



ALMUÑÉCAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2015 - 16



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**ALMUÑECAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IS FULLY RECOGNISED ACCORDING TO THE ROYAL DECREE 80611993 AND BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ANDALUCIA
(BOJA Nº 133, 19th OCTOBER, 1995, FOR AGES 3-16, 24th MAY, 1997, FOR AGES 3-18)
THE SCHOOL IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH SCHOOLS IN SPAIN (NABBS) AND IS FULLY AUTHORIZED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL TO OPERATE AS A BRITISH SCHOOL IN SPAIN. PERIODIC INSPECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED BY OFSTED TRAINED INSPECTORS TO ENSURE THAT THE REQUIRED STANDARDS ARE MET AS REGARDS TEACHERS, CURRICULUM, FACILITIES AND PUPIL PROGRESS.
IT IS AN AUTHORISED EXAMINATIONS CENTRE FOR THE MAIN ENGLISH EXAMINATION BOARDS (CAMBRIDGE, AQA, EDEXEL)**

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(HeadTeacher)**

Almuñécar International School was founded in 1989 by a small group of highly motivated Spanish parents who wanted a distinct form of education for their children, and an alternative to the options available in the area. Since then the school has grown rapidly and gained full authorisation as a Primary and Secondary school offering education in English and Spanish to pupils in the 2 – 18 age range.



ROOTS AND WINGS

The greatest gifts that we can give our students are ROOTS and WINGS. Roots , the nourishing start, the inner values to guide, the firm foundation on which to build their lives and wings of independence, to explore, to soar, to find themselves and to achieve their goals.

Ms. Fiona Jacobs –
Head teacher

WELCOME TO A.I.S.

I am very pleased to introduce you to Almuñécar International School through this prospectus and look forward to meeting you.

In the 21st Century developments are constantly being made: it is a rapidly changing world that we and our children live in. We aim to prepare them for that future in knowledge, understanding, creative thinking and open mindedness so that they become not only caring but successful global citizens. We want them to ask questions and look for their own answers, to think and unlock their full potential. We implemented the Cambridge International Curriculum last year in Primary and Secondary. We continue to use the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for our youngest children to explore and investigate, to be cared for in a supportive environment. In Primary and Lower Secondary, the Cambridge International Curriculum is our base for English, Maths, Science and ICT. We are following the New English curriculum flexibly for all other subjects. In Years 10 and 11 students study for their Cambridge IGCSE's and in Year 12 and 13 for their International A levels. The students also follow the compulsory elements of the Spanish curriculum, Lengua and Cultura española/Sociales. Our curriculum will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the 21st Century. We strive to be an outstanding school in all respects and to achieve academic excellence.

Please come and visit us to see for yourself!

OUR VISION

We aim to create a safe, happy, trusting, stimulating and caring environment where teaching and learning are exciting and students are supported as they develop independence and learn to love learning. Our school curriculum is designed to accommodate individual learning styles so that all may experience success. With determination our students will become successful yet responsible, caring global citizens who can communicate effectively in at least two languages.

THE SCHOOL DAY

09:50 MEET IN MAIN PLAYGROUND – ASSEMBLY

10:00 LESSON 1

10:45 LESSON 2

11:30 BREAK

11:50 LESSON 3

12:40 LESSON 4

13:30 LESSON 5/PRIMARY LUNCH

14:20 LESSON 5 / SECONDARY LUNCH

15:10 LESSON 6

16:00 LESSON 7

16:45/ 16:50 SCHOOL BUS



WHY JOIN A.I.S. ?

- Small, personalized classes
- Team of well qualified, dedicated teachers
- British/ Cambridge curriculum used creatively to suit our learners' needs
- Happy, caring environment
- Independent learning
- Excellent results
- Determination to succeed

ASSEMBLIES

We start the day together. We greet one another and have a calm, purposeful start to the day. We also have assemblies to celebrate good work or kind actions, class assemblies and assemblies to celebrate events throughout the year.

From Early Years → Primary → Secondary → Global Citizen

EARLY YEARS (3 -5 year olds)

Give your child a head start. Our well qualified and experienced team follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum from the U.K. Our balance of adult directed learning activities and child led play opportunities ensures that children's individual developmental needs are carefully supported and guided. We follow the seven areas of Learning and Development. Careful observations of children's progress are documented so that we can plan for future development.

SECONDARY 1 (11-13 year olds)

In Year 7 we ensure that students feel socially and emotionally secure to enable them to learn to their maximum potential and to enjoy learning. Students in this phase study a range of subjects including Opening Minds, a thematic competency-based programme allowing students opportunities to work on cross-curricular projects focussing on the humanities and social science curriculum.

PRIMARY 1 (5-7 year olds)

Learning in these year groups builds on the good practice in Foundation Stage, with a strong early emphasis on play-based, active learning, building towards more formal work. Children in Key Stage 1 are taught using a curriculum that blends the Cambridge International Curriculum for English, Maths and Science with the National Curriculum incorporating all subjects in a creative way through topics. Our phonics teaching follows the 'Letters and Sounds' programme used in the UK, supporting children to listen to, copy and talk about sounds and to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to begin reading and writing words as soon as they are ready.

PRIMARY 2 (7-11 year olds)

Primary 2 continues seamlessly from Primary 1, following the same curriculum with increasingly more complex objectives. Children will be given opportunities to plan activities, to research independently and finally to present their findings in their chosen way. This autonomy gives the children an increased ownership of their learning, a pride in their successes and a focus for areas to improve.

SIXTH FORM

Our students study for their International AS and A levels. They may also opt for 2 subjects in the Spanish curriculum which will assist with their entry to Spanish universities. Our Sixth Form ethos is for students to aim for the highest grades, whilst developing adult life skills and a sense of responsibility and self discipline, within a caring and supportive community.

SECONDARY 2 (14-16 year olds)

Our students make choices for their IGCSE courses. We have a variety of options including: Global Perspectives, History, Business Studies, Travel & Tourism, Sport Science etc as well as the mandatory subjects. We encourage students to take part in the wider areas of school life such as fund raising and working with Primary students.

SPANISH STUDIES

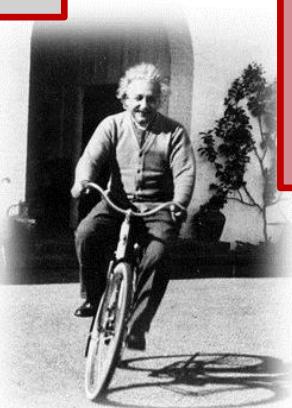
All students follow Lengua and Sociales/ Conocimiento del Medio in order to find success in both systems.



Creativity & Personalised Learning

Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

-A Einstein



How do we personalise learning?

We respect the “unique” child and try to personalise learning whenever possible. We have differentiated activities in our lessons. We take into account HOW each student learns the best. Our students work alongside their teachers setting targets and reviewing progress against their personal goals.

We expect excellent behaviour and find that our students respond very positively as they respect all of the staff. We have a very clear discipline policy and procedure which does not tolerate any form of bullying.

What is the **creative** side of the curriculum? It is not just art, music or dance it is a way of thinking. It is allowing and developing student's ability to:-

- ❖ make connections
- ❖ take intelligent risks
- ❖ be original and imaginative
- ❖ ask critical and challenging questions
- ❖ take thinking, discovery and reflecting time
- ❖ share and collaborate
- ❖ try different ways





Learning Outside the Classroom

I hear → but I forget
I see → I remember
I do! → I understand
- Confucius



Taking students out of the classroom is important for all ages. It makes the learning more memorable. Such learning experiences range from taking students outdoors for mathematics, to the athletics track for PE, to the farm school for a day trip, to Cordoba or the Sierra Nevada for a residential trip or an exchange trip to France or Germany. All activities are planned by our teachers to promote maximum learning. Our students love technology but they also love puddles, building dams, experiencing first-hand the wonders of the Alhambra, smelling life on a farm or planning and measuring for our future school learning garden!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We encourage all of our teachers to undertake Action Research. Teachers also work together to plan, observe learning and to decide upon initiatives to improve student learning.

REALISING POTENTIAL

It is important for us that our students know that the more they study the better their results will be. To succeed in any sport it takes a lot of determination and skill and skill comes with practice. It is the same with academic studies. Our best students are those who work hard, are determined to succeed and understand that their brain develops the more it is exercised. They realise their potential.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING SUPPORT

We have many students, who, at one moment or another, require some extra support. Our SENCO organizes this for blocks of time. This could be for support in one Maths topic, with reading or for students who start at the school with either no English or no Spanish. We also have a mentoring system whereby Year 11 students support Year 7 students when they transfer to secondary. Many teachers act as mentors to our older students.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

We communicate with parents in various ways, for example through our monthly newsletters, questionnaires, workshops and informal social events. Parents are regularly invited to events, and to Parents' Evenings. Every year parents and others are invited to attend our Annual Open Day and Sports Day as well as student's performances. Staff will always be happy to meet with parents to share any concerns. We want a positive partnership between home and school. The School's website has a wealth of information including our newsletters, class work and copies of curriculum planning. We also have our own Facebook and Twitter which you can access from our website. Each family also has access to our Engage portal. Here, parents can see their child's reports, achievements, attendance, events and much more!



Our results show that we are a good school. We continually strive for excellence and work, through our Development Plan, to become an outstanding school.

AIS Academic results summary

Academic year	Year 9 checkpoint English	Year 9 checkpoint Maths	Year 9 checkpoint Science	A level %A to C	AS level %A to C	Titulo Bachiller	% GCSE Passes A to C 5+ all subjects	%GCSE A to C 5+including English Maths	4º ESO % Pass
2010				93%	65%	No Info	91%	85%	No Info
2011				80%	59%	83%	71.5%	60%	No info
2012				70%	70%	70%	80%	67%	80%
2013				75%	58%	64%	83%	76%	83%
2014	68% at expected level or above	84% at expected level or above	95% at expected level or above	83%	61%	100%	81%	75%	90%



83%

81%

ENRICHMENT

Students need to be motivated to work to their best! Providing our students with an enrichment programme helps to create respect, excitement and students who want to both enjoy their work AND the school life in general.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Each year we plan to hold a production in which many of our students have an important role: acting, dancing, singing, and designing. This year it is "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

We take part in many inter-school events, especially with other international schools near Marbella. Our regular fixtures are: cross country, football, athletics and netball.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

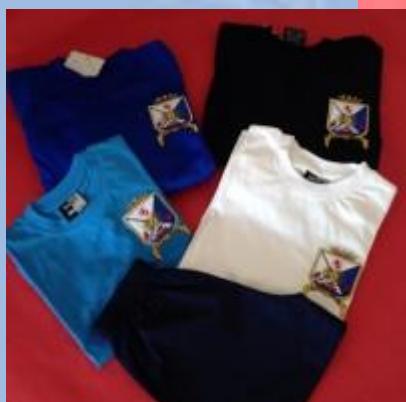
Students can take part in a variety of clubs that take place both after school and at lunchtime. These include: Drama, All sports, Football, Gymnastics.....

We also run the sports leaders programme. This is for students of 13 and above which develops leadership skills that can be applied to a number of sports and other recreational activities



UNIFORM – a sense of belonging and pride in our school

Uniforms are available at our school shop. The shop is open on week days from 09:00- 09:40 & 16:30-17:20. Please see the attached price list.



SAFE AND HEALTHY EATING AND LIVING

We encourage students to bring healthy snacks, particularly fruit and vegetables. We ask parents not to send in crisps, chocolate or sweets of any kind.

Research shows that our brains need water to stay active and alert. All students are encouraged to bring water into school “weekly”, in a small, spill-proof plastic bottle that they can refill from the school water dispensers.

- Encouragement for children to make healthy choices
- Opportunities are provided for children to participate in school activities and responsibilities to build their confidence and self-esteem e.g. helping with younger children, being monitors, participating in assemblies
- School dinner cooked/prepared on site giving healthy and substantial meals
- P.E. curriculum meets required standards
- Promotion of Physical activities at lunchtime and after school to encourage healthy lifestyles
- Security of the site is monitored
- Safety issues discussed with the pupils through the curriculum
- Resources and materials are chosen and checked to follow safety standards
- Outside agencies, i.e. Fire Service, dentists, are invited into school to raise pupils awareness
- We provide clear, planned curriculum opportunities for children to understand and explore feelings using appropriate learning and teaching styles
- We have a clear policy on bullying, which is owned, understood and implemented by the whole school community.

TECHNOLOGY



Our wireless campus and laptop and tablet banks allow seamless access to the internet for our staff and students. We have a fibre optic connection which is safer, clearer and faster. In addition, visits to the library and IT Centres are designed to foster the potential of research both online and through written text.

We have introduced the new “computing” curriculum in Early Years to Year 9 using the latest resources from the UK.

SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY

Our students are made aware of how to use technology safely in school and at home although we do have high safety filters on our equipment:

- ❖ Only go online when you have permission, never out of sight of an adult
- ❖ Never insult anyone
- ❖ Never tell anyone your personal information
- ❖ Never download without permission
- ❖ Remember that 13 is the legal age to have most social network accounts, 16 for Whatsapp!!
- ❖ Tell an adult if anyone online asks to meet you
- ❖ Tell an adult if anything online makes you feel uncomfortable
- ❖ Only use the camera for a task you have been set
- ❖ Listen carefully to sessions on appropriate & responsible use of ICT

ADMISSIONS

How to Apply

Step One: Contact the School Office

We welcome your questions either by phone or email to discuss your family's plans and your child's educational needs.

Step Two: Visit and see the school in action and arrange a Listening Day

Step Three: Complete and send the application form with the required documents

Step Four: Towards the end of March you will be advised if your child has a place. To complete the registration process you will be asked for the non-refundable registration fee and your child's name will be added to our system

Students can be admitted throughout the year if places are available. The procedures outlined on this page are for a September start. Please contact us for information regarding other starting dates.

We have an open admissions policy and would love to hear from you if you would like to discuss placing your child in our school.

Contact us on Tel. +34 958635911 or email address: fjacobsais@gmail.com for more information.

Our website and prospectus can only give you a brief snapshot and we encourage you to visit in order to see our school community in action. Your child can have a "listening" day to try out our system. This also enables us to make some initial assessments before they start.

HOW TO APPLY TO A.I.S. SIXTH FORM
Your decision about the next steps in your life is pivotal. You need to ensure that you are properly informed about your options so that you can make the right choice for you.

Step 1: Attend the 6th form Open Evening

Step 2: Read the subject descriptions and discuss options with our staff

Step 3: Fill out the application form

Step 4: On receipt of a conditional acceptance attend our induction day. You will require a minimum "B" grade at GCSE to be accepted for an A level course

Step 5: On receipt of your GCSE results discuss your entry to the 6th form to make your final choices.

Step 6: Official acceptance