

All about Education

February 2022

A 12-page Olive Press special pull out supplement



MASKING THE CHALLENGES: While masks are here to stay for a few more months at least, pupils at Laude school, in Marbella, are making the most of it (see page 6)

BLACKBOARD JUNGLE

EXPAT children have long been faced with a significant challenge when taking the leap from the Spanish Baccalaureate to the UK university system. Or that of most northern European countries.

Bombarded with reams of stodgy material to learn verbatim for the final school exams, 18-year-olds emerge

After years of being criticised for its antiquated curriculum, Spain makes a bid to prepare its students for the modern world. But will it succeed, asks expat mum Heather Galloway

to how to write an essay when I got to university."

The student, who passed her Baccalaureate in Madrid, adds: "I had to keep badgering my tutors, but there wasn't much help."

"I simply learned from what feedback we got and a process of trial and error." As a mother, who has brought up two children in Madrid, I railed against the Spanish education system during my children's entire schooling.

"I was never taught to think or reason at school so I was at a complete loss when I got to university."

from their schooling with the ability to reel off every date in Spanish history WITHOUT mostly questioning why any

of it happened. Meanwhile, 17-year-old language students are asked to identify the grammatical use of every word in a sentence, but are never taught how to link information or build an argument. Literature students paradoxically miss the actual reading of classic novels

while in Maths, formulas abound, but not so the explanations of their potential application.

According to Maia Taylor-Firth, a marketing graduate from Edinburgh's Napier University who grew up in Spain: "I was never taught to think or reason at school so I was at a complete loss as

Continues on Page 2

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From front page

IT'S ALL ABOUT TO CHANGE

The relentless rote-learning always struck me as senseless and it felt like Spain was languishing in the UK or Germany in the 1970s.

And it is a notion echoed by Andreas Schleicher, the man behind The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s PISA report, known as the most influential international assessment of students' worldwide.

Of course, now that my children have graduated from high school, it's typically all about to change.

Or at least that's the theory; a draft of the Baccalaureate element of the new education law, variously known as the LOMLOE or the Celaa Law, has just been placed in the hands of the regions to finish hammering out.

"It's obvious that the system needs to be updated," Raimundo de los Reyes, President of Spain's Public Secondary Schools



Federation (FEDADi), tells *the Olive Press*. "In general, the teaching community agrees that the amount of material taught in Baccalaureate has been excessive and the curriculum needs to be revised."

The amount of time students here are expected to spend poring over facts and figures amounts to an annual 1,045 hours compared to a European average of 893 hours, and that's before knocking down to the two or three hours of homework per evening.

As Carla Smith, a second year Biomedicine student at Southampton University, says: "When I was in Madrid doing the Baccalaureate, I was working so hard, I couldn't breathe. I woke up at seven and went to bed at midnight. At uni, there's a lot more time to do things. Now I can go to bed at nine if I want."

But what's particularly of note is that despite the time put in, students in Spain still score below average on the



BRIGHT FUTURE: But Maia Taylor Firth (above) and Carla Smith (far left) found they and their contemporaries were worked

PISA test – an assessment generally carried out every three years. In the last test, in 2018, Spain came 35th in Maths and 31st in Sciences on a par with Hungary and Lithuania. Asked if the new Baccalaureate might reduce the actual hours students spend behind a desk, FEDADi's Raimundo is doubtful.

"I'm afraid the number of hours will remain the same for now," he says. "What will change is the material which was deemed to be excessive by experts but will now be more in line with students' hopes for the future. The changes will be as much in quality as quantity." In essence, it will become a more General Baccalaureate, allowing students to create a personalised curriculum. It will also divide the Art stream into

two: Music and Performance Art, and Visual Arts and Design.

Besides new subjects, there will be an overhaul of the old to boost the students' engagement in the learning process, with the emphasis on skills, application of acquired knowledge and analysis of more current 'woke' material, if you like.

It means more study of identity diversity and sustainability, as well as more on climate change and global migration. Spanish history will now have students

Teachers of the future

Using the latest technology to inspire the next generation

THE appeal of CLIC International House has infiltrated every corner of the globe. With language students from the UK, Russia, Ireland, China and the US, their teaching methods and flexible timetables can suit just about everyone and anyone. Located in Malaga, Cadiz and Sevilla, the school stands out for its dedication to inspiring the next generation of English language teachers as well as helping expats brush up on their Spanish.

But with coronavirus in mind, classes can now be taken online over Zoom. The live Spanish course means Brits won't have to rely on isolated self learning but can instead connect with classmates from any country in the world and learn from expert teachers as a cohort.

Meanwhile, those hoping to inspire the next generation of English speakers can enroll for the Cambridge accredited CELTA course. Taught in four weeks (in person) or in 15 weeks (part time morning course online via Zoom), CELTA is the most prestigious Teaching

English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) qualification out there.

Carefully designed, it allows budding teachers to develop confidence and expertise in the classroom. Like a passport to paradise, students who have completed the course have gone on to work in Mexico, New Zealand, New Zealand and Japan. Available throughout the year, the next round of classes runs from March 7 (online) and March 14 (4 weeks in Malaga or Sevilla).

With an emphasis on fun and practical exercises, the classes at CLIC are filled with laughter and upbeat learning with a great atmosphere. So, whether you're a budding teacher or inquisitive student, you can carry on learning anywhere in the world. All you need is a comfy chair, enthusiasm and some wifi to get started.

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EYE-WATERING!

SPAIN'S education system is under the cosh. And rightfully so. According to the latest PISA report, 29% of Spanish students have repeated a year at least once, compared to just 2% in the UK. This is one of the highest rates globally and well above the OECD average.

Spain meanwhile comes in 35th in Maths, compared to the UK at 17; while in sciences, Spain climbs up to 31st compared to the UK at 15. In both these areas, China comes out on top. There is also a huge divide between north and south with all regions north of Madrid and the Balearics beating the OECD average in Maths and Sciences.

Well below average are Murcia, Valencia, Extremadura, Andalusia, the Canaries, Melilla and Ceuta, which falls almost 100 points below Navarra.

According to Eurostat, some 17.3% of Spain's youth are 'ninis' – youngsters who neither study nor work, the third highest figure in the EU.

The Canaries has the highest amount at 23%, while Andalusia scores 22%, the Balears 21%, Valencia 16%, Murcia 15%, and La Rioja the lowest at just 11%.



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so hard 'they couldn't breathe'

studying the role of women in society and their struggle for equality as well as examining the Second Republic and Franco's 1936 power grab, which will be termed a 'coup d'état' for the first time ever.

Maths, meanwhile, aims to broaden the subject's appeal and reduce 'stereotypes and preconceived ideas' with regard to 'gender' and 'aptitude' with lessons revolving around problem solving and with 'special attention to non-mathematical areas and their relationship with other subjects and with reality'.

Above all, the new Baccalaureate curriculum aims to make learning a more meaningful process.

Not making the best of it

NOW that schools have returned to some sort of normality following the pandemic, the debate on school hours in Spain is set to reignite.

Figures gathered before the start of the pandemic showed a student at a Spanish high school received an average of 1,045 hours of class time a year.

This was in sharp contrast to the mere 808 hours given to a pupil in Finland.

But those extra hours did not translate into attainment – Spanish students scored considerably worse than their Finnish counterparts when scored on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) test, according to the OECD.

The study ranked Spain in the middle for academic attainment, while Finland was an international leader.

Sweden, Norway and Japan also had substantially fewer class hours than Spain, yet were amongst the top placed nations when it came to academic achievement.

As well as having more class hours than the EU average of 893, Spain also had more lessons in language, mathematics and foreign languages. Raimundo de los Reyes, the head of FEDADI, the federation that brings together the leaders of public secondary schools, believes students in Spain study for too many hours – six hours in class plus three or four hours on homework, projects and other school activities. "That is longer than the working day of many employees."

"I would do away with 10 hours if in exchange we had fewer students in the classroom and could give them more personalized attention. We need resources, more assistant teachers, and to give more time for teachers to prepare all classes, not just the ones in English," he added.

AIMING HIGH

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*Programme commences in September 2022.

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Postgraduate

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education - PGCE
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MAKING THE RIGHT

Picking the correct path through the education system is crucial and more complicated than simply adding up 2+2

SPAIN offers a wealth of educational opportunities to parents. Whether you have only recently arrived or lived here for years the question of how to make the best of these options can be a tricky one.

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 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 infantile or pre-scolar, 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 state 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.

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 and many other resorts have their own options.

The rise of international schools 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 Benalmadena International College, which is celebrating its quarter century on the coast.

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 a private school in Marbella - said: "Pupils meet other students from so many different countries."

"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."

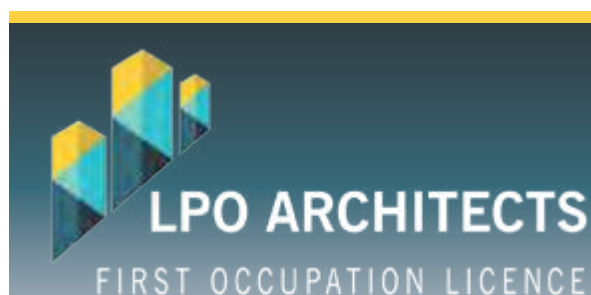
To tie in with this, many of the top schools are increasingly offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme, as well as the local secondary school qualification, the Bachillerato.

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."

IB students take six or seven subjects rather than three or four A levels



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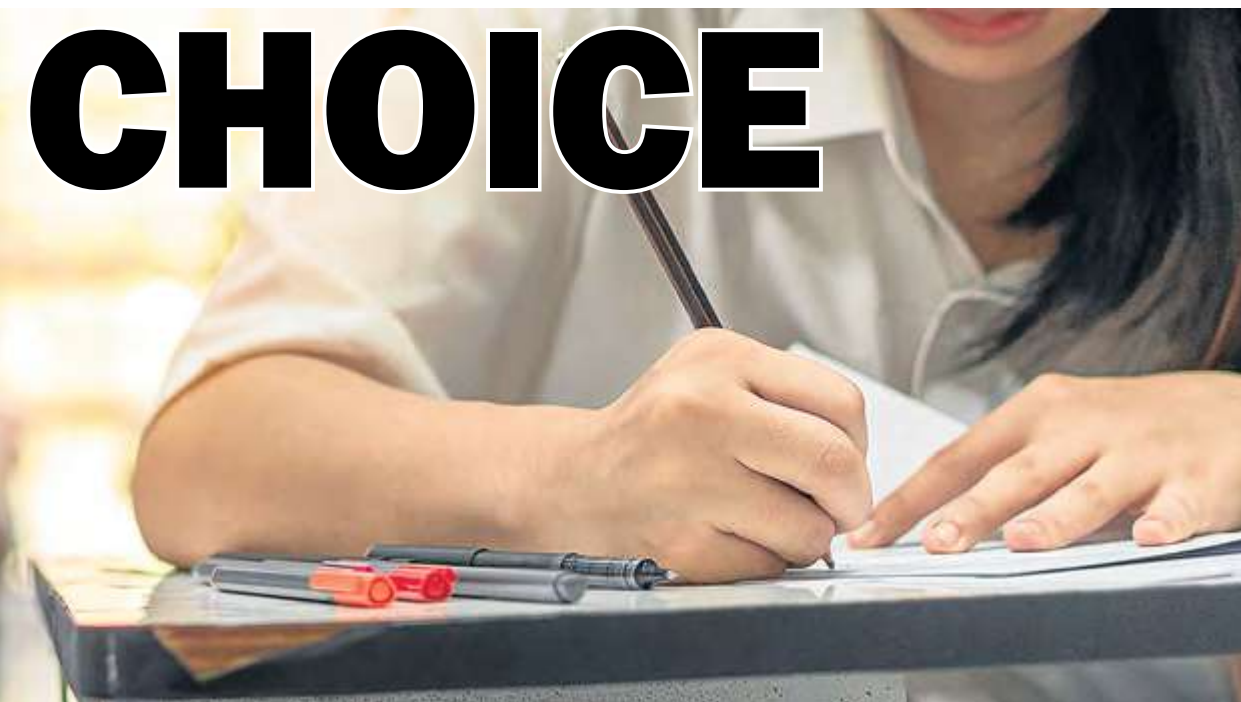
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CHOICE



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!

Safe, nurtured and valued

Calpe School is bringing a new dynamic approach to Primary Education on the coast

CALPE School is a private Primary School offering the British National Curriculum. Founded in 1973. It has been successfully teaching children of all abilities, from the ages of "2 to 11 years" for over 49 years.

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Keep on learning...



The students at Laude San Pedro have adapted well to the 'new normal'

IT'S been a tough couple of years for students and staff at Laude San Pedro but the youngsters have adapted and are as busy as ever. School Principal Amanda Hughes, explained: "Whilst the last two years have definitely been challenging, it has been amazing to see how the students, staff and families have adapted to our 'new normal' and become increasingly resilient to change.

"We are still operating as normally as ever, even re-introducing residential trips and sports tournaments for the children, whilst following all COVID protocols fully to ensure that we keep the classrooms open and the children learning."



50 and thriving

Sunny View School celebrates a milestone and looks to the future



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, which this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary, places a high value on its inclusive, caring and respectful atmosphere, a quality often commented on by visitors and newcomers to the school. The school's academic success is evidenced by its students' examination re-

sults, 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.

Sunny View 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 commitment has remained unchanged during the pandemic. As always – and working within 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. Sunny View is also a richly diverse school, with students representing some 35 different nationalities.

Even as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, the school has its eyes set



on the future and continues to expand and upgrade its facilities and resources. Ahead of this academic year, the science building underwent a major renovation including improved layout and equipment in all the laboratories, while the school's music room was enlarged and outfitted with new instruments. The school also recently launched Little Sunny View, a day-care centre for children aged 1 to 2. Yet while always evolving and advancing, Sunny View School has maintained its strongest focus on what it does best: delivering quality, British education here on the Costa del Sol.



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RUNNING A RULE

Calpe School

Location:

San Pedro de Alcántara

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.



From across the Costa del Sol, the Olive Press presents report cards from four leading private schools

Sunny View School

Location:

Torremolinos, Málaga

Headteacher:

Victoria Midmer

Curriculum:

English national curriculum

Contact:

952 38 31 64 – admin@sunnyviewschool.com – www.sunnyview-school.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.



SUNNY VIEW SCHOOL
The Best of British Education on the Costa del Sol

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.
952 799 900 / info@laudesanpedro.com / www.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.



Benalmadena International College

Location:

Benalmadena, Málaga

Founded:

1997

Head teacher:

Keith Ellis

Curriculum:

UK national curriculum with sixth form completing A-levels

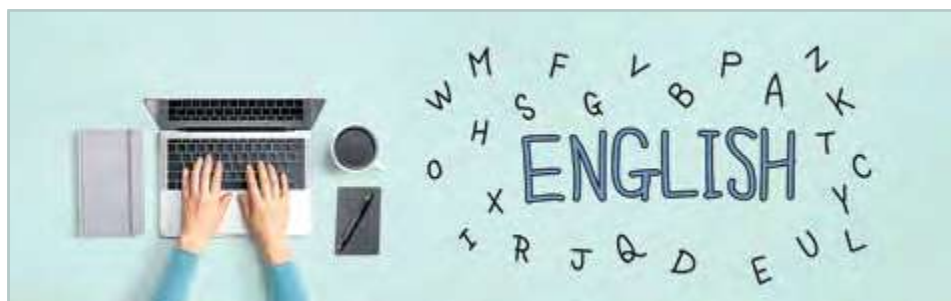
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952 561 666 / www.bic-benal.com

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.





Try teaching English

THE recent boom in private language schools offering English has meant a bigger demand for English teachers in Andalucía.

This means that increasing numbers of expats are finding the opportunity of either starting off on a new career or simply obtaining an additional source of income.

But can anyone get a job in a language school?

Surprisingly there are no legally re-

quired qualifications to work as an English teacher in Spain.

This has, of course, led to plenty of poor quality language schools setting up.

Those looking for work in the sector can start by checking out schools belonging to ACEIA, the Association of Andalusian Language Schools, whose website www.aceia.es has a list of members.

If you have little, or no, previous teaching experience or wish to re-cycle, it would be a good idea, and a very rewarding experience, to take a Cambridge CELTA teacher training course. Employers around the world, not just in Spain, ask for CELTA - an internationally recognised TEFL qualification which will provide you with the skills necessary to teach in the classroom as well as hands-on experience.

A CELTA certificate is regulated by Ofqual at level 5 on the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

A teaching qualification does not automatically lead to employment, but it certainly gives you a head start over other people applying for work.



THE PERFECT ENVIRONMENT

The Benalmádena International College gives children an opportunity to thrive with the school motto of Building Inner Confidence

DYNAMIC, vibrant and dedicated to educational excellence, The Benalmádena International College, is a modern-day school offering the British curriculum to children and young adults from three to eighteen years old from 30 different countries. The school is one of only 15 in Spain to have been inspected and accredited to BSO standards (British School Overseas). We are proud to have passed all inspection standards in our recent inspection. Since the inspection the school continues to grow from strength to strength. The school is situated in an idyllic, yet convenient location just 300 metres from the beach, between the coastal towns of Benalmádena Costa and Fuengirola. Its location of less than thirty minutes from Málaga airport and city centre, makes it the ideal place for the many international students who attend BIC, and participate in its popular Student Homestay Programme.

Founded in 1997 by current school director, Mr. Keith Ellis, the school's philosophy aims to give each child focused learning in an enjoyable environment - an experience they will treasure for the rest of their lives.

Facilities at The Benalmádena International College are of a high standard, and contribute to an enjoyable and interactive experience for students. It has spacious modern classrooms, a games room, cafeteria (providing healthy snacks and lunches to students), purpose-built science laboratories, IT suites, library, art studio, as well as a special Sixth Form Research Area sitting on 17,500 square metres of grounds.

But more importantly the teachers and staff are dedicated to providing the best educational experience possible, to all its students.

Sports and recreational activities play an important role in school life and the college believes in the importance sport plays in the education and development of its students. It offers a wide range of sports to students including cricket, touch rugby, football, tennis and athletics, among others, and BIC plays an active role in inter-schools competitions on the Costa del Sol.



For more information on the educational programmes offered and its quality International Student Homestay Programme (running for the past 25 years), go to www.bic-benal.com or call the school directly on +34 952 561 666

THE BENALMÁDENA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form



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CREATIVE OUTLOOK

Spanish parents put creativity at the top of the list, while most Brits prefer the three Rs

A SURVEY has found that literacy and numeracy are the most important targets for British parents, while Spaniards put more value on creative thinking. 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.

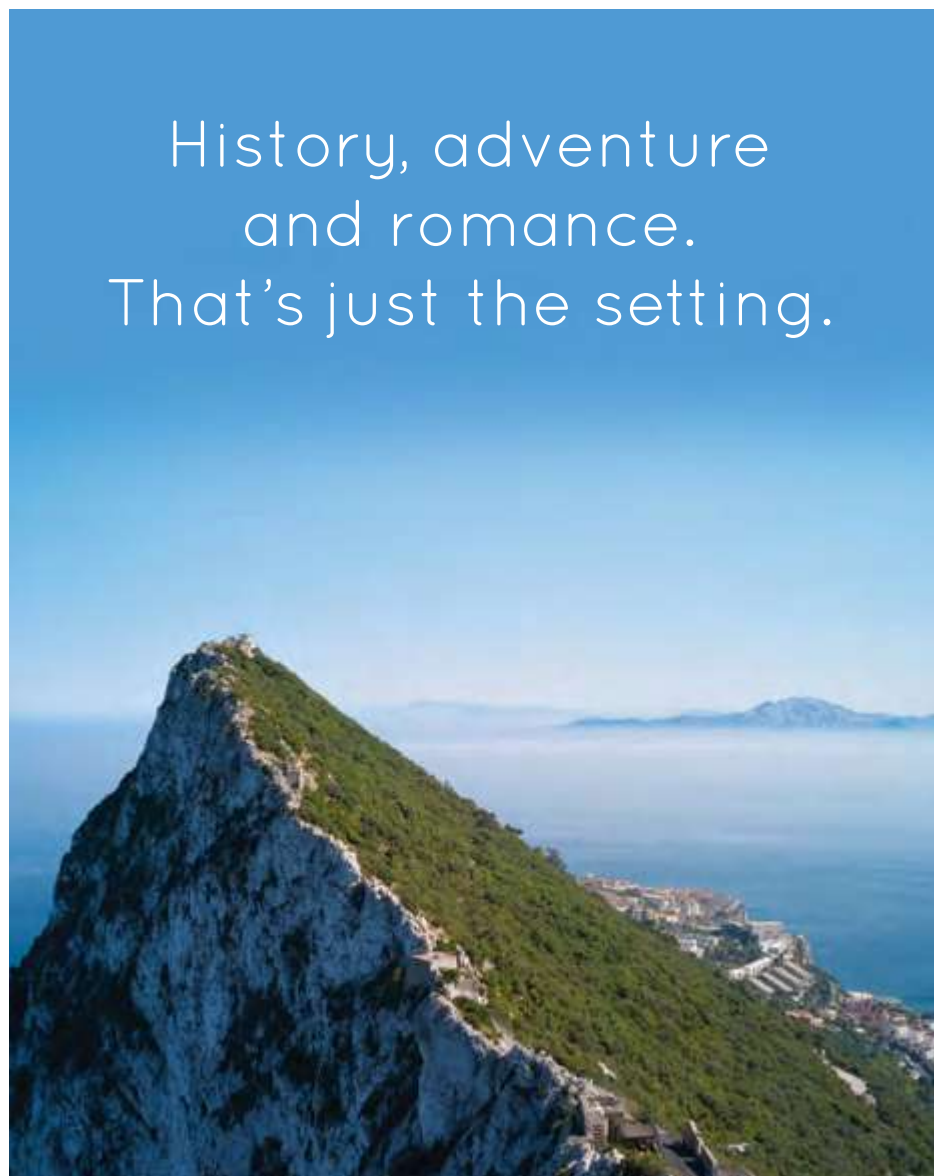
The survey of global attitudes, showed big cultural differences towards education - and widening political polarisation.

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 closer to that of less-developed coun-



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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 advantage 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 cana 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.

tries 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.



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.

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.

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.

Speak Spanish

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, 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."

Svenska Skolan Marbella: Bringing a friendly approach to the Swedish curriculum



SVENSKA Skolan is a private school offering the Swedish curriculum to all students aged from three to 18 in their preschool, primary and secondary classes, with Spanish, English and Swedish spoken.

The motto of the school translates to 'A school for life' as all students are offered a competitive education in a kind and nurturing environment. The small and intimate school has a warm and friendly atmosphere set in the beautiful surroundings of Marbella.

The school provides an inclusive and supportive education, with many students continuing on to higher education all around the world and achieving higher than average grades.

With such a tight-knit group of staff and students, everyone is on a first name basis in the friendly environment.

Many classes are taught outdoors, utilising the many outdoor facilities on offer with many day trips in the beautiful Andalusian landscape.



For more information, go to www.svenskaskolanmarbella.com or contact us through Facebook... or call us on +34 952 86 82 52



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Now in our 18th year and fully accredited by the Swedish National Agency for Education, The Swedish School of Marbella is one of the longest established and best known schools for Swedish expats living in Spain. We offer the Swedish National Curriculum taught in Swedish, starting with preschool from 3 years of age to elementary school grades 1-6, right through to online schooling with full time teacher support for older students. Our teachers are all qualified in Sweden and aim to offer students a safe and engaging study environment focusing on the development of each student's individual needs.

The Swedish School of Marbella also offers excellent outdoor and sports facilities including our own 3 court Padel Club, large green areas, pool, football pitch, volleyball and basketball facilities as well as dozens of other sporting activities. We are located in Urb. La Alzambra, Puerto Banus and look forward to seeing you soon for a visit.



For more information contact:

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