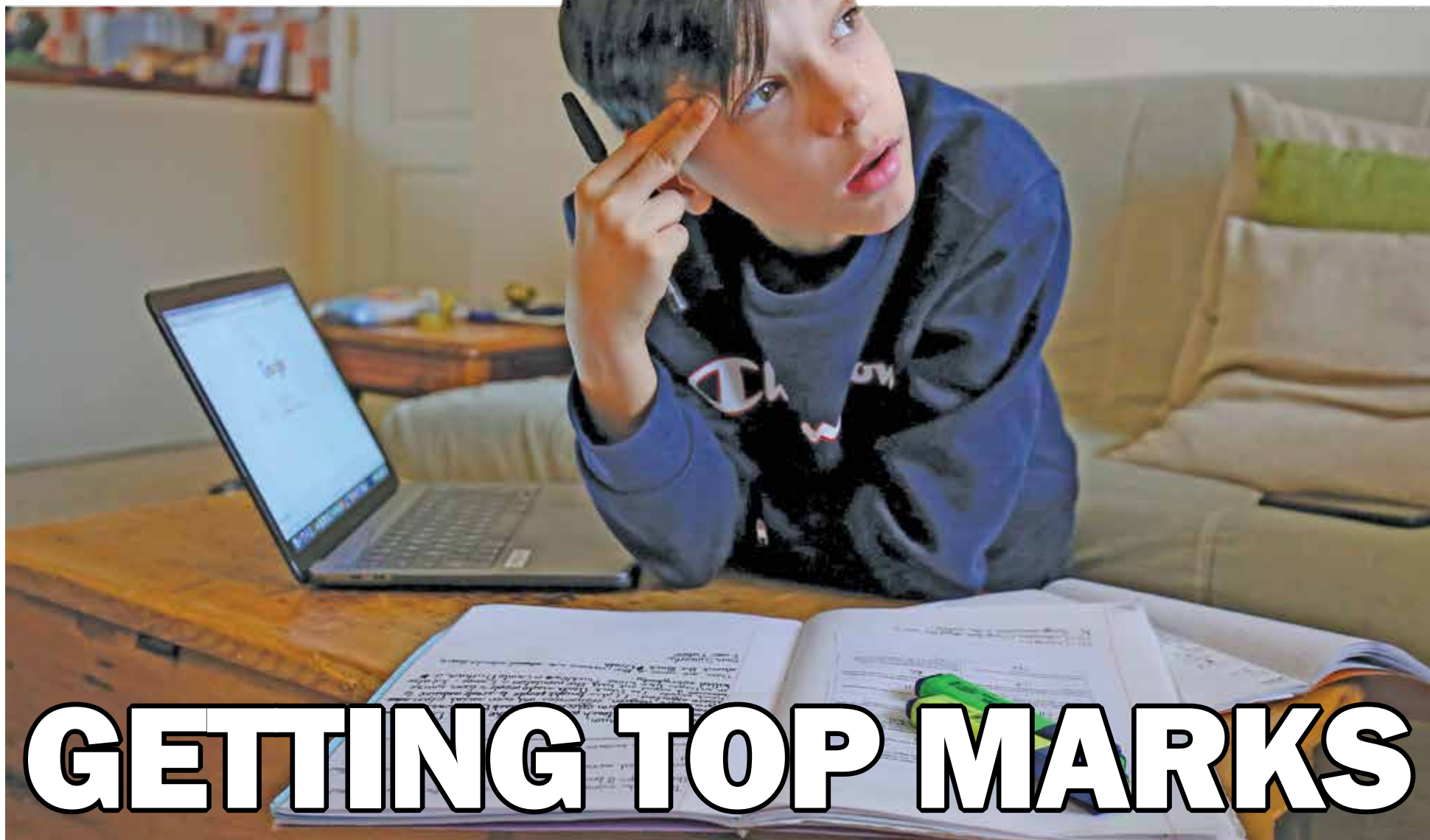


All about Education

February 2021

A 12-page Olive Press special pull out supplement



GETTING TOP MARKS

WHETHER you are newly arrived in Spain or were born and bred here, one subject unites all parents - how to make sure their children get the best possible education.

It can be a tough call, especially for those unfamiliar with the Spanish system, but fortunately in Andalusia you are spoiled for choice.

Of course your selection will depend on certain key factors: distance from home, budget, academic standards, teaching style and word-of-mouth recommendations, to name just a few.

So where do you start?

The first item on your checklist should be Public or Private - do you opt for a Spanish state school or an international college?

It's generally an easier decision to

Choosing the best schools for your kids can be a problem of algebraic proportions - particularly now visiting can be a tightrope with COVID restrictions

By Dilip Kuner
(dad of 3 kids schooled on the Costa del Sol)

make for younger children, as primary schools throughout Europe are more or less comparable. Around 80% of expats send their children to the local state schools - called 'colegios' for primary schools and 'institutos' for secondary schools. There are two serious advantages to Spanish schools. The first is that children will learn Spanish fast and should integrate well into their new home country.

Younger children, in general, thrive in state schools, with youngsters under nine normally picking up impressive spoken Spanish (usually, far better than their parents' Spanish) within a year, just by socialising with their Spanish friends.

The majority of foreign parents and students find that integration with other nationalities is normally handled with skill and consideration.

The second key advantage is that state schooling is free of charge from the age of three, when children can begin attending infant

tile or pre-escolar, equivalent to a nursery in the UK. The only costs you'll have to cover are books, school trips and, if the school has them, uniforms.

There are, however, downsides to Spanish schools, particularly if your child is older or more timid.

There are sad - but by no means common - stories of the 11-plus 'guiris' being ignored by their teachers and bullied by their classmates, or finding themselves left entirely untutored.

Continues overleaf



HEALTH DEMANDS: Most private schools have kept running almost as 'normal' thanks to successful COVID planning

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FREE OR FEE?

From previous page

Older children with limited Spanish can often have trouble adjusting, finding the move to a different country combined with schooling in a language that might as well be Greek to them way too much to cope with. Learning maths and physics in a foreign idiom isn't for sissies!

It is definitely worth considering extra language tuition outside school hours to help ease the transition. Budget for up to €20 per hour for private lessons. 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 the educational standards

will be low (according to reports, Andalucia 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. Budget is a major consideration but many expat parents find that choosing an international school gives their child a gentler introduction to schooling in a foreign country, with smaller classes taught in English.

Most international schools even follow a UK curriculum, with GCSE and A-levels, with a number of local schools regularly getting kids into the top British universities, including Oxbridge.

International schools have very different personalities and philosophies, and it's very much a matter of personal preference. But with more than two dozen on the Costa del Sol alone, there are more than enough to choose from.

Marbella - with more than 40,000 foreigners living in the town - has the largest concentration of international schools, after Madrid and Barcelona. And Malaga, Mijas, Fuengirola, Benalmadena, Estepona, Almunecar and Sotogrande all have their own options.

The rise of international schools

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



in Spain can be traced back to former dictator General Franco, who introduced tourism to the Costa del Sol. Since then, a torrent of foreign visitors settling along the coast has turned it into a melting pot of cultures, providing endless opportunities for education start-ups.

British schools are now said to account for two-thirds of the international schools on the coast. The oldest is Swans International School, established in 1971, and named after its legendary headmistress and founder, Tessa Swan. Others include Sotogrande, established in 1978, as well as Benalmadena Inter-

national College, which is celebrating its quarter century on the coast this year.

Others such as Laude, in San Pedro, has around 1000 students and is acknowledged as one of the top 100 international schools in Spain by *El Mundo* newspaper. Most British schools are members of the National Association of British Schools in Spain (NABSS) and are inspected regularly by the group, a set-up similar to the UK's Ofsted inspections.

A great advantage for many parents is that international schools often have a more multicultural environment than state schools, with most having more than 20

different nationalities attending and offering a bilingual study programme.

Paul Kelly, an education consultant and former headmaster of

Mayfair Academy in Marbella - which has 20-30% Spanish pupils - said: "Pupils meet other students from so many different countries."



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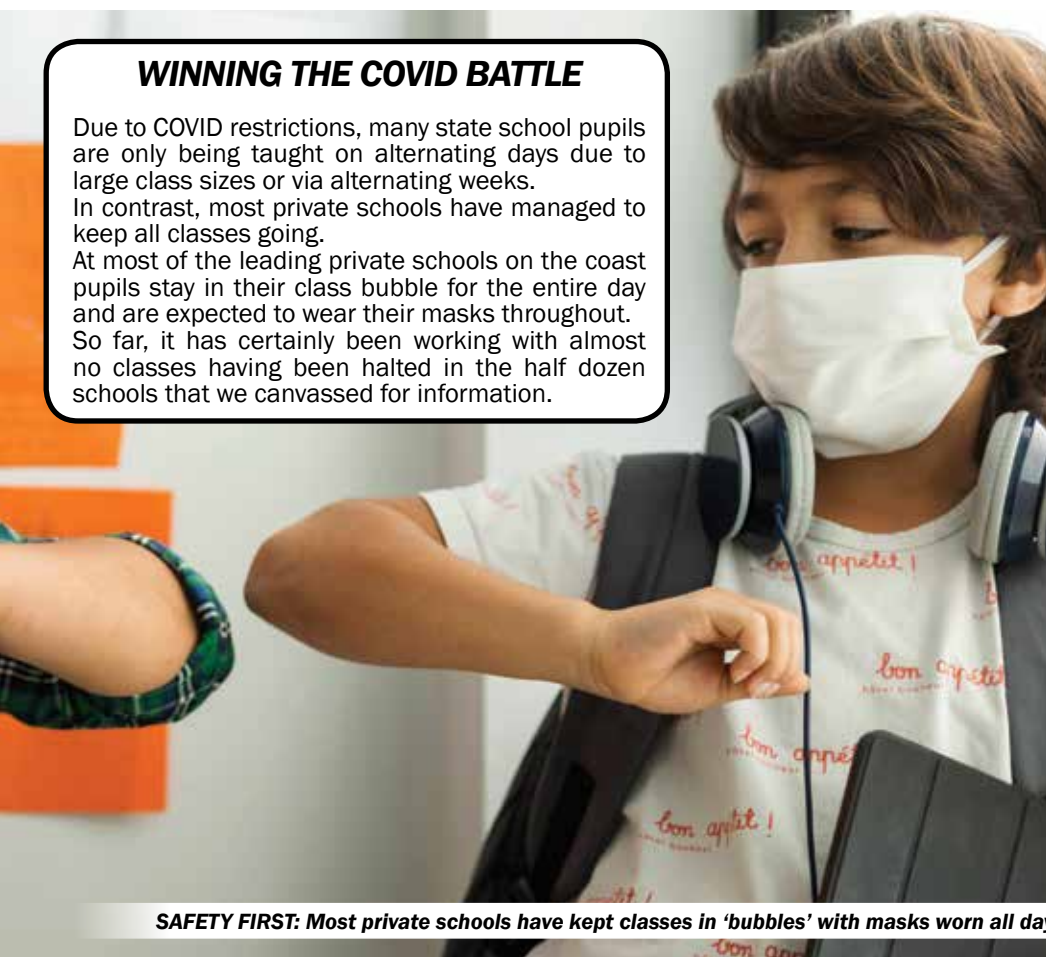
VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

WINNING THE COVID BATTLE

Due to COVID restrictions, many state school pupils are only being taught on alternating days due to large class sizes or via alternating weeks.

In contrast, most private schools have managed to keep all classes going.

At most of the leading private schools on the coast pupils stay in their class bubble for the entire day and are expected to wear their masks throughout. So far, it has certainly been working with almost no classes having been halted in the half dozen schools that we canvassed for information.



SAFETY FIRST: Most private schools have kept classes in 'bubbles' with masks worn all day

"This is such a valuable opportunity as it awakens a curiosity for other cultures, languages, traditions, customs and even food from a very early age."

To tie in with this, many of the top schools are increasingly offering 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.

Catherine Davies, based at Laude, in Marbella, said: "You can go anywhere in the world with an international education, it's like an international currency."

As well as a more up-to-date, relaxed approach to teaching, international schools are generally considered to offer a better learning environment.

The most obvious downside, of course, is the cost. Schools range from basic to luxurious but, take note, they come with fees to match.

Fees range from €3,000 a year for primary school to between €6,000 and €20,000 per year for secondary schools. This generally does not include the cost of books, school trips or uniforms.

A further downside is that children may find themselves in something of a Spanish vacuum, unable to integrate with the local

community outside the classroom.

But international schools are beginning to fight this effect, with many more Spanish extracurricular activities available, and more access to local culture on school trips.

Many of the schools also include Spanish offerings such as flamenco dancing classes after school finishes, while others offer basketball, sailing and in one case, even a polo academy. Education consultant Paul Kelly concluded: "Effort and attitude varies considerably from family to family. Some are content never to venture into 'Spanish' situations, while others make every effort to integrate, join sports clubs etc. and have much more exposure to the language."



No guide can decide your child's education for you, and there is no easy answer. Choosing a school in Spain is as much a personal choice as in any other country, whether your biggest consideration is cost, integration or a smoother transition. 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!

Flamenco classes, basketball and sailing, plus even polo

Q: It's been a tough year for everyone but it must have been very challenging running a school and having to look after students and staff. What kind of protocols have you put in place to make sure everybody is safe?

AH: I have to say it was an experience I don't think anyone ever dreamt we would have to go through. It is actually incredible looking back at the changes the school has made in the last year and how much we have learnt and adapted on the way. This time last year, a few weeks before the lock down, we had already begun planning our online learning platform and reviewing with families who would need electronic devices to work at home. So the whole team got together to actually work out how we would deliver the whole curriculum online, which I have to say went incredibly well.

And then bringing children back into school in September, we wanted to make sure our families understood

Safe, Happy and Learning

Laude San Pedro Principal Amanda Hughes on the hard work and changes last year

what our commitments would be, how learning, being safe and happy would always remain the focus for us and the children, and then of course, following the Junta's protocols. Also, we are so lucky where we are and the campus we have; we now use four entry gates so we are one school but four villages now, so we have a little village for youngest learners, the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, Primary have their own village, Secondary and Sixth Form have got their own village and our ESO and Bachillerato students, they have a village in school as well. We have little or no movement between those areas.

Q: How is life at Laude conti-

nuing with the obvious limitations that all schools are facing with the pandemic?

AH: The pedagogy has changed so much to make sure we don't lose outstanding practice; so everything from parent-teacher meetings, graduation and prize giving events are now done online.

We have recently had the most incredible futures and university online fair for our Year 11 and Year 12 students as part of the ISP group of schools, covering everything from how to gain a sports scholarship to study in America to Oxbridge applications.

It's important our students understand we are working together to get through this tough time and look after each other, but their future is really there. All their dreams and aspirations will not change, and it is very important we work alongside them so that they do access the universities and careers they have always wanted to have.



BRIGHT FUTURE

Benalmadena International College celebrates its quarter century, as it takes important steps forward to ensure pupils are as happy and healthy as possible

EVERY parent's goal is to make sure their children's time at school is filled with happy memories, making friends and skills that will set them up for life.

But in the middle of an ongoing pandemic, it's understandable that mums and dads have never been more anxious to wave their kids off at the school gate.

"It is our job to be here for the children and help put their minds at ease," explains Director Keith Ellis.

"It is understandable that families are feeling very anxious, which is why our priority is making sure our pupils feel not only happy but safe."

The school, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year has an excellent reputation for academic success and caring staff, with outstanding facilities for learning and preparation for university life.

With over 30 different nationalities, pupils are surrounded by different cultures, and many can speak several languages before reaching the senior school.

But Mr. Ellis believes it is helping children connect with so many diverse cultures helps create a 'happy, family environment'.

He said: "We're truly just all one big family and it has been such a joy to run this place for 25 years and see the smiles on the kids' faces everyday."

And while Mr. Ellis acknowledges that the last 12 months may have been some of the toughest times pupils and teachers have ever faced, he's also been delighted with the resilience and independence his students have shown, and the support from all the parents. On the bright side, with all the new technology developed over this last year, the school is embracing these new ideas to enhance its teaching and further development of the school. Live on-line viewing from the classroom can now give virtual lessons anywhere in the world. It also increases our 'A' Level subject list to



more than 20.

"Online lessons via zoom and google classes give pupils live viewing from our classrooms. There is no disruption and they could be anywhere in the world and they are not going to miss a thing. It has opened up a lot of potential."

Technology aside, Mr. Ellis promises that most of school life will continue as normally as possible, with an expanded range of subjects, from History of Art to politics and psychology, and even more extracurricular activities on the horizon as the school gears up to build a state of the art sports complex.

"It will have everything a child could ever want," says Keith. There will be a heated swimming pool, a gym, health and spa area, even a restaurant and terrace."

The idea is that the sports centre will be used exclusively by pupils during the day but at night and over the weekend, will be opened up to local residents.





Mr. Ellis believes that involving the whole community in the future of the school is 'key to its success'.

He says: "A school plays a big part in the community and in return the environment around the school is of massive importance. The more involvement we can have in the community, the stronger the school can be."



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 any time, anywhere.

This insidious form of antisocial networking is the biggest battle parents, schools and pupils are fighting and it's a massive problem not only in Spain but throughout the world.

The National Police say mobile phones were a game changer and in their experience, most bullying cases also start to involve cyberbullying over time and

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

the problem is getting worse. "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. Spain has in the past cracked down on the problem. 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 thousand pupils were 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 cyberbullying and bullying," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Education.

But this measure came in before the coronavirus pandemic, which has seen youngsters spend large periods of time at home rather than in school, which in turn has left them even more vulnerable to cyber bullying.

Children are using social media and apps like TikTok, FaceTime, and Zoom a lot more frequently than in the past. These leave them exposed to more online risks such as cyberbullying, shaming, and exploitation. In fact, initial research indicates that cyberbullying is on the rise during the stay-at-home orders.

According to L1ght, an organisation that monitors online harassment and hate speech, there has been a 70% increase in cyberbullying in the US in just a matter of months.

Sunny View School, a place to thrive

ONE of the most important things a school can do is to create an environment which allows its students to truly thrive – academically, emotionally, personally and socially.

Sunny View School, in Torremolinos, places a high value on its inclusive, caring and respectful atmosphere, a quality often commented on by visitors and newcomers to the school.

This special environment, combined with quality teaching and modern resources and facilities, makes the school a place where students can, and do, thrive.

The school's academic success is evidenced by its students' examination results, which are consistently well above the UK national average.

The majority of its A-level students go on to study at universities in the UK, Spain, elsewhere in Europe or the USA.

The school firmly believes that the path to such success is as important as the results themselves. At each stage of the curriculum, from Preschool to A-levels, the school's team of experienced, UK-trained teaching staff strive to make learning fun, interactive, engaging and inspiring, with students actively involved in their own learning and development.

This has continued to be the case during this unique academic year when the school has adapted its facilities and routines to ensure safety while maintaining a dynamic and stimulating learning



environment.

As always – and while strictly adhering to the current safety protocols – a wide variety of activities inside and

outside the classroom allow students to broaden their experience and take on new challenges in an inclusive and supportive environment that engenders confidence and an enthusiasm for learning.

Looking to the future, and to meet the needs of its growing student population, the school has also continued to expand and upgrade its facilities and resources. Last school year saw 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 were remodelled and outfitted with new equipment.

Yet while always evolving and advancing – as well as adapting to special circumstances such as the current public health situation – Sunny View School has maintained its strongest focus on what it does best: delivering quality, British education here on the Costa del Sol.

And doing it within an environment that allows its students to truly thrive. www.sunnyviewschool.com



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Pupils flourish in this caring and professional setting due to the 'high teacher to pupil ratio'.

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SPANISH IS THE BEST LANGUAGE TO LEARN

SPANISH is the most important language for Brits to learn, according to the British Council. It topped the list of those deemed 'most economically vital to learn, followed by Mandarin, French, Arabic and German.

The study, Languages of the Future also revealed 75% of Britons cannot speak any of the languages listed in the study.

John Worne (below), director of strategy at the British Council said the UK stands to lose out economically and culturally if it doesn't act to tackle the shortfall.



He said: "Schools have their job to do but it's also a problem of complacency, confidence and culture – which policy makers, businesses, parents and everyone else in the UK can help to fix."

Lessons from life

It wasn't seven years cramming French grammar at school or even four years at uni studying the language and literature that got David Wilson speaking it like a native. It was a job teaching English in Italy!

Chatting to staff at the Centre Culturel Français in Milan and plucking up the courage to speak to locals on the train through France during his regular trips back home were what really worked the magic. "That and the fact that I really wanted to learn French and enjoyed doing it," he says.

Pablo J. Rumoroso Solana, a primary school teacher from Asturias, had a similarly formative experience when he first tried to put years of English language theory into practice while on holiday in Mallorca, and fluffed his only line.

Happily, both went on to become respected linguists fluent in multiple idioms, with careers teaching English as an international language to students of all ages. Here they share the personal experiences that changed their views on how another language can be learned.

David:

"Frank Smith (the linguist, not the boxer!) once said 'One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way'. I've spent a lifetime walking down that corridor and opening the doors.

I've learned several languages besides English, my own native language, and I've taught three of them. In all that time, I've noticed that although many people ask the question 'How are languages best learned?' they very rarely ask themselves the equally important question 'Why do I want to learn languages?'

Success in learning languages also depends on the goals you have as learners and, of course, teachers. But little of what has happened in formal language learning up to now really makes it attractive to most people. Many students learn languages simply to fulfil requirements of the school syllabus or pass exams. But most people want to learn another language so that they

If speaking Spanish leaves you tongue-tied, take inspiration from the struggles of David and Pablo – two professional language teachers who've learned that sometimes it's simpler to ditch the books



can use it to communicate in the everyday world beyond the school gates.

In his book, *Frames of Mind: The theory of multiple intelligences*, Howard Gardner points out that there are several different learning styles. Approaches to learning and teaching foreign languages should always take account of this insight. Like many people, I'm basically an interpersonal learner, to use Gardner's term. I learn to speak and understand languages best by listening and speaking to other people.

Ironically, my level of competence in Italian is far greater than that of any other language I learned through academic study alone. After four years of living and working in Italy and hearing hours of spoken Italian, I reached a C1 level (proficiency).

My experience as a language learner and teacher of international English has confirmed my convictions that:

- **People learn languages successfully in different ways,**
- **They learn most quickly and effectively when they have experiences of listening to and communicating directly with other people**

- **When people really want to learn the language and maintain their long-term motivation they feel increasingly successful as learners as they build their confidence in communicating.**

At present, most of us are in lockdown with limited opportunities for contact with others. But we can use YouTube video clips for listening practice and grammar lessons, a host of other apps such as Duolingo and Tandem and websites such as www.mylanguageexchange.com for practising pronunciation and chatting with people in their language around the world.

Pablo:

"I've always been interested in learning English, fascinated by the culture and the language. I found myself listening to music in English from a very young age, at school it was part of the official syllabus and my subject at university. But I remember one day ... I must have been 18 or 19... waiting for a lift to the airport from a hotel in Mallorca when a tourist approached me and asked 'Where are you going to?'. I shall never forget my answer 'From Asturias'. Many times afterwards I've asked myself why I hadn't replied 'To Asturias' which I knew was the correct answer. But I was so worried about the grammar that I felt my level of English was not good enough. I was thinking about accuracy, forgetting completely about communication.

Nowadays, as a language teacher, the first thing I try to do in class is ask my young students 'How are you?' (we work on expressions such as

'I'm fine', 'I'm sad', 'I'm hungry') followed by 'Why?', where they can explain the reasons they feel that way. That simple exercise is my attempt to put emphasis on communication. It doesn't matter if the students make mistakes. Step by step I try to provide them with tools to improve so that they find their own words and ways of expressing their thoughts and feelings.

When a baby listens to their parents saying 'hello' or 'look Daddy', nobody stops to explain to them what those words mean. There's no need. Context and body language provide meaning by themselves. Young children have no fear or barrier, they just learn ... by listening, looking, being exposed to the world around them. Little by little, first orally and then when they start to read and write, children become more accurate in the use of their native language, whatever it is.

By listening, looking and being exposed to the world around them

Mistakes

We don't spend time thinking about how we have learnt our mother tongue, we 'just know it'. But when we learn a new language, things change. We suddenly become aware of many things involved in the language learning process. We become stressed and scared of making mistakes. But success comes through just 'having a go' and not worrying about what other people think. There is no one 'perfect' method to learn a language, but there are many good methods. We must work with a combination of approaches till we find the right formula for us. And we shouldn't lose track of our purpose for learning languages if we really want to be able to achieve any kind of competence in them.



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THE HUNT IS OVER

Map for expat parents charts all British schools worldwide

If you would like to see where to get your children an education offering the British curriculum world-wide, then an interactive map is available online. Spain - a top destination for British expats - has one of the most complete coverages of British schools in the world, with more than 60. The map was created by expat advice service Expat&Offshore as a resource for British families who want a smooth transition when moving abroad. The majority of the schools are scattered throughout Europe, but there are also large concentrations in India, Pakistan and down the coasts of Africa, particularly in Nigeria. They all follow the British curriculum from Key Stages 2-5 to the end of GCSEs. More than 1,000 schools are listed on the map, along with important information such as address, website and student population.



BRITS ABROAD: Mapping the spread of British schools

A spokesperson for the British School of Valencia said: "Our teaching and training activities reinforce the ties between Spanish and British culture, encouraging the integration of our students and stimulating the

person from the academic and personal point of view."

The map and full list of schools can be viewed at www.expattanoffshore.com/british-schools-abroad.

Overcoming difficult challenges

Standards and safety top of the curriculum at Prior Park

WHEN Gibraltar, along with most of the world, went into lockdown, the Prior Park School community faced some difficult challenges and urgent decisions on how best to continue the delivery of its curriculum to students.

Many of us had to learn how to use various new technologies in a short space of time and for education it was no different. As a school they quickly enacted a Remote Teaching Policy, which allowed staff to continue teaching their lessons directly to the students' homes via Microsoft Teams. The usual daily timetable and routines continued and daily contact between teachers and students was sustained. The PE department was even able to deliver virtual Zumba lessons via video link and many other department areas found creative ways to keep students engaged in their lessons.

An important area of normal Prior Park School life is their pastoral care system and this remained a key consideration for students throughout the two month lockdown period. Every student had a chance to speak directly to their tutor each week to talk through concerns or worries and this is something that also eased the worries of parents.

The feedback received on the Remote Teaching Programme was overwhelmingly positive and reassured the entire community that Prior Park can continue to offer a quality education, even in the toughest of



circumstances. Somehow, all of a sudden, the school's contingency planning for any changes post-BREXIT seemed so much more manageable! With all Gibraltar's schools reopening on Monday, much planning had been put in by the staff at Prior Park.

A school spokesperson said: "Plans for a safe return for all staff and students have been given the highest priority.

"We know that a return to a physical school setting will be daunting for some students. Our main considerations continue to be the health and wellbeing of our school community and our strong Tutor and House systems will ensure that there are multiple layers of care and support available to everyone – including staff!" said the spokesperson.

"We are very much looking forward to a return to some 'normality' and with a renewed gratitude for the privilege of education and a tight-knit school community."

Children speak directly to their tutor each week to talk about issues

www.priorparkgibraltar.com

Looking for a J-O-B in ELT, but you don't know your CELTAs from your DELTAs?

Breaking down confusing terminology in English Language Teaching
by Scott Donald

Looking for a change of career and considering English language teaching? The profession is rich in opportunities. You can travel the world, integrating with new cultures, or you can teach from your own home via the increasing number of online classes. But the moment you start doing your research, your first question is probably going to be:

"What on earth do all these abbreviations mean!"

Many areas of our lives are full of acronyms, abbreviations, and jargon. English language teaching is no exception. The industry is full of terms like: ELT, TEFL, CELTA, DELTA, which can be confusing if you don't know what they mean.

Just as words like gif, mobile/cell, and SMS were once an enigma to us, it's easy to crack the secret code of English Language Teaching terminology. In this article, we've broken down some of the most common (and commonly confused!) terms to help you better navigate the world of English language teaching.

ELT

ELT stands for "English Language Teaching" and usually refers to the industry as a whole.

Although this definition is fairly straightforward, you might want to avoid using the term ELT Teacher. English Language Teaching Teacher(!?). Bit of a mouthful, right? Also, this type of thing can sometimes upset the grumpy grammarians!

ELT is the preferred industry name for many, but there are others: TESOL, ESL, EFL, EAL, where English is referred to as a Foreign/Second/Additional language. Technically, there might be small differences between these terms, but they are often used interchangeably.

The most popular term, however, aside from ELT, is also probably the most problematic...

TEFL

(usually pronounced TEF-UHL)

One of the most frequent comments on social media teaching groups is,

"Hi, I'm moving to Spain. I'm getting a TEFL, and I'm looking for job offers!"

The problem is that there isn't really such a thing as "getting a TEFL". TEFL stands for "Teaching English as a Foreign Language", so it doesn't make any sense in the context of the sentence above. It may sound like something official, but, like ELT, it's simply an initialism for the industry.

If you want to get into the English language teaching industry, employers will be looking to see if you have any qualifications. But remember – if a course or certificate has the word "TEFL" in it, it's giving no indication of how official or recognised it is!

It's simply the equivalent of a chef saying,

"I've got a certificate in food."

In fact, there are only a couple of certificates that many of these employers will even consider.

So what are they? Which certificates would be deserving of Michelin Stars? The answer is...

CELTA and CertTESOL

These are usually short, intensive courses where trainees get to practice on real-life students.

These courses take a minimum of four weeks to complete, although some centres also offer the option of part-time study too.

During the course, you will learn to teach English through a variety of eclectic methods which require no knowledge of your students' first language. They are a fantastic way of learning by doing, where you are given constant support and feedback from your tutors and peers.

The CELTA is provided by Cambridge University, and the CertTESOL by Trinity College London.

In many language schools all over the world, your CV won't even be considered without one of these certificates. According to Cambridge, three out of four English language teaching jobs request the CELTA, making it the most widely recognised English teaching qualification in the world.

Many people have travelled far and wide to do their CELTA courses, with Spain often topping the list! At CLIC, we offer a range of courses in the beautiful Spanish cities of Seville and Malaga.

The current Covid travel restrictions have also led to Cambridge launching an online option where the entire course is delivered virtually. This means that everything from the training to teaching practice can be done from the comfort of your own home.

DELTA

There's no doubt that the aforementioned courses open the doors to language schools throughout the globe, but for those who have some experience and are ready for a new challenge, the next step is the Cambridge DELTA.

The DELTA takes what's covered on the CELTA to the next level, while also looking at some of the underlying theory and principles of language teaching. Teachers who do the DELTA are often looking to progress to more senior teaching positions or management roles. Like the foundation courses, you can

study the DELTA in a variety of ways. Some teachers opt to fit the course around their existing teaching schedule; others prefer to dedicate a block of time to the intensive course. Travel restrictions have opened up new possibilities for doing the course online too.

The DELTA is also modular, meaning you don't need to do the entire course all at once, which allows for greater flexibility. So whether you are interested in online, face-to-face, part-time or full-time, CLIC has a number of different options available.

Conclusion...

English language teaching is full of potentially confusing terminology – and that's before you've even started your training! The good news is that, as with many of the cases discussed in this article, often there is just a variety of words for the same concept.

The most important thing is, whichever word you use for ELT, you know that a reputable course like the CELTA is your best way of getting that dream J-O-B.

If you are looking for more information or course dates and prices for either the CELTA or DELTA, find out more at tefl.es.





RUNNING A RULE

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

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: 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:

Successfully teaching children of all abilities, from the ages of 2 to 11 years since 1973. Calpe School is a private Primary School, providing a vibrant and supportive environment where every child is valued as an individual, and inspired to achieve their full potential. 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: Sunny View School

Location: Torremolinos, Málaga

Headteacher: Andrew Beavon

Curriculum: English national curriculum

Contact: 952 38 31 64 - admin@sunnyviewschool.com - www.sunnyviewschool.com

Reasons for choice:

Established 50 years ago, Sunny View School has a long tradition of bringing out the best in its students, with a strong focus on both academic success and personal development within a nurturing, inclusive and safe environment. Throughout Preschool, Primary and Secondary, the school's fully qualified UK-trained teaching staff strive to make learning engaging and fun as they work to equip students with the skills, knowledge and confidence they will need to succeed in an ever-changing world. Sunny View is proud of its warm and caring environment, where children can thrive and develop a lifelong love of learning.



OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND: WHY CONSIDER STUDYING IN THE US NOW?



With everything that's happened in the last year internationally, it might not feel like the right time to approach a study abroad program. But 2021 might just be the best year yet to get acclimated with the opportunity a study abroad program brings with it



PARTNER: Auburn has been welcoming foreign students for decades

AS COVID-19 vaccinations are sweeping the world, universities across the United States are prioritizing their students' safety and health with added security and public health measures. Students attending campus activities are largely required to take their temperature and monitor their health daily, reporting every symptom as soon as it occurs. Students, faculty, and visitors are required to wear masks in compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, and hand sanitization is highly encouraged. These campuses are probably the cleanest they have ever been right now. Right now, many universities are utilizing combination online learning and are looking to do so into the near future, so whether you are ready to apply now or you're looking ahead to apply in coming years, there should be more learning options than usual. This will make learning more accessible and often easier to acclimate to. The political turmoil in the Uni-



NEW WELCOME: President Biden is bringing a new face to America, while (right) Agave partner FIU

ted States alone might make it feel like now isn't the right time to travel. Under the new administration, things are changing rapidly. President Biden has advocated for study abroad experiences, plans to tackle immigration reform, and is in the works to make temporary and permanent work visas more readily available. He is already cultivating a more welcoming environment for students and visitors from abroad.

Biden is more welcoming to students who wish to study in the US

Universities have been focusing on the improvement of their study abroad programs in recent years. After student activities and regular scheduling was taken out of the picture last year, there was more time to focus on the needs of students across the spectrum. The universities Agave Education partners with offer focused attention on international



students. This includes additional material to help them acclimate to their environment, and an array of unique career and academic advancement opportunities. Reach out for your free consult today!



Contact Rachel at
rachel@agaveeducation.org
or on +34 663267018 or
visit www.agaveeducation.org

School name: Laude San Pedro International College

Location: San Pedro, Málaga

Founded: 2004

School Principal:
Amanda Hughes

Curriculum:

Full British Curriculum from 3-18 years (IGCSE, A-Levels). Spanish National Curriculum (ESO & Bachillerato) from 12 years of age.

Contact: Mercedes Colmenar, Head of Admissions. admissions@laudesanpedro.com

Reasons for choice:

Laude San Pedro International College is a reputed International School offering an inclusive and bespoke education where students are encouraged not only to achieve academic success, but also take advantage of every opportunity to develop life-skills through amazing learning experiences. The curriculum covers from the Early Years and Foundation stage through to the Secondary School and Sixth Form. The school has been voted in the top 100 international schools in Spain and is proud to be part of the International Schools' Partnership, a growing educational group which now operates across Europe as well as North and South America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia



School name: Benalmadena International College

Location: Benalmadena, Málaga

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



Be creative

SOME 67% of Spaniards think schools should promote creativity as a top priority, while 51% of Brits prefer the three Rs.

The PEW Research Centre asked parents in 19 different countries whether they think schools should focus on resourcefulness or basic academics.

Public opinion in Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada also showed a clear preference for an education system that emphasised creativity and independent thinking.

The survey of global attitudes, showed big cultural differences towards education - and widening political polarisation.

In Spain, 67% of people wanted schools to prioritise the teaching of creativity, compared with 24% who wanted schools to focus on the academic basics and discipline.

But at the other end of the spectrum was the UK, where researchers found that 51% wanted schools to prioritise the basics and discipline, compared with 37% who thought schools should pay more attention to cultivating creativity.

This approach came close

er to that of less-developed countries such as Kenya and Nigeria, where the expectation was that schools should get on with teaching the basics.

Countries such as the United States, Australia and Japan hovered somewhere in the middle, with opinion divided. In China, there was the strongest demand to have an equal emphasis put on all aspects of education, without choosing between them. As well as wanting to test public opinion on the style of education, the Pew research investigated how much liberal or traditional views of education were proxies for political divisions.

The researchers said that in most advanced economies, such as in western Europe and North America, 'educational preferences are an ideological issue'.

They found that by far the most politically divided countries were the United States and the UK, with right or left-leaning people having very different ideas about education.

In countries such as the Netherlands, Canada and Germany, views on education were more likely to overlap between all political groups.

THE BENALMÁDENA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form



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is a pleasure

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Nueva Torrequebrada,
Benalmádena Costa, Málaga, Spain



STUDYING at college or university should be the happiest time of a young person's life.

Free from the watchful eye of mum and dad, youngsters have the time, independence and resources to discover what really makes them tick, while, of course, making a few mistakes along the way.

In short, for a handful of years, it is all fun and games.

But as the impact of coronavirus sweeps the globe, it's almost certainly students who are facing the brunt of the restrictions and suffering the most.

In March 2020, Spain closed all its schools and universities in accordance with government regulations to contain the disease.

Overnight, the country's 9.5 million students were left in limbo. At first they were able to cope, enjoying the lie-ins and extra reading time - one study reported that levels of stress, anxiety, and depression were generally low during the initial stages of the pandemic; however as the period of confinement was extended, the stress levels of students sky-rocketed.

The study concluded that young people, particularly students suffered the highest levels of anxiety, depression, and stress. Take Miguel, a 21-year-old

By Kirsty McKenzie

student in his third year at the University of Granada. He was ordered to stay in and self isolate in his room for a number of days last month to find out if he was negative after a flatmate had contracted COVID-19.

"My stomach dropped," Miguel told *the Olive Press*. "I found being locked up last year so difficult I really worried I wouldn't be able to do it again."

"To stay trapped in a tiny room, not able to go outside and see my friends. I thought I might go mad. It's not normal for young people to be locked up like this. Thankfully I was OK and I tested negative but it has made me extra careful. I couldn't deal with going through this again." Miguel said he knows a handful of people who have had the virus, three from university. "One friend lost his mum to COVID. He wasn't even able to say goodbye to her in the hospital. That was the hardest thing to bear."

The class of 2020 and beyond bore the brunt of the disastrous home-learning experiment, who have spent months glued to screens. The ones who couldn't meet their classmates

and now face the intense disappointment of curtailed or cancelled activities such as sport, socialising and collaborative learning. The *Olive Press* itself has already had to postpone its long-running exchange

A DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY

It should be a period of fun, grades and learning heading to uni... but many students in Spain are struggling with a myriad of COVID issues including anxiety and depression

programme with American university Princeton once last summer, and this year it is again looking in peril.

"It is such a shame for the students who really look forward to their two month study trips over to Europe in the summer," said International Internship advisor Mariella Diaz, at the Ivy League institution. "We are trying to salvage as many internships as possible by doing them online, but it is definitely not the same thing."

Unlike any previous generation, today's students are facing a distinct lack of social contact while paying for teachers they will never see and accommodation they will never use, plus struggling with many more cancelled plans.

There is also the uncertainty over their future with the pandemic and its ever-changing restrictions knocking the resilience of this age group - and the battle to keep students inside is proving more and more challenging as the months roll on. When classes restarted in September, universities proved ill-equipped to handle the return of students on mass - and the

socialising it would entail. Granada, Spain's largest student city, soon reported a higher infection rate per capita, than Madrid, with its string of big student parties taking place.

By October, the University of Granada, which has nearly 40,000 students, found that 236 youngsters had tested positive since classes began in late September.

Some 60 of those cases were reported over one single weekend after a series

of large parties where youngsters disregarded masks and social distancing measures.

Videos of students partying on the city's streets went viral online and officials said police were too

busy to stop the vast number of parties.

"Not even the army could have stopped the students from gathering," said local health official Cesar Diaz.

"Yet, I don't know anyone who has had COVID," says Archie, an 18-year-old from the nearby Alpujarras area, studying to be an electrician at IES Hermenegildo Lanz.

"They say we spread it like wildfire but I don't know anyone who

has symptoms so it makes us all pretty sceptical," he said.

"Why are we being cocooned? Is it even helping? It's been a year. At what point are we going to go back living our lives?"

Like many students, Archie's main concern is the future. With an overcrowded job market, little casual work available, and unemployment sky-rocketing, students with fragile financial situations are no longer able to support themselves.

"I worry about my friends who don't study because it is a tough time to find any kind of work but at the same time those who are studying history or whatever - what future do they have? I chose to study something practical which means I will be able to start my own business as an electrician after I graduate and hopefully be able to find work."

"I am lucky that a lot of my classes are in school and are practical. That keeps me motivated." But he warns not everyone feels the same. "The enthusiasm is just so low. I know that some people only have online classes so don't bother showing up. It's easy to skip classes and not feel guilty, especially if you are just sitting in front of a screen. It's mind numbing."

Spanish research found that over half of students said their mental health has declined



while studying from home. Of those students, 53% said they now suffered 'high' anxiety and 44.7% said they had depression. Over 53% of students said they were struggling with social dysfunction.

Nadja, an Erasmus student from Germany found it 'a pretty scary and weird' time to move to the country adding that it was 'impossible for her to have the normal student experience'. The 22-year-old, who is studying Cognitive and Media Science, said her 'well being was affected pretty hard' as she was unable to meet classmates or integrate with the student com-



A student's guide to Granada



IF you were to visit just one city in Spain, Ernest Hemingway wrote, it should be Granada - and there are few student cities to rival the undisputed capital of culture in Andalucía. With multiple diverse higher education institutions, Spain's largest student population soaks up the buzz beneath the inspiring skyline, dominated by the Alhambra. And while the Moorish fort is the main sight to see, attracting 2.7 million visitors each year, there's much more for students to explore.

Over 75,000 of the city's 240,000 people are students and the University of Granada has been named as the most popular university in Europe for Erasmus students. Youngsters are spoilt for choice between the courses on offer between the Universidad de Granada, the Escuela Internacional de Gerencia and Escuela Superior de Arte y Diseño de Andalucía.



Cost of living

Rent is notoriously inexpensive. One-bedroom flats cost between €450 to €600 a month while shared flats start at an average of €300. This is a student city and so discounts are guaranteed. Expat-owned Bar Poe offers huge plates of 'exotic tapas' for under a tanner, and popular Taberna Mercantil has plenty of potent wine to keep the students happy.



Nightlife

From traditional taps to discobares and raves in caves, students have an overwhelming choice of nightlife in Granada. Sala Vogue kicks off the week playing indie pop-rock and techno across two dancefloors Monday to Sunday from midday until 6am. Aliatar always has a full crowd, where DJs play unashamedly brash in the converted cinema. For a more unusual night out, students head down to El Cambario in Sacromonte for flamenco dancers, live music and cheap drinks.

Culture

While the Alhambra is the main attraction - students are unlikely to get up at the crack of dawn to book tickets and dodge tourists. You can still see a great deal of the sprawling complex without stepping foot into the fortress itself - and penny pinching students would do well to visit Generalife, the Alhambra's or the Carmen de los Martires Gardens. For art lovers, the Museum of Fine Arts sits in the heart of the Charles V palace with over 2,000 incredible pieces of classic work. Elsewhere Abadia del Sacromonte is the neighbourhood's key historic site while the Museo Cuevas del Sacromonte shares the stories of the ancient gitanos quarter.



Transport

Most of the city is accessible by foot and most students stick to the Calle Gran Capitan and San Juan de Dios, both in the university area, that come alive at nighttime. The city's main bus station, on Ctra de Jaen is a little further out the centre but handles most services, including those to Sierra Nevada. Train tickets to Madrid and Barcelona start at €30, with stops to Córdoba, Zaragoza, Lleida and Tarragona. Just 18km from the city centre, is Granada airport. Despite only having one terminal it has multiple airline providers including British Airways and direct flights to major destinations including Barcelona, Madrid, Bilbao, Ibiza, Menorca, Mallorca, Tenerife and Gran Canaria.



munity. She said: "To some classes I have never been, not even in the beginning, so I didn't know anybody from my university which made it really hard to find workgroups and of course also make friends or get to know

spanish people. "I found it also pretty hard to communicate with the professors just online because I think they don't care about you that much as they have never seen you. "As an erasmus student you depend on help from other

students and professors." She added that she found the blame being placed on erasmus students as the ones responsible for spreading the virus as "pretty difficult". Still, Nadja has a degree of optimism. "It's getting better and better."

University of Gibraltar: An institution in growth

UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR

The University of Gibraltar is a dynamic institution that combines British academic standards with all the benefits that come with a warm, Mediterranean location. In the five years since its launch, the institution has embarked on an ambitious programme of academic development and now attracts students from across the world who seek a more personal learning experience and quality, on-campus learning. It adheres to the highest UK academic standards and its qualifications are recognised across the world.

Gibraltar's vibrant economy and unique location at a cultural, historical and biogeographical crossroads, enables the University to offer its students valuable industry experience throughout its undergraduate programmes and deliver a unique university experience.

Alternative to UK

It has been widely reported that pandemic has had a negative impact on the student experience at many universities across the world. Students across the UK have experienced various levels of lockdown from their student accommodation and many of their lectures were delivered online. Whilst the University of Gibraltar shifted to online delivery for a brief period this year, they have welcomed students back this week and have started in-person teaching. This makes the University of Gibraltar a good alternative to the UK for international students. In a global IDP Connect survey dated October 2020, more than half (56%) of international students said they were likely to choose study destinations on the basis of which institution offered in-person learning.

The University of Gibraltar fees freeze

Brexit has seen the UK implement new immigration protocols for students coming from within the European Union and many UK Universities have set higher international fees

for entry in 2021. In contrast, the University of Gibraltar has chosen to scrap international fees completely. This means that those from abroad will pay the same fee as its home students. It is not a private institution and therefore offers parity with UK tuition fees.

The University of Gibraltar offers a small, yet diverse portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that align with the UK's highest academic standards. Subjects include business, leadership, maritime science, marine science, teaching and nursing.

Gibraltar as a centre for business

Gibraltar attracts many local and international investors in part due to its first-rate professional infrastructure, fully compliant with European regulations. It is home to numerous international trading companies and financial services institutions, and has a healthy and prosperous economy.

Gibraltar, then, is an excellent place to get your start in business. The Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) undergraduate business degree stands out as it offers annual industry placements and the choice of majors that include marketing, management, finance and accounting.

For those looking for a postgraduate degree, the University offers full-time and part-time options including an MBA and a new MA in Leadership and Management plus an MSc in Marine Science and Climate Change.

The University is accepting direct applications to its programmes starting this September. Find out more at unigib.edu.gi



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