotogrande International School (SIS), with plenty of exciting opportunities for students, a new building and improved sporting facilities.

The new building, which is scheduled to open in September 2020, will house 20 state of the art middle/upper school classrooms, staff rooms, office space and an area for older students to relax and study.

Situated within the existing grounds the building will have spectacular views over Sotogrande and down to the sea.

This phase of the development also includes new 5-a-side and multi-sports pitches, outdoor recreational areas, extended food hall, whole school library and primary classrooms. The entire school community will benefit from the increased space, modern facilities and improved learning environment.

Phase 2 of the expansion, due for completion in September 2021, will see the creation of a brand new Boarding House, nestled in the wooded area around the school. Built with en-suite bathrooms, study areas, a



University of Warwick, United Kingdom



Technical University of Munich, Germany



choice of university in 2019.

Primary school provides the foundation for high achieving students to start their educational journey.

Sotogrande International School is a fully accredited International Baccalaureate (IB) school, offering the Primary Years Programme (PYP) from the age of 3.

In Early Childhood (3 to 6 years old), the curriculum is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to learning.

Providing many opportunities for student-centred, self-directed learning in the light and airy indoor and outdoor classrooms.

Older primary students (6-11 years old) are

encouraged to become independent learners, think for themselves and take responsibility for their own learning.

Technology is creatively embedded into the curriculum and, as an Apple Distinguished School, students become proficient and knowledgeable in the fast-changing world of Information Technology.

If you would like to learn more about the Primary Years Programme at Sotogrande International School, you are invited to join the team on Saturday March 7 for the Open Day.

For more information on the Open Day and to confirm your place visit www.sis.ac/openday



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Located in Southern Spain

Growing and thriving



PRIOR Park School continues to go from strength to strength and is a vibrant part of the community in Gibraltar. Now into its fourth year, the school continues to deliver an impressive set of exam results with an 100% high grade pass rate and this GCSE cohort achieved 50% of grades at 7 to 9 with a remarkable 14% of all grades achieved by the year group were 9s, the new highest grade. The national total in the UK last year was just 4.3%. These results well exceeded the expected level of attainment in the UK and we are

immensely proud of our students for their hard work and fantastic achievements," explains Headmaster Peter Watts.

The school prides itself on co curricular initiatives for pupils where they spend an hour each week on sports, charitable enterprises or creative enterprises in the community.

Pupils can also enjoy a wide range of activities from skiing in Italy to language courses in France. The school has also driven inter schools sports competitions among schools in Gibraltar and in Spain. Next year, the school plans to add another 50 students to its growing campus.

"With ambitious plans for the future of our school, we continue to support, encourage and lift up our students to be forward-thinking, compassionate and driven young individuals," concludes Mr.Watts.

www.priorparkgibraltar.com



PARENTAL RIGHTS: Vox leader Santiago Abascal flexing muscles in Murcia stronghold

THE RIGHT NOT TO LEARN

SCHOOLS in Murcia are in uproar over a new pin system allowing parents to stop their children attending classes that go against their moral values.

The controversial initiative was spearheaded by the far right Vox party, which made huge gains in the November election to become the country's third largest political force.

But Spain's government claims the move promotes ignorance and is blocking children's right to a balanced education - a backlash that could end up in court with legal action being taken against the region.

The ruling introduced in the south west of Murcia in September, allows parents to stop their children from attending classes on any subject they believe goes against their personal ideology. Vox says the policy - not yet a signed-off law - is designed to protect children, by requiring parental permission for exposure to content relating to 'ethical or social values or civic or sexual

Politicians and teachers in Murcia at daggers drawn over classroom censorship scheme

morals'.

Vox has long argued that such classes encourage pupils interest in homosexuality and transgender identity. But critics claim the move will shut down debate on gender, sexual orientation, feminism and the environment as the scheme also requires parental consent for any activity relating to 'socially controversial moral questions or sexuality'. Teachers are divided in the region with some stating parents should have this inalienable right as part of the Spanish constitution.

However, the majority believe in openness and freedom in education. One teacher, who did not want to be named said: "Education should guarantee that every child receives knowledge based on the universal principles of equality and freedom of speech and which

encompasses a wide range of issues".

Vox's position as kingmaker to the PP and Ciudadanos coalition in Madrid and Andalucia has enabled it to drive the measure through, threatening to veto Murcia's education budget unless the parental pin was adopted as part of the package.

But others are looking into legal ways of blocking the policy. Government spokeswoman, Maria Jesus Montero said: "There are parties that do not want free men and women to educate us freely. The right wing sees ignorance as freedom."

Education Minister Isabel Celaa has now threatened to take legal action against the region if it fails to remove the parental veto within a month. Meanwhile, regional government leader, Fernando Lopez Miras spoke on radio station *Cadena Ser*, stating: "The freedom and rights of parents within the region are non-negotiable".

He continued: "The ideological neutrality of teachers in Murcia is unquestionable. The parental veto gives parents freedom."

But Spain's new equalities minister, Irene Montero, called it educational censorship. "The sons and daughters of homophobic parents have the same right as everyone else to be educated about respect, the promotion of human rights and being able to love whoever they want. The sons and daughters of sexist parents have the same right to be educated about equality and feminism."

Ironically, the Spanish rank among Europe's most supportive when it comes to LGBTQ+ rights. In 2005 it became only the third country in the world to allow same sex marriage. The respected Pew Research Center reports 77% of citizens either supported or strongly supported same-sex marriage in 2018.



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The private school based in Estepona prides itself on the small class sizes - with a maximum of ten students per class - and the fact that it allows students to choose what subjects they want to study, without restricting them to blocks.

If you're looking for an alternative to large mainstream schools, then this is the place for you.

They focus on a more holistic approach to teaching, the welfare of the student is most important and they provide mentors to help students cope with the pressure of academic and social life.

There are still a few spaces available for next term, so contact them on admin@emeraldsixthform.com in order to visit the school and see for yourself the terrific work they're doing there.



WWW.EMERALDSIXTHFORM.COM

All about Education

GLOBAL APPEAL



13th 3rd 2020

Cameron International enters the Champions League of southern Spanish schools



AS the name suggests, Cameron International School is truly outward-looking in its ethos. Students are exposed to a global mix of experiences, from skiing in the nearby Sierra Nevada, to helping build a new tennis court at a school in Guatemala. The most exciting new development though, is the school's sports academy (CISA) partnering with global football giants Tottenham Hotspur. From April, the Champions League finalist's Player Development Programme will give boys and girls aged six to 16 first-rate training in Spain. "We want our students to be able to experience sports at the top levels, and partnering with a Premier League club was a way to do that," explains Janice Pennie, the school's founder, who has lived in Spain for 16 years. Although the school has retained its Spanish roots and is still based at the San Roque Club, near So-

togrande, in Cadiz. Since setting up as a nursery in 2010, the school has grown to over 100 students. The current building is being redeveloped so that some 300 students will be able to study there. However, class sizes are kept small in order to maintain the highest standards of learning and give each child the opportunity to thrive. Cameron International's intake is from ages three to five in its foundation programme and up to age 14 in its Primary School. Art, cooking, languages and sport, all feature in a diverse and evolving array of classes, in line with the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). Used by schools in more than 90 countries around



the world, this curriculum sees children engage with philosophy, literature and the natural world. From September 2020, IGCES and A-levels will also



INCLUSIVE: Children of all ages at Cameron International School

be offered, in subjects including photography, textiles, biology, chemistry and more. "At Cameron International School we want all our chil-

dren to be able to develop their talents," adds Pennie. "We are also looking at an NVQ programme. We understand that higher education is not for everyone, so we

want to develop all our children's talent." For more information, visit cameronschool.com, email info@cameronschool.com or call +34 956 797 078

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About Us

Cameron International School opened its doors at the San Roque Club in September 2016. Since the first day of school it was always our vision to become a primary and secondary school. We are delighted to announce that from September 2020 we will be opening our secondary school. Enrolment is now open for Year 7 to 13 students (ages 12 to 18). Quoted price is applicable to all years.

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All about Education

Cyber scourge

9

February 19th - March 3rd 2020

Get to know the Spanish state system

There are four phases:

- Educacion Infantil (Pre-school) - 3 to 5 years of age (inclusive, i.e. three years). This is optional.
- Educacion Primaria (Primary Education) - 6 to 11 years of age (six years). Compulsory.
- Educacion Secundaria Obligatoria or ESO (Compulsory Secondary Education) - 12 to 15 years of age (four years).
- Bachillerato (Post-Compulsory Schooling) - 16 and 17 years of age (two years).

The Pre-school stage (infantil or popularly known as *pre-escolar*) is free for all children but not compulsory. However, it is regarded as an integral part of the education system with infants' classes at almost every primary school. There are some separate nursery schools, *colegios infantiles*, also. The next two phases, primary (*colegio*) and secondary school (*instituto*) education are compulsory and free of charge. At the end of the ESO successful pupils are awarded a Secondary Education Certificate, which is necessary to enter the post-compulsory stage of schooling for their university or vocational studies. Alternatively they may leave school and get a job. Once pupils have their *Bachillerato* they can take their university entrance exam.

Cyber scourge

BULLYING may begin in the school playground but it no longer ends there. The greatest threat to 21st century schoolkids is cyber-bullying and it can happen relentlessly anytime, anywhere. This insidious form of antisocial networking is the biggest battle all parents, schools and pupils are fighting and it's a massive

Mobile phones for minors are 'like giving kids a car without explaining the rules of the road' say police

problem not only in Spain but throughout the world. The *Policia Nacional* insist mobile phones



were a game changer and in their experience, most bullying cases become cyberbullying over time. "The talks we used to give to 15-year-olds, we now give to elementary school kids," said a spokesman. "Parents give phones to their kids without much thought, it's as though they were giving them a car without explaining the rules of the road." Statistics show that 45.2% of 11-year-olds have a phone, rising to 75% of 12-year-olds and 92% of 14-year-olds. And not having one can also be a reason for social isolation. But Spain is cracking down on the problem. This year Madrid banned the use of mobile phones in classrooms, following the lead of schools in Galicia and Castile La Mancha. Around 1,700 public schools and around 800,000 pupils will be affected by the ruling. "This is a measure aimed at improving students' academic achievement, especially those who have major problems with studying, and is also focused on fighting bullying and cyber-bullying," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Education.

Tips for choosing a new school

- Ignore the glossy brochures - go to the school and see for yourself
- Meet the head, meet the teachers, and meet the students
- If the students seem happy, chances are your child will be happy too
- Be clear about what you want from a school - do lots of research
- Look at the exam results
- Find out about opening or taster days



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Phoenix College Málaga



RUNNING A RULE

School name: Calpe School

Location: San Pedro de Alcantara

Founded: 1973

Head teacher: Mr J Proetta

Curriculum: British National Curriculum

Contact: 952 786 029 – www.calpeschool.com – info@calpeschool.com

Reasons for choice:

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Pupils flourish in this caring and professional setting due to the high teacher to pupil ratio. Calpe School enjoys high standards of achievement and progress with strong educational foundations.

The school provides a high level of care and safety, making it the ideal choice. A warm welcome awaits you from the moment you step through our door, fulfilling our 'Happy to learn' motto



School name: Cameron International School

Location: San Roque Club, San Roque, Cadiz

Headmistress: Mrs Janice Cameron Pennie

Curriculum: British National Curriculum

Contact: 956 797 078 – www.cameronchool.com – info@cameronschool.com

Reasons for choice: Cameron International School want every child to have a fun and happy learning experience, to be an individual, to think outside of the box, to find a challenge in life that excites and gives them self motivation, the chance to have a modern and focused education. Cameron International School has created a fun, safe and secure learning environment for all its students. Our future ambassadors will look back and be proud that they are part of the Cameron International School legacy. Whatever the future holds for our students they will have the confidence to take the challenge on with the full strength and support of the Cameron International School



Amazing Learning at Laude San Pedro

Amazing learning happens when our students simply surprise themselves – and their parents and teachers, too – with the levels of learning they have reached. They have got better to a level beyond that which they thought was remotely possible. At Laude San Pedro International College we want our students to leave us with a memory of how they were supported to reach a level that they cannot quite believe they achieved. We want them to take that memory of excelling beyond themselves into their adult lives, so that they are confident of their place within an ever-changing world. Whether they take on the British curricular path (all the way from the Early Years Foundation Stage to A Level) or decide to study the Spanish secondary education from the age of 12 (with up to 65% of lessons being taught in English), we strive towards outstanding learning experiences for all our students which go well beyond the classroom. Our cutting-edge learning technology and state of the art performing arts and sports facilities set us apart from other schools.

Laude San Pedro's values are integrated into all of our work and school celebrations. They reflect the identity of our students: to be generous to others, whilst having the courage to develop academic curiosity and confidently pursuing their own strengths and interests. Students of all ages are constantly encouraged to develop personal goals which will enable them to be at ease with the continually changing context of their lives. As a member of the International Schools Partnership (ISP), a leading

educational provider and a growing and financially secure group with 43 schools worldwide, Laude students get the chance to experience international cultural learning opportunities beyond their home classroom. The ISP Buddy Exchange Programme, Model United Nations and ISP Summer Camp in the US, all provide amazing learning experiences across countries, cultures and languages. Amazing learning is what our children, students and families deserve. It is why we have set the bar as high as we have at Laude San Pedro International College. For more information on our unique educational provision and to request a personalised school tour, please contact Mrs Mercedes Colmenar on 952 799 900 or email admissions@laudesanpedro.com

From Gibraltar to Malaga, the Olive Press presents report cards from nine leading private schools

School name: Sotogrande International School (SIS)

Location: Sotogrande

Founded: 1978

Headmaster: James Kearney

Curriculum: International Baccalaureate (IB)

Contact: www.sis.gi 956 795 902 admissions@sis.gi

Reasons for choice:

For over 40 years Sotogrande International School (SIS) has provided an inspirational educational environment. When you step onto the campus, you know you are somewhere special: a spirit of learning, community, fun and energy permeates the air. Situated in a picturesque area with stunning views of the Med, lessons often take place outside making the most of the beautiful weather and location. A school bus service runs from Marbella, Estepona, La Linea and Tarifa



School name: Prior Park School

Location: Gibraltar

Founded: 2016

School Principal: Mr Peter Watts

Curriculum:

Students aged 11 and 18. Starting in Key Stage 3 in year 7, we follow the British Curriculum, with GCSE's and A Level examinations

Contact: 00350 20062006 or www.priorparkgibraltar.com

Reasons for choice:

Prior Park School is the first and only co-educational independent secondary school in Gibraltar, offering a new choice for families here and across Southern Spain. We offer students the very best of the British Curriculum with subject specialist teaching and facilities. Outside the classroom, our range of co-curricular opportunities is vast, from sailing to robotics. Our small class sizes and outstanding reputation for pastoral care, means that no child at Prior Park is left behind. Our students have ambitions as boundless as the views from our terraces



School name: The British School of Malaga (formerly St George)

Location: Malaga

Founded: 2000

Head teacher: Fiona Lee-Allan

Curriculum:

British National Curriculum

Contact: +34 952 290 149 or reception@stgeorgemalaga.com

Reasons for choice:

The British School of Malaga, previously known as St George, offers the British national curriculum to children from 3 to 18. "I firmly believe learning can only take place when youngsters are happy, safe and curious and it is our job as teachers to ignite that learning", explains the principal Fiona Lee-Allan. "Our learning is purposeful and reflects the modern world, while offering the best chance of examination success. We also place significant value on cultural, social and educational experiences for youngsters to discover and develop new interests"



School name: Phoenix College Málaga

Location: Malaga

Founded: 2018

Headmaster: James Riley

Curriculum: British A-levels, International A-levels and PCE (Selectividad)

Contact: +34 952 22 02 75 or info@phoenixcollegemalaga.com

Reasons for choice:

The only British Sixth Form College in Málaga, we strive to help each student fulfil their potential, whatever that may be. We have small classes (max. group size 12) so there is more individual support.

The college is a bridge between school and university/work environment, so students have wider flexibility and more responsibility in their learning. There is always a warm, welcoming and industrious atmosphere and we have highly committed and qualified native-English teachers



School name: English International College (EIC)

Location: Marbella

Headmaster: Ron Griffin

Curriculum: British National Curriculum

Contact: 952 831 058 – www.http://eicmarbella.org/-information@eic.edu

Reasons for choice:

Established in 1982 to be 'free of all political, racial or religious prejudice', the school counts on around 500 pupils and 66 teachers.

It goes from primary school through to Sixth Form and its aim is to provide opportunities for students to discover, explore and develop their talents in a friendly and supportive atmosphere that encourages academic and personal achievement.

"We believe that we have a unique opportunity to encourage, not only to appreciate the rich culture and language of Spain, but also to develop a broader awareness of the world in which we live"



School name: Benalmadena International College

Location: Benalmadena costa

Founded: 1997

Head teacher: Keith Ellis

Curriculum: UK national curriculum with sixth form completing A-levels

Contact: 952 561 666 / www.bic-benal.com

Reasons for choice:

Benalmadena International College has an excellent reputation for academic success and caring staff, with outstanding facilities for learning and preparation for university life.

The co-educational college's philosophy is to give each child focused learning and confidence in an enjoyable environment. With committed staff, the college prides itself on languages and science technology, with sport playing a vital role in children's overall development. Home to more than 28 different nationalities, pupils are surrounded by different cultures, and many can speak several languages before reaching senior school. Just 300 metres from the beach, the 17,500 square metre campus comprises the senior school building, cafeteria and games room, and a new primary building. The sports centre and swimming pool are still under construction. The college has been officially inspected and approved by a team of British inspectors from the British Council. It is also registered and licensed with the Spanish Education Authority, allowing the college to teach students to university entrance level



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www.calpeschool.com

Tel: 952 786 029

info@calpeschool.com

"DEDICATED TO LEARNING"

Calpe School is a private Primary School, following the British National Curriculum, that has been educating and inspiring children to learn since 1973.

The school enjoys a stunning beachside location in San Pedro, Marbella and has brought a new dynamic approach to Primary Education on the coast.

Calpe School provides a vibrant and supportive environment for children from 2 – 11 years. Every child is valued as an individual, and inspired to achieve their full potential. Preferring encouragement to pressure, children at Calpe School are challenged and supported by dynamic teachers with high staff to pupil ratio.

Through the corridor, the murmur of happy voices can be heard as the children in Early Years learn through play. The use of role play is encouraged and is fostered throughout our state-of-the-art Foundation Stage unit. Stimulated by a wealth of tactile games and experiences, the essential 'building blocks' for the future learning of the children are being laid down.

The use of technology has already been introduced at this early stage and is developed throughout the school. Although technology is a key element, and interactive whiteboards or Clevertouch screens are used in each classroom, the traditional, academic skills of maths, reading and writing are the primary focus, giving us the high standards of achievement and progress we're renowned for.

Children leave Calpe School having built sound foundations and with the confidence to succeed. Discovering education in a caring and professional environment, a warm welcome awaits you at Calpe School, living up to our 'Happy to learn' motto! Viewing by appointment only

Contact info at: www.calpeschool.com

LEARNING CURVE

Four top tips to step up your Spanish this year

LEARNING a language is hard. Luckily for us living here in Spain, Spanish is one of the easier languages to pick up. But we are all busy and despite having the best of intentions it can be difficult to find the time to learn and improve. Below we have rounded up four top tips which will let you learn the lingo that much faster.



Be opportunistic

Try to take advantages of opportunities to speak Spanish

whenever you can. Chat to the locals in the bus queue, in shops and in the street.

Look up local conversation classes or 'intercambios', where groups of English and Spanish meet for a copa or caña to practice each other's languages. You should also try living with a Spanish speaker which will force you to speak the lingo on a daily basis and will naturally improve your vocabulary.

Dedicate time to learning

Putting money towards lessons can really help you prioritise your learning and is especially helpful if you're just starting out. Learning in a group can be a really fun way to learn. If you can't afford lessons, make a weekly timetable and set aside at least four hours a week to learning. Make sure you nail the basics and try to set yourself daily targets of X amount of new words.

Make it your routine

Try to incorporate Spanish into your everyday routine. This means playing a language app like Duolingo everyday, listening to Spanish music and/or radio and watching your Netflix or TV with Spanish subtitles. Pick out the odd word and translate it and add it to a vocab list either on your phone or in a notepad.

Practice makes perfect

Don't underestimate how important it is to practice - constantly and consistently. Throw yourself out there and speak to the bus driver, hairdresser, shopkeeper or anyone who will lend an ear. If you're not in a Spanish speaking country, then repeat phrases in front of the mirror, to family and friends or even your dog—basically anyone who will listen! Don't be scared, the more you practice the more confident you become.



RISING STARS: EIC students show off their debating skills, while (left) Christine Wright

THE BEST YET

Host families required

THE British International College (BIC) in Benalmadena is receiving a number of Norwegian students this September to study the British Curriculum. We will need host families to accommodate these 16-year-old students from September 2020 to June 2021.

The college will pay €700 per month to cover accommodation, food and travel. A spare room will be required and the travel distance from the college should be no further than a 30-minute drive. If you are interested and would like further details please contact the college on 952561666 or email info@bic-benal.com

THE English International College (EIC) was privileged to host the COBIS Student World Debating Finals, for a second time, having held it here in 2017. Students from 15 schools in 11 countries travelled to Marbella for two days of rigorous academic debate on a broad range of pertinent issues. The event also included a cultural day-trip to Málaga and a Gala Opening Dinner, attended by Christine Wright from the British Embassy in Madrid, representing Hugh Elliot, the newly installed Ambassador to Spain. The debating prowess on display throughout the competition was of an extremely high calibre, and both the senior and junior EIC teams achieved very commendable third place in the Cup and Plate competitions respectively. It was an outstanding event, lauded 'the best yet' by a number of visiting schools.

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CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS AULA 47

Teachers of the future

clíc

WITH students from the UK, the Netherlands, Russia, Ireland, the US and China, the draw of CLIC International House is clear to see. Unlike other schools, its CELTA course is tailored to those hoping to inspire the next generation of English speakers. For those wanting to teach English as a foreign language it is the most widely-recognised initial certification. The four-week programme is by far the most popular of the TEFL courses (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). It is designed to help budding English teachers develop into leaders in the classroom. Forget mindlessly reciting from a textbook, the CLIC way is dynamic, fun and includes plenty of practice with volunteer local Spanish students. The emphasis is definitely on the practical here, with lesson planning, teaching assessments and feedback, included as crucial pillars of the course. A high C1 level of English is required for this Cambridge University-accredited course, but applicants do not need a university degree. Taught at CLIC's Sevilla and Malaga schools, there are no better places to learn to teach than in schools full of eager adult students from around the world. Local people are brought in for trainees to practice with, and feedback is a crucial part of the teaching methodology. Also, with 300+ days of sunshine, amazing cuisine and some of Spain's most fascinating culture on your doorstep, what more could you want. Graduates of the CELTA course receive the 'Cambridge English CELTA Certificate' and also an International House Report. The full course price is a very competitive €1,490 and includes a job information service. The course runs for four weeks throughout the year, with an online version with face to face teaching practice over an intensive two week or extensive ten week period also available. And for those looking for that next step along their English teaching journey, CLIC also offers seven-week, intensive DELTA (Masters level) courses from July to August in Malaga, or September to October in Sevilla for experienced teachers. For more information, visit clic.es or call the Sevilla centre on +34 954 50 0316

THE **English** INTERNATIONAL College
"IN OMNIBUS EXCELLENTIA"



School Matters

A SENSIBLE GUIDE TO SCHOOL SELECTION

Which school sends **all** of its Sixth Form graduates to university, regularly preparing students for Oxford, Cambridge; Imperial College and King's College in London; and also includes American, European and Spanish universities?

EIC ✓

Which school insists on teaching the **English Gold Standard** Advanced ('A') Level qualification, coveted by **all** British universities, and superior universities worldwide?

EIC ✓

Which school has won the COBIS World School's Debating Competition 2016 Mexico City, retaining it in 2017? **World Champions! Twice!**

EIC ✓

Which school also became **European Debating Champions** in Bucharest during the last academic year?

EIC ✓

Which school is the most 'English' of schools abroad, making easier transitions to UK universities?

EIC ✓

Which school's Year 6 consistently attain top UK SATs results (90%+ at levels 4 & 5)?

EIC ✓

Which school regularly attains **three times** the UK average of A/A* grades at (I)GCSE?

EIC ✓

Which school consistently attains top A*/A grades at A level across the academic range comparing favourably alongside **the elite schools in Britain?**

EIC ✓

Which school is renowned for the athletic vigour and success of its students?

EIC ✓

Which school holds the international record for achieving **the highest marks In The World** (41) in one academic year at (I)GCSE and A level?

EIC ✓

Which school regularly sends its pupils **worldwide** in pursuit of cultural understanding?

EIC ✓

Which school would you wish your child to attend?

?

School Matters? It really does!

To join us on Open Morning please **register at eic.edu** and bring along photo ID on the day | **20th FEBRUARY at 9:15am**

Tel: +(34) 952 83 10 58

Urb. Ricmar, Crta. de Cádiz-Málaga Km.189,5 (A7),
29604 Marbella. Málaga (Spain)

http://www.eic.edu - Email: admissions@eic.edu - http://www.facebook/TheEnglishInternationalCollege



THE BENALMÁDENA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

English



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