

International School of Madrid



*a family school in
the heart of Madrid
since 1971*





Our motto is

Respect, Loyalty and Friendship

and these words form the foundation

of everything we believe in.

Welcome to the International School of Madrid!

We are a **family** school in the heart of Madrid, and since 1971 have been offering an excellent British education to children from all over the world aged from 2 to 18. We are known for our child-centred approach, happy atmosphere and exceptional standards of academic achievement.

We are incredibly proud of the **success** that our pupils achieve, not just academically, where they outperform their UK and international counterparts, but also in sports and the arts.

Thanks to the school's broad and balanced curriculum and our unique mix of Advanced level British subjects and Spanish subjects in Years 12 and 13, our students leave prepared to enter British, US and Spanish universities. But, even more importantly than that, we are proud of how well our students behave and of the good adults that they grow up to become.







School Aims

The **International School of Madrid (ISM)** is an inclusive school which welcomes and values all of its students and their families. We hope to create a family atmosphere where children feel safe and secure and in which there is fluid communication between home and school.



We provide a broad and balanced curriculum which:

- promotes the academic, spiritual, cultural, physical and moral development of students;
- prepares children for adult life and encourages them to become good citizens – showing respect, loyalty and friendship towards others;
- allows children to become fluent and proficient users of the English and Spanish languages, whatever their native tongue is.



Our goal is to provide a high quality education which:

- promotes high standards of achievement and allows all children to develop to the best of their ability, both personally and academically;
- generates high levels of student engagement and enthusiasm and
- allows students to become confident, secure and independent learners.

School Philosophy

ISM was founded in 1971 by **Mrs. Anne Mazón**, and it is her philosophy for the school that we follow:

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We endeavour to be a happy school. One big family where everybody knows each other and lasting friendships are formed. We encourage self-expression, individual ability and talent, not just academic but also in sports and the arts. We teach children values and to be good and responsible citizens.



Our job is to educate. And whilst education obviously includes teaching, the former word has a much wider meaning. We attempt to continue and complement the education which children have already begun in their homes, by adding to this professional direction and instruction, attention to the learning process of children, and the transmission of learning skills and techniques so that the student develops the ability to learn independently. **ISM encourages children in active rather than passive learning. No amount of book learning can make up for an equal period of first-hand experience.**

Education also includes a spiritual and moral dimension. We want our children to become worthy citizens of whatever country they may live in when they grow up. We are educating them - children of different races, backgrounds and beliefs - to live together in peace and harmony, appreciating and understanding each other's cultures and points of view. **Our theme is not 'I teach, you learn.' No! We prefer 'We are all here together to learn from each other'.** And the basis of this philosophy is respect - for classmates and companions, mutual respect between adults and pupils, respect for property, for rules, etc. Without respect there cannot be discipline, nor can there be a happy learning environment. Thus there is an important emphasis on these values.

At ISM the education of the whole person and education for life are the principal aims around which the curriculum revolves.



We want to prepare our students for the world of the 21st Century.



A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black school blazer, a light blue collared shirt, and a red and white striped tie. She is wearing clear safety glasses with 'bolle' written on the side. She is holding a test tube containing a red liquid. The background shows a science laboratory setting with shelves and equipment.

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Children learn best

When they are active participants

in what they are studying.

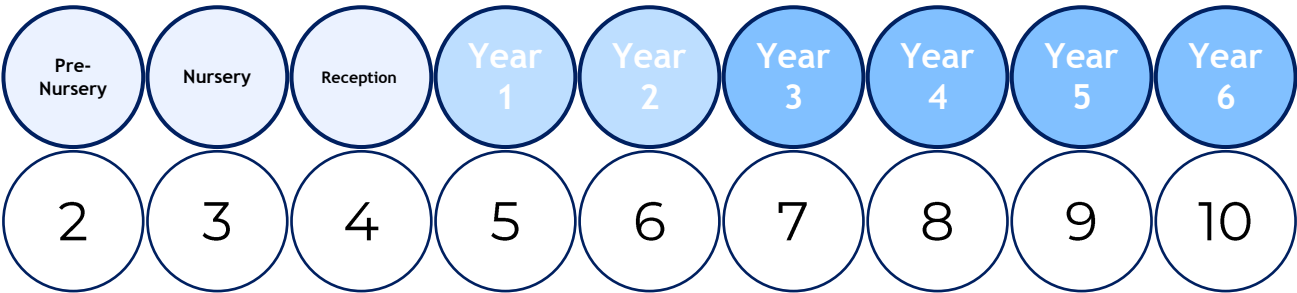


Teaching and Learning

Foundation Stage

Key Stage One

Key Stage Two



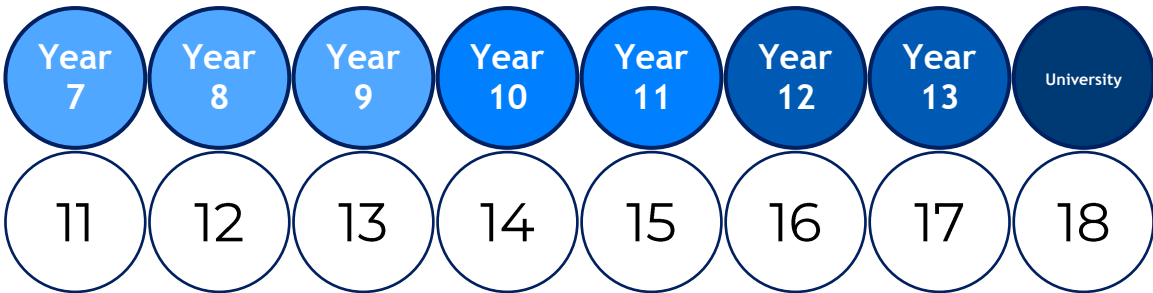
average age of pupils at the beginning of the school year



Key Stage Three

Key Stage Four

Key Stage Five



Early Years Foundation Stage

In the **Pre-Nursery**, **Nursery** and **Reception** we follow the British Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The curriculum is based around four key principles:

- every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- children learn to be independent and strong through **positive relationships**;
- children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between school and home;
- **children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates** and all areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

At ISM our children are welcomed into a stimulating and creative environment where they have opportunities to experience a wide range of activities and to learn through play. Aside from developing communication, language and mathematical skills, the curriculum places emphasis on developing personal and social skills and becoming independent and determined learners.





Communication, Language and Literacy

Children will learn to speak and express themselves, and to listen and respond in a range of situations, in a language rich environment. They will be encouraged to link sounds to letters and begin to read and write.

Mathematics

Practical activities will help children develop their mathematical understanding and numeracy skills. They will develop their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, solving simple problems and will learn to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. They will learn to understand simple mathematical vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will learn how to work, play and co-operate with others. They will be encouraged to develop a positive sense of themselves and understand and manage their feelings. They will develop independence and a confidence in their own abilities.

Physical Development

Children will develop their physical control and co-ordination, as well as an awareness of space. They will develop an understanding of the importance of physical activity and will be encouraged to make healthy choices.



Understanding of the World

Children will learn about the features of the environment around them, as well as beginning to develop an understanding of people, places and technology in the wider world.

Expressive Arts

Through art, crafts, music, dance, drama and a wealth of other opportunities, children will learn to communicate and express ideas and feelings in a creative way.





Key Stage One (Years 1 – 2)

In **Years 1 and 2** we follow the English National Curriculum. We build on the firm base that children have received in the Foundation Stage and provide them with a broad and balanced curriculum that allows them to become confident and enthusiastic learners. The curriculum favours a practical and creative approach and encourages children to understand how their skills can be applied to real-life situations.

Subjects taught include:

English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art, Design & Technology, Music, Physical Education and Religion or Citizenship.

Children will also receive, as stipulated by the Spanish Ministry of Education, a daily lesson of Spanish (*Lengua y Literatura*).

Key Stage Two (Years 3 – 6)

In **Years 3 to 6** we continue to follow the English National Curriculum and, from Year 5 upwards, add **French**.

Pupils continue to be taught by a native speaking, British-trained form teacher for most subjects, including **English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography** and **Art, Design & Technology**. Pupils also receive lessons from specialist teachers in Physical Education, Music, Computing, French and, if chosen, Religion. Pupils receive a daily lesson in Spanish (*Lengua y Literatura*) and weekly lessons of *Cultura Española* (which explores aspects of Spanish history, geography and culture not covered by the British curriculum). Pupils who are new to the language take Spanish as a Foreign Language classes instead of *Cultura*.

Great emphasis is placed on the contribution of each individual to the school life. This is primarily concerned with the child's contribution in class, but in Key Stage Two the children also begin to participate in house team events and the Student Government. All children benefit from regular assemblies prepared by each class, as well as other shows and events. In turn these offer invaluable opportunities to gain confidence in language skills in front of an audience and offer a forum for sharing ideas and experiences.







Key Stage Three (Years 7 – 9)

In the British system, Secondary education begins in Year 7. **Years 7 to 9** are known as Key Stage Three and here pupils follow the full range of English National Curriculum subjects, taught by our excellent specialist teachers.

Subjects include: **English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, French, Art & Design, Computing, Music, Drama, Physical Education & Sports, Religion or Citizenship.** In addition, Spanish language and Humanities are taught according to local Spanish requirements.

Secondary pupils benefit from a range of specialist facilities, including science laboratories, computer suites, art studios and our large sports hall. Sports lessons also regularly take place at nearby pitches and tracks (including for swimming, athletics and team games).

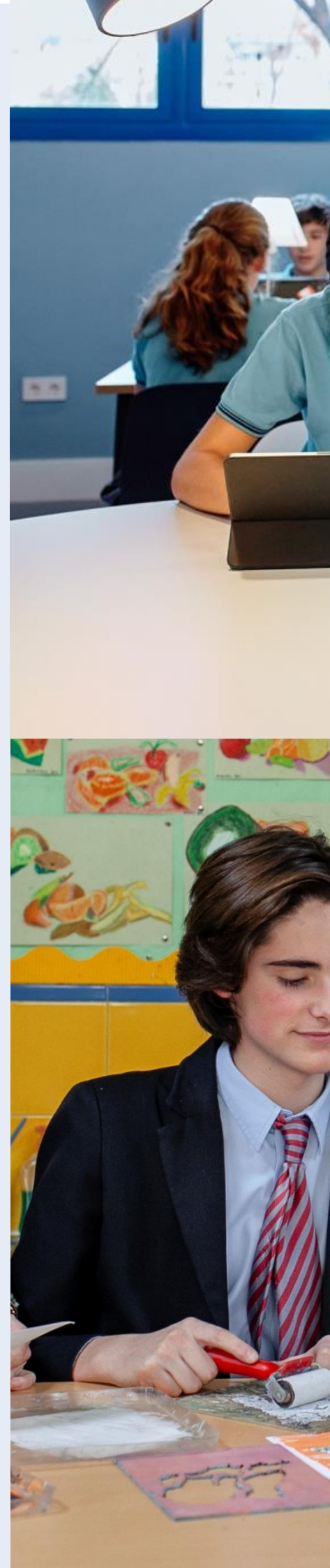
Key Stage Four (Years 10 – 11)

In Key Stage Four, pupils study a number of compulsory and optional subjects, preparing for the **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)** examinations taken at the end of Year 11.

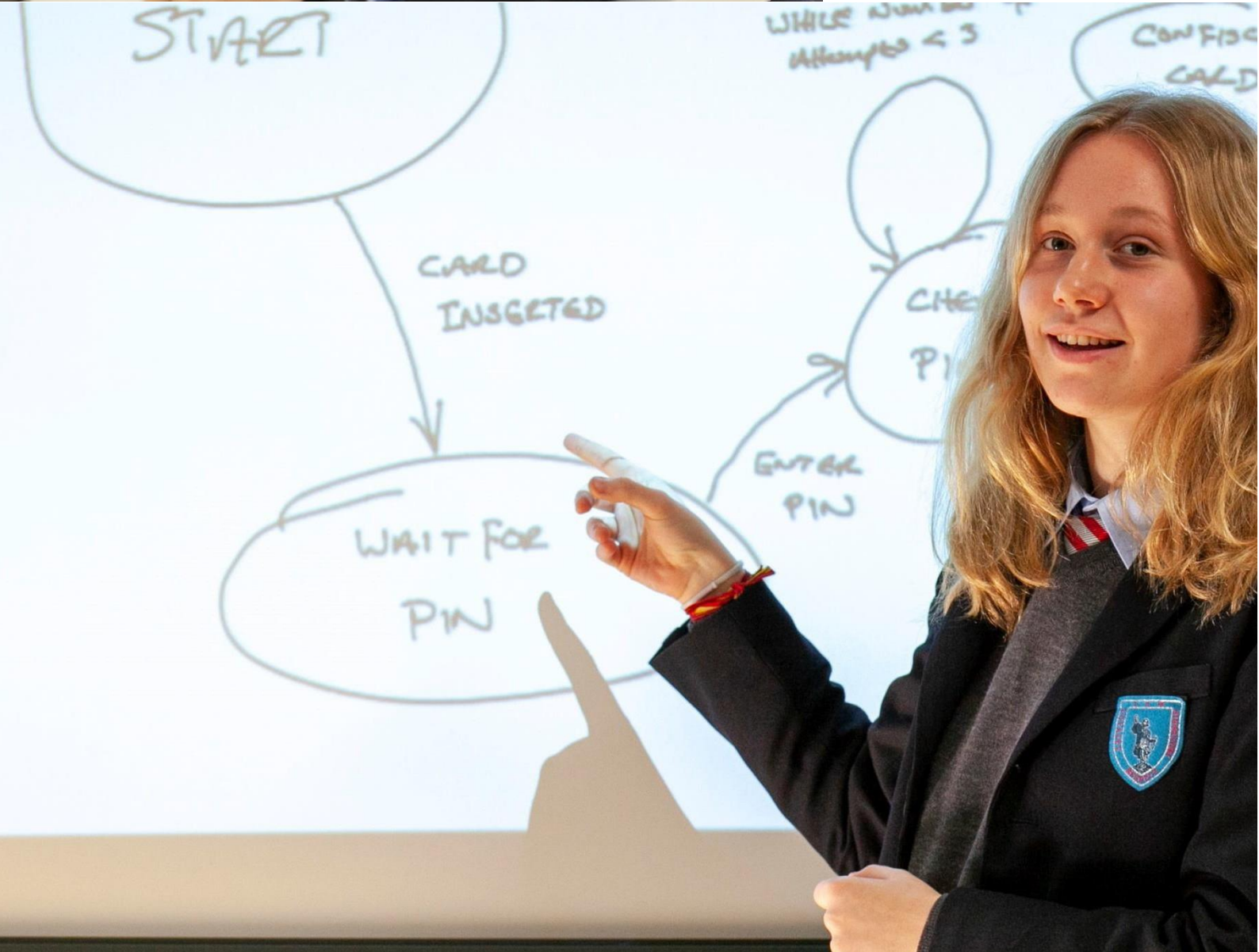
Compulsory subjects are: **English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Co-ordinated Sciences** (double award) and **Spanish**. Students then select three from the following choices: **French, Geography, History, Computer Science, Economics** and **Art & Design**.

In addition, all pupils receive lessons of **Physical Education & Sports** and choose from either **Citizenship** or **Religion**. Many pupils in Year 11 are prepared for **Confirmation** each year.

In Year 11 the school offers a Careers Guidance Scheme (**Step One**) which helps students to understand their strengths and weaknesses better. It involves a number of psychometric and other tests which are followed up by an interview with an experienced Careers Guidance Counsellor, to which parents are also invited.









Key Stage Five (Years 12 – 13)

With the IGCSE results in hand, pupils then confirm choices of **A-Levels**. Advanced Level studies are equivalent to the Spanish 1º and 2º Bachillerato, and take place in the final two years of school. The British A-level courses are highly personalised and allow students to tailor their studies by choosing subjects that best suit their interests. At ISM, students will usually choose 4 subjects from the wide range that we offer. Our students achieve outstanding grades, when examined at the end of Year 13.

However, in addition to this academic excellence, A-Level courses are designed to foster the skills of creativity and collaboration, so vital to success in today's world. A-Levels are recognised and highly regarded across the world, meaning that that our students are able to enter universities in the UK, Spain, the USA and a wealth of other countries.

Subjects offered at A-Level include: English Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, French, Business Studies, Sociology, Art & Design, Computer Science.

Spanish studies are also part of our Sixth Form provision at ISM, thus helping our students to be even more fully prepared for the next stage of their academic journey. In addition, pupils may sit the Cambridge C1 (Advanced) and C2 (Proficiency) English language exams.

Class sizes at A-Level are small, with 9-10 per class on average, and each student has access to a personal tutor. In addition, pupils receive high quality careers guidance and personalised support with the university application process

A large group of graduates, both male and female, are posed in several rows. They are wearing black graduation gowns with blue stoles that feature a circular crest. Many of the graduates have their arms raised, and numerous black graduation caps are captured in mid-air, having just been tossed. The background consists of a chain-link fence and green trees under a clear blue sky. The overall mood is one of joy and accomplishment.

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Our aim is to help
each one of our pupils
to achieve his or her very best.



School Life

Extra-Curricular Activities

In line with our belief that education is not solely about the academic curriculum, ISM offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities to help children pursue and develop other interests and abilities, such as ballet, modern dance, judo, basketball, football, roller-skating, robotics, chess, drama, and many more.

Excursions

Field trips and excursions provide important moments in a pupil's learning. They offer the opportunity to encounter and explore new and interesting things in an authentic setting. They ignite interest and engagement and provide experiences that can be recalled long after the visit. Residential trips also, in many cases, provide pupils with their first experience of being away from home.

Therefore at ISM all classes take several excursions per year, to a wide variety of places, including farms and wildlife parks, art galleries and museums, theatres, and historical sites. In addition to this, there are also residential, language, geography and science trips organised over the year for Secondary pupils, both in Spain and abroad. Recent trips have included to the Gredos Centre in the Sierra de Gredos, to London, and to see the Large Hadron Collider in Serne.





School Meals

All students are provided with a nutritious lunch each day. Meals are prepared in the school's own kitchens and eaten in our dining rooms. The three-course menu, overseen by experts, follows Madrid nutritional guidelines and aims to provide children with a healthy and balanced diet. Older pupils have a choice of three first courses and three second courses each day. In addition to lunch, pupils are provided with a snack during their break time. Adapted menus (such as vegetarian, gluten-free, nut-free, etc.) are available for those who require them.

Religious Education

Religion is an optional subject at ISM. For those who choose to take this subject, Christian morals and doctrine are taught, along with a broad overview of other major faiths. In the younger years Christian stories are told but most of the emphasis is on correct behaviour, the reasons for the same and respect for others in one's society and environment. From Year 2 up there is more attention to Catholic doctrine, especially in Year 4 when pupils are offered the chance to prepare for their **First Holy Communion**.

In Secondary, pupils can be prepared for **Confirmation**.

Pupils who do not attend Religion lessons have an additional lesson of personal, social, health and citizenship education as the alternative.



Special Events

There are various special events during the year, including:



Dressing Up!

Children are given the opportunity to dress up for our Hallowe'en celebrations on or around 31st October and for World Book Day on 23rd April. Discos are held for Secondary pupils at Hallowe'en and Valentine's.

The Spanish Fair

This is the day when we celebrate everything Spanish. The children in Primary come dressed in traditional Spanish outfits and may speak in Spanish all day. The children, parents and teachers all help to organise different stalls and games. The money raised is donated to charity.



Theatre Shows

All the children in Primary take part in a spectacular Christmas Show. A Secondary theatre production is held during the Spring term. These full scale productions have won many awards in regional competitions, including for best actor and best director. A Musical Evening is held for Primary pupils in a local theatre in the Spring and a talent show held in Secondary.

Inter-school Athletics Tournament

This is an annual event where the Madrid schools come together to compete on the athletics field in friendly rivalry. Pupils also regularly take part in inter-school football, basketball and cross country competitions.





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Extra-curricular activities
help children pursue
other interests and abilities.



Exam Success and Beyond

Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards are a group of awards issued by Cambridge Assessment International Education to recognise exceptional learner achievement in Cambridge examinations around the world. They include awards for the top mark in the world and the top mark in the country for each subject at IGCSE, AS and A-Level.

ISM has received ...

83

of these awards since they were first given out in 2009, regularly receiving more awards than any other centre in Spain.

3/4

of grades awarded at IGCSE are the top A*, A or B grades. ISM students achieve above Cambridge international averages in all subjects.

100%

pass rate at A-level and our students regularly achieve double the number of top A* grades than their UK counterparts.

University Entrance

Therefore, our specially tailored programme of studies in Years 12 and 13, and our tremendous exam success, mean that our students are fully prepared and able to enter leading universities in the UK, Spain and around the world.

ISM students are currently in 9 of the top 10 ranked UK universities (Cambridge, Oxford, LSE, Imperial, Durham, Loughborough, Lancaster, Warwick and UCL).



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We are incredibly proud
of the academic success
that ISM pupils achieve.

Home - School Links

We feel it is vital to maintain close home - school links. In addition to the home-school contact book, the *Tapestry* app allows teachers to share regular updates with Foundation Stage parents about what their child is learning. All teachers can be contacted via email and we also have a parent portal, available online or via the *Engage* mobile app. Our website, Facebook page and Twitter feed are regularly updated with the latest news.

At the beginning of the year we hold an open night where parents are invited to see what the children will be studying and hear what will be expected of the pupils during the coming year.

We send home written reports three times a year and hold individual parent-teacher consultation meetings twice per year.

Exam results are sent home in writing, as appropriate.

Parents are also welcome to arrange meetings with teachers at other times, if necessary.

The school psychologist and speech therapist also work closely alongside parents to help identify and support any children with additional educational needs.



Joining our School

Enrolment is open throughout the year and the relevant admissions director will always be happy to meet you and take you on a tour of our facilities.



Pre-Nursery to Year 6
Rosa Jardón, 3
28016, Madrid



Year 7 – Year 9
Rosa Jardón, 12
28016, Madrid



Year 10 – Year 13
Serrano Galvache, 13
28033, Madrid





Visit Us

As well as a tour of our facilities, you will be introduced to the head teachers and co-ordinators. This will be an opportunity for you to get to know our philosophy, team and approach. We will use the time to understand your requirements and learn about your child's needs.

Children applying for Early Years Foundation Stage places are not required to have any prior knowledge of English, although it is necessary to have sufficient knowledge for later years in order to access the curriculum at the appropriate level.

Enrol

On receipt of the application form, successful entrance tests and deposit, we will be delighted to confirm your place for the appropriate academic year and welcome you into the ISM family.



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With effort, work
and perseverance
everything can be achieved

Year 13 student



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School of Madrid**