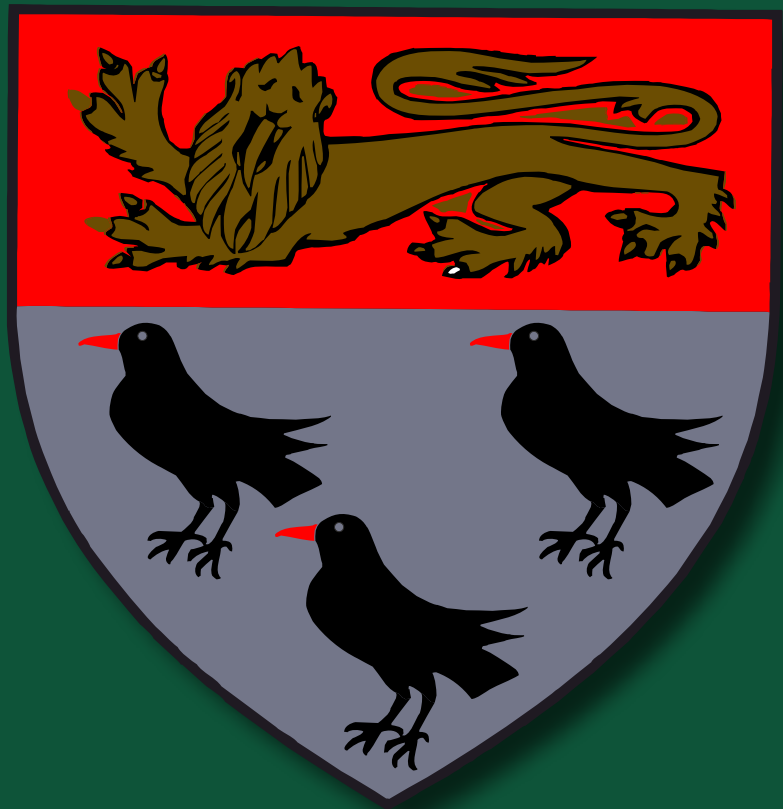


Canterbury School



Gran Canaria

Information
for
Prospective
Teachers



Thank you for your interest in a teaching position at Canterbury School in Gran Canaria. Canterbury School offers a British style education to a very high standard up to University level and we also operate within the Spanish system and prepare students for entry to Spanish Universities.

The information that follows is intended to provide applicants with a greater understanding of the school, its environment and its students. We hope that it will answer your questions about salary and conditions of service, as well as any questions you may have about living and working in the Canary Islands. However, you will have an opportunity in the interview to ask any further questions you may have.

Canterbury School is highly regarded in the Canary Islands and since the opening of our new Secondary Department in September 1992 we have been able to provide an excellent education to students from nursery to university entrance. Our students are keen, well motivated and supported by interested parents. Our staff is made up of enthusiastic, highly qualified professionals who enjoy living and working in the Canary Islands. We are seeking to recruit teachers who can actively contribute to the continued growth of the school.

Beryl Pritchard
Founder & Principal



The school originally began as a small nursery school in 1972, with just seventeen pupils, but has steadily grown to become the largest English speaking school in Gran Canaria. There are now over one thousand students whose ages range from pre- school nursery to pre-university eighteen year olds.

The children begin their

education with us at the age of two or three, in a large converted house in Rubén Darío. This provides an ideal atmosphere for young children with its ample play areas and adapted classrooms.

During the year of their sixth birthday, the children move to the Primary School which is housed in a large building at San Lorenzo. The Primary department moved to this spacious, purpose built school in September 1999.

This department is run very much along the lines of a British Primary school. Each class has its own teacher who works in a year group team of three. The children also begin Spanish here where we have a

team of three native Spanish teachers.

The Secondary School is based next door in their own modern building. This contains laboratories, computer and music rooms, an art workshop and a library.

The school is lucky enough to have its own theatre which serves the Infant, Primary and Secondary departments. There is also a fully equipped gymnasium underneath the theatre.

We have recently built a sixth form block and a sports hall. There are also plans to construct an athletics track.

We also have a school in the South of the island which caters for children from the





ages of 3 to 11. It has a friendly welcoming atmosphere with small classes as it is still developing.

Our only source of income is from school fees. These are paid by parents who make a deliberate choice to send their children to this school. The two reasons most usually given for that choice are the improvement and use of the English language and the high standards of behaviour that we expect from our students. Also important is the fact that

we achieve high grades in I.G.C.S.E. and A level examinations, with resulting excellent success in university entrance both in Spain and in Britain.

Canterbury is a non - selective school, with an enrolment policy that does not discriminate against children on any grounds-race, religion, colour, sex or ability. We believe that all children can benefit from our programme of studies.

Many of our teachers have

recently come out from the U.K. but about 60% of the teachers at the Secondary School, and about 90% of teachers at the Infant and Primary Schools are permanent residents. We have a very good mixture of both young and experienced staff, some of whom have many years of service with Canterbury School.





The pastoral structure in the Infant School is developed through individual class teachers and Teaching Assistants to the Head of Infant School. All teachers have an area of responsibility.

The pastoral structure in the Primary School is developed through individual class teachers, to deputy heads and to the Head of the Primary school. All class teachers also

have an area of the curriculum for which they are responsible and for which they act as advisors to the rest of the school.

The pastoral structure in the Secondary School is slightly different. Here it is developed through individual class tutors, to Pastoral Managers, to the Head of P.S.E, to the Head of the Secondary School.

Our intention is that all

teachers at Canterbury School will gain professionally from being with us and their careers will be enhanced by the experience. To make sure that this happens, Canterbury School is a member of NABSS (National Association of British Schools in Spain) which organises in-service training days as well as sporting and cultural activities amongst its members.

Canterbury School



Mrs. Beryl Pritchard
Founder & Principal

Mr. Javier Garcia Pritchard
Vice Principal

Canterbury School



Infant
Department

Primary
Department

Secondary
Department

South
Department

Head:
Pamela Ainsworth

Head : Lindsay Gale

Head: Pedro Tomas

Head:
Paula Hill

Deputy Head:
Louise Adam

Heads of
Lower School,
Upper School &
Sixth Form



Canterbury School is committed to delivering both the English National Curriculum through all the Key Stages culminating in Cambridge I.G.C.S.E s and A Levels and a high level of education in the Spanish system, enabling our students to validate their studies for the entrance to Spanish universities. Native Spanish teachers are recruited to teach the Spanish timetable in the

Primary and Secondary Departments.

Children in both Infant and Primary Departments follow the the Early Years Foundation Stage and the English National Curriculum. We have implemented the 2014 curriculum, adapting it to best suit the needs of our children.

At the end of Key Stage 2 the children are assessed using the KS2 SATs.

There is an active programme of cultural visits that allows students of all ages to experience the external environment. This consists of day long visits to local museums and landmarks of interest in the Infant and Primary departments and longer camping trips and visits abroad for the Secondary students.



**Canterbury School**
of Gran Canaria



Nos gustaría también informaros de las fechas de las excursiones para el primer trimestre:

K1	Parque Romano	17/10/2014
K1	Museo Elden	21/11/2014
K2	Parque San Juan de Telde	30/10/2014
K3	Parque Las Reñayas	14/11/2014



At Canterbury School our students come first. They are well motivated, keen and polite and discipline problems are rare.

About 85% of our students are Spanish speaking Canarians but our student population also includes Korean, Indian, Chinese and Russian children. There are also a few British children amongst our numbers.

Prospective teachers should also be aware that the Spanish system of allocating year groups to children is different from the British system. Children are placed in a particular year group with children whose birthdays fall between 1st January and 31st December, rather than from September to August.

The implications of this are twofold. Firstly, classes will consist of children who can be

up to three months younger than in equivalent year groups in Britain. Secondly, especially with the very youngest children, they can speak no English at all, at least when they begin in the school. Obviously, as they progress through the school, their English will improve until by the time they reach Secondary School many are, to all intents and purposes bilingual. Even at upper Primary and Secondary level though, there are students who speak little

or no English, largely because they have joined us late in their school career either from Spanish schools or from other countries. In reality this does not present a major problem as we provide extra help and the number involved is relatively small. Although the language in which we teach is English, teachers need to be prepared to teach students for whom English is a second or even third language and to adjust their teaching style accordingly students.





Las Palmas is a large and bustling city. On the plus side it is lively and well served with shops, bars, restaurants and other amenities. It is situated alongside Las Canteras beach, which is an excellent beach for swimming and surfing.

On the downside, as with all big cities, it is congested. Traffic is often slow moving within the city centre and the exhaust fumes affect the air quality. This, together with the occasional dust storm from the Sahara, may pose problems for those who suffer from respiratory complaints.

Las Palmas has an abundance of taxis and buses

both of which are cheap. Although prices of new cars are lower than in the UK, second hand cars tend to maintain their value and can be higher priced than in the UK.

Some teachers decide to live out of the city centre, in the surrounding countryside. In such cases a car is essential because although there is a reliable bus service, timetables can be restricting. Accommodation in the countryside is cheaper and the views are beautiful!

The climate is a very attractive feature of life in the Canary Islands. In the winter the temperature may fall to the

point where a sweater or jacket is needed (And occasionally in the higher regions of the island it does get rather chilly), but the temperatures are usually very pleasant. The temperature falls quite dramatically with altitude and it is possible to find snow on some of the higher peaks in winter. The Primary and Secondary Schools, which are situated a little way outside the city, do suffer from lower temperatures in winter. The South department enjoys warm weather for most of the year.

It is difficult to make a direct comparison with the cost of



Las Canteras beach



Triana shopping area



Cathedral in Old Town



The Alfredo Kraus Auditorium

living between Gran Canaria and the UK. Some things are cheaper, while other items are more expensive. In general, eating out is cheaper than the UK.

Electricity is more expensive, although there aren't the heating bills one has in the UK and it is necessary to buy bottled water for drinking.

On arrival it is necessary to open a bank account to enable your salary to be paid at the end of the month.

Accommodation is not provided by the school, but the school does have some flats that are rented out to staff. When teachers first arrive the school will find temporary accommodation, usually

along Las Canteras beach for teachers in the north and very often in a school owned flat. Although teachers must pay for their own accommodation Canterbury School will pay for the temporary accommodation for a few days whilst new teachers look for a more settled home. Help is given to do this. Very often teachers share with each other to keep costs down. Rents are varied but the following guide will provide an idea (Although teachers should be aware that landlords usually charge two months rent in advance using one as a deposit to be returned at the end of the contract)

As previously mentioned, apartments and houses in the hills are

- Studio Apartment with balcony facing the sea 700 Euros
- Studio apartment facing side street 550 Euros
- One bedroomed flat inside street in beach area 600 Euros
- Two bedroomed flat in other part of Las Palmas 600 Euros



Roque Nublo- a famous landmark



Partial view of the city - from Ciudad Jardín

cheaper but teachers are warned that they can be quite cold in winter and they will need their own transport. Teachers living in Las Palmas may travel to the Primary and Secondary Schools in San Lorenzo, free of charge on the school buses. There are several pickup points in the city. Teachers in the Infant School in Las Palmas and the South school must find their own way to school but this

does not usually present a problem.

Once your contract starts you are covered by the Spanish National Health service. However, it is advisable to bring an E111 card to cover the first week or so before the contract begins. Dental treatment is available privately and tends to be expensive. The school will obtain a social security card and an identity number for

teachers. This is a legal requirement and entitles you to the Health and Social Security system. Family members may be included but boyfriends/girlfriends will not and will therefore have to make alternative arrangements. Friends or partners who do not speak Spanish and have no job arranged will find it difficult to obtain work not related to teaching.



Maspalomas beach in the south

Canterbury School





Contracts are initially given for a two year period (two contracts) and teachers are paid according to the Spanish schools pay system. Teachers are taxed according to individual circumstances which means that teachers with children and other dependants will be given the legal tax concessions. The gross salary for a Primary trained teacher is 2315 Euros per month gross (Annual increments are usually made in January and this is approximately 3%) After taxes have been paid a Primary

teacher has a net income of approximately 1800 Euros. (The net is approximate as each person is taxed according to their circumstances.) During the months of September, October, November and December of the first year's employment the monthly net will be higher for those people who have not been working in Spain for the previous eight months. (This is due to the fact that the amount earned is calculated as a yearly income and the tax % is lowered to compensate.)

Payment of salary is made by direct debit into your bank account. Teachers who wish to leave at the end of their first year are, of course, free to do so but will forfeit a month's holiday pay according to the Spanish law.

Teachers are given a "once only" payment of 200 Euros (Before tax) towards their outward flight. This is included in September's salary. Excess baggage can be expensive! Canterbury School does not make any payment towards excess baggage



The large Infant Department, where the children spend the first years of their schooling at Canterbury, is located in a quiet, residential area in the heart of Las Palmas. During 2018 we are very fortunate to be moving into a new building, close by to the current building, which has been totally renovated for the purpose of housing our Infant Department. The new site will consist of two buildings; a completely renovated older building and a purpose built

new building behind. All the teaching areas are modern, light and airy and designed to facilitate 21st century Early Years provision. Although in the city, we have adequate playground space including a sports playground/ basketball court and soft-floored play park areas complete with climbing frames and slides. The new site will also include a pleasant garden area with a special zone where children can undertake gardening and planting activities. Currently our children eat a well

balanced lunch prepared in the Primary kitchen in San Lorenzo however the new school will have its own state of the art kitchen on site, including special food preparation areas to cater for celiac children and those with allergies. Every learning area will contain an interactive TV screen and there will be Wi-Fi throughout the building so that even our youngest children at Canterbury have access to the latest technology.

In the Early Years, we consider it essential that the





children speak and understand the English language before they are taught to read and write. All our teachers are native English speakers, many also speak fluent Spanish, and our TA's are bilingual. We offer an immersion approach to English in our Infant department. We place a very strong emphasis on teaching English to enable our pupils to communicate in English from a very early age and we have a high adult:child ratio especially in Nursery and Reception (6:75) in order to facilitate small group work and lots of opportunity for developing oracy. Right from the start we follow the Pie Corbett 'Talk for Writing' approach to learning English, which continues throughout the Primary school.

At two years of age children may enter our "Teddy's" pre-Nursery Class (K0) with a bilingual Early Years Educator in charge and one or two bilingual teaching assistants, depending on the number of



From Nursery (3 year olds) onwards we have a maximum of 75 children in a year group. In the new school the Nursery (K1), will be housed in their own 200 square metre floor with large, bright learning areas, shared play areas, bathrooms and their own

use the different areas of the semi-open plan Nursery floor, rather than being based in their own class base all the time. The teachers work together as a team to plan play based learning experiences that our little ones will enjoy and thrive on.



At four years of age, in Reception (K2), the children are split into 3 classes of 25 children, the general pattern for each year group in the rest of the Infant and Primary schools. There are 6 adults working with Reception; each class having both a fully UK qualified class teacher and also a teaching assistant with them. They will also have their own floor of the building, with classrooms, bathrooms and a shared play area. In Reception the children begin to learn phonics (a combination of Jolly Phonics and Letters and Sounds) and to start to read (Oxford Reading Tree) and write as well as begin with our Infant and Primary maths

scheme, Abacus Maths; all in a practical and fun way.

In Year 1 (K3), the five year olds, there are 3 class teachers plus a support teacher who works across all three Year 1 classes. Year 1 will be based in the older part of the building, where as well as their 3 large class rooms, each with its own bathroom, there is a library and a Computer / Support classroom for their use.

We are also fortunate to have a PE monitor and all the classes have two PE lessons weekly, which is when the class teachers have their PPA time. Each year group also meets together once a week to plan what they will be teaching

the following week. Teachers all have daily duties either outside or in the dining room.

We follow the English National Curriculum throughout the school, adapted where necessary to suit our Spanish-speaking pupils. Our Nursery and Reception pupils follow the objectives and Areas of Learning of the Early Years Foundation Stage and our Year 1 pupils follow the Year 1 Programme of Study of the English National Curriculum in all subject areas. All the Infant classes work through cross-curricular topics each half term to make learning both relevant and enjoyable for the children. We encourage practical, creative activities and attractively display children's work to make a lively and stimulating learning environment for them. Both Infant and Primary departments work closely together and liaise frequently.

Our school ethos is one of nurturing all our pupils to ensure they are happy coming





to school, as a happy child is a child whom we can help to grow and develop into an inquisitive and active learner. One of the many ways in which we try to do this is through constant positive reinforcement: we praise them throughout the day for good behaviour, good work, trying their best, being kind to others, etc. Throughout the year all our children participate in various class assemblies where pupils receive special awards and certificates and which their parents are invited to watch. We also invite parents to join us for events such as our Christmas Nativity

play in the school theatre in San Lorenzo, our Summer Show and the Year 1 Graduation Ceremony. All pupils have the opportunity to go with their class or year group on a termly school visit to a local place of interest. We always encourage parent participation in these events and we are also happy to encourage family members to come along to help us in the classroom with art work or even to read a story! As well as this we celebrate Hallowe'en, Christmas, Carnival and Canary Day with special activities and parties in school.

We offer a range of after

school clubs, such as basketball, judo, ballet and art, in which children from 3 years old can participate. As well, we have our Early Bird Club from 7:30am to facilitate an early drop off for working parents.

When our children leave us to continue their progression in their educational adventure in the Primary department we hope that they are happy, confident individuals who have acquired a curiosity and a thirst to develop their potential as a learner.





opportunities to develop their competence in English and other curriculum areas. In addition we have three Spanish teachers on the staff and each class receives a Spanish lesson a day. This department co-ordinates closely with the Early Years Department and the teachers carefully build on the excellent foundation created there. Once again the atmosphere and ethos of the school reflect the professionalism of the staff who works in it to provide a rich and stimulating learning environment.



Although we are a large school we pride ourselves on having a family atmosphere. We are fortunate that the majority of the staff have been here for several years and have built up relationships with the families of the children in their care. We encourage the older children to take care of the younger children through the Prefect scheme and the Playground Friends scheme. Our House system also encourages integration and a

This consists of 15 classes divided into 5 year groups (Yrs 2-6) where teachers continue to work in year group teams of three. Here the maximum number continues to be 25.

Pupils at Canterbury School follow the English National Curriculum which has been adapted where

necessary to our geographical location. At present we are implementing "Talk for Writing" to have a coherent approach to teaching writing throughout the school. Any changes are done very much as a team with everyone's input essential. The programme of studies offers the children a variety of



feeling of the “whole school”.

As a staff we are a united team and are constantly striving to improve our school. We are prepared to trial new initiatives and always have a period of reflection to see if they work for us. Staff are very much involved in the decision making process. We are proud

of the fact that the vast majority of our staff decide to stay with us.

Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard plus two computers and a printer. We also have an ICT suite with twenty six computers and each class is time tabled for a session a week in there. As we

are implementing the new Computing curriculum we have introduced tablets to enhance the children's learning.





Although Canterbury School, Maspalomas is located in a rural area we are close to all local amenities. We cater for children from 3 years old to 11, most of them being Spanish although a small percentage of our children are of different nationalities.

The class sizes are relatively small, averaging at 15 children per class with a

maximum of: K-1 (Nursery) 15, K-2 (Reception) 20 and K-3 (Year 1)-through to Y6 25 children. In the South, we have a one form entry. The pupils have their own tutor based classrooms. As we are a small school, we have the freedom to move children who require further assistance during the school day to other classrooms. The children also have two computers and a

printer in each classroom. There are interactive whiteboards in all of the classrooms. In addition we benefit from a library, swimming pool and very extensive playgrounds purposely designed and equipped for each age phase. We have our own kitchen and dining room where fresh food is prepared daily and enjoyed by the pupils and teachers



alike. The atmosphere here is very friendly and affable towards parents, children and staff. Being situated in the south our weather is generally warm and sunny and teachers find it enjoyable working in our stimulating environment.

We keep in regular contact with the Primary and Infant departments to try and ensure continuity between the three schools.



Canterbury School takes safeguarding children very seriously and all staff will be subject to rigorous checks and the interview process will include safeguarding and staff conduct



Canterbury School



Gran Canaria

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Infant Department :

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South Department:

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