

Outstanding School

Once more

Annual Report  
2018-2019



**We challenge**

**our students**



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# 1. Welcome

## Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Pupils,

We are pleased to present the annual activities report which features a review of the 2018/2019 school year, once again highlighting the academic success and personal achievements of our dear pupils.

In addition to academic success, this year was characterised by our firm commitment to create educational environments that nurture learning through creativity and ingenuity. And to turn each of our pupils into responsible individuals with integrity, who are confident in themselves and their ability to be successful.

Consequently, one of our main premises is to generate and build safe environments, and to encourage the creation of professional networks to share best practices and position the British Council School as a reference for education and a benchmark for learning and teaching. For all of us at the School, and for me in particular, an investment in education is an investment in the future.

I would like to highlight what I see as my personal responsibility to continue

implementing ongoing improvements. To achieve educational excellence and results requires being fully engaged, pooling knowledge among professionals and institutions, working on key areas such as teacher training and creating networks to ensure quality teaching at all levels. I wholeheartedly believe our School offers all these opportunities and is proof that a commitment to training and quality yields excellent results.

One example of this commitment is the decision of our pupils to continue their education abroad. Specifically, 45% of our pupils are pursuing university degrees outside Spain, at leading universities in the United Kingdom, United States and Europe. The British Council community is very proud of this achievement.

My final words are of thanks. Thanks to those who join us on this journey, those who are at our side, who trust us and place the future of their children in our hands. And, of course, thanks to all of our pupils for their hard work, dedication and ongoing efforts.

**Ms. Mercedes Hernández Estrada**  
Head of British Council School



# 2. Management team



## Mr. Mark Howard

### Director of British Council Spain

Previously, Mark Howard was America's Regional Director of the British Council. He has spent most of his career in the education sector, first as a History teacher in the United Kingdom, and later teaching English all over the world.

He joined the British Council 25 years ago, and during that time he has worked in a number of countries, including Spain, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Romania, Portugal, Korea, Singapore and Argentina. He has held a number of posts at the institution, including Teacher Trainer, Country Director, Director of Global Teaching and, more recently, America's Regional Director.

Mr. Howard holds a Degree in Politics and International Relations, a Post-Graduate Degree in Education, a Diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management and a Master's in Marketing.



## **Ms. Mercedes Hernández**

### **Head of School**

Head of the British Council School.

Mercedes Hernández Estrada has led the pioneering British education institution in Spain since last year.

Previously, Mercedes was CEO of Pioneer Educational Trust in Windsor and Slough and executive principal. Dedicated to education in the United Kingdom since the 1980s, Ms. Hernández holds a BA in Modern Foreign Languages, an MA in Anglo Germanic Philology and a Certificate in Teaching Aptitude (CAP) from Oviedo University.

An expert in curricular design, training and leadership, she has advised schools, communities, British and Spanish ministries, and the Madrid Regional Government.

Passionate about teaching, her professional experience spans a number of the country's schools, fostering and improving the quality of prestigious centres such as Tonbridge Grammar School, Regent's Park School in Southampton or Upton Court Educational Trust.



## **Ms. Arabella González**

### **Bursar**

Bursar since 2013.

Arabella González has more than 20 years of experience in business management in the UK, Spain, the US and Hong Kong. She previously held several posts, including CEO at Freetalk LLC, a US company that marketed the very first Skype products in 2006; Head of the Finance Department at In Store Solutions, Information Centre Manager at Oswestry School, and Business Manager at Insight Research, among others.

Ms. González is a graduate of the London School of Economics and has a Post-Graduate Diploma from the Liverpool John Moores University.



## **Ms. Catherine Stewart**

### **Head of Early Years**

Head of Early Years since 2012.

Catherine Stewart first joined the British Council School in 2007 as a Year 1 teacher. Since then she has been Family Leader and a member of the Primary Senior Management Team.

With a Degree in Business Science and a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCE) in Primary Education, before joining the School, Catherine Stewart worked in the UK, Peru and the Netherlands. Furthermore, in Spain she worked on the Ministry of Education's Bilingual Curricular Project.



## **Ms. Joanne Brindle**

### **Head of Primary**

Head of Primary since 2016.

Joanne Brindle was previously the Deputy Head of the British Council School and the Senior Management Team.

Her career at the British Council School spans more than 20 years. Ms. Brindle holds a Master's degree in Education Management, a qualification she achieved in 2015.





## **Ms. Pamela O'Brien**

### **Head of Secondary**

Head of Secondary since 2010.

Ms. O'Brien joined the School in 2005 as Head of Early Years where she remained until 2009 before taking up her post as Head of Secondary one year later.

She holds a Degree in French and Mathematics and a Higher Diploma in Education from University College Dublin, an MBA from the Open University and an NPQH from the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services.

Before moving to Spain she taught French and Mathematics in Dublin. In 1994, she first joined the British Council as an English teacher at the Madrid Young Learners Centre. She has held a number of senior posts in teaching centres throughout Spain, including Coordinator of the Teaching Centre at Villaviciosa, Director of Studies at the Somosaguas campus, ADOS at the Madrid Young Learners Centre and Director of Studies at the Barcelona Young Learners Centre. Ms. O'Brien also worked on "the British Council year of the young learners" project.



## **Ms. Nicola Escario**

### **Head of Marketing and Communications**

Nicola Escario has more than 8 years of experience in Senior Marketing within the education sector in Spain. She was head of Marketing at Blue Sky Learning and Vaughan Systems, where she also headed the company's online strategy.

Nicola worked at Publicis Groupe, organising marketing plans for a number of companies in the Asian market.

With a Degree in Business Administration and Communication from Ateneo de Manila University, Nicola also has an MBA from Universidad Antonio de Nebrija.

# 3. British Inspections

The quality of the School's education, the development of our pupils, their welfare, facilities and spaces, and the quality of the school's leadership and management are some of the areas that have been assessed by the Education's British Schools Overseas (BSO) Inspection who has given us the maximum rating.



## BSO inspection 2018 – The British Council School ranked as “outstanding” for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time

For the second time in a row, the British Council School has received the maximum rating in all areas of the UK Department of Education’s British Schools Overseas (BSO) inspection.

This inspection takes place every 3 years. The aim is to provide information to parents, teachers, managers and owners concerning the overall effectiveness of the School and the standards of education it offers. The evaluation criteria were:

- Quality of the education provided at the School.
  - Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the students.
  - Welfare, health and safety of the students.
  - Suitability of staff, suppliers and owners.
  - Facilities and spaces.
  - Information provided about the School.
  - Procedures in place to handle complaints.
  - Quality of leadership and management at the School.
- The protection and safeguarding of pupils is effective.
  - The School promotes the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) in a highly effective way. Furthermore, it also comprehensively supports the ethos and values of a British School overseas.
  - Pupils’ progress and attainment exceeds UK averages in a wide range of subjects and across all year groups.
  - Leaders ensure that pupils are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education.



## 4. Universities

Our pupils' brilliant academic records and the skills they have developed through our supra-curriculum, coupled with the personalised support of the School's university orientation team, combine to give them access to the world's most prestigious universities.

## and courses

The very best national and international universities know how talented our pupils are. Although Spain is still the preferred destination for most of them, an increasing number of pupils are opting to pursue further education abroad.

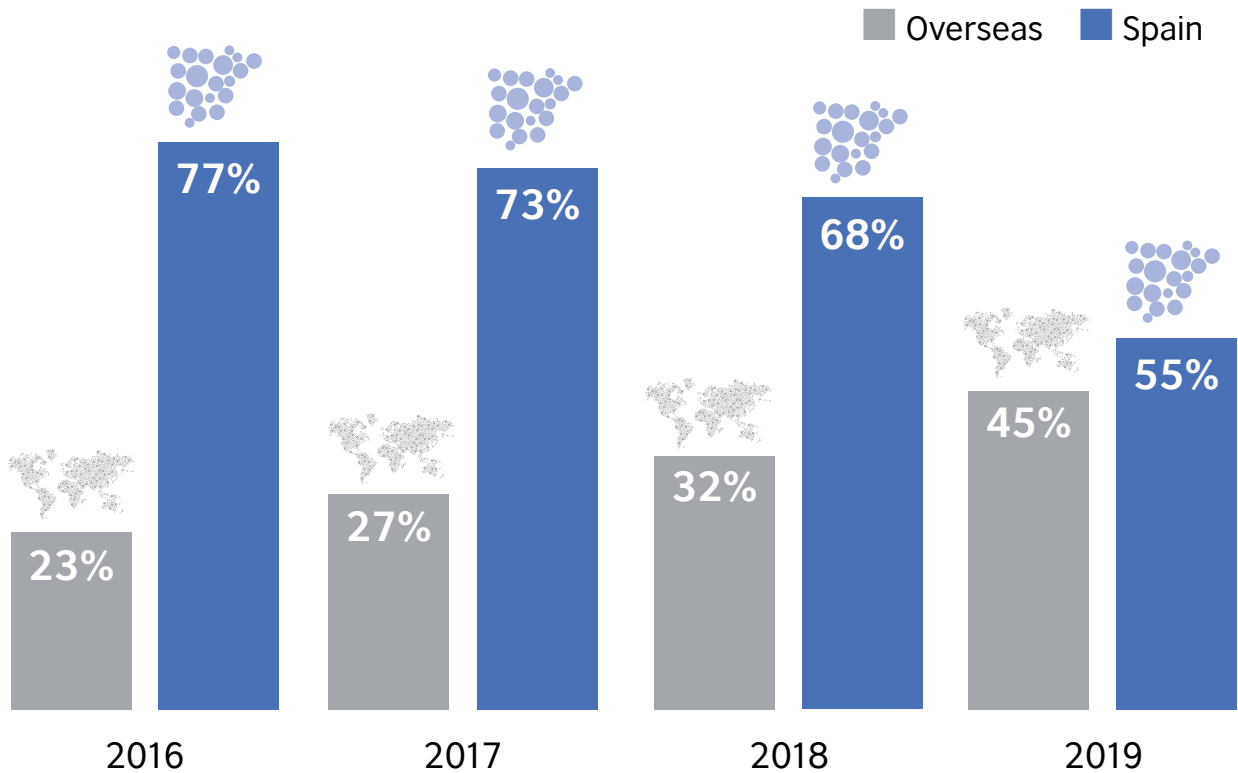
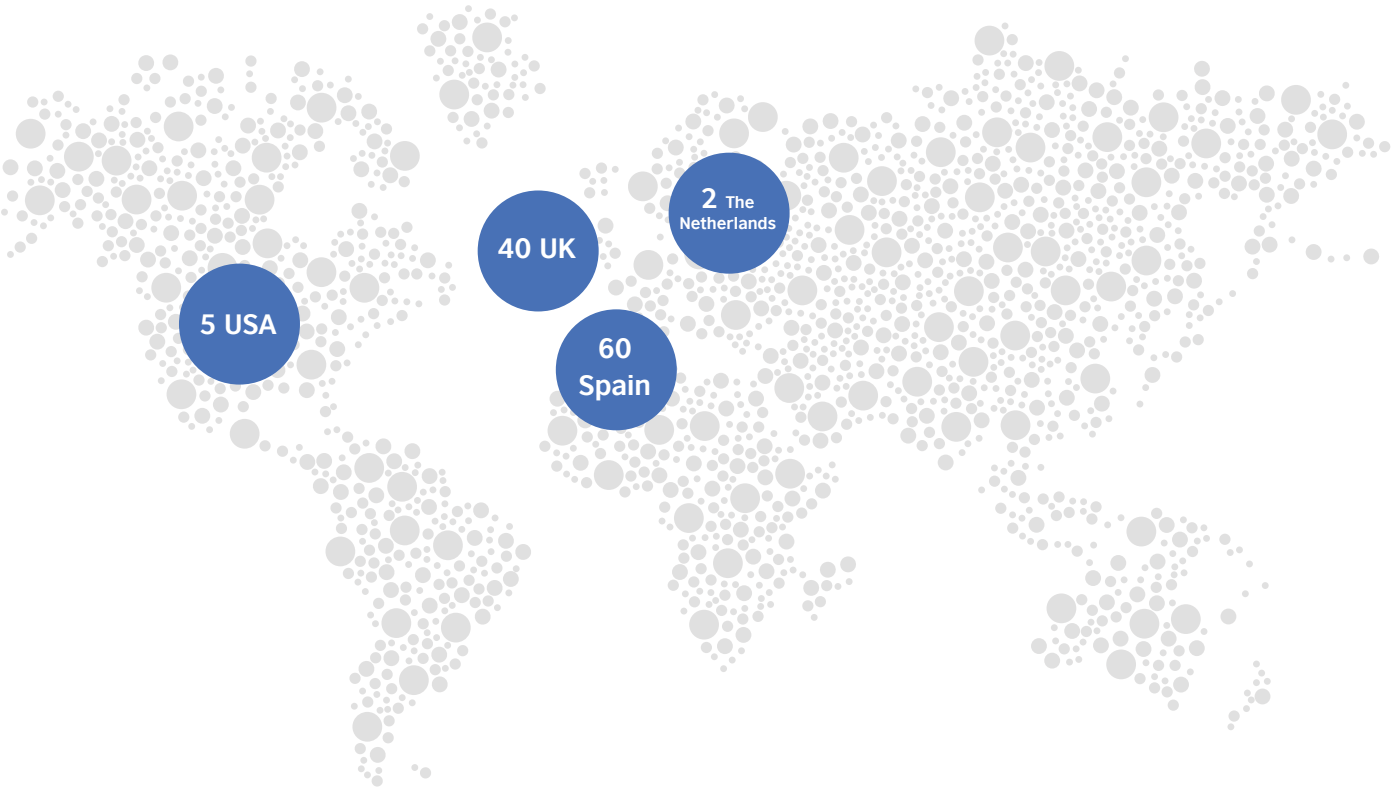


# British Council School students

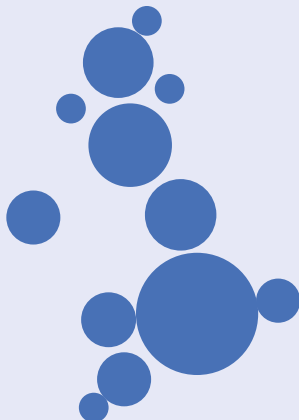
## Where do our pupils go to study?

45% Overseas and 55% Spain

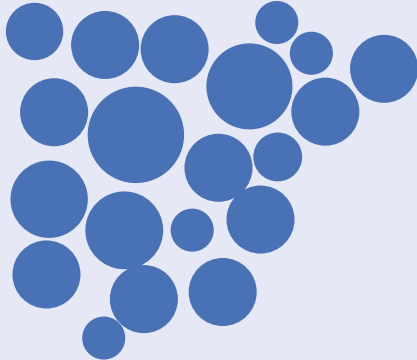
Graduating class 2019



## British Council School students - UK 2019 (40 students)

<b>Lancaster University (3)</b> Business Management International Relations International Business Management	<b>University of Cambridge (2)</b> Human, Social & Political Sciences Economics	<b>Portsmouth</b> International Relations & Languages - Chinese
<b>Edinburgh University</b> Government Policy & Society	<b>London School of Economics (3)</b> Finance Management	<b>University of Surrey</b> Business Management & Retail
<b>University of Warwick</b> Computer Science Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Information & Computing Engineering, International Management		<b>University of Kent</b> Architecture
<b>University of Bath (7)</b> Mechanical Engineering Business Administration Management Marketing & Management Business Economics	<b>Robert Gordon University</b> Physiotherapy	<b>University of Manchester</b> Aerospace Engineering
<b>University of Leeds</b> Business Management	<b>Southampton University</b> Mechanical Engineering	<b>Instituto Marangoni London (2)</b> Fashion Business Communication & New Media Fashion & Design
	<b>University of Sussex</b> Neuroscience and Cognitive Science	<b>Imperial College London (4)</b> Biochemistry Biomedical Engineering Product Design Engineering, Aeronautical Engineer
		<b>UCL (5)</b> Biochemistry Natural Sciences Economics & Business with East European Studies

## British Council School students – Spanish Universities 2019

<b>Complutense</b> Veterinaria		<b>IEB- ADE y Bolsa</b> Ingeniería del Diseño del Producto
<b>Autónoma</b> Derecho		<b>ICAI/ICADE</b> E4, E6, E3 ADE y Derecho ADE Bilingüe Derecho y ADE especializado en Business Analytics Ingeniería Industrial (3)
<b>URJC</b> Medicina Ingeniería Espacial	<b>CEU</b> Enfermería Biotecnología Bilingüe Odontología Medicina	<b>Universidad de Navarra</b> Medicina
<b>Politécnica</b> Edificación & ADE Ingeniería Aeroespacial Edificación Ingeniería Civil	<b>Universidad Europea</b> Medicina	<b>ESIC- Relaciones Públicas</b> Marketing Global ADE y Management Innovation
<b>Carlos III</b> ADE (en inglés) Matemáticas aplicadas y Computación	<b>CIS</b> Business Comunicaciones	<b>Francisco de Vitoria</b> ADE y Marketing Bilingüe Farmacia y Biotecnología Arquitectura
<b>CUNEF</b> ADE y Derecho Bilingüe ADE Bilingüe (2) Derecho	<b>Universidad de Nebrija</b> ADE Derecho	<b>Universidad de Comillas</b> Psicología y Criminología (3) Doble grado Tecnologías Industriales & ADE
<b>IE</b> ADE ADE y Derecho		



## British Council School students over the years - Europe

**University College Amsterdam & Skotel School Amsterdam (Holland)**

Arts & Sciences  
Hotel Management

**Delft University (Holland)**

Aerospace Engineering

**Via University College (Denmark)**

Mechanical Engineering

**Semmelweis University (Hungary)**

Medicine

**Dublin City University**

ADE

**Radboud University Nijmegen**

International Business media & Communications

**Amsterdam University**

Communication

**Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (Switzerland)**

Hotel Management

**Istituto Marangoni (Italy)**

Fashion Design

**Trinity College Dublin**

Biomedical & Biological Science

## British Council School students over the years - USA

**California State University**

Computer Engineering

**SCAD- Savannah College**

Arts and Design, Georgia  
Cinematography and Illustration

**Wheaton College**

Psychology

**Columbia University**

Politics & Economics

**Babson College**

Entrepreneurship

**UCLA**

NeuroScience & Pre-Medicine

**Tusculum College (Tennessee)**

Business Administration

**Miami University**

Business with Technology  
& Marketing, Immunology & Microbiology

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

Liberal Arts

**Huntington University**

Liberal Arts

**Stanford University (California)**

Liberal Arts

**Stanford University (California)**

Biomedical Engineering

**Bentley University (Boston)**

Liberal Arts

**Northeastern (Boston)**

Liberal Arts

**Boston College**

Management

**North Eastern**

Business

**Babson**

Entrepreneurship

**Rollins College Florida**

International Business

**Emmanuel College**

Economics

**UCLA**

Business

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

Economics

**Biola University (L.A.)**

Physics Engineering

**American University Washington**

Business

**Endicott University**

Business Administration

**Bentley University**

Business & Finance

We value

loyalty





## Russell Group Universities

We have achieved one of our main goals. In 2019, every single university in the UK's prestigious Russell Group, a total of 24 institutions, offered places to British Council School pupils. The University of Edinburgh joined our record list of universities this year.

The Russell Group is made up of 24 top UK research-intensive universities that have a shared commitment and focus on research and offer extraordinary teaching and learning experiences. Since 2018, the Russell Group, which was founded in 1994, has included four of the world's best universities: Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London and University College London.

Russell Group universities receive two-thirds of all research grants, enabling them to make a significant contribution to the intellectual, cultural and economic wealth of the United Kingdom. As a result, they attract the very best students and academics. By producing world-leading research in a range of topics and disciplines, universities belonging to the Russell Group play a pivotal role in the UK and in the health of its economy.

From the standpoint of students, these universities consistently offer the top rates of employability and student satisfaction and have the best staff-to-student ratios.

<https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>



### List of Russell Group universities

- University of Birmingham
  - University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
  - Cardiff University
  - Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
  - University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
  - University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- London School of Economics
  - University of Manchester
  - Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
  - University of Oxford
- Queen Mary, University of London
  - Queen's University Belfast
  - University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University College London
  - University of Warwick
  - University of York



## University Orientation at the British Council School

We provide each pupil with personalised support in orienting them towards their future, helping to determine the best option for them, aligned with their skills and dreams. We have a University Orientation Programme, where a team of professionals from various areas (Humanities, Sciences, Arts, English) advise and help pupils with administrative procedures and information, attending university fairs - including our own international Universities Fair - or providing personal tutors for each pupil. As a result, pupils receive support and advice on the university and course that best suits their needs.



# 5. Academic results

The academic performance for which our pupils are known is synonymous with the excellence the British Council School aims for. This year, our pupils obtained an average score of 8 out of 10 in the EvAU (University Entrance Exam). To achieve this, most of the pupils completed their entire school cycle with us. From their arrival in Early Years until the age of 18, they have completed a broad academic programme in two languages at the highest level. They are distinguished from other students, not just by their grades, but also because they are trustworthy, multilingual and multicultural individuals, ready to study at the world's top universities.

## Early Years

The Early Years section (from two to five years) is characterised by a close relationship with parents, who are participants in our educational activities and projects. From Early Years, at both the British Council School and the British Council Infants School in El Viso, we use the concept of “Responsible Freedom” to teach our pupils to be independent and to develop important tasks according to their age. We firmly believe it is important that they begin to think for themselves, learn to communicate their ideas and develop language and numeracy from an early age.

### New classrooms for Year 1

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the British Council confirmed its strategic commitment to infant education and approved an investment plan for our Early Years building. This is an ambitious 4-5 year project aimed at providing the best facilities and resources for our pupils from the earliest age.

Last year we inaugurated the new Year 1 classrooms. They feature more flexible, open and transparent spaces that take advantage of light and connect seamlessly with the outdoor areas. The facilities were improved with thermal and acoustic insulation. Adapted in-classroom toilets and modern projectors were added.



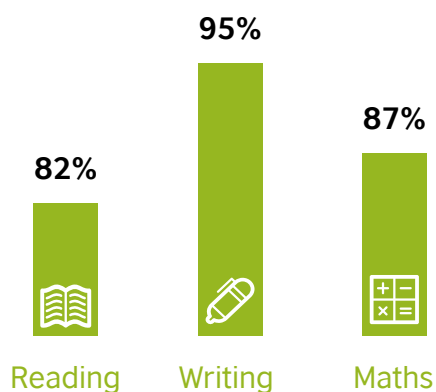
## Primary School

The first few years are decisive when it comes to developing the skills and knowledge required to tackle secondary education with confidence and a guarantee of success. This is a crucial period for pupils’ proper development and for honing their study habits, so we offer a broad range of extracurricular activities to ensure that by the time pupils reach the end of Year 6 they have exceeded expectations.

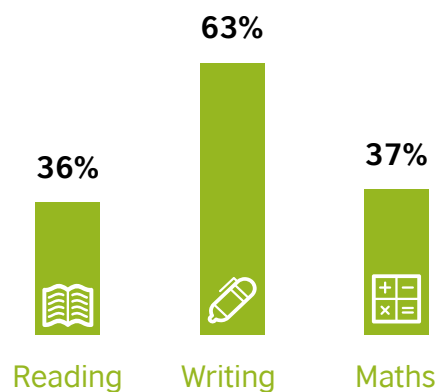
### Academic results

To measure and assess their progress, we conduct the UK National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) tests and the Standardised Assessment Tests (SATs), that enable us to verify the standard reached each year in fundamental areas such as Reading Comprehension or Mathematics, and to compare it with national expectations in the United Kingdom.

#### Year 6 SATs Expected or above 2018-19



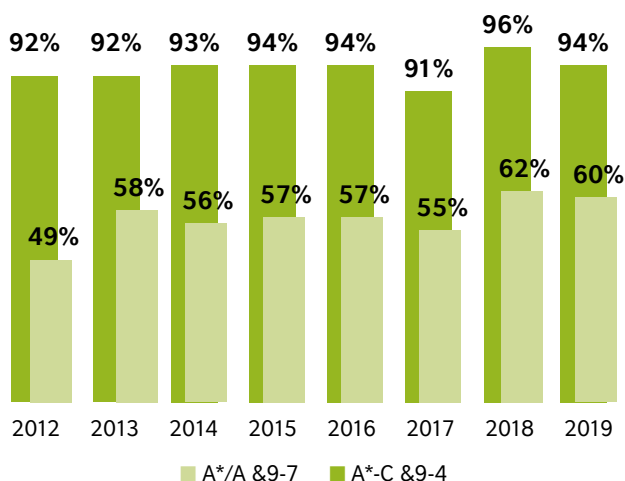
#### Year 6 SATs Greater Depth 2018-19



## Secondary School

The National Curriculum adapts to the needs and interests of each pupil in Secondary School and studying the Bilingual Baccalaureate (BiBac®). The programme, which includes a wide variety of subjects, enables pupils to get to know their areas of interest so they can define where they want to focus in the future.

### IGCSE and International GCSE



The IGCSEs and International GCSEs are official education certificates in the United Kingdom, and are recognised as the equivalent of the “Grado en Educación Secundaria” in Spain. They are international exams run by Cambridge International Examinations and Edexcel and are recognised by universities and companies alike as evidence of future progress.



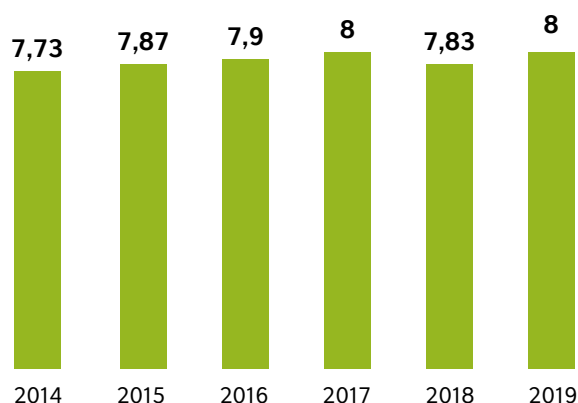
### The BiBac®

The British Council BiBac® (Bilingual Baccalaureate) is more than just an academic curriculum, as it includes a number of co-curricular activities. One of the School's main goals is for our pupils to show that they live our values and enshrine those qualities required by universities and businesses. We prepare pupils to succeed and enjoy a world full of magnificent opportunities.



### PAU / EvAU Result 2019

Once again a record of 8 out of 10 has been achieved.



### YEAR 8 and 9 Clubs

The clubs are a complementary and enriching part of the academic curriculum. Through a broad range of activities, we guarantee pupils will be able to develop skills to help them going forward, both professionally and academically.

Pupils add a Club to their academic programme as part of the school day, supplementing their school curriculum and helping them to discover vocations of which they were unaware.

- Design & Technology
- Economics
- Physical Education
- German
- Debating
- Computer Programming
- Art
- Creative Writing
- Drama
- Economics
- History through Art
- Journalism
- History & Contemporary World Issues
- Computer Programming



**New record at the EvAU**

**8**

**Average score 8**



## Official Music exams

To supplement their academic training, we encourage pupils to develop their musical skills at school.

Every year, our pupils sit the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and RockSchool exams (these are the main examination and assessment bodies for classical, rock and pop music in the world).

### Grades obtained: "Preparatory Test", grades 1-8 and ABRSM Diploma:

- 30 pupils obtained the Preparatory Test
- 80 pupils were awarded a Pass
- 27 pupils were awarded a Merit
- 10 pupils were awarded a Distinction

### The School's highest ABRSM score, of 137, was shared by two pupils in three instruments:

- Santiago García Fernández: Piano and saxophone.
- Inés Guerra Benedit: Cello.

## ROCKSCHOOL



### Electric guitar:

- 8 pupils were awarded a Pass, 6 a Merit (the highest score at the BSC RockSchool was 93%, earned by Santiago García Fernández in drums).

### Batería:

- 5 Passes, 3 Merits and 2 Distinction (highest score of 96%, by Claudia Berzal Barreiro).



## Language Exams

In today's world, a good command of various languages is crucial for the future professional and personal lives of our pupils. That is why we are determined to help them become fluent in three or four languages, and to certify their high level through universally recognised diplomas. The following are the official qualifications our pupils can obtain based on their preparation at the School:

### Alliance Française:

- Diplôme d'études en langue française, B1 and B2
- Diplôme approfondi de langue française, C1 and C2

### Cambridge English Language:

- First Certificate in English (FCE) and First Certificate in English for Schools (FCEfS)
- Cambridge Advanced Certificate in English (CAE)
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
- Business English Certificate Higher (BEC Higher)

### Cambridge International Examinations:

- International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

### Edexcel/Pearson:

- International General Certificate of Secondary Education (International GCSE)

### Goethe-Institut:

- TEILNEHMERLISTE FIT 2- Zertifikat A2.
- TEILNEHMERLISTE B1J Zertifikat B1.
- Goethe- Zertifikat A2: Start Deutsch 2 / Goethe- Zertifikat B1 / Goethe- Zertifikat B2.

### Chinese Proficiency Test Spain (Hanban)

- HSK 1 (Hanyu Shuipin Kaoshi) (A1).

## Official Ballet exams

Ballet is one of the School's oldest disciplines and is awarded considerable importance. In the 2018-19 school year, the ballet exams results were excellent.

57 pupils took part, of whom 33 were awarded a Distinction and 24 a Merit.

Pupils who earned a Distinction in Grade 3 and 4 had the opportunity to visit London to take part in the Senior Imperial Ballet Awards.

A young man with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, playing a large brass instrument, likely a tuba. He is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and black suspenders. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting like a school band room. The lighting is warm and focused on the player and the instrument.

A caring

School



# 6. Teaching staff and services

A good education is effective if there are good teachers. Teachers are the cornerstone of learning, and that's why at the British Council School we place such importance on teacher recruitment and ongoing training. Our teachers are highly qualified, motivated and creative professionals who enjoy living in Spain and demonstrate high levels of maturity and enthusiasm when working collaboratively in this bi-cultural and bilingual context. We implement a personal development programme to keep our teachers abreast of the very latest innovative methods and improvements in the National English curriculum.



## Recruiting and keeping talent

The teaching staff comprises 213 highly qualified professionals, of various nationalities, mainly British and Spanish. All possess the necessary skills, competencies and specific qualifications to ensure that our School is properly run. The English curriculum is taught by English-speaking teachers with proven experience and official qualifications. Spanish language and literature are taught by fully-qualified Spanish teachers.

## Selection process

The professionalism of our teaching staff is unquestionably a priority for the School. Consequently, our selection process is based on both the British Council's own procedures (internal promotion) and external procedures through various consultants or specialist publications such as "The Times Educational Supplement". In line with recent education laws, all School personnel in contact with children under the age of 16 are obliged to present a certificate clearing them of being listed on the Sex Offenders Register, to prove that they have no sexual offence convictions. Teachers from other countries are required to produce an equivalent certificate.



University Degree



PGCE / MÁSTER / CAP



Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)  
(only applies to teachers from the UK)



Three professional references



DBS checks or Criminal Record Certificate



Child Protection and Self Declaration



Strong ties between the School and Roehampton University for training and the continuous evaluation of teaching, and a partnership agreement with the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust

# Key engagement indicators

## Teachers and SLTS 2018-2019

Total	Women	Men	Full time	Part time
213	158	55	194	19

87% of the School’s contracts are full-time and open-ended.

Total	Women	Men	Years in BCS
23	18	5	>4
34	28	6	4 a 10
156	112	44	<10



Our staff represent more than 10 different nationalities, giving us an international and multicultural workforce.

**Average seniority** at the British Council is more than **10 years**. Most of our teachers have full-time, open-ended contracts. Only 6 members of staff are on part-time contracts

## Experience of the teaching staff



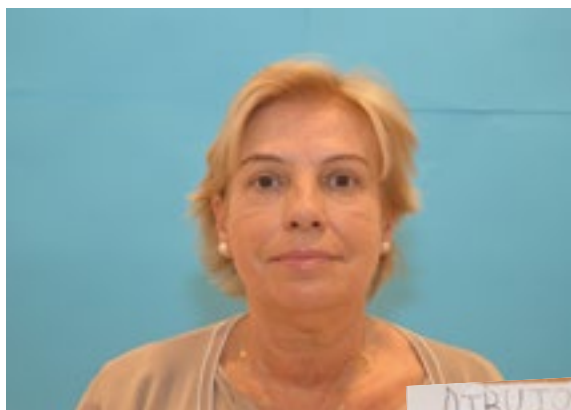


## RETIREMENTS



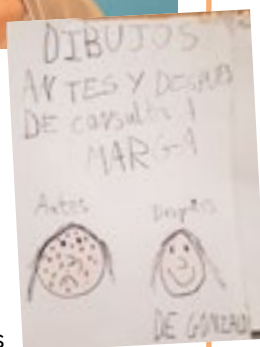
### Norman Roddom

More than 30 years at the British Council School is plenty of time for his many pupils and colleagues to accumulate a wealth of good stories. Deputy Head Mr Roddom has left our School, but our memories of him will remain forever in our hearts. Pupils, parents, fellow teachers and colleagues can be proud of his professional approach and, in particular, his fondness for the School community.



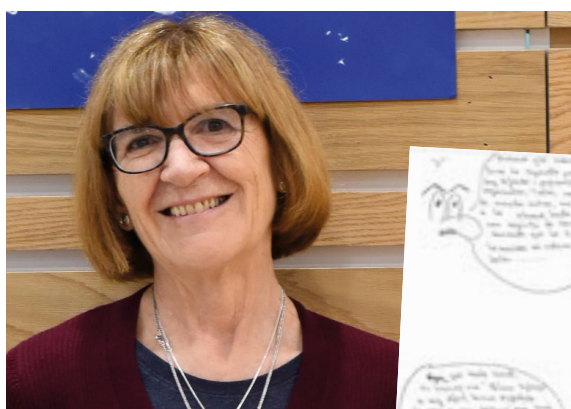
### Marga Malumbres

We bid a sad and fond farewell to our colleague Marga Malumbres after more than two decades working as a nurse at the British Council School. Especially in Primary School, amidst laughter and tears, her pupils and colleagues will remember her affectionate treatment of all her patients, of every age.



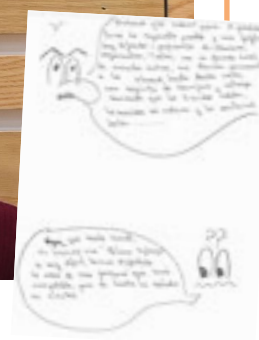
### Mari Cruz Torres

After more than 20 years as the British Council School secretary, pupils and colleagues alike have many fond memories of Mari Cruz. The echo of her cheerful and bubbly nature will remain forever in our hearts. And we are sure that likewise she will take away fond memories of us.



### Paloma Sigüenza

It is never easy to say goodbye to those who have made an impression on us, those who have helped enshrine the School spirit and whose teachings will stay with us all our lives. Paloma Sigüenza taught Chemistry, Mathematics and, especially, Drama. Drama was her thing. So many experiences, happy stories and academic and life lessons learned, on stage and at the blackboard alike.



**We wish them every happiness in their new journeys they now begin upon retirement. Thank you for everything you have taught us and for the indelible memories you have left us!**

**we challenge**



**our students**

## Continuing training plan and career

We are constantly working on training and professional development plans for our teachers. As a result, we have a number of special programmes throughout the school year whereby we prepare specific training tailored to the teaching sphere. The ongoing assessment of the quality of our teaching staff is one of the main advantages of the English National Curriculum. Hence we organise Teaching and Learning Review Walks, a system that encourages best practices, developed by the School's management team who have been trained in this discipline. Our teachers participate in activities which encourage reflection and collaborative training.



## Ongoing training 2018/2019

All training has an impact on the scope of knowledge of the pupils at our School. These are some of the training courses completed last year by our teachers, management staff and Family Leaders aimed at improving certain areas:

### TRAINING EARLY YEARS 2018-2019

- Child Protection.
- The Art of Brilliance.
- First aid.
- Intimate care.
- Talk for Writing.
- Read, Write, inc phonics.
- Sign language.
- Role Play.
- Pre-Nursery development.
- Purple Mash software.
- Managing behaviour.
- NABSS annual conference.
- Nursery world conference.
- Peer observations.
- Inspection requirements.
- Workshops with architects and project team.

### TRAINING PRIMARY 2018-2019

- Anti-Bullying.
- Teacher Standards.
- Pupil Voice.
- Maths - Geometry & Measurement.
- Maths - Investigation not problem solving.
- Impact of feedback.
- Engaging stakeholders.
- Science moderation.
- Spelling and Phonics.
- Convivencia.
- Online reading resources (Bug club).
- Internet Safety.

- GL data webinar.
- Strategies to boost progress.
- Alexia training (Reports and supra-curriculum).
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).
- Spanish curriculum resources.
- Professional development skills audit.

### TRAINING SECONDARY 2018-2019

- IGCSE PE.
- World Rugby Level 1 PE teachers certification.
- Maths: Pearson Assessment 9-1.
- University guidance.
- Leading a Department.
- Science Conference.
- ASE Conference UK.
- Pearson assessment and specification Biology/Physics/Chemistry.
- Leading a Maths Department.
- English: English Language curriculum specification (Madrid).
- Arte y tecnología.
- NABSS conference Valencia (Workshops and talks).
- Economics: 9-1 assessment and extended curriculum specifications
- ALEXIA training.
- Información sobre el manejo del desfibrilador (DEA).
- Growth Mindset: The Art of Brilliance.

In addition, all staff at the British Council School, teachers and non-teaching personnel, completed training in:

- Health&Safety.
- EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion).
- Child Protection.
- Information Management.
- Anti Bribery course.
- Environmental Awareness.





# 7. Recognitions and awards

The class of 2018/2019 was outstanding, and our pupils received awards that differentiate them from students at other schools. Our pupils' determination, a reflection of their effort and dedication, is valued and rewarded every year with prestigious awards that recognise their academic skills and qualities.

## External recognitions

### INTERNATIONAL GCSE AWARDS (IGCSEs)

The School's pupils continually strive to excel and give their very best. This is why we are proud to announce that our pupils have won the following awards:

Top in the World

- Spanish Literature
- Mathematics

Top in Europe

- Physical Education
- Double Science

Top in Spain

- Foreign Language French
- Physics

Congratulations for this well-deserved recognition!

### EVAU 2019 (University Entrance Exam)

100% success rate in the EvAU (University Entrance Exam). The average EvAU score achieved by our pupils was 8. Four of our pupils ranked among the 100 highest scores in the EvAU entrance exam for the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.



### YOUNG BUSINESS TALENT

Some 350 Spanish pupils competed over a four month period to be the country's best virtual entrepreneurs. This competition enables them to simulate setting up a business of their own. Thanks to this experience, our Year 12 and Year 13 pupils learned about various disciplines, which will unquestionably stand them in good stead over their careers.



## Internal recognitions

### GRADUATION

The Bilingual Baccalaureate graduation ceremony is probably one of the most moving events on the School calendar. It is a ceremony to mark the children's passage to a world full of opportunities, and in addition to leaving the School in some cases it also means a change of country to embark on a university course.

That's why we always strive to ensure it is a special farewell, involving the School, the teachers, the families and the pupils themselves. It is a moving ceremony in which special guests make a short speech and the Baccalaureate diplomas are handed over, along with the various awards such as the Madrid Regional Awards for Excellence or our own internal awards in recognition of our pupils' dedication. Specifically, the 2019 graduation ceremony was attended by His Excellency the British Ambassador to Spain, HMA Simon Manley.

At the British Council School our motto is "Be the best you can be"; which doesn't necessarily mean be the best, just do your best. We apply positive reinforcement in our teaching and encourage our pupils to improve on a daily basis, so this final flourish at the end of the pupils' time at the School seems to us to be very well deserved.

## THE ALEX ANGUIITA YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION

Once again this year, Economics students took part in the British Council School Young Entrepreneur competition, putting into practice the theory they have learned. The aim is to build and develop a business project from scratch, which involves performing tasks such as presenting a Marketing and Finance plan, finding suppliers or conducting Market Research, among others. This year the winning initiatives were “Transparent pencil case for exams” and “Water bottle”. Congratulations on your great results!



**2019 DUPERIER AWARD:** Two research projects on Murphy’s Law and the use-by date of yoghurts won the 2019 Duperier Award

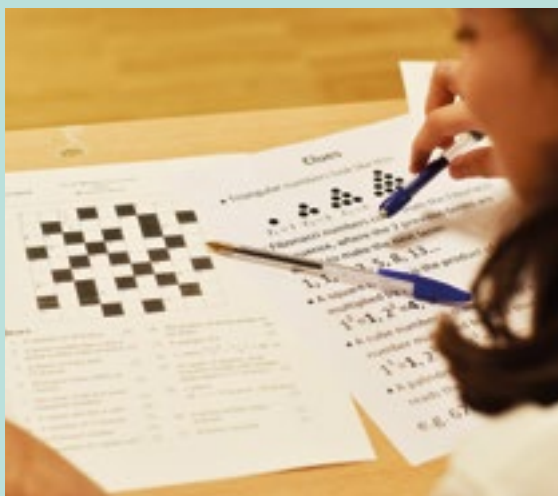
As usual, the jury of the 2019 Duperier Award had a tough time choosing two winners among the sixteen research projects that entered the competition. This time, two pupils, Patricia and María, were chosen for their research entitled “How many days after the use-by date is yoghurt safe to eat?” and “Disproving Murphy’s Law”, respectively.

Winners of the Duperier Award receive 50% of the registration fee for the London International Youth Science Forum. All participants received a British Council School Diploma.

Well done to all the winners, finalists and participants for their extraordinary standard of work. And thanks to the teaching staff for giving our pupils the chance to feel and experience science outside the classroom.

## KS3 MATHS COMPETITION

This year our pupils and their families competed again to showcase their logical and mathematical skills, confidently and swiftly solving numeracy problems before an expert panel.



## MUSIC21 CERTIFICATES AWARD CEREMONY

Once again, the School held the Music21 Certificates award ceremony, where Primary and Secondary School pupils took to the stage to collect the diplomas certifying their merits during the school year. A total of 160 pupils received 171 certificates in recognition of their achievements.







Our students

have resilience

# 8. WELL-ROUNDED PEOPLE: Going beyond the Curriculum

“Be the best you can be” means more than having good academic training and outstanding grades. It also means being an honest and talented person, educated in solid values of solidarity, team work and fair play. Once again this year, our pupils shone and they did so publicly, showcasing their skills in subjects such as music, drama, public speaking, sports or technology.



## Music for having fun, for learning and for dreaming



### HAY FESTIVAL SEGOVIA 2018

Once again, the Big Band's 2018-2019 concert season began at Plaza de San Martín, in the Hay Festival in Segovia. In a brimming city square, our pupils, aged 11 to 17 delighted the audience with renditions of film soundtracks like *The Pink Panther*, *Star Wars* or the unforgettable "Over the Rainbow" from the *The Wizard of Oz*, consistent with this festival edition's theme, a tribute to the best film music of all time.



### CONCERT CONDUCTED BY JOHN RUTTER

The Church of Santa María was the venue chosen for music and choir pupils to share the stage with British composer and conductor John Rutter, in an unforgettable concert attended by Simon Manley, the UK Ambassador in Spain. The choir's performance was sublime, and the *maestro* congratulated both pupils and the School for their work in music and for the pupils' excellent standard of English



### SOLIDARITY THROUGH MUSIC FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Once again, the youngest patients at Madrid's Hospital Niño Jesús were joined by Lucía García Fernández and her pupils, who performed a number of pieces from well-known series and films such as *Aladdin*, *Harry Potter* or *Game of Thrones*. Furthermore, our pupils had the opportunity to interact with the kids and show them their instruments, which they were able to see up close and touch, helping to make their hospital stay a bit more pleasant.



### CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE

Christmas music filled the air once more at Madrid's Universidad Complutense, with the traditional concert combining pieces sung by the student choir with orchestras, chamber music, Christmas poetry and prose readings, and the rhythm of the Big Band and Rock Band. More than 100 secondary school pupils from the School once again showed their talent and passion for music, and their excellent technical and performance skills.





## MUSIC21 SUMMER CONCERT

Primary school pupils filled the British Council School Theatre again for the Music21 Summer Concert, the perfect end to the school year. Under the baton of the Music21 Coordinator, Kevin Robb, and the Music & Performance Leader, Marek Dabrowski, the nearly 300 pupils of KS1 and KS2 who took part in the concert oozed talent on stage, to the delight of the audience.

## CONCERT BY THE VILLA-LOBOS CELLO OCTET

More than 150 people attended the show at the British Council Theatre, where the eight-piece string ensemble shared the stage with Paloma Friedhoff, the prestigious international soprano. The group, comprising 8 cellists and led by Paul Friedhoff, paid tribute to the Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, from whom they took their name, playing Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1 and No. 5, two of their crowning achievements, among others.



## VISIT FROM THE HANGOVERS

The New York a cappella singers, The Hangovers, visited our School and shared with our pupils various activities including a concert which filled the British Council Auditorium. The legendary choir shared the stage with pupils from our own a cappella group "Los SacapelaS" who were the opening act. The proceeds from ticket sales were allocated in their entirety to Olivia Roddom Cancer Research Grant (BIOOR), created by the School.

## Drama, declamation and literature

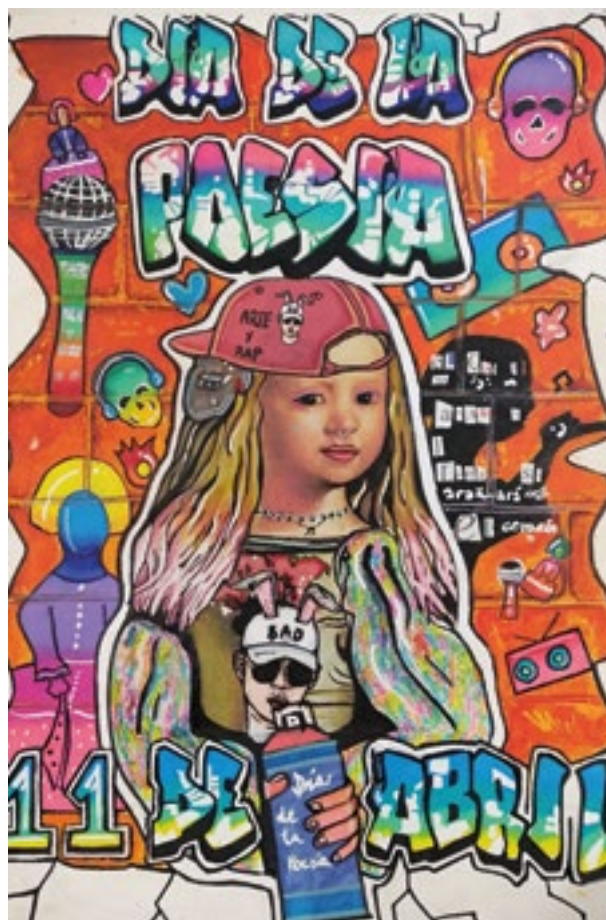
### BOOKS FOR RAINY APRIL DAYS

April is the quintessential book month and that's why the School held the We Love Books Festival, a wealth of activities linked to literature. Not to mention that April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in addition to Book Day, is also St. George's Day, the Patron Saint of England. The kids from EY celebrated the day by learning about his life from storytellers.

Authors took centre-stage again at this edition of the We Love Books Festival. In addition to the usual authors like Diego Arboleda, Ana Alonso and César Mallorquí, whose works are a requisite on the shelves of British Council School classrooms, also on this year's list were Cayetana Guillén Cuervo, Gustavo Martín Garzo, Montserrat Iglesias and Álvaro Tató.

For the fourth year running, as a tribute to William Shakespeare, the Young Shakespeare Company visited us to perform *Romeo and Juliet* for various groups of pupils from the School and from other schools in Madrid that we invited along to enjoy the play.

There was another important new development at this Festival: the stunning Drawing Words British Council Exhibition, a show commemorating illustration as an art form for all ages and featuring some of the most exciting UK children's book illustrations of recent years.



### IN URANUS, THE SUN TAKES 42 YEARS TO SET, BEFORE IT SHINES AGAIN, THANKS TO PALOMA SIGÜENZA

On 4 April, the British Council School Theatre hosted *En Urano el sol tarda en ponerse 42 años, para después volver a brillar* [*In Uranus the Sun Takes 42 Years to Set, Before it Shines Again*], directed by our dear Paloma Sigüenza. The play was a tribute to and recognition of the work of this teacher who taught at the British Council School for 42 years.

Drama pupils from KS3, KS4 and KS5 joined alumni, teachers and staff from the School's education community. With this play our dear Paloma Sigüenza bid farewell to the School after more than four decades as a teacher here.



# We love books

From the 8th of April to 26th of April

**FEBRUARY 2019: Barricade Arts visit and performances of Lord of the Flies and Wings.**

**APRIL 2019: MEET THE AUTHOR**



**8 abril 09:50-10:45**

**Diego Arboleda**

Year 7

Auditorium



**9 abril**

**Gustavo Martín Garzo**

• 11:15-12:05

Year 8

Library

• 12:05-12:55

Year 8

Library



**8 abril**

**Ana Alonso**

• 09:50-10:40

Year 3

Theatre

• 10:50-11:40

Year 10

Auditorium



**10 abril 10:00-12:55**

**EmocionArte**

Year 10-13

Hall Secondary

**8 abril 12:55-13:55**

**Cayetana Guillén Cuervo**

Year 11

Theatre



**11 abril**

**César Mallorquí**

• 11:15-12:05

Year 9

Library

• 12:05-12:55

Year 9

Library



**8 abril 15:00 - 16:30**

**Montserrat Iglesias**

**y Álvaro Tato:**

**Amamos la poesía**

Year 12-13

Theatre





# Books Festival

of April 2019



## DÍA DE LA POESÍA

Jueves 11 de abril

Auditorio

KS3: Concurso de Poesía Periodos 1-2-3

KS4 & KS5: Rapsodas Periodos 7-8



## ROMEO AND JULIET

Young Shakespeare Company

From the 23rd to 26th of April

Teatro del Británico



## DRAWING WORDS British Council Exhibition

**23 abril Día del Libro**

- Exhibition opening
- St George's: story telling

**24 abril**

- Artist in Residence Emily Rand: workshop

**25 abril**

- Artist in Residence Emily Rand: masterclass Y12+workshop KS2-KS3

**26 abril**

- Artist in Residence Emily Rand: masterclass Y10-Y11
- Andy Wright: story telling

Curated by Lauren Child  
**Drawing Words**



**Writing competition:**

*One picture,  
a thousand words*

- The 3 winning stories will be illustrated by Y12 students





## TOWN MUSICIANS OF BREMEN

KS1 pupils performed the *Town Musicians of Bremen* musical, based on the famous Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Six successful performances at the British Council School Theatre brought families and teachers together. The School values drama as fundamental for pupils' development and offers it as part of every stage of the academic programme.

## DECLAMATION

On Declamation Day, our pupils showcased their fluency, self-confidence and high standard of English on topics of great interest and current relevance such as climate change, gender equality, consumerism, refugees, the hazards of over-connectivity or the death penalty.

The School is very aware of the importance of mastering the art of public speaking to successfully embrace a future career. Therefore, from Early Years and Primary School, pupils start getting used to speaking in public and taking part in Choral Speaking events, enabling their parents to see their progress in speaking English publicly. In Secondary School, they work on the art of declamation to build the confidence needed to speak in public at the very highest level.



## Cooking and food are also for reading

Year 11 pupils enjoyed a fun workshop combining cooking and literature. Staged over various sessions, they learned to make three different dishes with recipes from the book *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. Specifically, they made *torrijas*, chicken *fajitas* and a sponge cake; but the experience also taught these young cooks a number of cooking tips and, naturally, the basic rules of hygiene and safety before using the oven.

## HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

During the theatre sessions in June, the School was transformed into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where young wizards go to hone their magic craft. Over three days, our pupils, who are well acquainted with the family system, donned their robes to perform the theatre version of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by British author J. K. Rowling.

At the School, we firmly believe that drama stimulates the imagination and helps children explore a variety of situations and experiences. Through these activities, we see that our pupils gain in self-confidence and self-esteem. They build their talent and stage presence and their enthusiasm, as well as developing their creativity and leadership and undertaking new challenges.

## Choral speaking – Primary School: competing in public speaking

Our Primary pupils have once again showcased their skills and abilities in public speaking. In the Choral Speaking Challenge they were able to recite, chorally and harmonically, a poem or piece in English, before an audience that packed the British Council School Theatre.

Public speaking has become one of the most sought-after and necessary skills in the world of employment our pupils will face in the future. That's why the School sees training in this skill as crucial and we nurture it from day one in our classrooms.



### Under 16s football champions in the international schools tournament

Our Year 10 to Year 13 girl pupils represented the School at the Under 16s and Youth International Schools Football Tournament, organised by King's College. Our girls gave their very best and fought to the end to win the well-deserved champions' trophy.

After winning several matches the girls reached the final to play against a tough Montessori side. They showed themselves to be a tight team, playing with skill and perseverance that led them to win this coveted trophy.

### Third place in the children's football for International Schools Tournament

Our footballers from Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 finished third place in the Children's Football for International Schools Tournament. After an initial phase in which they topped their group, winning all their matches with 18 goals scored and just 1 conceded; in the semi-finals, against Kensington School, the pressure got to them. You can't always win, but what is clear is that surrender is not an option.



### Landslide victory at under 11s football

Our Year 7 pupils won the Under 11s International Schools Football Tournament with comfortable wins against the Holy Mary and Hastings teams. Once again, our players showcased their excellent play, sportsmanship and the value of teamwork.

### Girls' volleyball: fighting to the end

Our volleyball players again showed their resilience, excellent play, strong camaraderie and teamwork during the ICS Girls' Volleyball Tournament. After coming in fifth, our players are more ready than ever to come back and fight for a medal.



## Science and technology

### **“Make Plastic Fantastic”, science and environmental awareness week**

Under the slogan “Make Plastic Fantastic”, the School organised Science Week, which involved a number of activities and workshops to raise pupils’ awareness on the need to recycle and reduce the use of plastic.

After the workshops, and based on what they had learned, the children created what was known as “Spread the Word”. This was a poem, a song or an essay to explain their view of plastic and to continue raising awareness about this topic.



### **The virtual world**

Virtual reality can also be helpful in education. That’s why we have decided to take another step forward in implementing technology to reinforce the curriculum, training Primary School teachers to use virtual reality in their classrooms.

In addition to honing pupils technological skills, virtual reality has advantages such as motivating kids and sparking the interest of experiencing something first-hand, stimulating their creativity and reinforcing their learning.

### **Adventures of cats and quantum computers with Patricia Contreras**

To celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science, our alumnus Patricia Contreras visited the School to meet pupils from Year 12 studying the Science Baccalaureate. Patricia belongs to a team researching quantum mechanics and she managed to captivate our pupils with her “adventures of cats (in reference to Schrödinger’s cat) and quantum computers”.

Patricia explained that the advent of quantum computers will revolutionise communication and cybersecurity, even exceeding the limits of current technology.

### **Yes to internet, but safety is paramount**

The hyper-connectivity of children and adolescents in Internet and social media exposes them to numerous dangers. Aware of this problem, the School organised a Safe Internet Conference for the parents of Primary School children.

Sonja Uhlmann underscored the risks of Internet and emphasised the need to raise awareness of such risks and of how to handle social media safely. Also attending the session were representatives of the Citizens’ Safety Brigade of the National Police’s Pozuelo de Alarcón precinct, who spoke of the safety issues in the school environment; how to act to resolve them; gauging the level of violence and how to recognise problems that might surface in the classroom.



### **Science Week**

With a view to getting a first-hand look at subjects that are studied in the classroom on a day-to-day basis, pupils from Y13 took part in Science Week. Thanks to various activities, they were able to put into practice the theory learned over the academic year.

## Caring

### The School defends children's right to play, by holding a Gamethon

To celebrate Universal Children's Day, the School organised a Gamethon, in which more than 190 families took part. Focusing on early childhood, the project was designed to defend children's essential right to play and parents' responsibility to let them, encourage them and, even more importantly, play with them.

The event drew national and international experts in education and infancy, who reflected on the importance of playing and children's right to play.



### OPERATION KILO: solidarity with those who need it most

We are proud to see the hard work and solidarity of our pupils on behalf of the neediest. Caring, one of the School's fundamental values, teaches our pupils from a very early age the importance of helping those less fortunate and, as much as possible, helping others in general.

An example of this was Operation Kilo, in which almost 2,500 essential products were collected, for distribution to NGOs Caritas and Avanza ONG.



### WELLBEING MONTH: learning to manage our emotions to deal with life

Managing emotions helps prepare our children to deal with life. So says Begoña Ibarrola, an expert in Emotional Education, who outlined some key aspects for teaching kids to manage their emotions. This was on the occasion of Well-being Month, a month packed with activities organised by the British Council School to guarantee the well-being of children in the classroom.

Among these activities, the School organised a number of talks to pupils from members of the Red Cross and the National Police concerning racism, equality, online safety and gender violence.

For the very youngest we held the Baby Secret Garden Party, an event aimed at infants aged 0 to 6 years to foster learning and development through English. This was an opportunity for parents of children at the School or indeed any parent interested in nurturing bilingualism in their children from an early age.



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### **LE MANS, RACE TO THE FUTURE: another successful solidarity event at the bioor spring fair**

With the name “Le Mans, Race to the Future”, the 17th edition of the BIOOR Spring Fair was an undisputed success in terms of participation, fun and solidarity, as more than 17,000 euros were raised for the fight against cancer through the BIOOR cancer research grants.

Every year the BIOOR Committee work hard to ensure that its two annual fairs, at Christmas and in Spring, are as relevant and entertaining as possible, enabling the education community to enjoy a day together while raising money for such an admirable cause as the fight against cancer.

The BIOOR Foundation is the only foundation of any school in Spain that is run on the basis of donations. Set up 20 years ago by four alumni in response to the death of one of their classmates, the Foundation has funded significant grants to help researchers or doctors in their efforts to eradicate cancer.



### **BIOOR CHRISTMAS FAIR: another successful solidarity drive at the british council school in the fight against cancer**

In an exciting day, the School raised almost 13,000 euros which were donated entirely to the help support the Olivia Roddom cancer research grants (BIOOR).

As they do every year, parents, teachers and pupils enjoyed the Victorian Christmas at the British Council School, where music, games, cuisine and thrills were rivalled only by the extent of solidarity. The School's Christmas Fair enables children not only to learn the value and importance of caring and being concerned for others, but also to learn how they can contribute to this endeavour. Consequently, pupils from all the years are involved in making sure this charity market is a huge success year after year.

It is an honour for us to cooperate in projects like this and in particular to instil in our pupils the values of solidarity and commitment from a very young age.

### **The Big Band and The Rock Band raised more than 1,000 euros for the music therapy programme at Hospital La Paz**

The Big Band and the Rock Band sold out at the charity concert held in the Hard Rock Café of Madrid. More than an hour and-a-half of great music with the best possible goal: to raise funds for the Children's Music Therapy for Hospital La Paz. It was a resounding success in terms of both the music and the solidarity: 1,100 euros were raised to help the programme reach 11 units within the hospital, and to help research and purchase instruments.



## **We celebrate love and friendship through solidarity**

On 14 February we hold a Friendship and Solidarity Day at the School, and what better way to do so than by helping others. Accordingly, during breaks, Secondary pupils sold flowers and sweets with a label to include a dedication and the recipient's name. All the proceeds were donated to the Association of Volunteers for Social Citizenship and Solidarity of the British Council School (AVCS BCS)–BLOOR, the cancer research grants promoted by the British Council School.



## **The British Council School hosts the firefighters' party for "Young Warriors"**

In May we joined the initiative "Pequeños Guerreros" (Young Warriors), organised by the Madrid Region's Firefighters to bring joy to children with serious illnesses, giving them the chance to enjoy a fun day outside the hospital. 40 Year 12 pupils took part in the event as volunteers to ensure that the sick children enjoyed their day.

What an honour and what a pleasure to be able to take part in such a lovely and necessary initiative!

## **Zero tolerance for BULLYING**



**FOCAL POINT**



**INCIDENT  
BUTTON**



**INVESTIGATION**



**1. Established  
action protocols**



**2. Trained  
professionals**



**3. Maximum  
discretion**



**4. Appropriate  
action plan**



**INFORMED  
PUPILS**



## The world around us



### Saint Andrew / Saint Patrick / Saint George / Saint David

Loyal to our School tradition and following our multicultural spirit, we celebrate different customs and regional festivals. Dressed in the colours representing each festival, children from Early Years were again treated to learning history through stories and legends about St. George, St. David, St. Patrick and St. Andrew. Thus, our pupils journeyed for a day through England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.



### HALLOWEEN

The School was filled with ghosts, witches and skeletons to celebrate Halloween. Children went “Trick or Treating” in the School’s classrooms and corridors, which were suitably terrifyingly festooned for the occasion.



## Book Fair in Early Years and Primary School

To encourage the intellectual development of the youngest children, at the School we work hard to get them hooked on reading. Therefore we hosted a Book Fair in Early Years and Primary School, where parents were able to buy the most suitable books in English for their children.



## Christmas Hampers

For the third year running, the School ran an activity involving pupils and volunteer parents to prepare Christmas hampers with the NGO Avanza, and to distribute them among those most in need. The School organised a food collection at Las Tablas Valverde School and families later prepared the Christmas hampers which were subsequently distributed to families in need.



## San Isidro

To celebrate the festivity of San Isidro, our pupils donned the attire of Madrid's famous *chulapos* and *chulapas*. The School was decorated with red polka dots and carnations to create a festive atmosphere. Needless to say, the typical hot chocolate and churros and the popular chotis dances were unmissable fixtures at this event.

## Responsible consumption

To raise awareness among pupils regarding what responsible consumption means for society and for the environment, Year 7s visited the Secondary School kitchens and saw the facilities (walk-in freezer, store rooms, etc.), to gain a better understanding of all the resources needed to prepare meals on a daily basis. They also met all the members of the kitchen staff and were made aware of just how much work goes into preparing food every day. In the afternoon, they visited the rubbish tip, and learned how much food is wasted and the damage this does on a social level, helping them to value the importance of appreciating and finishing their meals.



Our student

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BRITISH  
COUNCIL

# 9. Working with families

The quality of the information we provide to parents, along with managing their suggestions, are a priority for the School. In the triangle that comprises pupils and their families, teachers and the School, knowing families' concerns, fielding suggestions and assessing their satisfaction are key for us. Accordingly, every year we carry out a satisfaction survey for ongoing improvement, identifying ways we can keep getting better.

## Parents-School: two-way communication

The British Council School prides itself on seamless communication between teachers, tutors and the parents of our pupils. However, we also strive to ensure that this two-way communication serves to consolidate a good relationship between parents and the School, in the interests of our pupils' well-being and comfort. Therefore the British Council School has devised a policy of transparency. Parents may make suggestions to the School at any time, either at meetings with Management, or through the Parents Consultant Committee. Furthermore, we hold open meetings with parents where we discuss topics of common interest, and we also host working breakfasts enabling a more direct and approachable setting.



### OPEN DOORS

Among the most frequent questions parents ask us are those concerning the day-to-day routine of their children, and the School work and study methodology. We hold open doors events for parents to gain first-hand knowledge of the day-to-day life at the School, to efficiently resolve these queries.

### Open doors for ballet and music

As in previous years, we held open door events for parents to see their children's progress in these artistic disciplines. At this well-attended event the School's pupils excelled at showcasing their technical know-how and professional approach, and the audience applauded warmly and enthusiastically at the various choreographies and exercises performed.



### Open lessons



An information session was held, where teachers took to the stage to give a practical class, so that the parents of Primary School pupils were able to see how their children's spelling classes work. In January it was the pupils' turn to show their parents how they learn Mathematics, demonstrating their numeracy prowess and public speaking skills.

### Healthy breakfasts



In order to encourage healthy eating habits and raise awareness of the importance of eating breakfast, our Head of Nursery, Macu, offered a detailed explanation of the benefits of the Mediterranean diet. On this occasion, parents, pupils and teachers from Y2 enjoyed a delicious breakfast.

And to start the day with energy and ensure that children perform at their best, what better than milk, bread, cereals, olive oil and tomato? These are some of the foods providing the nutrients children require to get through the day with the strength they need.

### It's my turn to cook



In the 2018-19 school year, our Head of Nursery, Inmaculada Herranz, known fondly as Macu, launched a fun and educational programme in the School kitchens. Some parents told her they had noticed that their children were more willing to eat certain dishes (purées, fish, etc.) at school than at home. As a result, the It's My Turn to Cook initiative was launched, in which parents were able to see how our home-made menus are prepared daily, and of course they made a note of the recipes.

In a show of gratitude, one of the mothers, a professional violinist, offered to play the violin while the Secondary School pupils had their lunch.

### Parents Consultant Committee

This body, elected by parents, comprises 7 members representing the various School sections (Early, Primary and Secondary). The aim is to foster two-way communication between families in the British Council School community and the School itself; so we want to take advantage of this opportunity to thank all its members for their engagement throughout the year.







## The main areas of interest discussed

### 1. USING SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSIBLY

The proper use of new technologies tends to be a common topic of concern and debate. Consequently, we are in constant collaboration with the Municipal Police to discuss matters such as cybersecurity or cyberbullying.

### 2. ENCOURAGING SPORT

We have increased sports activities and participation in school leagues to nurture a love of sport among our pupils.

### 3. BRITISH COUNCIL INFANTS

This School, located in the El Viso district of Madrid, continues to grow, and has the same innovative and revolutionary spirit as the British Council School. It teaches the English National Curriculum to children aged two to five, throughout the infant school cycle.

### 4. THE BRITISH COUNCIL SCHOOL SOCIETIES

In addition to alumni, links with parents enable us to implement activities and hold events related to different areas: music, football or other sports leagues, science, mentoring, volunteering, humanities and languages.

### 5. WELL-BEING

Communicating protocols if bullying is suspected, and defining the required actions to prevent and end it.

## Other ways of working with parents

- **Menus Committee:** To supervise the variety and validity of the School menus offered, a group of volunteer parents and Secondary pupils meet on a monthly basis to help the nutrition team draw up the School menu.

- **Professional opportunities:** Thanks to the parents' solidarity and engagement, pupils often enjoy unique opportunities, such as talks, visits, invitations or unique professional experiences to help them make key decisions about their future.
- **BIOOR:** By organising events such as the charity Christmas and Spring markets, parents also engage in the fight against cancer, through their cooperation with the BIOOR cancer research grants.
- **Volunteering and Social Action:** Via the Association of Volunteers for Social Citizenship and Solidarity of the British Council School (AVCS BCS), many parents become involved and help foster solidarity-based values, activities and projects such as the "House of Angels" Orphanage in Romania.
- **Working Breakfast:** Working breakfasts are held to discuss matters of common interest.

If you would like to take an active part in School life and help in one of the aforementioned areas, please contact the secretary of your section.

## Annual satisfaction survey

The School conducts an annual satisfaction survey with parents to learn about their views and impressions of the work we do. The main aim is to find out what aspects are most important for parents, how satisfied they are, what their views of the School are and, most importantly, to detect any potential areas for improvement. Last year a total of 523 families responded to the survey. And these were the results for the last academic year...

 **87%**

are generally  
satisfied or very satisfied  
with the School



## Key indicators 2018-2019

 **91%**

are satisfied or very  
satisfied with our  
facilities and  
educational  
resources

 **88%**

are satisfied or very  
satisfied with the  
academic programme

**523**

families  
took part

 **84%**

are satisfied or  
very satisfied with  
teaching and  
learning

 **91%**

of Primary School  
parents are very satisfied  
with the attention their  
children receive

 **83%**

are satisfied or very  
satisfied with our  
values-based  
education

 **97%**

consider that safety  
has improved

 **82%**

consider that the  
School is the best  
example of British  
education in  
Madrid

 **91%**

said the British Council  
School is a high-quality  
school

 **82%**

consider that the  
School has the best tools  
for pupils to find a  
good career

 **84%**

believe the School is  
concerned about ensuring  
the welfare of their  
children

 **89%**

consider that the  
School combines  
Spanish and English  
culture perfectly

 **79%**

are satisfied or very  
satisfied with the way  
pupils' progress is  
monitored

# 10. Management

# of Resources

Information about how the school is managed allows parents to gain a more accurate picture of the School's expenditure on different resources and day-to-day activities. In order to guarantee the quality of the education we provide, two-thirds of the School's expenditure is earmarked for personnel, mainly teaching staff.





**NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS  
FOUNDED IN 1934**



**Registered in the UK,  
which was established  
by The Royal Charter,  
whose board is led  
by her Majesty  
The Queen Elizabeth II.**

### **Description of the rates**



**First enrolment  
Re-enrolment fee  
Tuition Fees  
Sundry expenses**



### **Miscellaneous**

- Acquire and manage material and activities
- School nurses and psychological guidance.
- Enrolment and management of external examinations (IGCSE/International).
- Security and sundry services.
- Learning, library and sports materials.
- Photocopies and document management.
- IT support and new technologies.
- Sports activities and events.
- Audiovisuals and photography.
- Information materials.
- School transport.
- Canteen.
- Musical Instrument Tuition, MUSIC21
- Sports and Cultural Club



### **Supervision and quality financial control**



**Child protection**



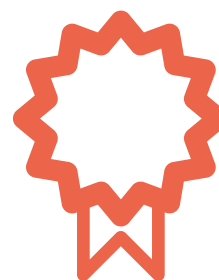
**Equal opportunities and diversity**



**Occupational Health and Safety**



**Environment and sustainability**



**Stringent  
management  
and quality  
controls**



# 11. Alumni

Our alumni are a living testament to the School. Staying in contact with them and strengthening the bonds created over years of classes, work and exams has become one of our priorities.

We want to stay close to them, to their parents and, naturally, to those who have worked with us in the past. As a result, the British Council School continues to foster the bond between those who once learned together, played together and read together.

If you are a British Council School alumnus, we offer scholarships for Early Years education and enrolment. Find out more from::

[admisionescolegio@britishcouncil.es](mailto:admisionescolegio@britishcouncil.es)

## The British Council School Societies

The “Alumni Societies” (Arts&Music, Science, Sport, Humanities and Community Service) were set up to maintain the bond with our former pupils. Many alumni were passionate about these subjects during their childhood and adolescence. That’s why we want our former pupils to get involved in these societies now.

The aim is to multiply the impact of the British Council School and bring back those who felt at home here, but who, with the passage of time, have become more distanced. If you want to catch up and share some moving memories, contact us at [schoolalumni@britishcouncil.es](mailto:schoolalumni@britishcouncil.es). This year, we

organised various activities to foster these common interests, seeking synergies and raising funds for several charity projects through these Societies:



## Emotion and reunions at the 6th Edition of “Amigos del Británico” Concert

On 3 April, the British Council Theatre was sold out once more, on the occasion of the 6th Edition of “Amigos del Británico” Concert, an event that has fast become a classic at our school. The quality of the performances and the emotion of being reunited with alumni, teachers and friends were once again the hallmarks of this concert.

As on previous occasions, the orchestra was made up of alumni, current pupils, teachers from the music department and professional musicians. Several generations together shared a bond straddling various class years.

The concert was a resounding success, and was rewarded with a generous applause from the audience, who recognised the extraordinary work of musical coordination by Rafael Villanueva and the musical directors, Carlos Jean, Borja Quintas, Ramón Torrelledó and Rafael Villanueva for the orchestra, Kevin Robb for the Big Band, and Eric Peters for Los SacapelaS.

For decades now, music has played a pivotal role in the cultural, social and human education we offer our pupils, and that is why it is present throughout the education process, both within the school curriculum and outside of it. And music remains ever-present as an important activity even when pupils leave the school, thanks to the British Council School Alumni Societies, in this case the Music Society whose landmark event each year is the “Amigos del Británico Concert”.





# 12. Other special events

To address the interests and concerns shared with us by the pupils' parents, we regularly organise meetings, seminars and sessions, where we invite top experts and professionals to share their knowledge so we can learn more about the needs of our pupils and children.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the British Education Workshops: independence and motivation, the key to quality education

Experts in education from Spain and abroad highlighted the importance of pupils' independence and motivation as the key to a quality education —aspects that are at the forefront of the British education system. This was covered at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting on British Education, organised by the British Council School, aimed at reflecting on the British model, its similarities to other systems and the quality criteria applicable to all.

In her speech, Mercedes Hernández Estrada, Head of the British Council School, emphasized the importance of encouraging pupils to develop their own critical thinking, “to make them more independent, able to think for themselves and to process the information provided by their teachers”.

In this respect, she highlighted teachers' roles as motivators and their knowledge of teaching methods which enables them to adapt to the learning needs of each pupil, as key aspects of the British system.



David Calle, Spanish finalist of the Global Teacher Prize 2017, chose to emphasise teacher-pupil and inter-pupil cooperation as a fundamental tool for children to be able to contribute, in a classroom setting, that differential value that makes them each unique and that helps foster collective learning. “Creating a climate of trust in the classroom helps pupils to overcome the fear of failure, which is important, so they are not afraid of making a mistake or straying from the established path. Because trying to do different things is the best way to evolve and learn to improve”.

Another aspect of the British system discussed at the meeting was the importance of creating memorable and stimulating learning spaces. Andrew Smyth, aeronautical engineer and scientific educator, said that in his view in the future “there will be classes with a significant digital component, in which technologies such as digital intelligence are used, but also virtual sessions will become increasingly common to cater for a larger number of students and overcome geographic limitations”.

The importance of fostering models that place an emphasis on values like respect, diversity and team work, and that contribute to pupils' personal, social, emotional and moral development, was another factor that experts said was inherent to quality education.

## Baby secret garden party! Bilingual baby morning

To usher in Spring and enjoy a morning playing and learning English in the company of family, on 30 March the Baby Secret Garden Party was held at the Early Years campus in Somosaguas. It was a time to enjoy the British Council School with the family, through an English learning and development experience. Regardless of whether or not those attending spoke English, at the Bilingual Baby Morning parents and their children were able to immerse themselves in the British method, led by the very best professionals.

As well as enjoying this special time together, they learnt how to focus their children's development and discovered how to use music and sensory, physical and cognitive experiences to enrich their children's world and enhance their capacity to communicate in two languages at once.





## Inauguration of the School's New Auditorium

On 8 February 2019, the Deputy Chair of the British Council, Rachel Lomax, visited the School on her first visit outside the UK. Accompanied by Section Heads, Lomax visited the El Viso and Somosaguas campuses and had the opportunity to talk to our pupils and teachers, as well as enjoy various performances by the children.

The Deputy Chair was very impressed with the School and with everyone she met, including parents and children. She conveyed this, describing the British Council School as "a truly extraordinary place" in which children are helped to fulfil all their potential.

Rachel Lomax cut the tape, officially inaugurating the new-look Auditorium which, following its refurbishment, has become a modern and multi-purpose facility. This event, organised by the School's Deputy Head, Norman Roddom, involved the participation of our music team, led by our Music and Performance Leader, Marek Dabrowski.

The refurbishment increased the auditorium's capacity as well as its potential uses and usefulness, adding 20% more space and 40% more seats. The final result is an aesthetically more elegant auditorium with notably improved acoustics. In short, a space that can be used for a variety of purposes and events.

After the piano recital by Juan M., and the performances by the Key Stage 4 & 5 Orchestra, SacapelaS, the Big Band, the KS3 Percussion Group and the Choir, Rachel Lomax closed this official inauguration of the Auditorium which we are sure will be the site of many an enjoyable occasion.

## International Universities Fair: Designing the Future

Spain and the United Kingdom are still the preferred destinations for pupils planning to study at university. Once again this was evidenced at the International Universities Fair hosted by the School on 15 January this year, with more than 60 of the world's top universities represented. Our pupils' excellent standard of education enables them to aspire to attend any university they would like to.

Specifically, some of our pupils have received offers from universities like Bath, Cambridge, Bristol, King's College, Imperial College, Lancaster and UCL, to name but a few.

Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils attended the Fair to get information about which degrees are available and which universities are best suited to achieve their goals. Parents were also able to make appointments to learn both the requirements and the advantages offered by the universities attending, especially those located outside Spain. Moreover, as in the past, the fair was open to pupils from other schools.



A total of 61 public and private universities of 10 different nationalities showcased the opportunities they offer students to make a successful start to their future careers. This time, we were visited by representatives of some of the world's most prestigious universities, such as Harvard, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Carlos III, ICADE, Kent and Lancaster; as well as universities from Germany, Malta and Switzerland.

Although most pupils still choose Spain, an increasing number are opting to travel abroad to complete their studies. Outside of Spain, the United Kingdom is still the top pick for these pupils.

As on previous occasions, talks were given during the Fair to inform and guide parents. The first talk, concerning the School's BiBac® bilingual baccalaureate programme, was given by Pamela O'Brien, Head of Secondary. Another of the talks focused on the requirements of and access to UK universities, and was given by the Deputy Head of Secondary, Marileo Trendchard. And there was also a talk on US universities by Nanor Demirjian, academic adviser at Fullbright-EducationUSA.



**A caring**

**School**





BRITISH  
COUNCIL

**British Council School**

Solano, 5-7. Urbanización. Prado de Somosaguas  
28223 Pozuelo de Alarcón. Madrid

**British Council Infant School**

Alfonso Rodríguez Santamaría 23-25  
28002 Madrid

**Admissions department**

Tel. +34 91 337 50 50  
[admisionescolegio@britishcouncil.es](mailto:admisionescolegio@britishcouncil.es)

