

Welcome to our regular update on our new eco school on the Costa-del-Sol, Spain



Why Traditional Education Needs to Change

At the current time when the Coronavirus has changed the world in so many aspects, there has been a new resurgence from leading educationalists that traditional ways of educating have to change if society is to do the best for our children.

The majority of parents decide for their children to follow the same time honoured route of attending either a private or state school with the primary aim of obtaining the best possible academic qualifications. This is with the well meaning belief that this will enable their off-spring to gain entry into a top University that in turn will provide them with a well paid career and happiness for the rest of their life.

This might just have been the case once upon the time although as it has become increasingly apparent over the last few months, there is a great deal more that children need to acquire if they are to be fully prepared for the challenges that lie ahead in their personal and professionally lives.

In addition to obtaining a good academic education that will always be the benchmark of intelligence for either one's own inner satisfaction and development or as evidence in the form of a paper qualification for a prospective employer, children must also master the life skills of critical thinking/problem solving, be able to work collaboratively, be creative, adaptable and resilient. It is these skills that can only be acquired at school as an integral part of the learning journey through project based learning and real-life experiences such as entrepreneurship and community based initiatives that will ensure children are fully educated for the future.

These life skills will form an essential part of the curriculum and ethos of Mont21 school.

PROGRESS OVERVIEW:

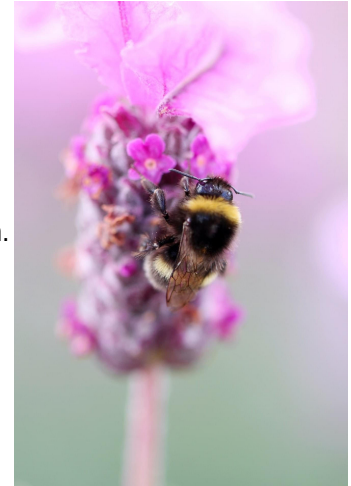
- Land identified for new development
- Architects commissioned
- Feasibility study completed
- Topographical survey completed
- Concept designs approved
- Basic project approved
- Structural Timber Design approved
- Execution project in progress

Our Wildlife Garden

As an Ecological School, there will be a wildlife friendly garden to attract and nurture biodiversity.

An essential part of our sustainable curriculum will be for students to learn about the importance of biodiversity in our world. Whilst this will typically cover the Tropical Rainforests, Deserts and Oceans, the habitat of many of our species of plants, animals and insects, this will be reinforced through our own wildlife garden.

A small area of our campus will be set-a-side where the students will have the opportunity to create, manage and observe a micro ecosystem. The grass will be allowed to grow long to encourage seed production, wildflowers and a habitat for insect species. The students will construct and fix boxes and feeders to encourage birds. An insect hotel made from hollow bamboo, sticks and logs will create shelter for all sorts of insects including beetles and spiders. There will be a small water/wetland area using re-cycled/harvest rainwater. Compost will be made using organic un-cooked waste from the school's kitchens will naturally enrich the soil and attract worms, woodlice and many other insects. Small gaps at the bottom of the boundary wall will be provided to enable the migration of wildlife from the adjoining habitat.



It is this through this hands-on approach that forms an essential part of Montessori pedagogy where students of all ages benefit from real-life learning which could not otherwise be accessed through the use of educational text books and media.

Project Progress



We are pleased to report that the project is progressing well and our Architects are continuing to liaise with the necessary authorities to obtain the required permissions and to ensure that the new sustainable school complies with local building regulations and standards. Whilst there has been an unfortunate delay due to the Coronavirus, we remain confident that due to the fast-track method of construction that has been chosen for the new building, the school will be ready for the beginning of the next academic year.

We will post further updates in subsequent newsletters.

New Progressive School Opens in the UK



We are always interested to learn of other new progressive schools who promote a similar ethos to Marbella Montessori and Mont21. Atelier 21 school which is located in a Georgian country house south of London opened this September and offers an education fit for children's futures. The school enables high levels of self-directed learning, facilitates student agency and fosters innovation, curiosity and creativity which help young people compete, contribute and thrive in our ever-changing modern world. The school is the UK's first Reggio Emilia inspired, enquiry-based learning, future school for 4-16 years. We wish them every success and hope to reach out to them in the future. Further details can be found at www.atelier21school.co.uk

We are now accepting pre-registrations for academic year 2021/22 on a without obligation basis. For further details, please visit www.mont21school.org or email: admissions@mont21school.org.