



Canterbury School

Gran Canaria

Dear parent,

S4 is the final year of obligatory schooling, and the evaluations done by your son/daughter will be very important and will to a great extent determine their choices for future study. As an international school operating in Spain, the assessment of S4 involves elements of both the British education system, the IGCSE examinations, and the Spanish education system.

We have attached a summary of the main aspects of S4. Please note the information it contains. There will be a meeting for parents of S4 on:

Thursday, 21st September
starting at 16:15.

which you can attend if you wish to ask any questions or discuss any points relating to your son/daughter's studies at the Canterbury School this year. Please arrive after 4:00 to avoid congestion when the school buses leave, and do not park on the right hand side of the road as you face down the hill.

Yours faithfully,

R. Bamber, Head of Upper School



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S4 Calendar

Sept 6 th – Dec 5 th	1 st evaluation
Sept 21 st	S4 parents' meeting 16:15
Dec 15 th	1 st evaluation reports given to pupils
Dec 19 th	Parents' meeting 16.00 – 18.30
Jan. 11 th – 19 th	Mock examinations
Jan. 30 th	Mock reports sent to parents
Dec 11 th - March 20 th	2 nd evaluation
March 26 th	2 nd evaluation reports given to pupils
March 29 th	Parents' meeting 16.00 – 18.30
March 21 st	Start of 3 rd evaluation
May 7 th – 29 th	Period of optional study leave
May 31 st – June 19 th	Normal classes, assessed activities.
June 19 th	End of 3 rd evaluation. Reports given to pupils.
June 20 th - 25 th	S4 Trip (to be confirmed)
Sept. 3 rd & 4 th	Recuperation exams (if necessary)

IGCSE

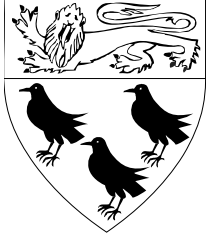
In Britain every pupil does GCSE exams at the end of S4. In general, in Britain, pupils who pass 5 or more, with grades C or higher, can continue with academic studies. People with fewer passes either leave school, or change to vocational courses (rather like FP). The Spanish education authorities have determined that a S4 pupil must pass all internal marks, and in addition at least 4 IGCSEs or else repeat the year.

The IGCSE exam system is an extremely effective method of measuring a pupil's level in each subject. Every pupil does each exam at the same time in the same strictly defined conditions. The teachers do not prepare, nor mark them; this is done by the examination board. There are no recuperations but you can ask for a remark, or a recount, for an extra charge. If a pupil is absent on the day of the exam without a medical certificate, he/she will not be awarded a grade. To administer such a system unfortunately means that the exams are quite expensive, and it takes quite a long time before the results are published.

Now, I would like to clarify the IGCSE system of assessment because its whole philosophy is different from the Spanish system of awarding evaluation marks.

Evaluation marks are a form of continuous assessment of the work done throughout the year. In contrast, the IGCSE grade in a subject is purely a measure of the level of knowledge, understanding and skill which has been developed at the end of obligatory schooling, the end of S4.

Mock exams are taken in January and identify the strengths and weaknesses of each pupil in all their IGCSE subjects. The real IGCSE exams are in May, so pupils have 4 more months to prepare, practise and improve their results. At the Canterbury school, the majority (78% last year) of S4 pupils have no difficulty passing at least 5 IGCSE subjects. We appreciate your support in helping your son/daughter pass with good grades.



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S4 Internal Assessment (the 'notas')

To be able to validate 4º de E.S.O. pupils must pass internal marks in **all** their subjects (their 'notas'), as well as enough IGCSE exams. There are 1st and 2nd evaluation reports, but the really important marks are those on the final report in June. The assessment methods used by each department to determine the final marks are shown below.

Lengua Esp.	Continuous assessment / evaluación continua
Sociales	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
Literatura	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
English	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
Maths	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
Science	Average of biology, chemistry and physics, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd evaluations.
French	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
German	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
History	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
Geography	50% mock, 50% average of evaluations
Business Studies	33% mock, 33% average of evaluations, 33% assessed coursework
Computer Studies	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
Art	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations
P.E.	Average of 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd evaluations

Please note:-

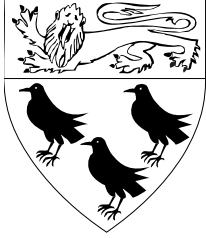
- from the 31st May to 19th June there are normal lessons with assessed activities which determine the 3rd evaluation marks.
- No pupil can pass the year if they have more than 15 days' unjustified absence.
- Students who fail the internal mark in any subject will have recuperation exams on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September, 2007 if necessary.

"Study leave" during IGCSE exam period

The following rules apply **from 6th May to 27th May only**.

- On days when a pupil has an exam, (s)he must stay at school all day, attending their timetabled lessons. The only exception is if a parent comes to the office personally to collect him/her.
- Classes are provided for all S4 pupils. During this period, when possible specialised lessons will be provided to prepare for the next exam.
- Pupils may stay at home to study with written consent from their parents if they choose. In this case, non-attendance will not be counted as an absence. A pro-forma will be sent home in April for the written consent, and must be returned by **all** pupils.

For a pupil to leave early during the school day, a parent, or another adult authorised by the parent, must come to collect them. S4 pupils are not permitted to the public bus service in this case.



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Many pupils can study better at home than with their class, when there are too many distractions. Indeed, it is an important stage of academic maturity when a young person can take responsibility for their own studies. The pupils who study best are, of course, the ones whose get the highest grades. However, for this, their methods of study must be effective.

- In general, simply reading is not a good method of study. It can be too **passive**. Effective study must involve your mind **actively**:-
- Summarising. Making revision notes. Preparing a 'chuleta' (but do NOT under any circumstances try to take it into an exam). Answering questions. Inventing your own questions and trying to answer them. Some revision websites on the internet can be helpful, but most are not.
- Do not go to bed too late. Getting enough sleep is important, and going to bed earlier is twice as effective as getting up later.
- Take regular breaks. The brain is not capable of concentration for long periods of time. Relax by listening to music, taking a walk, sport, having a snooze (20 mins. maximum), etc. Watching television is not relaxing for the brain, but interestingly, listening to the radio is. So, work for perhaps 2 hours, then ½ hour rest, then start again.