



## Examinations

### **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)**

IGCSE examinations are internationally accepted by over 90 countries worldwide including Spain. The pass grades for IGCSE examinations range from A\* to G. In order to homologate their studies for the Spanish education system, students will be required to pass a minimum of 4 IGCSEs with grade C or above and pass 4º ESO in Spanish Language and Social Sciences. (See 'Validation').

Pupils take their final IGCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. The IGCSE curriculum consists of a two year course of extensive study which begins in Year 10.

Regular attendance is of prime importance. The coverage of the required syllabus is planned very carefully and does not allow for extended repetition or revision. If students miss elements of their work they are expected to complete these and be up to date in their own time.

Homework plays a very important role in supporting and extending learning. It is expected that pupils will complete homework to the required standard and on time – it is for their own benefit to do this!

Presentation of exercise books should be of a high standard and work should be regularly dated. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they have the correct books (including text books) for the day's lessons. All notes are very important, both for the purposes of revision and so that the teachers can assess a student's understanding.

Some subjects require the students to submit coursework. They will be given assignments to complete and possibly re-draft, by given dates. It is essential that this work is given to the teacher at the designated time so that assessment can be carried out and marks submitted. Delay could lead to failure!

IGCSE examinations take place from mid May to mid June each year. By this time, each student should be well-prepared, provided that they have given their due attention to their school work, homework and to advice from teachers. They need to give their best effort in order to do the best they can and it is up to us as parents and teachers to support them so they can achieve this.

### **First Certificate in English (FCE)**

Pupils prepare for the **FCE** in Year 9. This examination is generally aimed at young adults and can facilitate entry into Higher Education establishments, it is a proficiency examination recognised by the Council of Europe's European Framework as level **B2**.

Of course, pupils who continue in the British Education system until the end of Year 11 will have their competence in English recognised with the acquisition of their IGCSEs. However, the FCEs international status makes it a highly recommended addition to your child's curriculum vitae.

The **FCE** usually takes place in mid June.

## Standard Assessment Tests (SATS)

SATS tests are given at the end of Year 2, Year 6 and Year 9. They are used to show your child's progress compared with other children born in the same month.

**Key Stage 1** SATs take place in Year 2 throughout May. Each child is teacher assessed in reading, writing (including spelling and handwriting), maths (including number, shape, space and measurement) and science. Your child's class teacher will set short pieces of work in English and maths to judge what level of ability your child is considered to be.

**Key Stage 2** SATs take place in May and are more formal than Key Stage 1. The tests which are taken in Year 6 cover the three core subjects, English, Maths and Science.

**Key Stage 3** SATs also take place at the end of Year 9. The exams cover work done in English, Maths and Science during years 7 to 9.

Here is a simple table to show you the expectations of a child:

### Level Comments

Level W Working towards level 1, very weak

Level 1 Average for a typical 5 year old

Level 2 Average for a typical 7 year old

Level 3 Average for a typical 9 year old

Level 4 Average for a typical 11 year old

Level 5 Average for a typical 13 year old

Level 6 Average for a typical 14 year old

Level 7 Above average for typical 14 yr old

Level 8 Only available in maths

So, if your child is sitting the Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs and achieves level 4, well done: level 5 signals a very able or gifted child: level 3 is below average and indicates your class teacher and you should work together to identify what can be done to give extra help and promote confidence and a desire to learn.

Additionally you may find bands 'a', 'b' and 'c' are given within the levels. This simply indicates a range within the level, a being the highest and c being the lowest.

SATS results, together with the teacher's assessment are used to stream your child during secondary school. They can be used to help decide which IGSCes your child will take.