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Message from Mr. O' Connor

What is the definition of 'learning'?

A simple Google search will leave us with answers such as 'the acquisition of knowledge or skills through study, experience, or being taught'. If we take this as a baseline definition, we could then add another search term such as...**what are some learning styles?** Here we might find that there are 4 predominant learning styles: Visual, Auditory, Read/Write, and Kinaesthetic. While most of us may have some general idea about how we learn best, often it comes as a surprise when we discover what our predominant learning style is.

How does Green Valley fit into this?

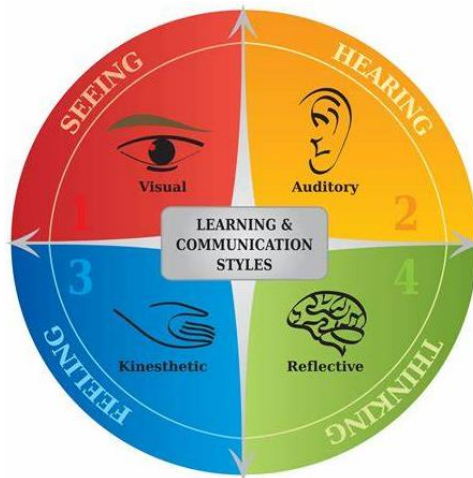
Understanding learning, learning styles, and indeed that each student is different, all points towards the importance of **individualised learning**. Effectively, one of our objectives in the Secondary School this year is to enhance this important detail. In order to push this forward, Green Valley has contracted personalised online assessments for each student that are called 'CAT 4' from the University of Cambridge. These are effectively Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT4) that assesses a student's ability to think across four different reasoning areas: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and spatial reasoning.

This will be carried out throughout the Secondary School and individual reports are then produced that guide each student on how each one learns and importantly issues recommendations on how they learn most efficiently. The teachers and yourselves, as parents will also be given these reports, and this will provide the basis of the individualised learning policy. **Sounds interesting? It certainly is.** Mr Sparkman, our Deputy Head of Secondary has specifically written more information about this in his weekly article. On a completely different note, many thanks to the GVS CAS Committee and to you all for your response to the Ghana T-Shirt Initiative. The CAS Committee organised this in record time, demonstrating that student lead, organised events are key for the next generation of leaders.

Best wishes as always.

Mr. James O' Connor

Headmaster and Co-Founder of GVS



Primary Section

Message from Ms. Jan Harvey

As we reach the end of September, we can take a moment to reflect on our first month and look forward to the next.

I feel our first month has been successful, in that all the children, our old pupils and our new GVS members, have settled back into the new school routines happily.

The children are all enjoying learning and already staff are seeing progress being made, and some lovely displays are appearing on the walls around school, which is fantastic and the atmosphere throughout is amazing.

Next week sees the start of our afterschool activities. This year, these are being organised by

Ms. Trelawney Bresic Kerrigan. She is busy arranging a varied range of activities and will be adding more as the term progresses, which I am sure the children will love.


For further information, please email her directly (and not the office) at tre.bresic@edu.greenvalleyschool.es as she is the person who will be able to help you with all of your queries.

We have a very busy October ahead of us as you can see from the diary dates below.

Remember to check out MarvellousMe (MMe) for the full Primary Newsletter, which contains more information and of course all the wonderful photos that the Primary Team continues to add each week.

Ms. Jan Harvey

Head of Primary



DAY	EVENT
05/10	YEAR 4 VISIT TO ROMAN CITY IN ALCUDIA
12/10	SCHOOL CLOSED, PUBLIC HOLIDAY
17/10	YEAR 4 VISIT TO PALMA OLD TOWN AND PALACIO REAL
18/10	YEAR 3 VISIT TO PALMA JUMP
21-29/10	SCHOOL CLOSED, HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS
31/10	HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP DAY
01/11	SCHOOL CLOSED, PUBLIC HOLIDAY
09/11	YEAR 6 VISIT TO LA CAIXAFORUM
13/11	MATHS WEEK
21/11	YEAR 2 VISIT TO PALMA AQUARIUM
04/12	PRIMARY REPORTS SENT TO PARENTS
06-08/12	SCHOOL CLOSED, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
11/12	PRIMARY PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS
20/12	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

Secondary Section

Message from Mr. Drew Sparkman

At Green Valley School we believe in providing each and every student with the opportunity to realise their full potential and achieve at the highest level. To gain a better understanding of the learning needs of our students, we have begun administering a series of short cognitive ability assessments with all students in secondary. We will then use the results from the assessment to improve the support we provide your child in their learning, and to determine whether further intervention is needed.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) assesses a student's ability to think across four different reasoning batteries:

- Verbal reasoning – thinking with words
- Quantitative reasoning – thinking with numbers

- Non-Verbal reasoning – thinking with shapes
- Spatial reasoning – thinking with shapes and space

We would like to stress that this is an assessment of ability and not attainment, so no pre-learning or preparation is necessary. Your child should not feel worried about taking CAT4 as prior knowledge is not required to complete it. The results will be used together with our internal assessment practices, to inform teachers about the strengths and development areas of each student. For your convenience, we have also attached an informational presentation about the CAT4 assessment.

The CAT4 Schedule

- Year 13 and Year 11 - Completed between September 18th and September 22nd
- Year 12 and Year 10 - Completed between September 25th and September 29th
- Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9 - Completed between October 2nd and October 6th

Once the assessments have been carried out, Mr. Sparkman will be in touch to discuss the results and next steps.

[CAT4 Presentation \(Click here\)](#)

Message from Mr. David Méndez

Pupils at Green Valley School who are studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme have the academic objective of accessing a university where they can study for a university degree that will prepare them for their future profession.

During the IB DP stage, it is important to set a goal from the beginning. This objective should have two starting points:

- Choice of the University Degree or Degree that they wish to study.
- The university where you want to study.

Regarding the choice of university degree, at Green Valley School we provide advice from Year 10 with virtual university visit tools such as Unifrog, cognitive analysis questionnaires such as GL Assessment Cat4 and meetings with the Secondary Coordinator and the DP Coordinator on the choice of specific academic profiles. This advice is continuous from DP1 and in DP2 adding visits to university fairs such as Uni tour in Palma or CIS in Barcelona and meetings with the families in which we inform about the different application processes to all the universities in the world.

Once our students have decided which university degree they want to study and where they are going to study it, the families start the application process to the universities they have selected, normally in the first term of DP2.

We are at your disposal for any questions you may have in this regard.



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