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## Message from Mr. O' Connor

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

Yesterday Thursday 23rd November, Green Valley hosted the second stage of the Rotary Club School Debating Championships. In this stage, the debating team from Queens College were invited to Green Valley and the debate was judged by experts from the Rotary Club.

Our team has been coached and mentored by Ms. Fitz (later in this newsletter you will find the full article from her on this). **The conclusion of the debate was that the team from Green Valley was judged to be the stronger team and now has passed to the finals. Certainly a huge congratulations to everyone involved.**

However, having said all of this, my observation is not which school won or lost. On the contrary in fact. Yesterday, any observer inside school or outside could really pick up the balanced, peaceful academic, respectful, motivational and sense of humour as a school we have. The debating team,

the teachers, the maintenance team all show this naturally, and in all fairness the visiting team, and the judges really appreciated and enjoyed this.

Therefore, speaking for the Primary and Secondary departments, my message is simple. Every single student, teacher, non-teaching member of the team and parent help bring our unique energy and atmosphere across. Great job everyone!

We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

My best wishes,

Mr. James O' Connor

Headmaster and Co-Founder of GVS



## Primary Section

### Dates for your Diary

DAY	EVENT
04/12	PRIMARY REPORTS TO PARENTS
04/12	GVS CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL BEGINS
06-08/12	SCHOOL CLOSED, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
12/12	4.00-6.00 PRIMARY PARENT MEETINGS
14/12	4.00-6.00 PRIMARY PARENT MEETINGS
14/12	LAST DAY TO MAKE CHARITY DONATIONS
18/12	GVS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 3.00-4.40
19/12	SINGING AT PORTALS CHRISTMAS MARKET 5 PM
20/12	PRIMARY CLASSES CHRISTMAS PARTY AFTERNOON
20/12	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

### Message from Ms. Jan Harvey

Dear Families,

This week saw the last of our class visits of this term, with Y2 going to Palma Aquarium. They had a brilliant day, as Ms. Hannah explains below.

"On Tuesday Year 2 packed their picnic lunches into their bags and excitedly headed out to the bus ready for a busy day at the aquarium. When we arrived, we were met by Jaime our guide, who told us all about the marine life in the Mediterranean. We were lucky to see thousands of baby lobsters, which only happens once a year, and many other

sea creatures. After the tour of the dark passages of the aquarium, we had a long lunch and play on the pirate ship and in the bouncy castle. We said goodbye to the sharks on our way out and set off back to school, tired but very happy. All agreed it was an amazing trip."

A small part of our school was transformed into Ancient Rome this week too, as our year 4's concluded their Humanities topic with a Roman Day. Their costumes were brilliant, as we had Roman Gods, Goddesses, gladiators, soldiers, emperors, nobles and slaves, thank you all for organising this.

Then throughout the day, they enjoyed a range of activities as Ms. Malaika tells us.

"We spent the morning baking Roman honey cookies and playing Roman games. We also made our own Roman chariots and legionaries out of card. We enjoyed a Roman feast, with figs, grapes, bread, and wine, and of course, our own honey cookies! In the afternoon, we made our own Roman shields and then went outside to be drilled, learning the manoeuvres which real Roman soldiers would have done, such as the Tortoise, the Wedge, and the Orb. We had a brilliant day."

For further information regarding this week and the coming weeks, please see the Primary Newsletter in MMe.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Ms. Jan Harvey

Head of Primary





## Secondary Section

### Message from Mr. Drew Sparkman

Dear Families,

As we approach the season of giving, I am reminded of the profound impact that our annual charitable food drives have on both our community and our students.

These initiatives are not just about collecting food items; they represent a vital educational experience for our young learners. By participating, students gain a deeper understanding of their role in the community and the importance of empathy and generosity. They learn to appreciate their own fortunes and the significance of giving back to those less fortunate.

Such activities go beyond mere charity; they are a powerful means of teaching our students about social responsibility and the value of community involvement. In that spirit, we encourage all families in secondary to participate in our annual food drive.

As Head of Primary Ms. Jan Harvey wrote last week, GVS will collaborate with Yachting Gives Back, a registered charity that fights hunger and poverty on the island. Items of particular value this year are the following:

- milk (preferably whole milk)
- sunflower or olive oil
- baby products (nappies, baby milk, food, and toiletries)
- rice
- pasta
- biscuits
- tinned foods
- Seasonal treats

We would also encourage students to buy one gift as a donation. These gifts would then be given to children as a present from Santa or *Los Reyes Magos*. We will begin the collection from Monday 4th December, and it will run until Thursday 14th December. This means everything will be collected on Friday 15th in time to ensure it is distributed to the various organisations in time for Christmas.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Jan or myself.

Sincerely,

Mr. Drew Sparkman

Deputy Head of Secondary

### Dates for your Diary

KS3 - YEAR 7, YEAR 8, YEAR 9 ASSESSMENTS NOVEMBER 27TH TO DECEMBER 1ST			
YEAR GROUP	SUBJECT	DATE	SUBJECT
YEAR 7	SCIENCE	MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER	CHAPTER 2
YEAR 8	GEOGRAPHY	FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER	POPULATION
YEAR 7- 8- 9	GERMAN A	WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER	STÄRKEN UND SCHWÄCHEN, WÜNSCHE, (KONJUNKTIV 2, RELATIVSÄTZE, ETC.
YEAR 7- 8 - 9	GERMAN B	FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER	CHAPTER 3
YEAR 11	GERMAN B	WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER	SECTION 4 STUDYING AND WORKING

### Green Valley School Debate Team Wins Again

On Thursday 23rd November Green Valley hosted our second inter-school debate organised by Rotary Calvia International. Our team consisting of Klara Kuntze, Giulia Michieli, Ilan Kuhne (speakers) and Letizia Kong (researcher), debated against Queen´s College.

The motion was: "Mallorca has become a victim of its own success in tourism" and, having lost the toss, Green Valley argued in favour of the motion.

It was a fascinating debate, with both teams presenting strong arguments in a very compelling and convincing manner. The judges had a hard time deciding which team deserved to win! The final verdict was a double win for Green Valley: the winning school, and the best debater awarded to Klara Kuntze.

All twenty visitors who attended the event were captivated by the special charm and friendly atmosphere of our school.

Congratulations to the team on this very deserved success! Our next challenge is the finals at Palma Pictures on 14th December.

Ms. Eva Fitz

English Teacher





### Message from Mr. David Méndez

This week 8 DP1 students attended the presentation at the CaixaForum in Palma de Mallorca of The Challenge project organised by EduCaixa.

This programme is an opportunity to promote talent and turn students into worldshakers: young people committed to the challenges of the future.

Our students must demonstrate a desire to contribute to social change, based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and present them to The Challenge.

This learning that goes beyond the classroom will enable our students to develop their own initiatives, share them with the community and, if their initiatives are chosen, carry them out in real life on a campus in Barcelona and later in the United States.

The activity in which we have started our journey in The Challenge has had as its working objective "How can we contribute to the development of the community, how can we help people with an intellectual disability to be an active part of the future that we are building". For this, the team of the Fundació Esment has made a presentation of the work they do with people with intellectual disabilities.

Once the presentation was over, our students have done group dynamics to focus causes and

commitments. Initiating themselves in the methodology of the project. At the end of the day all the teams have put together all their wonderful ideas.

Mr. David Méndez Rodríguez

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme  
Coordinator

Technical Director of the Spanish Education  
System

# THE CHALLENGE

by EduCaixa



### Message from Mr. Llorenç Mercer

These last few weeks we have noticed a more relaxed approach towards our school uniform, and it is getting increasingly more difficult to get our students to wear it.

I encourage you to support us and make sure your children wear the correct uniform before coming to school. Respecting rules and adhering to the school uniform policy are fundamental aspects of fostering a positive learning environment. Rules exist not merely to establish authority but to create a structured, safe, and conducive atmosphere for education. The uniform, as a visual representation of the school community, plays a crucial role in promoting unity, and discipline among students.

Wearing the school uniform helps foster a shared identity. It minimises distractions, and contributes to a professional atmosphere, preparing students for future endeavours where dress codes are common.

Respecting these rules teaches students about adhering to societal norms and regulations, as well as a sense of accountability, traits that extend beyond the school years.

These are practices that lay the foundation for a culture of mutual respect, emphasising the value of rules not as restrictions, but as contributors to a positive and cooperative learning community.

Mr. Llorenç Mercer

Head of School Culture

### 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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