

SierraBernia School is 40!

Michelle Baker

British school Sierra Bernia located in Alfaz del Pi just behind Benidorm is celebrating its 40th birthday this year. The school has taught lessons in English to thousands of children of all nationalities in Spain over the years (including me!), also to plenty of local Spanish children whose parents recognise the need for their offspring to learn the language most recognised worldwide.

All About Sierra Bernia School

Sierra Bernia School offers private education to children from toddlers right up to A-Level students. The school's priority is to provide a happy working environment where children of all nationalities gain academic success and indeed myself and in turn my children have all been very happy there. I attended Sierra Bernia School when I first arrived in Spain back in the 80's. Back then, I didn't appreciate the benefit of small classes and attention to manners, but many years later when I decided to send my children to Sierra Bernia I was delighted that there were only 15 children in Amy's class, 9 in Tessa's and only 6 in Angie's! Compare that to a Spanish class of 30 children and it doesn't take a mathematician to work out the ratio of attention!

Old Fashioned Values

In today's world, the old fashioned values promoted at Sierra Bernia and the life lessons taught are refreshing. Take the comforting ritual of the Friday morning assembly for example. Each class takes it in turns to provide the subject matter of the assembly after which the audience - made up of other classes - are quizzed on the content. Then, each class teacher announces the 'Stars of the week' in their class, cleverly rewarding individuals for a number of attributes from 'neat handwriting' to 'being kind' and finding ways to include even the most wayward pupils to look forward to being named.

This develops a sense of pride in the child in their work, not to mention the self confidence they gain from performing to their peers and learning to speak in public when it's their class' turn to do the assembly - both attributes sadly lacking on the current Spanish curriculum for example.

Unfortunately, because Sierra Bernia concentrates more on the children

rather than the marketing of the school it rarely enjoys the limelight it deserves. But in a world where less and less demands are made on children, I was delighted that Sierra Bernia teaches that rules need to be obeyed, manners adhered to and homework should be done by the children not the parents! (thanks to Mrs Martinez in class 3 for that!).

And so, on behalf of the many children over the years that arrived in a foreign country because their parents had decided to emigrate to Spain, I wish Sierra Bernia School many happy returns and thank it for providing me with the perfect platform on the tricky road to starting a new life in a new place, thus saving me from the added trauma of being launched into a Spanish school where everyone speaks a strange language!

For more information on Sierra Bernia School call 966 875 149 or go to www.sierraberniaschool.es

Toddler Pre School NEW!

Sierra Bernia recently launched a toddler pre school facility for children aged 18 months and over. Available weekdays between 9am and 1pm you can use the facility as often or as little as you require for your toddler to start learning the English language through play and it costs just 10 euros per day!



Sierra Bernia school in 1973



Happy kids from toddlers ... to teens!



Hands up who loves school?

Paella Party for Ex Pupils on March 22nd

To celebrate this important milestone, Headmaster Duncan Allen (AKA Dunk the Skunk!) and his team are hosting a paella party to which all ex pupils, teachers, Mums & Dads, friends and family are all invited.

The paella party takes place on Friday 22nd March from 1pm in the playground. So if you've ever been a pupil of SBS and you've got any school snaps bring them along to embarrass the other guests while you all swap terrible teacher stories!

