

# Interview with a Corporate Member

Amanda Hughes, Principal of Laude San Pedro International College

**“Our focus is always on learning and developing the personal qualities of our pupils”**

**Laude San Pedro International College** is a School for pupils aged 3-18 years old, delivering the full British National Curriculum as well as the Spanish Secondary Education (ESO and *Bachillerato*) to over 50 nationalities represented in School.

The school was established in 2004 and in 2014 it became part of the International Schools Partnership, which is a global group of over 30 schools in Europe, North and Latin America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. This provides many benefits including developing a professional network of colleagues from around the world, to share best practice with; but most importantly, this network enables **Laude San Pedro** to offer students a truly global learning experience and an international awareness, which goes beyond what the normal curriculum offers in most international schools.

Today we talk with **Amanda Hughes**, who is the Principal of **Laude San Pedro International College**, having joined the school in September 2018. She has been fortunate to work in both the public and selective system within the UK, as well as two other private international schools in Spain. During her time in one of these posts in Spain Amanda led the Secondary School and Sixth Form through the first British Schools Overseas accreditation in the world, which subsequently led to HMC status.

**Why is Laude San Pedro so recognised in Málaga?**

At **Laude San Pedro** we strive to be the international school of choice for the national and expatriate community in Marbella, pursuing academic excellence whilst reflecting the identity of our students in all of our work and school celebrations. Our educational provision, offering the full British Curriculum (GCSEs and ALevels) and Spanish equivalent in a happy and inclusive environment are unique in the area; whilst our cutting-edge learning technology and state of the art performing arts and sports facilities are some of the factors that set us apart from the other Schools.

Our GCSE and A Level results, as well as the Spanish Selectividad, are well above the national averages in both countries and we will continue working in this direction to ensure our students have the best opportunities to enter top level universities worldwide and be successful and progress in their future careers.

For international students who have just relocated, and for Spanish families who choose the British education system as an option, we also offer an extremely successful Accelerated English Programme and Personalised Student Services, so that pupils have the support they need to access the curriculum and make amazing progress.



Amanda Hughes, Principal of **Laude San Pedro International College**

**What changes are you making at San Pedro?**

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our educational provision and develop new opportunities for pupils, staff and families. The world of work and education is changing at such a constant rate, that it is vital to continuously look for wider enriched learning events as well as constantly improving pupil progress and attainment via thorough quality management systems.

**“We regularly meet the British Chamber to look at ways to promote British education in Spain”**

**You have just launched a new international exchange programme, could you explain more about it?**

We are now currently launching an International Buddy Exchange Programme and this will give our students the opportunity to stay with a peer for one month and study in one of our global network of sister schools. It is a very exciting development and will create an increasingly interesting web of learning possibilities, as the students share their experiences upon their return to school. We are also building a professional community for our teachers and staff so that they can learn from and share experiences with each other.

**How can the British Chamber help you to grow and develop your business?**

At **Laude San Pedro** we are very fortunate to enjoy a close working relationship with the **British Chamber of Commerce**. We have a university intern working for the Chamber who

is based in our school and we regularly meet the team to look at ways to promote British education with in Spain. The relevance of this work cannot be underestimated as languages are essential in all industries now and our students will have a great influence on future global events. Maintaining visible links between Britain and Spain will provide our alumni and current pupils a wealth of opportunities over time.

**You are a British school with a great understanding of student exchanges between both countries, what are the advantages?**

The movement of students between the UK and Spain has been ongoing for many years and the fact that 8,820 students from Spain enrolled into UK universities in 2016-2017 shows that there is a strong demand. Many of our students go onto undergraduate studies in the UK and they do extremely well. We recently learnt that a graduate from Laude San Pedro has won the Imperial College “Faculty of Natural Sciences Make a Difference Competition” and the Accelerator Prize for his work “developing a compound that could be introduced to filtration systems at wastewater treatment plants to attract and trap microplastics and prevent them from entering the environment.”

The information we hold shows that the high language skills and academic ability of our pupils simply means that they do not see a geographical barrier to their studies. They are quite confident and happy to go onto study and work in international settings.