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## **Message from Mr. O' Connor**

Dear Parents and Friends,

As we come up to the Easter holidays, we would like to remind you all of the importance of attendance at school. Attendance at school is directly related to academic results and indeed the social and emotional wellbeing of the students. We know this, the Ministries of Education (both the Spanish Ministry, British Ministry and the International Baccalaureate know this) and I am

sure you also know this! It is an essential tool in life, consistency and to simply 'get the job done'. At the end of the term we have a huge number of activities being organised, some are academic and some are orientated at the importance of the community, team building and culture.

We have shared all this term's reports with you, both for the Primary and in Secondary students. Indeed, we finish the term in Secondary with the all important Secondary Academic Review day, this opens the possibility of reserving a meeting directly with the specialist subject teachers during the school day. These initiatives are absolutely essential if we are truly going to ensure that both school, students and families act as one unit.

On this note, we would all love to wish you and your families a relaxing Easter break and we look forward to seeing you in the Summer term.

My best wishes as always.

Mr. James O' Connor

Headmaster and Co-Founder of GVS

## Primary Section

### Dates for your Diary

- **Tuesday 26th March: Last Day of Spring Term**
- **Monday 8th April: First Day of Summer Term**
- Friday 19th April: Primary Sports Morning and Family Picnic 9:15 - 12:00
- Week beginning 22nd April: English Reading and Book Week
- Tuesday 23rd April: Book Character Dress Up Day

### Message from Ms. Jan Harvey

Dear Families,

As we have reached the end of our second term and now just have the summer term remaining, I would like to take a moment to reflect on an issue which is causing great concern amongst the staff - attendance or rather absences!

There are increasing numbers of students who are leaving school 3, 4 or even 5 days before the official end of term and others who return a few days late. Added to this are other odd days taken off for long weekends, birthdays, and family visits. These days are mounting up, and we have many cases in the primary school where children have already missed three or more weeks of learning this school year, some have even missed more than five weeks! This is almost half a term.

We do understand that children can also be ill, but that is why it is vital that no additional days are taken. It is detrimental to the child's learning, so much work is being missed, which is never recovered, as teachers are unable to keep reteaching due to a child's absence. During our recent parent/teacher meetings, one of the questions parents ask is, how can my child reach the next level? As we know, one way which you can help, is to ensure your child is attending school.

In addition to missed learning, during these last days of term, many of the year groups completed their end of term assessments with several children missing from the class. This is one of the ways teachers can check a child's understanding and to see what the next steps are. For those children who are absent, this cannot be done.

On a lighter note, last week we held our annual Egg Decorating Competition, the standard is becoming higher each year and this year was no exception. Wednesday was the day we had set aside for the work to take place and the primary classes were a hive of activity all day. They had so many different ideas and it was a joy to see the cooperation and willingness to share resources and to help each other. The results were amazing as I am sure you saw when you attended the eggshibition on Friday afternoon. It was so hard to pick the winners as everyone had put so much

work into their designs but finally a decision was made.

In year 2, Lola and Lucia won with their beautiful school design. Year 3 winners were Tom, Liam and Felix for their amazing volcano Mount Eggna. In Year 4, the winning entry was a jungle scene by Noa and Daniela. Year 5 winners were Lennox and Noah for their wonderful Cinema design and finally in Y6, Mariela and Jolie won with their brilliant Harry Potter design of a Quidditch match. Congratulations to our winners but also to everyone who participated, you really did a fantastic job and should all be very proud of your efforts.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, Year 3 went to visit Gordiola to see how glass was blown. They had a brilliant morning, and this was followed up by a visit on Friday, from Ceaser the owner of the factory, who came to talk about the history of the factory and to bring each child a gift of some marbles which had been specially made on site during the time they were there.

Just some quick reminders:

- Our Primary Sports Morning will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 9:15 - 12:00. You are invited to come to cheer on your child and to bring a picnic to share with them during the morning.
- All long hair should be tied back please and could we all do a head check at the start and end of this Easter break.
- The Primary school begins at 8:30 with the gate opening at 8:25.

As always thank you for your amazing support again this term, it truly is appreciated. Have a wonderful Easter break, and we will see you all again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Kind regards,

Ms. Jan Harvey

Head of Primary



## Secondary Section

### Message from Mr. Drew Sparkman

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we close another enriching Term 2, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support and engagement. Your commitment to your child's education plays a

crucial role in shaping a nurturing and productive learning environment. Your involvement has been instrumental in the success of this term, and for that, we are profoundly thankful.

A special thank you to all who attended the Term 2 Academic Review Day. Your participation in these discussions is invaluable, offering a unique perspective on your child's academic journey. These interactions are key to fostering a collaborative educational partnership, ensuring our students achieve their fullest potential.

For the parents and guardians of Year 11 and Year 13 students, please note that the exam timetables for the official exams are now available. These schedules are crucial for your child's preparation and planning in the upcoming weeks. We encourage you to review these timetables together and to reach out with any questions or concerns.

- [Final IGCSE Exam Timetable 2024](#)
- [Final IBDP Exam Timetable 2024](#)

Importantly, Y11 IGCSE students have a mathematics exam on May 2nd at 12:00. However, students must arrive at the school at 10:45. From 10:45 until the start of the exam time, they will be under the supervision of the school. This is a requirement by Cambridge, the examination authority. Any student who does not arrive at 10:45 will not be admitted access to the exam.

Lastly, as we approach the Easter holidays, we wish you and your families a restful and joyful break. May this time be filled with happiness, reflection, and cherished moments with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming our students back, rejuvenated and ready to embark on the final term of the academic year.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. Happy Easter to you all!

Warmest regards,

Drew Sparkman, MEd

Head of Secondary



### **Y10 : Dragons' Den / Shark Tank - (Mr. C Bennett)**

Y10 Business Studies students have been putting their entrepreneurial skills to the test this week in a Dragons' Den (BBC Studios)/Shark Tank (ABC US) forum designed to test their understanding of the course curriculum completed over the past two terms.

Teams of 4 students were challenged to design a new product or service suitable for sale across key European markets. Additionally, students had to decide on the most appropriate format for their business, prepare personal C/V's, and design an advertisement in support of their product launch.

Presentations were made to a panel of Dragons/Sharks made up of Y12 Business Management IB students who were equally keen to display their knowledge and understanding of the key requirements of a successful business. A series of lively, informative, and challenging exchanges occurred as each team sought to obtain agreement to the initial funding requirements requested.

Whilst both the Y10 and Y12 students enjoyed the chance to work on a specific project, slightly outside of the normal classroom environment, the core components of the challenge helped to

reinforce a number of the key learning objectives of both the IGCSE and IBDP courses.

Ultimately most teams were successful in obtaining support from at least one Dragon/Shark. Who knows, perhaps the next Cher Wang or Jeff Bezos will come from the Green Valley School community!"

## Links to GVS Social Media



**Follow us to be updated on our latest news and have fun with what is happening at our school. Click on the icon below to join.**



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