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Message from Mr. O' Connor

Dear Parents and Friends,

Many of you are aware of the changes both political and academic that have occurred in the Spanish Ministry of Education over the last 7 months. These changes affect all schools, both international and national, private, and public as they are compulsory. Effectively, we have been asked to ensure that there is a minimum number

of lessons in Catalan and Social Studies for **all** students, both international and national. Until recently, Catalan and Social Studies were studied only by those students that were required to do it by the Spanish Ministry of Education. The minimum number of classes depends on the age of the students, for example, from Year 3 upwards, the minimum required are 3 Catalan classes and 1 Social Study Class. **In line with the Spanish regulations, we have implemented these requirements, and effectively all students in Years 2, 5 and 8 have now followed these guidelines for the last term.** Importantly, we have ensured that our GVS Curriculum has continued to include Third language.

The next step that we are required to implement is to ensure that all students from Years 2 to Year 9 follow this from September 2023. Years 10 and 11 continue with the structure that we had previously with all those students who are required to take Catalan, having to do so.

We are planning these changes into our timetables for the new school year. **However, you can be reassured as we have already demonstrated with Years 2, 5, and 8, following these local obligations really enriches the students even further in our local culture. The Third Language programme continues to be an integral part of the GVS curriculum leading up to the International Baccalaureate programme.**

Our Spanish Technical Director and IB Coordinator Mr. Méndez continues to guide and lead us in these changes so we can achieve an optimal learning environment and curriculum for our students.

As always, all questions are more than welcome.

My best wishes,

Mr James O' Connor

Headmaster and Co-Founder of GVS

Primary Section

Dates for your Diary

- 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
- Friday 14th June: Y5 Ancient Greek Day (Assembly to parents 3:30pm)
- **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,

We have reached the end of yet another exciting week at GVS Primary School, where the children (and staff) have had great fun during our Outdoor Learning Week. As part of this week, the children have spent some of their English classes outside, using our beautiful grounds to draw inspiration for their poetry writing.

They began by working in pairs or small groups, gathering ideas, after which they worked together in their groups to write their poems. Then as a class they chose a line from each group poem and put them together to create some truly lovely Class poems.

As well as the poems, the children have completed a fun maths trail, which took them all over the gardens as well as sketching and even sitting outside whilst practising their handwriting. It has been a fun week, added to which we were blessed with some beautiful weather. We would like to say a huge thank you to Ms Hannah for all her organisation.

On Thursday, Year 3 had their last trip of the year when they spent the day at Fresopolis farm. They had a wonderful day as Ms Laura reports.

We started the trip by sitting on bales of hay enjoying our snack, while some of the free roaming animals (ducks, peacocks, chickens, cats) came to say hello. After our snack, we had the animal tour where we went into the different animals and played with them and fed them. We saw guinea pigs, rabbits, pigs, ducks, goats, donkeys, horses and finally Fernando....the bull that weighs 1,000 kg!!! We heard lots of exciting facts about the different animals and asked lots of interesting questions which we had prepared. We finished our tour by each planting our very own sunflower seeds. We are excited to watch them grow!

We had our lunch in the picnic area and afterwards enjoyed an ice cream, which was even more special as it was made from strawberries grown on the farm! We were super lucky to be the only school visiting on the day of our trip, so we had the whole farm to ourselves! To end the day before returning to school, we played in the huge playground on the farm. This was our favourite trip so far, for sure! We would love to visit again!!

Please look on your MMe Quicklinks menu to find many more pictures of our day.

This week we have has some cases of headlice, so please can you ensure all shoulder length hair is tied back. It would also be helpful if you could pop some spare hairbands in the schoolbag too. In addition, please can we ask that everyone does a head check this weekend (remembering to check all the family) and carry out any treatment necessary by Monday. Don't forget that if you do find headlice, you still need to continue checking daily for the next 10 days and to repeat the treatment a week or 10 days after the first. Your pharmacist will advise you of the best product to use.

Please remember that Spanish Week is coming up, and we would like the children to come dressed in Spanish 'style' clothes on Friday 24th May. Please use the link below for ideas.

[Costumes for Spanish Week](#)

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

Kind regards,

Ms. Jan Harvey

Head of Primary





Y3 at Fresoplolis



Secondary Section

Dates for Your Diary

- 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

- Tuesday 21st May: Y7 and Y8 Trip to S'Estalella
- Thursday 23rd May: Y9 and Y10 Trip to Cala Bóquer
- Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May: **Y10 & Y12 Progress Check Tests**
- Friday 7th June: Y6 Transition Day
- Friday 7th June: Y11 Graduation
- 10th - 21st June: Y11 Work Experience
- Friday 21st June 2:00 - 4:00 p.m: Summer Fair
- **Monday 24th June: Holiday-School Closed**
- Tuesday 25th June: Secondary End of Year Reports and **Y12 Academic Review Day**
- **Wednesday 26th June: Last Day of Summer Term**

Message from Mr. Drew Sparkman

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to report that the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) examinations have progressed smoothly. As we approach the final week of exams, we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our graduating students on May 17th at the Graduation Ceremony.

In addition, our Year 11 students continue their journey through the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exams, which will conclude for most on June 5th. A smaller group will complete their exams on June 13th. We are excited to celebrate their accomplishments at the IGCSE Graduation on June 7th, which will be a closed event held during school hours.

We also wish to remind our Year 10 and Year 12 students to prepare diligently for their Term 3 Progress Check Tests (PCTs), and our Key Stage 3 (KS3) students to revise for their end-of-year comprehensive exams in select subjects. For the Y10 PCTs, we've made an adjustment to the

schedule. They will now begin on Monday, May 27th and finish on Friday, May 31st (inclusive).

Furthermore, we are announcing a slight change regarding the end-of-year reports for our Year 12 students. Parents, guardians, and students are invited to collect these reports on June 25th directly from their tutor and IB Coordinator, Mr. Méndez. Subject teachers will also be available for discussions during this time.

Regarding excursions, our Year 7 and Year 8 students will embark on an educational visit to S'Estalella on May 21st to explore the area's geography and wildlife. Similarly, Year 9 and Year 10 students will venture to Cala Bóquer on May 23rd, where they will engage with both the history and geography of the location.

Lastly, I will meet with Year 9 students next Monday to discuss the IGCSE program, subject selection, and expectations for a successful completion of Key Stage 4.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our school community and look forward to a productive finish to the academic year.

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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