

EDUCATION & LEARNING



In hot pursuit of knowledge

LAUDE SAN PEDRO

SHOWCASE

Young creativity

A selection of artwork,
poems and stories by
local students [P2-14]



SCHOOL NEWS

Work hard, play hard

Achievements and
highlights from around
the schools [P16-19]

A new generation of creativity

International schools along the Costa del Sol and in Gibraltar sent in some of their students' best work to be published in this year's Education and Learning special

Of all the words and images that drop into the SUR in English mailboxes throughout the year, the submissions from schools for this supplement are among the most enjoyable.

This year teachers from 14 international schools on the Costa del Sol and Gibraltar sent in poems, short stories and artwork for consideration.

The tough but pleasant task of picking out a winner in each category, plus selecting others for publication, was entrusted this year to journalist and art critic Georgina Oliver, singer-songwriter and columnist Peter Edgerton and former SUR in English editor Liz Parry, who were accompanied by current editor Rachel Haynes.

Words such as "innocence", "refreshing", "imagination" and "future" came up time and time again as the judges read the poems and stories and scrutinised the artwork at the SUR offices last Friday.

During the morning a number of future artists, writers and poets were identified and, as always, praise and thanks were sent out to the teachers, whose dedication helps turn raw talent and untamed imagination into poems, stories and works of art.

The next few pages bring readers a selection of some of the youngsters' work along with comments made by the judges.

This new generation may be growing up in an electronic world of smartphones and tablets, but that, at least going by the sample of works submitted, doesn't mean they are short of creativity.

More online : Not all works submitted for this supplement could be published in this edition, however more can be viewed in the new Education section on www.surinenglish.com

WINNING SECONDARY ARTWORK

Izzy Blok, age 17, Sotogrande International School.



▲ What the judges said

Orange Juice by Izzy Blok was picked out as the winning secondary artwork after much deliberation. In her footnote the artist says she aimed to create a modern piece with a futuristic vibe and was inspired by famous New York skylines and used the influence and inspiration of Niall Naesens and Robert Delaunay.

Art Critic Georgina Oliver said: "Top marks for originality! This precise, 'neat and tidy'...

composition is living proof that structure can be 'yummy' and poetic. The title - Orange Juice - alludes to this, adding a playful note to what seems like an extremely serious enterprise. There is an idea, a concept behind this mixed-media exercise; it is described in detail in the caption, which also acknowledges artistic influences - but this image stood out anyway. There is a glimmer, a shimmer, to it... that's quite captivating and mysterious."

WINNING PRIMARY POEM

The Run

I was very nervous
The race had just begun
Everybody was competitive
But I just wanna have fun

I ran and ran
Till I stopped
I ran out of breath
Then I dropped

I soon found out
That I came last
It was fun
I had a blast!

Mercedes Zurburg
Age 9
Novaschool Sunland
International

▲ What the judges said

This poem was picked out by all of the judges as a genuine illustration of the "it's the taking part that counts" message. Peter Edgerton said that the poem has simple, powerful rhymes and comes with a nice sting in the tail.



Rachel Haynes, Peter Edgerton, Liz Parry and Georgina Oliver. :: D.F.

Schoolwork showcase

WINNING PRIMARY ARTWORK

Sophia Kuznetsova, age 7, Aloha College.



What the judges said

Several primary pieces caught the attention of the judges, but in the end it was this one that was considered to serve the top slot in the section for primary schoolchildren. Georgina Oliver said: “Squiggles that come to life, suggesting an organic, cosmic or underwater universe. Imaginary, but totally credible, and full of movement. A child who paints like this at age 7 may well become a painter someday.”

WINNING SECONDARY POEM

Winter Snow

Winter is the king of showmen,
turning tree stumps into snowmen
and houses into festive cakes
and spreading sugar over lakes.

Smooth and clean and frosty white,
the world looks good enough to bite.
That’s the season to be young,
Catching glistening snowflakes on your tongue!

Fred Lesley Pritchard
Year 7
Laude San Pedro International College

What the judges said

This poem by Fred Lesley Pritchard proves that the best are not always the longest and most complicated ones. Peter Edgerton thought that the writer had cleverly conjured the sense of the season in this poem, whose opening he liked particularly.

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Schoolwork showcase

WINNING PRIMARY SHORT STORY

Forbidden Football

“If you two go out, just make sure you hide that ball of yours,” Mum jabbed the shattered pieces of glass in to the dustpan. “The Taliban will not give you any second chances.”

“I wish the government let us play football in the street.” Karim was already taking our sock-stuffed ball into the dusty yard. We didn’t have much ground to play on because of all the sharp metal shrapnel that lay about. “Let’s play passes.”

Karim always wanted to pass the ball - he didn’t like change. I’ve adapted. I’ve invented ‘who can bounce the ball on their arm the longest’ and things like that. Games where you don’t need space.

“Yassen! Yassen!” It was Karim yelling, “The ball has gone out of our gate. What will Mum think?”

“Quiet! You don’t want Mum to hear,” I slowly opened the rusty gate that dad had fixed after the last bombing.

“What are you doing Yassen?” Karim was probably scared about being caught by the government. Then his eyes widened as he saw the long street in front of him. It was strewn with pieces of cracked tarmac but I knew what he was thinking, “We can play Liverpool verses Manchester City.” Karim was a hard-core Liverpool fan. He knew every player’s shirt number and old legends even I hadn’t heard of.

We were kicking the ball back and forth before we even knew it.

Suddenly, the ball left my foot. It was a powerful shot - as fast as a landmine exploding - heading for old Mr Salah’s remaining window....

CRASH! The whole world stood still. My face was blank. Little droplets of water were swimming in Karim’s eyes. Mr Salah was never going to return our ball. But worse than that - Mum! She was standing at the gate, arms folded, and we knew our troubles had only just begun.

Agastya Bhat,
Age 10
Laude San Pedro International College

▲ What the judges said

This story flawlessly brings the familiarity of children playing football into a war zone situation that we’re not familiar with, said Liz Parry. Nevertheless, despite playing among shrapnel with a real risk of bombing, the children’s fears are still the same: what will Mum say? Georgina commented on the creation of suspense within a domestic situation in a place connected with current affairs. The writer’s ability to fit a lot into the story, but still keep it compact and concise, was also praised.

RUNNER-UP SECONDARY ARTWORK

E. B. R, Year 13, Almuñécar International School.



▲ What the judges said

Georgina Oliver: “A strong image, at the same time in terms of visual impact - it forces us to look at what appears to be a bird of prey, perhaps a hawk, up-close - and in terms of technique; the brushstrokes are bold and varied. There is more to this figurative painting than meets the eye: fragments of abstraction, mini paintings within a painting, bring a touch of lyricism to what could have been a cold, fearsome subject.

RUNNER-UP PRIMARY POEM

► What the judges said

Peter praised the writer’s good subversion of convention in this poem, as well as her effective imagery to describe the sensation after reading the last page of a book first.

The Last Page First

Whenever I read a book
I always read the last page first.
It’s very simple to skip the book,
Just flip the pages and take a look,
When people read the last page first,
they somehow get frustrated,
as if your brand new shiny ball,
had suddenly been deflated,
So this is what I recommend,
to start at the start and end at the end,
Please read it through from cover to cover,
and when you’re finished read another,
Reading books is such great fun,
you’ll find it’s never done!

How do you read a book?

Sophie Morley-Davies
Year 6, British International School Marbella

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Schoolwork showcase

WINNING SECONDARY SHORT STORY

Crows

Dark crows gathered in the blue sky. They swept and swooped, dancing in the air as they mocked the marching POWs with their ease of movement, and their brazen displays of freedom. Often, they would dive-bomb the men, torturing their ears with grating squawks and penetrating their minds with their sinister, knife-like glares.

The POWs, drained by ceaseless marching and the oppressive heat of the Burmese sun, did nothing. Every vital ounce of energy wasted, brought them closer to the grim hospitality of the grave. They trudged on. Eventually the crows tired of their pestering, and retreated off into the distance.

THUD! A POW crashed to the ground, exhausted. His skeletal frame crumpling like an old newspaper. Drunk with fatigue, his comrades turned towards him. A spate of whispering erupted. Murmurs of “death” and “he’s next” echoed across the column, enveloping it in a portentous shroud.

A Japanese soldier strided swiftly towards him, revolver drawn. Slowly raising his gun, he fired. BANG! BANG! The gunshots resounded across the dry plain, rattling the men’s eardrums. Silence then engulfed the landscape.

The soldier peered at the POWs, with a loathing look, daring them to speak. Silence. Satisfied, he turned towards the fallen man, who lay wheezing like an asthmatic. The sol-

dier, narrowed his eyes, and coolly levelled his revolver. The POW tried scrambling to his feet, but was forced down by the sheer weight of his weariness.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The POW convulsed violently as ice-cold metal mauled his body, before shuddering to a final halt as his life seeped away in a stream of crimson. After the column had trudged off, the crows returned. They perched themselves upon the lifeless man and began to snigger as they picked at his cold corpse. Sinister grins flashed upon their impish faces.

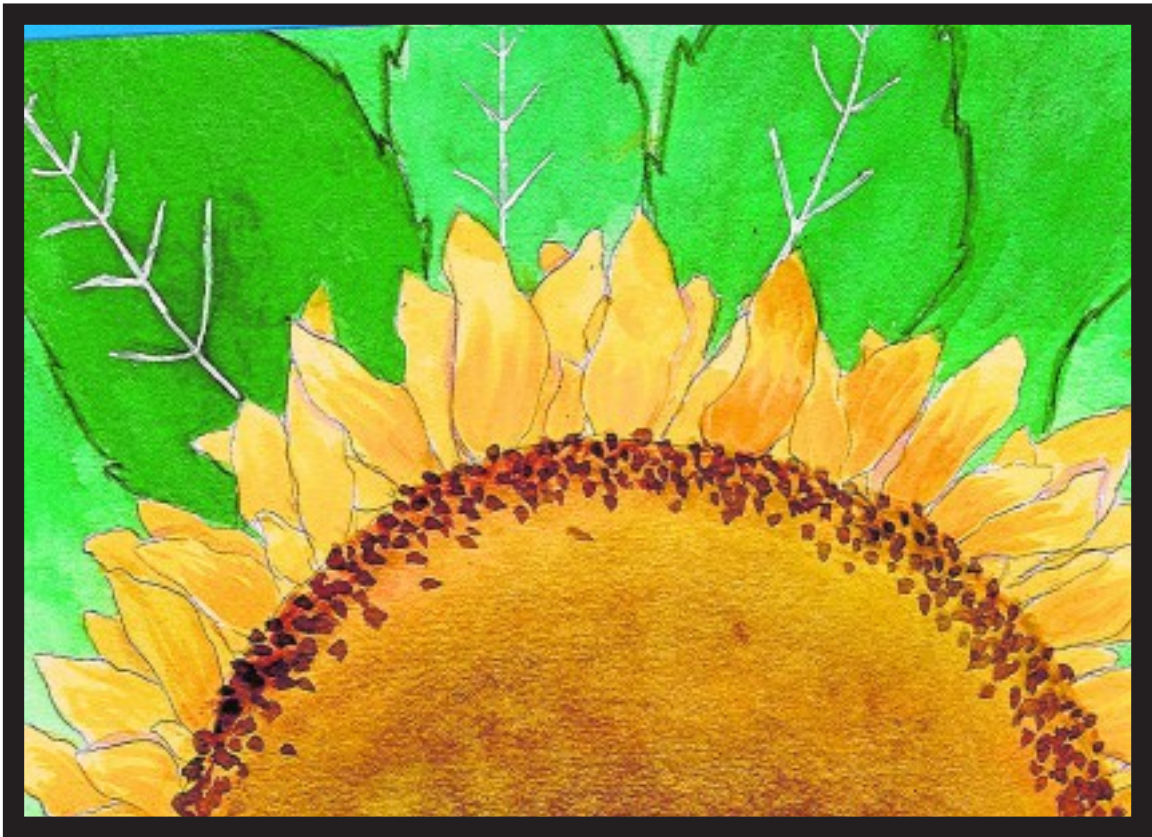
Seve Bonvini,
Age 15
Swans International School

◀ **What the judges said**

The reader can feel the exhaustion, said Liz Parry, thanks to the good use of imagery, for example “crumpling like an old newspaper” - you can feel it, hear it. There is a good contrast between the free, but menacing, birds and the captive men, added Liz, along with unobtrusive but effective language.

RUNNER-UP PRIMARY ARTWORK

Anzhelika Usacheva, Age 10, Swans International School



▲ **What the judges said**

This “bright, outgoing painting” attracted the attention of all the judges. Georgina Oliver said: “We all warm to sunflowers. This is just half a sunflower filling an entire sheet of paper, with a striking sense of scale. We are in the middle of a sunflower, but could be in a dream, in the clearing of a forest; the petals could be flames; the leaf veins could be trees.”

SPECIAL MENTION PRIMARY POEM

The Last Page

The last page,
Going back into the normal world,
Wishing you could enter the book again,
Just a few seconds since you last left,
Searching for your next adventure,
Slowly recovering from the end of the last,
Thinking what would happen to the people,
The people you just met,
Which book’s door could you open next,
Knowing the colours from the last one,
Like when it surprised you,
When it made you cry,
When it made you excited,
And when it ended suddenly!

Esme Riddell
Year 5, British International School Marbella

▲ **What the judges said**

Judges described the immediate sense of nostalgia in this poem that most readers will relate to. This was beautifully conveyed, said Peter Edgerton, and evokes emotion.

SELECTED SECONDARY SHORT STORY

A Single Beep

The wait was excruciating. But yet quite peaceful. I sat in the blue cushioned chairs every hospital has, you know, the ones with the metal arms and legs and the way too short back, just praying, hoping, doing anything I could to give me the slightest beam of chance. The cyclic beeping noise was the only thing keeping me sane. Hearing the repetitive beep was like hearing his voice telling me, “I’m still here, everything is going to be alright”, when deep down inside I knew it wasn’t.

The doctor had been gone for a while. The wait took me down lanes of paranoia, anxiety and apprehension. These thoughts made me think the worst. What if they couldn’t help him? What if it had no cure? Or worse still, what if he died? What made it even worse was I had no control over it, I couldn’t help. I couldn’t ease the pain he was going through. The only thing I could do was sit in the blue cushioned chairs, praying and hoping.

All of a sudden, piling on top of this chaos was money. How much would the treatment be? What if we couldn’t afford

it? Had Dad saved up for such a thing? This led me even deeper down a well of insanity, so deep the repetitive noise began to fade away with every beep. Then I saw darkness. Nothing but me and my thoughts, all of them whizzing by like hurricanes, little by little shattering my faith.

I was withdrawn from my hypnotic state by the nurse. Her voice was like a piercing ring echoing through my head. My vision began putting together the image from the darkness, it was an image of horror that stood before me. About half a

dozen nurses shouting and pulling and shoving things in to and out of his arm. The beeping wasn’t fading away, the beeping was just one continuous beep. That piercing noise wasn’t the woman’s voice it was the machine.

He was gone.

Ryan Fernández
Year 10
Sunny View School

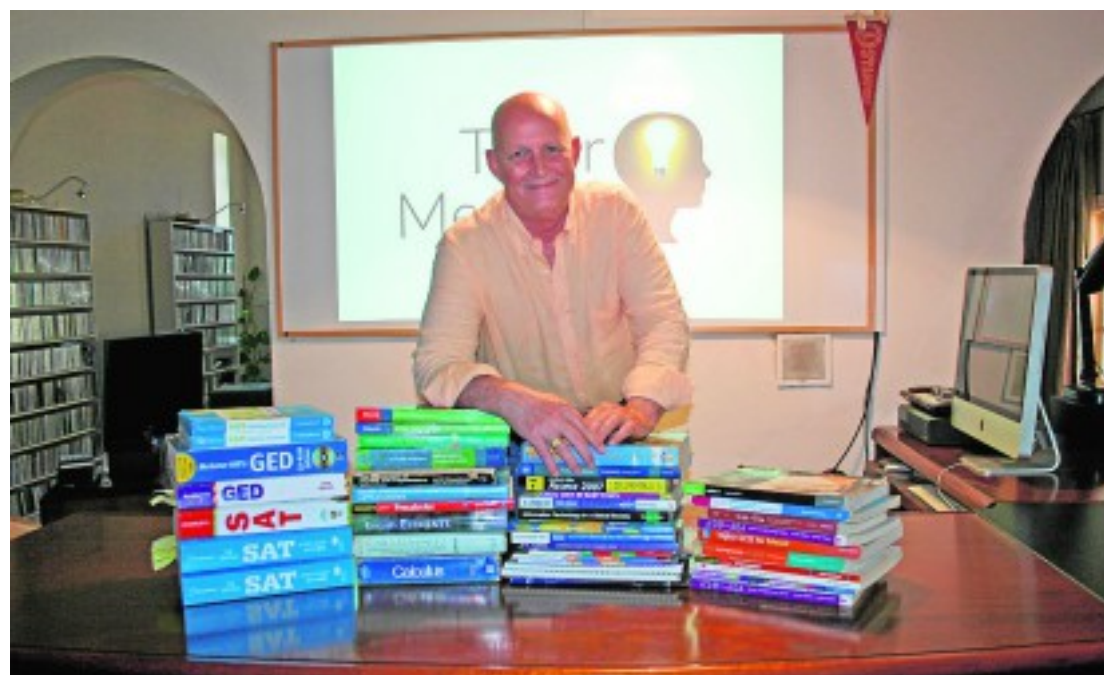
In the pursuit of excellence: a tutor with different ideas

COSTA DEL SOL

As careers become more competitive and technology-based, there is certainty in the future: Excellent education and modern skill sets are paramount to achieving success. This is true not only during the formative years of university life, but also in the foundational years of secondary education.

Descending from a maternal line of educators reaching back many generations, educating and my DNA commingle. Attending a rigorous American boarding school back in the late 60s — and after a 12-year «gap year» — I graduated from the University of California with two honours degrees in Mathematics and Statistics, and in Economics. Then to Stanford Graduate School of Business, I earned my MBA in 1988. I came to the Costa del Sol 28 years ago and, instantly enamoured with Spain, made this my home. I created a magazine in the spare bedroom, which evolved into Europe's benchmark glossy dedicated to exclusive property, architecture, interior design, lifestyle, and business. Anything is possible with vision, motivation, and hard work, ¿no?

After a long career in California and the Costa del Sol, when most of my contemporaries would contemplate retirement, I was not ready for the golf buggy and 19th-hole brigade and decided to give something back to society. I taught at local schools, in curricula ranging from Spanish Bachillerato,



British Key Stage 3 to Sixth Form, International Baccalaureate, and American university-level. Becoming an educator has been the most rewarding chapter in my biography: I owe this to our young women and men.

Not cut out for politics, bureaucracy, and teaching to test, I created my own tutoring service for highly motivated young people. I only educate, and advise, in those subjects which I am fully qualified: Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, Business, Academic Writing, and University Admissions with speciality in American universities, their admissions procedures and SAT preparation. Clearly, as a product of the Ameri-

I have created an environment for learning as an enjoyable experience, with laughter, without fear and anxiety: totally chill

can university system I completely understand the admission processes. For student-athletes attending a sport academy this may be

especially interesting, and I am au fait with NCAA procedures.

The atmosphere in my classroom is absolutely first-name basis, collegial, highly interactive, and relaxed — together with my dogs, homemade pies, smoothies, and sourdough sandwiches. I have created an environment for learning as an enjoyable experience, with laughter, without fear and anxiety: totally chill.

I am a Socratic method educator whereby one suggests an objective but students have to get there only with encouragement to read, research, think critically and arrive at knowledge on their own. I combine this technique with modern neurological science

concerning how the mind organises, retains, and then accesses knowledge. Once achieved, my students «own» and retain this knowledge permanently. It is my goal to create life long learners.

My classroom is a no phone zone! Turn them off or leave them at home, kids. The same goes with calculators for simple maths: Use your brain. Modern technology is a marvellous tool, but neither a crutch nor a substitute for mental acuity and critical thinking. I do not teach to test, the sole objective of which is to pass an exam. Rather, I provide my students with a firm cognitive foundation and a complete set of experiential tools that will prepare them to succeed with any problem they encounter in their exams, at university, and life.

I am adamant that young women enjoy equal opportunity in education: Mathematics, The Sciences, and The Arts. I encourage them to challenge outdated paradigms endemic in higher education. You go girls, and let nothing stop you!

Selective with my engagements: My students are eager and highly motivated achievers who have set their sights on top-tier universities. Moreover, their parents are completely onboard and 110% supportive. I love what I do, and my results speak for themselves with tons of self-esteem and confidence gained.

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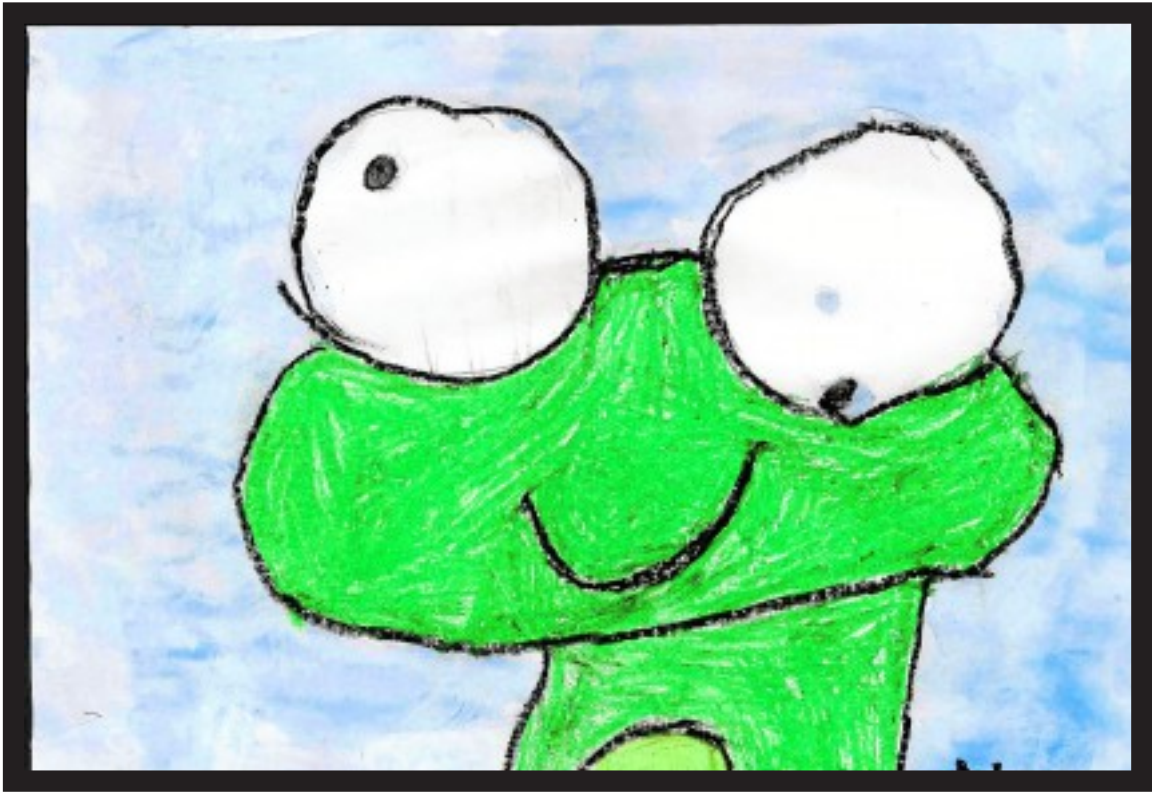


TM

Schoolwork showcase

SPECIAL MENTION PRIMARY ARTWORK

Alice Watson, Age 5, Novaschool Sunland International



What the judges said

This cute cross-eyed creature was a great hit. “An irresistible splash of colour! This cartoon-like image instantly captures our attention. The protagonist - probably a frog - has bulging eyeballs and can’t make up his mind in which direction he’s looking, but he’s smiling at us. The main image is bold and spontaneous, which hasn’t prevented this fresh young talent from taking the trouble to paint a neat and delicate background,” said Georgina Oliver.

RUNNER-UP PRIMARY STORY

Avalanche

The first rumbling of the mountain went unnoticed. Skiing speedily through the icing-sugar snow, eyes concentrating, Olivia ignored the warning of her family not to go off piste. Daylight shone intensely on Olivia’s dark green eyes while the wind tickled her face like a massage. Had she looked behind her, she would have seen her mum waving in desperation. Had she looked up, at the top of the mountain, she would have seen a dust cloud of snow.

The insistent rumblings of the mountain brought her back to reality. Feet wobbling unstead-

ily, body shivering, she glanced up cautiously and saw the dusty snow cloud grow bigger. And nearer. The rumble grew louder. And louder.

Eyes fixed on the mountain, heart thumping, Olivia skied for her life. But it was too late. She heard the first “O...” of her name leave her mother’s lips before the rest was stolen by the rumbling of the mountain. Rumbling, tumbling, turning, balls of snow, gasps of breath. Then blurry, then silent, then white...

Then light. “Olivia! Olivia! Are you OK?” A familiar voice. Turning her head, she gazed into the concerned eyes of her mother

and found herself safe.

It had passed, as all avalanches do, and Olivia promised to always listen to her family who were now hugging each other tightly.

Irene González del Castillo Lara
Age 10
Laude San Pedro International College

What the judges said

This story shows an impressive use of language for a ten-year-old. The rhythm that is being evoked is synchronised with the rhythm of the way the story is told.

RUNNER-UP SECONDARY POEM

The Final Page

So, you know how characters in,
Stories and rhymes live happily ever after?
When the baddies go away,
The goodies are filled with laughter?

You think that that is the end of the tale.
Well that is not always true,
Because, on the last page,
There may be a lie or two.

After the last page of The Three Little Pigs
The first little pig became a king,
The second little pig got fired from his job,
And the third became a rapper with bling.

After the last page of Humpty Dumpty,
He fell off the wall one more time,
He became scrambled and,
All the king’s men said he tasted divine.

After the last page of Incy, Wincy Spider,
He was walking down the road with his furry friend,
When he got squished by a passing horse and cart,
So that was his real tragic end.

After the last page of Jack and the Beanstalk,
The giant didn’t really die when he fell down,
He picked Jack up and made him his slave,
And the giant became the ruler of the town.

After the last page of the 3 Billy Goats Gruff,
They went trip trapping over the bridge with a stroll,
The bridge collapsed and they floated downstream,
Where they found, once again, the ugly troll.

After the last page of The Gingerbread Man,
Within minutes the fox began to swell,
An allergic reaction to ginger he had,
He was not feeling very well.

After reading this poem I hope you now know,
Not to judge a book by its cover.
Things aren’t always as they seem,
There is so much more to discover.

Emily Simmons
English International College, Marbella

What the judges said

The judges described this poem as amusing and playful with a clever use of classical references. As well as being fun, though, it also touches on the moral of not judging a book by its cover.

SELECTED PRIMARY POEM

Recipe for a fairy tale

Into my fairy tale I will add...

An unhappy wizard who surprisingly doesn’t have a beard,

An orange pumpkin that doesn’t say a word,

One small, grey wolf that is more fierce than a great soldier,

Several cheeky mice who are transformed into coachmen,

One smooth, see-through, white glass slipper that belonged to the princess beloved,

One giant that can crush a tall grey building with the slam of his strong hand,

One mischievous runaway ginger bread man that was made by a little old lady

and a gold, shiny crown for a queen to wear on a ball.

Jessica
Year 2
Calpe School

SELECTED PRIMARY POEM

Like a refugee

Unloved, like a lonely teddy

Slumped on a bus.

Rejected, like a puppy

Left in the pound.

Outcast, a plastic bag

Circling in the breeze.

Unsecure, like a balloon

Runaway.

Unwelcome, a new boy

In a flock of friends

That aren’t his.

A refugee, seeking safety.

Belonging is his hope

But he needs your help.

Hannah Hafez, Age 11
Laude San Pedro Int. College

EXCELLENCE At this official British college, accredited by Edexcel and UCAS, pupils can study and prepare for entry to universities all over the world without leaving Málaga

Phoenix College, the only sixth form college in Andalusia

MÁLAGA

A little bit of the UK in the very heart of Málaga. That's what pupils will find at Phoenix College, the only sixth form college in Andalusia where they can finish off their secondary studies and prepare for entry to the best universities.

Phoenix College opened during the last academic year and benefits from a team of teachers who each have more than 25 years of experience in the sector. James Riley, Kirsty Ridyard and Alex Mitchell, co-founders of the College, are graduates from Durham, Oxford and Trinity College Dublin Universities respectively and have created an academic curriculum which is especially aimed at preparing pupils for entry to the most prestigious universities both in the UK and in Spain or many other parts of the world. As History and Social Sciences teacher Mr. Riley explains, "Due to the type of education we offer, our centre is 'a bridge' for the students between a normal secondary school and university. We prepare the pupils on many levels, not just academically. We seek to help them develop skills and abilities that they will find very useful in the future." As well as being an Edexcel approved centre for exams,

Phoenix College is also accredited by UCAS and provides an assessment and orientation service with excellent results. This year some of the youngsters are considering options such as Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

In accordance with the centre's comprehensive education philosophy, as well as the typical British subjects (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology History, Geography, Politics, Spanish and Further Mathematics) and the optional Spanish PCE (Selectividad) subjects for pupils who may wish to study at a Spanish university (Matemáticas científicas, Física, Química, Biología, Matemáticas



Phoenix College also has a programme of activities to target the youngsters' personal development outside the classroom



cas aplicadas a Ciencias Sociales y Economía de empresas), the school offers complementary subjects such as Business, IT and Law.

The aim of all this is to increase students' knowledge and provide them with the greatest academic credentials possible with a view to continuing



their studies. Phoenix College also has a programme of activities to target the youngsters' personal development outside the classroom. Through this project, the pupils take on different challenges (personal, cultural and social) which range from reading books to carrying out volunteering tasks or learn-

ing to play a musical instrument, among many other activities. The centre also has its own choir and a debating team that competes in different international competitions and there are frequent outings and trips to places of interest. "With all these options we aim to get the boys and girls out of their com-

fort zones and allow them to test themselves and discover everything they're capable of achieving in different areas," a school spokesperson explains.

AN EXCELLENT TEAM FOR A PROJECT OF EXCELLENCE

Part of Phoenix College's success is down to its teachers, who as well as the above mentioned extensive and prestigious background in the teaching sector also stand out for their vocation and commitment to education. "We believe teaching is a gift. The best part of our job is to be in the classroom with the pupils because they learn from us, but we learn from them too," Chemistry and Biology teacher Kirsty Ridyard explains.

The centre is beside La Plaza de Uncibay, just 20 minutes from the train station and 10 minutes from the bus station. It is also very close to the motorway and there are multiple public carparks nearby. There are a range of classrooms for lessons including a fully equipped laboratory, a patio and common room for breaks and pupils have free use of the kitchen.

To discover more about the College, those interested can get in touch by telephone (952 22 02 75), online (infophoenix-collegemálaga.com) or in person. "We encourage parents to come to the College, have a look at the facilities and find out about our academic options, because we believe it is fundamental to match the students' needs to what we have to offer," Ridyard points out.



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phoenixcollegemálaga.com

ADVERTORIAL

Schoolwork showcase

RUNNER UP SECONDARY SHORT STORY

Another Day

I hang and watch my rainforest as each day goes by.

Watching visitors paddling steadily up-stream against the current, the river water splashing against the bows of their canoes. The heat, the work and the humidity makes them sweat and soon countless flies and other insects are buzzing and whizzing around them.

I prefer the fresh, cool smell of river water. The smell of the rotting vegetation on the forest floor is strong, but it doesn't make me move.

The river water is a dirty reddish brown.

Riverbanks with tall grasses and bushes dipping into the water. Trees seem to grow closer to the river bank as the river narrows. A Caiman lies on sandbanks watching me, but it doesn't make me move.

A whirlwind of butterflies, big, bright and blue fly by. A huge snake, an anaconda, swims out of the path of the canoe and slips noiselessly into the bushes on the bank. On the forest floor masses of butterflies, especially azure tipped winged ones feed on rotting fruit. Ants go about their business, leaf cutter ants building nests, soldier ants marching in search of a dead animal hidden in the undergrowth, but they don't make me move.

A relentless torrent of birdsong and a background of insect noises. Eagles screech

and small birds twitter, Flights of brightly coloured parrots and macaws fly home from feeding grounds, squawking noisily. Red howler monkeys launch into their evening choruses which will go on until long after dark. When they finish, quails and whip-poorwills take over and whistle through the night. Somewhere in the forest, a jaguar growl, full of menace, flows through the trees but doesn't make me move.

I feel my branch under my claws and keep still to sleep. I hang and watch my rainforest.

Andrey Leshkov
Year 7
Laude San Pedro International College

◀ **What the judges said**
Liz Parry described the writer's excellent evocation of the jungle and good repetition of "it doesn't make me move". We can tell it's a sloth without him having to name it. Georgina enjoyed the rich images and how the end comes full circle with the beginning.

SPECIAL MENTION ARTWORK

Julia Roldán, Age 12, MIT School Málaga



SPECIAL MENTION PRIMARY SHORT STORY

Against All Odds

In twenty minutes, my feet will touch the ground. In twenty minutes, my mission will be complete. In twenty minutes, my life will be forever different.

As the end draws closer, I gaze at my surroundings with nostalgia. I remember the day I embarked on this journey. I was gripped with fear, excitement and impatience as I took my position along with my three fellow companions. It has not been easy. I have consumed canned and dried foods for eight whole months, endured extreme temperatures and have learned to live in a confined space with no home comforts.

My name is Malaya Lavita and I'm the first ever Iranian woman to be launched into outer space. My entire life was planned out for me but destiny had its own agenda. Born into a middle-class traditional Iranian family it was unheard of for girls to study past high school. I was expected to follow tradition and get married into a decent family as soon as I turned eighteen. It was my mother who convinced my father to allow me to study further but unfortunately her support was no match for my father's rage the day I told him I wanted to become an astronaut. He was immediately appalled by the idea and forbade me from pursuing my dream. Determined to fulfil my ambitions, I ran away from home.

I stand here now, prodigiously successful on becoming one of the first women to land on the moon. I'm posing for photos and beaming into cameras when amongst crowds of television reporters, I spot the two people that matter the most to me- my parents. They approach me cautiously, tears of regret spilling from their eyes. I run and embrace them with tears of happiness in my own. My dad tells me how proud he is and in that moment all our differences are forgotten.

Reyana Bhojwani
Age 10
Sunny View School

◀ **What the judges said**
The judges liked the structure of this story, how the first two paragraphs draw you in and the explanation comes in the third paragraph, which, said Liz, was a very effective way of doing it. They also praised the repetition in the first paragraph.



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Ms F. Jacobs - Head teacher

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Schoolwork showcase

SPECIAL MENTION SECONDARY ARTWORK

Yingying Zheng, Year 12, Sunny View School.



What the judges said
“At first glance this ‘split screen’ image seems academic, almost rigid. The skill already displayed by this very young painter wowed us all. Upon closer inspection, the brushwork turns out to be highly inventive and sensitive, unusually varied...The textures of the backgrounds and clothes - the man’s soft jumper, the woman’s leather jacket, which contrasts sharply with her softer scarf... - lure us into the painting. Suddenly, we can’t take our eyes off it. They say every picture tells a story, and with figurative art the temptation is to read a story into the picture,” said Georgina Oliver. The jury thought this couple looking in separate directions could be parents contemplating divorce.

SPECIAL MENTION SECONDARY POEM

Voyage of an angel

One day death crept up on me
“Mr Grief have sympathy!”

A lonely grave; a ribbon tied,
A single flower by its side.

A loneliness; a love starvation
An endless shaft of isolation.

A cavity that can’t be filled;
A glass of guilt that can’t be spilled

Rain is just tears in the sky;
Shade is darkness in my eyes.

But the thing that still keeps me alive:
is knowing that my angel thrives.

GRIEF

Kiara Grobler
Year 7
St Anthony’s College



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Sunny View School's new Primary building features state-of-the-art technology.

Sunny View School, growing, improving, inspiring and motivating

TORREMOLINOS

Sunny View School has experienced many exciting changes over the last 18 months, as it continues to go from strength to strength. In September 2017 a new building for upper Primary students was opened, with each classroom equipped with a Promethean interactive display. There is a dedicated computer room and a new library space for Primary students will open later this year.

With the continued growth in student numbers, the school has been making further changes and improvements to the school site and has more plans in place for the coming years as the numbers in Secondary increase. An additional science laboratory has been added this year to take the total number of labs to four. In readiness for the start of the next school year, the school will create a new sixth form study space and Secondary library.

Sunny View School's dedicated, professional staff, as well as the school's Directors, John and Richard Pettis, have ensured that through this period of change



Careers Week is always a great success with the Secondary students.

and development, they do not lose sight of what the school does best - delivering quality, British education here on the Costa del Sol. As the staff team expands in line with the student population, the school continues its policy of only employing teachers who have experience teaching in the UK or in the British school system.

Each school year, students can participate in a wide variety of activities and events. Many have direct links to school subjects and topics, while others enable students to develop learning beyond the confines of the classroom and the curriculum. From trips to Paris, Berlin, London, Madrid and elsewhere in Spain to events such as Careers Week where 30 visiting speakers came to school to give presentations about the world of work to students, Sunny View School is committed to inspiring and motivating students and instilling a love of learning that they will carry with them through life.

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Schoolwork showcase

SPECIAL MENTION
SECONDARY SHORT STORY

Last Things

The sun wasn't even up, and yet I could already hear people outside. People... Can't really call these creatures people. Eternal scavengers, critters of dusk, pale and light sensitive like bats, they were always bent over, as if there was a heavy burden on their shoulders. Desperate to live, they grappled every opportunity to eat, sleep, breathe, survive, no matter the costs.

After yesterday's executions I could feel the terror in the air. It hung above the city like thick grey clouds, constantly reminding me of what had happened on the former Times Square, which was now renamed into Service Square. I actually knew one of the people hanged by the Militia. Stan Case, just a few years older than me, used to live next door Before - I didn't know what he'd done, but I had to turn away. I always closed my eyes at the executions, although I was aware of multiple cameras aimed at the crowd of spectators and the armed guards looking over the square with a sharp watchful eye - but I couldn't bear it. The scarlet Militia graffiti on the surrounding buildings, the M encircled by an eye, seemed to always be following me and everyone around, and there was no escape.

I lifted my head, then sat up, blinded by the fading light which fought its way through the holes in the collapsed wall. My shelter for the night was a run-down (no surprise, really) skyscraper which showed off an impressive spire, stretching into the sky like a beggar's hand, pleading for help, and a marble sign, stating proudly that this, the Empire State Building, was completed in 1931. Smudged over the marble board, a messy red writing: "And ruined in 2067", was almost washed off by the acid rain...

Anna Alieva
Age 15
Aloha College

What the judges said
The judges were told that this story was the prologue to a longer story that Anna is still writing. It passed the test: they did feel that they wanted to read on. Liz Parry commented on the good tempo and build-up of mood as well as the menacing atmosphere.

SELECTED ARTWORK

Carla Fernández de Gregorio, Age 8, Sunny View School



What the judges said
It was a model this time, that immediately charmed the judges. "Another irresistible character! Another irresistible splash of colour..." said Georgina. "Full of energy. The trunk, tusk and ears appear to have been shaped in one sweep, and this blue elephant definitely has a twinkle in the eye."

Felix Klemme, Year 8, British International School Marbella



What the judges said
"I have a soft spot for this 'faux naïve' Hitchcock fantasy," said Georgina Oliver. "The more I look at it, the more I like it. It incorporates two iconic references, for the price of one. The shower from the famous shower scene in Psycho sprinkling birds like those in Alfred Hitchcock's film Birds is at once amusing and troubling. The director has returned to the scene of his crimes; he casts a sidelong glance at us, as if to say: 'Scary stuff...! Do you think things will turn out OK?'"

SELECTED PRIMARY SHORT STORY

Orinja Lu

There lay an orange, behind an asparagus jar, a sad, solitary asparagus jar. No one ever opened their home, John's fridge. The orange started to get mouldy. It started to grow legs, horns, arms and obviously face. It started to walk. It learnt it could move and do more things than wander around, so it got out.

By the time he knew he was in a dump, he got squashed a few times, but when he nearly got squashed again, old samurai Txiang Lu got him, raised him like a son and trained him to be a ninja but to do good, always good.

Orinja was his name, Orinja Lu. Orinja went to school and had many friends. No one ever forced him if they knew about his past. But in college grades lowered and bullies appeared but they went for Orinja. He thought they'd let him alone, but they didn't. That made his life go downhill.

When Txiang Lu died, Orinja wanted vengeance so he committed crime after crime after crime trying to find his bully and bully him. He went to the yellow pages and found that he was in Alcatraz so Orinja laughed and he laughed and he laughed.

Lu's house had been taken down, so Orinja went back to John's fridge. The asparagus jar was still there, as Orinja had imagined, it hadn't just grown legs and wandered away. There it was, an asparagus inside a jar, when it started to move.

A root, a long green, hairy root got out of a crack in an asparagus. The asparagus was an ordinary asparagus, covered with mould, black, sticky mould. The root started to wiggle, like if it was dancing to the rhythm outside that rusty old fridge. A thing was there, inside that asparagus was another living creature. It started to get out. An orange.

Alejandro Padilla Moreno
Age 10
Novaschool Sunland International

What the judges said
This story was described as fun and entertaining, and judges praised the humour. The writer has certainly let his imagination run wild, going from a situation we are all familiar with - something mouldy at the back of the fridge - to a ninja adventure, with school and bullying all thrown in.

SELECTED SECONDARY POEM

The storm

Out of nowhere, a revving roar of thunder echoed in the sky.

And the aggressive lightening charged at me, deep in the damp field.

The moon rose, and the clouds started to close in.

In the distance you could faintly hear How the mighty demon screeched.

The ferocious storm leaned towards me, like a bear standing on its hind legs.

Anastasia Rovovaya
Year 7
Laude San Pedro International College

EDUCATION The British School of Málaga, known until recently as St George, is relaunching this March as a result of its incorporation into the International Schools Partnership group

The British School of Málaga. Growing our future together

MÁLAGA

The most precious gift a parent can give a school is their child and at The British School of Málaga the development and growth of your child is taken very seriously; your children are our future after all.

The British School of Málaga is firmly rooted to the belief that learning can only take place when youngsters are happy, safe and curious and therefore it is the job of their teachers to ignite that learning. Designing learning that is purposeful and reflects the modern world, and that offers young people the best chance of examination success is fundamental to their approach. The British School of Málaga is always challenging students' thinking and practice, allowing them to grow and develop through reflection.

The British School of Málaga offers a British education for students from 3-18 in a bicultural environment that is complemented with Spanish studies. The curriculum therefore creates more opportunities for students to learn, giving them more options for when they leave.

The British School of Málaga is especially proud of how they develop a personalised experience of learning for every young person, enabling them to support each learner to reach their full potential rather than a one fits all approach. Because of this personalised approach youngsters leave The British School of Málaga more rounded



from the rich experiences they have encountered, confident and motivated in the pathway they are travelling and as a result happy, aspirational, independent and successful.

Students study IGCSEs and A Levels in a wide range of subjects that already include Art, Business Studies, Drama, Media Studies, ICT with even more subjects being introduced in September - Psychology, Travel and Tourism, Environmental Science and Politics. The British Curriculum is taught by UK qualified teachers who are native speakers.

A high percentage of students on completion of their studies

at The British School of Málaga go on to study at Universities in Spain such as Madrid and Barcelona. In addition to this a large number of their students also go on to study in the UK in cities such as London, Warwick, Durham as well as other European countries and even the USA.

The 8 core values at The British School of Málaga that are central to becoming a happy and successful life long learner are: Aspiration, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Independence, Leadership, Reflection and Resilience. Students are not taught purely to pass exams, rather they are prepared for life.



The Core Value Learning tree in the main reception showcases examples of students who have excelled in each of the Values. The tree is made out of train tracks; the train tracks are symbolic of the journey we go on when we are learning and growing and there are eight branches to represent each of the Core Values. Nominations are taken each month to celebrate the core value champions.

Significant investment has been made in order to improve the learning environment with plans in place for wifi throughout the school, a new EYFS playground, 4 new science classrooms, refurbishment in the Sixth Form Common room and in the Primary KS1/KS2 playground. This year is going to be a year to remember at The British School of Málaga.

The British School of Málaga will be officially opening on Friday 15th March to invited guests, who will experience first hand what learning looks like, participate in learning activities and talk to past and present students.

However school visits are not just limited to invited guests, The British School of Málaga looks forward to welcoming you in the near future where you will see for yourself what a unique learning experience is on offer. Please contact Sophie Lowe Velazco, our Head of Admissions, who will be pleased to arrange a visit to the school.

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Schoolwork showcase

SELECTED ARTWORK

Barbara, Class 6, Marbella Montessori School



▲ What the judges said

Critic Georgina Oliver said: "Fun! The astronaut really seems to be floating in the star-studded universe this participant has clearly taken pleasure in conveying. She may have a point: What would our planet be without art? The new planets we explore capture our imaginations, but there's no art there..."

JOINT PROJECTS

Cave: Year 1, Novaschool Sunland International



◀ Working together

Youngsters in the first year of primary at Sunland International worked together to create this cave at the end of last year. They were learning about how people lived in Prehistoric times.

Letters from the front: Year 11, Almuñécar International School



◀ Writing history

Year 11 students at Almuñécar International School have been studying the First World War in their History class. As an activity they wrote letters as if they were soldiers fighting on the front. Not only did they have to introduce true historical events into their stories but also the aesthetics of their letters had to look real.

Sporting achievements



▲ **Squash.** Benalmádena International College student Siena Hall Rogers was recently crowned number one in the Spanish Under 11 Squash Championships. Siena, who is in Year 5 at the school, took part in the competition in Lugo (Galicia) on 15 February. Christian Domínguez, who plays with Siena at the Fuengirola Squash Club, won the Under 15 category. :: SUR



◀ **Cross country running.** Youngsters from Key Stage 2 at Swans International School show off their certificates achieved in a schools' cross country competition. :: SUR

▲ **Athletics.** Aloha College were last year's Costa del Sol Athletics Champions for the first time in over a decade after beating 11 other international schools and finishing over 100 points clear of the second-placed team. Notable events were the 100 metres in which Aloha won five out of eight races and the relays, winning six out of eight races. :: SUR

A MODERN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE BASED ON TRADITIONAL VALUES

Swans International School has been offering an outstanding Early Education for over 48 years. From the very first day we opened our doors, we have provided a warm, safe and vibrant environment in which all children can thrive.

As soon as you enter Swans School, you are met with the unforgettable sense of family. There is an indescribable, almost magical quality that creates a sense of both comfort and excitement. On any given day, the atmosphere throughout the school is warm and welcoming and there is a continual 'buzz' of pride and proactivity as children go about their learning.

Foundation Stage at Swans is where it all begins. For our youngest students, each day is full of fun as they continually develop and learn, either through play or through more structured, small group activities.

Our learning spaces are bright, spacious and all classrooms are installed with the latest technology; including state of the art touch screen whiteboards, Apple TV and I pads. We embrace technology and accept the significant role it will have in our children's future.

However, we never lose sight of the important, traditional values that are vital in ensuring that our children grow to be resourceful, responsible and resilient adults.



The enjoyment in Foundation Stage classes extends beyond the classroom to our well-resourced outdoor learning environment, which includes a giant sand-pit and a real-life hungry caterpillar!

Our dedicated teachers foster positive and regular communication between home and school and welcome parental involvement. We have an open-door policy whereby parents are able to speak personally with the class teacher on a daily basis. Parents are invited into the classroom to share many different activities with us, including joining us for a delicious home-cooked, healthy lunch at any time during the year! By the end of the Foundation experience, children at Swans School will have achieved many important objectives, reached personal goals and have adapted socially to become more independent individuals. They will be ready for the next stage in their education when new milestones will be reached.

We are very proud of our school and all of the children, parents, and staff members who make it such a special place to learn. We understand that starting your child out on their future path is one of the most important decisions that you will make and we therefore warmly invite you to visit us and experience the magical atmosphere for yourself!

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New Admissions for Early Years September 2019 closing date: Monday, 29th April

Tel. 00 34 952 77 32 48 or via email primary@swansschool.net www.swansschoolinternational.es

CLOCKING UP ACHIEVEMENTS



Aloha College supports Sarah. Year 12 students at Aloha College recently organised a campaign to help the Somos tu ola association buy prostheses for Sarah Almagro, the Marbella girl who lost her hands and feet due to sepsis. Students Miriam, Nacho, Carlota and Asay organised a non-uniform day at the school at the end of January. "Thank you to those who collaborated in making it possible for Sarah to get these prostheses so she can get her life back on track," said the fundraising students. :: SUR



▲ **Working with Apples.** Sotogrande International School (SIS) has been reaccredited as an Apple Distinguished School for 2018 to 2021. The designation is reserved for schools that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence. Apple Distinguished Schools demonstrate the use of Apple hardware, apps and content to promote creativity, collaboration, innovation and critical thinking to transform learning and teaching. Teachers and classrooms at SIS are equipped with the latest Apple technology, empowering students and teachers to be creative and explore learning in an interactive and different way. :: SUR



▲ **Environmentally aware.** The recent Environment Awareness Week at the British International School of Marbella left staff and pupils more determined than ever to make choices that will have a positive impact on the planet. Activities included visits from local activist Safia Spana and Pancho Campo (above), who has organised several international conferences on climate change and has worked alongside the American vice-president Al Gore. :: SUR

► **50 years of teaching on the Costa del Sol.** St Anthony's College on the Coin road in Mijas celebrated its 50th anniversary last autumn. The college was opened in 1968 by a music teacher who realised that there was a demand for British education on the Costa del Sol. Parents, teachers and pupils celebrated the anniversary with live music. :: SUR



► **Academic success.** The Benalmádena International College has sent out congratulations to two of its students, Larissa Schuurman and Radu Socol, for attaining the highest examination marks in Spain, for Fine Art and in English First Language, awarded by the Pearsons (Edexcel) Examination Board. :: SUR



SCIENCE



▲ **How to be a scientist.** Swans School Year 4 pupils tried their hand at being real scientists on a recent trip to Planeta Explora. :: SUR



▲ **Hands-on learning.** Students at Aloha College regularly take part in the school's Science Fairs. Recent contributions included a hydraulic vending machine, can crushers, mirror writing and lava lamps, not to mention the popular snakes and rockets. The engagement and enthusiasm from the Year 9 pupils is always exceptional, say teachers. :: SUR

VISITING SUR



▲ **Visiting SUR.** During the year, dozens of groups from schools and colleges from along the Costa del Sol come to visit the SUR offices in Malaga. Top, students from the Marbella International University Centre found out more about SUR in English. Centre, the Swans School German department visited SUR Deutsche Ausgabe. Above, a group from the María Montessori Centre on the steps outside the main SUR building. :: SUR



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Graduates can also apply for entering a Masters programme at a university of their choice.

LOCATED IN MONDA - 15KM FROM MARBELLA

The Academy is located in Monda, where 90% of the students live, only a short walking distance from the Academy.

DESIGN AT ITS BEST

With nearly a quarter of a century of experience, Marbella Design Academy has become an exclusive high level academic design school competing among the very best design institutions worldwide.

The students benefit from 80% tuition time and small tutoring groups, quite different to most design schools and universities who normally only provide 20% tuition time.



TUITION GIVEN IN A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

The learning environment is friendly, creative and passionate. Students are taught by highly educated professionals who support the students to reach their full potential as designers through encouraging each of them in their own personal style.

BEAUTIFUL LOCATION

The students at Marbella Design Academy enjoy the beautiful, safe and inspiring environment of the Academy, where students of more than 47 different nationalities, share and explore their passion for design.

BA VALIDATED PROGRAMMES

Marbella Design Academy welcomes new students to the 3 year BA validated programmes, twice per year, with intakes in January and September.

FOUNDATION COURSE - 3 MONTHS

For applicants that do not fulfil the entrance requirements of having a High School Diploma or similar to enter the Bachelor of Arts validated programmes, the Academy offers an intensive 3 months Foundation Course.

Satisfactory completion of this course qualifies students to continue onto one of the BA validated programmes.

The Foundation Course starts in both June and September.

VARIOUS SUMMER COURSES.

Marbella Design Academy also offers a variety of interesting Summer Courses for adults (above 17 years of age). The 2 to 5 weeks Summer Courses are offered during July and August every year.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Marbella Design Academy and its programmes we recommend you to visit the very informative website of the Academy:

www.designschool.com

Email: info@marbella-design-academy.com

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