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Message from Mr. O' Connor

Dear Parents and Friends,

The exams season is upon us with the start of the International Baccalaureate and the IGCSE exams this week for Years 13 and Year 11 respectively. Importantly, these are moments when the whole school, both Primary and Secondary pull together. The students have experienced 'mock exams' during these courses, and the key to success lies

in exam technique and exam preparation. The students need to feel 'at home' in their exam environment and indeed supportive teachers, both in an academic way and in an emotional way, are relied upon by both the students and families alike.

The Year 13 and Year 11 students have optional study leave for their exams, but are encouraged to come and 'check in' with their teachers for any questions that they might have. Emotional support comes in many different ways, through the different subject teachers, our Head of Culture, Mr. Llorenc or Mr. Sparkman and myself. Sometimes, simply it is a reassuring smile or joke from any members of the team that might help a student in any given moment.

In conclusion, the students from Years 13 and Year 11 sit their exams with the whole school, both Primary and Secondary supporting them. We wish the Year 13 and Year 11 students all the very best during this time!

My best wishes as always,

Mr James O' Connor

Primary Section

Dates for your Diary

- **Wednesday 1st May: No School - Public Holiday**
- Week beginning 6th May: Outdoor Learning Week
- Thursday 9th May: Y3 to Fresopolis
- Wednesday 15th May: Y5 to La Caixa Forum
- Week beginning 20th May: Spanish Week
- Tuesday 21st May: Y4 Viking Day (presentation to parents at 3:30 p.m.)
- Friday 24th May: Flamenco Dancing, Children to wear 'Spanish' Costume
- Friday 31st May: Y3 Assembly to Parents 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 29th May: Y4 to La Caixa Forum
- Tuesday 4th June: Y2 to La Caixa Forum

- Tues 4th and Wed 5th June: Y6 Residential Trip
- Friday 7th June: Transition Day, meeting new Teachers, Y6 go to Y7.
- Tuesday June 11th and Wednesday June 12th: Primary Summer Production
- **Week beginning 17th June: Primary Final Assessment Week**
- Thursday 20th June: Y6 Graduation Ceremony 9:30 - 11:00
- Friday 21st June: Summer Fair 14:00 - 15:30 so **Primary School ends at 14:00**
- **Monday 24th June: Holiday - School closed**
- **Wednesday 26th June: Last Day of Summer Term**

Message from Ms. Jan Harvey

Dear Families,

I hope you had a lovely weekend, although with this very changeable weather it is difficult to know what to do. It certainly affected our Book Day on Tuesday as we were unable to have the planned parade during the morning, but I think the children enjoyed their day anyway.

Thank you to all who helped their child to participate in the dressing up, the children looked amazing! It would be lovely to see more of our Y5 and Y6 children participating in these events, as these are the memories they will take away from their childhood, and what builds our school community. Hopefully, you can help to encourage them to participate in our next event which will be during Spanish week in May.

Yesterday, Y4 went to the Botanical Gardens in Soller. We learned all about the arthropod family, especially focusing on insects. We looked at examples of real insects that can be found in the Balearic Islands and went for a stroll in the gardens to see the pollinators at work in real life! We were also very lucky to see beetles, dragonflies, butterflies and a sleeping cat,

amongst the plants. The children all behaved beautifully and were a credit to GVS. We were very proud of them. (Ms. Malaika)

The children have been very busy this week, as I am sure you have discovered during the presentations this afternoon. We are very impressed with the book reviews and other work linked to their class book and are proud to be able to show these off to you today. (As well as the beautiful door decorations of course!)

Don't forget that next week, we have a mid-week holiday on Wednesday for May Day, but obviously normal lessons will be continuing during the rest of the week.

Please can you also keep in mind that after the Summer Productions in the week beginning 17th June, we will be doing our final assessments in Maths and English on Monday through to Thursday, so it is important children are in school for those.

Just a couple of reminders:

- Please remember we are a nut free school, so no nuts for snack or in packed lunches please.
- **All hair, girls and boys, should be tied up once it reaches shoulder length.**
- Don't forget, we do not allow smart watches in our Primary School.

All that remains is to thank you as always for all your amazing support and to wish you a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Ms. Jan Harvey

Head of Primary



Y4 Soller Botanical Gardens





Secondary Section

Dates for Your Diary

KS3 Assessments next week

- Monday 29th April: English Y8 and Y9 Poetry assessment (15%) of T3
- Monday 29th April: Y7 Spanish B Test Unit 5. Catalan Test Unit 6
- Friday 19th April to Thursday 13th June: Y11 and Y13 Exam Season
- Friday 17th May: Y13 Graduation Ceremony
- Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June: **KS3 Comprehensive Exams** in Mathematics, Science, English, Spanish, Catalan, German, French, & Swedish
- Thursday 23rd May to Wednesday 29th May: **Y10 & Y12 Progress Check Tests**
- Friday 7th June: Y6 Transition Day
- Friday 7th June: Y11 Graduation
- 10th - 21st June: Y11 Work Experience
- Tuesday 18th June: Secondary Production
- Friday 21st June 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.: Summer Fair
- Tuesday 25th June: End of Year Reports

Message from Mr. Drew Sparkman

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As Mr. O' Connor has mentioned, our Year 11 and Year 13 groups have begun the exam season. Our Year 10 and Year 12 students will soon undergo their end-of-year PCTs. And, for the first time, our KS3 students will experience a testing week in key subjects. Those dates can be found in the **Dates for Your Diary section**. Due to the general atmosphere of assessment, and with the intention of collaborating with home, I would like to offer some general guidance for helping your children during this period. This advice is applicable for all students in secondary.

Time Management Techniques

- **Develop a Study Calendar:** Collaborate with your child to create a study schedule that breaks down subjects into manageable daily tasks. Ensure it balances study with free time to keep them motivated.
- **Establish Achievable Goals:** Help your child set realistic and specific objectives for each study period, like completing a set of math problems or understanding a science concept. This can boost their confidence and keep them focused. If you and your child have problems, ensure that your child writes down specific questions that can be posed to the teacher.
- **Incorporate Fun Breaks:** Encourage breaks that involve physical activity or a hobby they enjoy. This not only refreshes their mind but also helps in maintaining their enthusiasm for studying.

Simple Memorization Techniques

- **Create Visual Aids:** Encourage the use of flashcards, charts, and diagrams, which can make the learning process more visual and less daunting for this age group.
- **Use Acronyms and Rhymes:** Help them devise catchy mnemonics or fun rhymes which are particularly effective for remembering lists or steps in a process.

- **Engage in Quizzes:** Regularly quiz them on the material they've studied. This can be a fun way to check their understanding and improve memory retention.

Providing Emotional Support

- **Offer Reassurance:** Keep conversations about exams light and positive. Emphasize effort over perfection and remind them that it's okay to find things challenging.
- **Listen and Empathize:** Make sure you're available to listen to their concerns about schoolwork or exams without immediate problem-solving. Showing understanding is often more helpful than offering solutions.
- **Keep a Routine:** Stress the importance of sleep and balanced meals. A stable routine helps reduce anxiety and improves focus.

By adopting these approaches, you can help make your child's exam preparation period less stressful and more productive. Your support plays a crucial role in their success and well-being during these formative years.

Thank you all for your continued support and engagement.

Warm regards,

Drew Sparkman, MEd

Head of Secondary

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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