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Message from Mr. O' Connor

Dear Parents and Friends,

As the Year 11 mock examinations finish today and the Year 13 students prepare for their forthcoming mock examinations, there is a sincere feeling of academic pace, depth and time efficiency which is felt across the school both in Primary and in Secondary. This is normal and certainly welcomed at this time of year! The mock examinations are organised in Rooms 8, 9 and 10 which are the quietest areas of Green Valley. The students have the experience of what it is like to sit a formal exam with regard to the organisation, the instructions and the exam itself. **Control of nerves and exam technique** is key. Importantly, we displace those classes that would normally be taught in these areas for this period of time. This is important because it is also a great way that the other classes in the school are aware that there are examinations. This is then noticed in the other classes and the atmosphere. In short, it is an experience that really does lift the school, the students, and the parallel classes with students from both Primary and Secondary having a very clear vision of where they are going and what will happen as they reach their final years. Keep up the good work everyone.

My best wishes as always.

Mr. James O' Connor

Primary Section

Dates for your Diary

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 2nd February: Primary Art Display.
Doors open at 15:00
- Friday 9th February: Year 6 Class Assembly.
Parents invited 14:40
- **Week beginning 12th February: Half-term**
- Tuesday February 20th: Primary
Friendship/Carnival Day
- Week beginning February 26th: Primary
Science week
- **Friday 1st March: School closed - Holiday**
- Friday March 22nd: Primary Eggshibition of
Easter Eggs 14:30 - 15:00
- **Tuesday 26th March: Last Day of Spring
Term**

Message from Ms. Jan Harvey

Dear Families,

As always, I hope this finds you well.

We have been having a great week in school, enjoying lots of art activities. Fitting art into as many subjects in the curriculum as possible. We are creating a timeline of art, going from Claude Monet through the years up to Banksy! As well as creating fact-files and presentations in our English and ICT lessons. We have some amazing work which we are longing to share with you. All will be in place on Friday 2nd February, when we will open the doors at 3:00 pm to give you time to enjoy everything.

Remaining with the art theme, just before Christmas, our students in years 5 and 6, participated in a drawing competition in conjunction with Mallorca Shopping Village. Many schools throughout Mallorca took part to try to win 500€ which would be donated to a charity of the school's choice. We are thrilled to inform you that one of our year 6 students, Julia, won the prize for her age category. So, on Tuesday 6th February, she will go with her family, to a presentation ceremony at Mallorca Shopping Village, where she will present Nick Entwistle, from Yachting Gives Back, with the cheque. Congratulations Julia, we are all very proud of you!

This week, we were pleased to welcome some very different visitors to GVS. In English, Y4 have been finding out about unusual sports and on Tuesday, they were excited to have a visit from some jugglers. They all had great fun, first watching a fantastic display, and then having lessons on how to juggle. Some of the children had amazing results, as I am sure they have informed you.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the children are wearing the correct school uniform, it is greatly appreciated. Please can we now ask for your support with shoes as many of the children are wearing fashion trainers instead of sports shoes. They are in a range of colours, are often overlarge and not fitting tightly around the foot making the children slop along instead of walking properly. Please can we ask that proper 'sports' shoes are worn, and they should also be either white or black. A gentle reminder also, that these shoes should only be worn on sports days, all other days, proper school shoes should be worn.

Finally, I would like to wish you a great weekend and thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Ms. Jan Harvey

Head of Primary

Year 6 have been studying 1960's art whilst Year 5 have looked at the work of Banksy.



Having Fun at GVS After School Activities





Secondary Section

Message from Mr. Drew Sparkman

Dear Parents and Guardians,

If one is involved in education long enough, the rhythms of the academic year end up becoming the rhythms of day-to-day life. At this point in the school year, we are pushing forward with curriculum coverage and adapting our teaching strategies after the Term 1 reports, while also managing the logistics and emotions of the mock-exam period. This translates into two very different worlds inside secondary, depending on the year group. From the outside, this time of year is when we also receive a lot of feedback from our families. This feedback comes in the form of comments, questions, doubts, and constructive criticism — all of which I welcome. In that spirit, I would like to address the most recurring themes.

1. IGCSE and IBDP Results at GVS

Quite logically, many parents solicit the results. Due to data protection law, we cannot simply publish the raw results. However, what we do publish is relevant information that fits within the legal framework. This document is called the school profile. We are currently updating it to include the latest data. As soon as the updates are finished, it will be shared with our community.

2. Team Stability

GVS secondary is still a relatively new project. It grew rapidly, adding a year group each year. Last year was, for lack of a better term, the final “growth year”, as we had our first IBDP graduating cohort. Like any rapidly growing project, there were ups and downs. However, as a project and as a school, we are now focused on stability and achieving pedagogical excellence per the standards dictated by the relevant accreditation authorities. Because this year has been a turning point from rapid growth to stability, our goal is to get all the team on the same page about the path forward towards the standard of excellence, and we are doing this on a daily basis. Team stability is one of our top priorities, and we are happy that, according to available data from the European Union, we are aligned with teacher retention rates throughout Spain in the last 10 years.

3. Communication

We are acutely aware of the importance of clear and timely communication with our community. In order to facilitate this, we are looking for improved technological solutions. However, the technological landscape is saturated with limitless options, all of which promise to solve infinite problems and ultimately make life seductively easy. In other words, we want to make sure that our solution will actually be an effective tool that suits all stakeholders: families, staff, and students. This requires time; however, we are eager to move forward on this topic so that we can roll this out next year.

Along the lines of communication, I would like to remind our secondary families about the upcoming presentation on assessment and evaluation in secondary at GVS. You can find the details below.

- Event Details: Understanding our Assessment and Evaluation System
- Date: Friday, February 9th, 2024
- Time: 15:30 - 16:20
- Venue: GVS - Rooms 11 and 12

RSVP: [Please complete the RSVP form by clicking on this link](#) The link will close on February 7th, 2024 at 16:30.

Warm regards

Drew Sparkman, MEd

Head of Secondary

KS3 - Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 - Assessments
January 29 - February 2, 2024

Year Group	Subject	Date	Topics
Year 7	Maths	30/01/24	Unit 6. Probability
Y789	German A	30/01/24	Passiv Präsens, Präteritum
Y7	Science	01/02/24	Chapters 2, 5, 8
Y8	Science	02/02/24	Chapters 2,5
Y9	Science	01/02/24	Chapters 3, 6, 9

Message from Mr. David Méndez

Presentation of steps towards university applications.

This week Ms. Dina Rehani (University and Careers Guidance Counsellor. Exams Officer at Green Valley School) met with DP1 and DP2 students to guide and advise them on the steps and processes of applying to universities around the world.

The main objective in DP1 is to define the long-term goal, i.e. which university degree the student wants to study, and there are several options to consider in addition to the university degree itself, such as choosing the location or the prestige of the university. In addition to finding out what academic criteria (predictive grades and access grades) have been requested by the universities they have chosen, there are several options to take into account in addition to the university

degree itself, such as choosing the location or prestige of the university.

As for DP2 the objective is different, since the application processes to start university studies are already open in all European universities and it is the moment to start applying (it depends on the universities, but the applications must be sent from October DP2 to apply for admission). The suggestion we make from the school is that you should always apply to three to five universities with different academic requirements so that the chances of being admitted at the end of the IB DP are higher.

To close this cycle of talks, on Tuesday 23rd February, DP1 and DP2 families were invited to a presentation in which they were guided and invited to start these processes in DP1 (find out the cut-off marks, visit universities in person, talk to their children about their objectives, etc.). And DP2 families were explained all the application processes to European universities, US universities, UK universities and Spanish universities as they must start now if they have not been done previously.

From the IB coordination my thanks to Ms. Dina Rechani for her clear presentation and to all the students and families for their participation.

Sincerely,

David Méndez Rodríguez

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
Coordinator



Message from Mr. Llorenç Mercer

Throughout this past week we have been implementing a plan of action regarding school uniform policy, cell phone usage, illegal substances, and chewing gum.

Information and awareness are key to dialogue and wellbeing, and Green Valley's ethos is defined by transparency, so our students are used to learning in a cooperative environment where we are always open to conversation. This structure has proven to be successful many times and we strongly believe in it and its natural evolution.

Our structure is based on very basic principles. Our students must wear our uniform every day. If

they do not, we have some zip up sweaters and hoodies in all sizes that they will borrow for the day. If they refuse to wear the uniform they will not be allowed in the classroom, and we will contact you immediately.

Cell phones are not allowed in the premises. We understand our students need their phones while they are on the bus or on the way to school, but they cannot use it while at school under any circumstances. Please, if you want to contact your child, call our office. If we see them with their phones, we will take it and then return it at the end of the day.

Use of illegal substances, such as smokeless tobacco, is totally forbidden at Green Valley, and every other school in Spain. There is a legal framework for this, and we intend to enforce it. Possession or use of illegal substances will lead to suspension and will go down on the student's personal school report.

Your children's safety and wellbeing are our main concern and priority.

El Drac de na Coca

Coca's dragon, as it is popularly known in Palma, is a small crocodile that somehow made it to Mallorca aboard a ship back in the XVII century. The captain of the ship, Bartomeu Coch, killed it and gave it to his wife as a present. However, with time and imagination, the story became a legend, and the legend goes like this: a huge dragon was terrifying the city of Palma and its inhabitants and, as these things happen, one night while Mr Bartomeu Coch was on his way to see his beloved Catalina, he was suddenly met by the monster, to be exact on Sa Portella street, where Captain Coch killed the Dragon and freed the city and became its hero and protector, to an extent, just like Saint Sebastian and the plague.

Best regards,

Mr. Llorenç Mercer

Head of School Culture



Green Valley Debating Team

Last Thursday 28th January, representatives of the Rotary International Calvia, formally presented our debate team with the trophy we had won in the Inter-School Debate Competition 2023.

The speaker for the Rotarians, Mr. John Robbins, highlighted the importance of speaking skills involved in debating, such as the ability to present our points clearly, succinctly and persuasively, the ability to listen carefully and respond with relevant arguments, or the ability to engage the audience both intellectually and emotionally.

The four students who form our debate team – Giulia Michieli, Klara Kuntze, Letizia Kong and Ilan Kuhne – received congratulations and a well-deserved warm round of applause from their classmates and the school management team.



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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Green Valley International School, Camí de la viletta, 210, Son Puig - 07011
Palma de Mallorca

Email: <http://www.greenvalleyschool.es/>

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