

B.E.S.T. Centre Academy

The BlueWater Elite Sports Training Centre Academy

A School for Tennis Players

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Overview

The BEST Centre Academy is where young players of all abilities can combine their tennis training with their education. It will be a school for tennis players, opening in September 2012.

The players will be offered the best possible combination of tennis and study, in order to provide them with the skills to excel academically, to play professionally, and to become thoughtful, positive, well balanced people.

The Academy will be based in Mallorca and will comprise a small, English private school, a residence and a tennis programme. All three will be situated close together in the town of Colonia Sant Jordi, a small, picturesque, beachside town in the south east corner of the island.

Our goal is to provide an environment where young people can:

- Excel in their tennis career
- Receive a first class education to prepare for future academic study and adult life
- Grow to become independent, confident, highly performing young adults, who respect other people and contribute positively to the world we live in
- Become fluent in Spanish (and English for those where English is not the mother tongue)
- Live in Spain and experience a new culture

The school will be an accredited British School in Spain, following a British curriculum. Our curriculum will allow transfer at any stage between our school and any other school in the UK.

In the longer term, the Academy will grow to become a school for young sports people. We anticipate a multi-sport academy which caters for the aspirations of swimmers, for tennis players and for footballers. All the students will live and be educated together, and will be coached in their chosen sport.

We believe:

It is not what you win in tennis, but who you become from the sport of tennis.



Education

The BEST Centre Academy will be an accredited British School registered with the British Council in Spain and inspected by the National Association of British Schools in Spain (NABBS).

The school will have a small number of pupils and will offer a first class British education for years 9, 10 and 11.

Year 9 is children aged 13 on 1 September 2012

Year 10 is children aged 14 on 1 September 2012

Year 11 is children aged 15 on 1 September 2012



School and Tennis

When thinking about the BEST Centre Academy, the idea of a traditional 'school' needs to be abandoned. The educational content of the classroom will be the same as any school in England and Wales, but that is where the similarity ends.

Our students will be tennis players and swimmers. They will enrol in the Academy because they want to pursue their sport. They will have many talents and the talent they choose to commit to will be tennis.

The Academy will, very simply, be a place where players can eat, sleep, play tennis and work towards their IGCSE exams. It will be enjoyable and stimulating too of course, but the focus will be on tennis and education.

Within this simple framework is a myriad of educational possibilities. Small class sizes with motivated teachers and cutting edge, online educational support, will result in an educational delivery that inspires students to learning. Just as tennis develops a lifelong habit for an active and healthy lifestyle, so education should develop a lifelong habit for questioning and learning.

Many of the principles of self-directed learning will be present in the educational delivery where the teachers will guide the learning process. Just as on the court where the coaching will be tailored to suit the individual, so the education will have the flexibility to suit the needs and abilities of each student.

Staff

The head teacher will be responsible for the educational delivery at the Academy. The head will be an experienced educationalist, familiar with the standards required to achieve success in the classroom and foster talent through the creation of an environment for learning.

All staff will be experienced teachers specialising in the subjects they teach.

Core subjects

We believe that IGCSE exams are important and we believe that quality is more important than quantity. We also believe that language qualifications are important. The school will offer 8 subjects that will be studied to the IGCSE examinations. Our core subjects are based on the English Baccalaureate (EBac), with additional subjects listed below, and the number of exams that each student takes will be determined in consultation with staff, students and parents.

The 6 core subjects, will be:

- English Language (or English as a second language)
- Maths
- Co-ordinated Sciences (Double)
- Spanish
- Geography



2 additional subjects for all students will be:

- Physical Education
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Additional subjects that students can elect to study to IGCSE examination:

- English Literature
- History
- Religious Studies
- French or German

The small number of students allows for a personalised approach to learning. Each student will be guided and monitored as they progress in their studies. At the same time, they will be challenged to think and work independently. The teaching pedagogy will range from formal classroom based lessons, to one-to-one tuition and online virtual learning for some topics or subjects.

Some students will be encouraged to study more than the 8 curriculum subjects. In addition, for those who are particularly good at music, provision can be made for music lessons and music study.

Students who do not have English as their first language will be prepared for the IGCSE English as a Second Language and the IELTS examinations (International English Language Testing System), the English qualification required by British Universities.

The Arts, Personal, Social, Health and Cultural Education (PSHCE)

All the subjects in the curriculum, as well as the daily life at the Academy, will provide opportunities to promote the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A significant contribution will also be made by the school ethos and from the development of relationships within the school and to our community.

While art and music are not part of the core curriculum, each term will offer a major project for the students. Each project will develop a different set of skills and examples might be: engage a local artist for an art project in the town; design the set and perform in a theatre, music or talent show; a community project on nature conservation; a science project based on the biochemistry of the area;

where each project uses elements of science and technology, design, ICT, human and social dimensions, etc.

Time will also be set aside each week for studying and discussing the range of issues within PSHCE.

When to take exams

Examination entry will be tailored to the abilities and progress of each individual. While the norm will be to work towards 8 IGCSEs (or more) at the end of year 11, early entry for some subjects or a more staggered programme of examinations can be considered on an individual basis. Our aim being to ensure each student achieves their maximum potential in the classroom as well as outside it.

Regular assessment will take place throughout the school year in all subjects studied, with regular reporting of progress to parents.

Parents will receive a student report at the end of each term and can request appointments with the staff any time.

Years 7 and 8

Once the school is established, we expect to offer education to years 7 and 8. This will be available as a residential or non-residential programme.

For those students who would like to board, they will live in the residence. For those students who will move to the island with their families, or who already live on the island, they will enrol in the school and/or tennis programme.



Post IGCSE

After the age of 16, there is no requirement to continue in formal education. We anticipate a training group for those players who would like to continue their tennis after the age of 16 either with or without formal education, the future path will be:

- 1 or more AS and or A levels at the Academy
- 1 or more A levels at one of the international schools on the island
- Study Spanish (or another language)
- Informal learning without examination
- Vocational qualifications: teaching and coaching, TEFL, etc.

Moving on

We at the Academy will always encourage our players to move on when it is appropriate to do so. Many will want to prove themselves by rising through the tennis rankings to move towards the ATP tour. For those players, partnerships will be in place where they can see a pathway for continued coaching during competition.

For others, their career may continue through the College system in the USA on a tennis scholarship. With the educational results and tennis ability gained from the Academy, tennis at a US College can be a realistic target.

School uniform

School uniform of Academy polo shirts will be worn in the classroom with dark blue, dark grey or black coloured trousers, shorts or skirts. Footwear will be up to the individual student.



School Dates

Term dates 2012-2013

Arrival: 2 September 2012

Autumn term: 5 September – 21 December 2012

Half term break: 29 October – 2 November 2

Christmas break: 22 December – 3 January 2013

players return home

Spring term: 5 January – 28 March 2013

Half term break: 18 – 22 February

Easter break: 1 April – 12 April 2013

Players stay at the Academy

Summer term: 15 April – 17 July 2013

Half term break: 27 – 31 May

Players will tour and return home for the summer break in August.

Players go home for weekends, xmas and half of august. Tournaments in holidays except these.

All students will be encouraged to return home for one weekend per term in consultation with coaches, staff and parents. Parents are welcome to visit their children any time during the year and we will help with accommodation and airport transfers.

The tennis timetable will be the responsibility of the head coach, and the school timetable will be the responsibility of the head teacher.

School Day

The following timetable is only offered as an example of a typical week at the BEST Centre Academy.

A typical week would see classes during the day, starting at 0900 and finishing at 1530, gym work from 1600 – 1700, tennis training from 1700 – 2000 followed by the evening meal.

Tournaments will be at weekends and players will have one day rest per week.

The school timetable with detailed class times, subjects and breaks will be proposed by the head and will be available in the full school prospectus which will also detail the general codes of conduct as well all the processes and procedures that the school will follow.





Tennis

The BEST Centre Academy has grown from the swim training centre that was set up in the town in 2009. The outdoor Olympic swimming pool has drawn club teams and national teams from around the world, including 25 Olympic and world swimming medallists, who currently decorate our Wall of Fame.

The quality of the facilities and relaxing surroundings have proved extremely popular for elite level swimmers and Triathletes. The sports school, we believe, will also become a highly attractive environment for swimmers and tennis players to pursue their sporting and educational goals.

Tennis programme

The programme at the BEST Centre Academy will develop every player so that they are as well prepared as they can possibly be for a career as a senior player.

Tennis at the BEST Centre Academy will be far more than just turning up for the training sessions. The coaches will help the players understand all aspects of the training they are doing, including:

- Why training works and how
- Strategy of the game
- Why are drills important
- What land work do I need to be doing
- How is my year going to be planned
- The importance of nutrition, psychology and goal setting



Winning isn't normal

There are many influences on why people win. Part of the process of improving as a swimmer is to understand as much as we can about the subjects of nutrition, psychology, goal setting, land conditioning, bio-mechanics and the day to day training that we do. All the students at the BEST Centre Academy will spend time understanding the basic concepts on all of these subjects, so that they can start to take control of their own performance.

Courts

The tennis programme will be run on 2 hard courts in the town of Colonia Sant Jordi, a few minutes' walk from the classroom and residence. The numbers of courts will grow with the programme.



Competitions

The coaching staff will be responsible for planning all the competitions through the year. Competitions will predominantly be in Mallorca and mainland Spain and also around Europe.

The focus of the year will always be tournament play leading up to entry into each player's national championships and for those who are good enough, the European Junior Tour.

The wider goal is to give the players experience of playing many matches against many different players, on different surfaces and in different situations. It is important to learn how to compete everywhere and in all kinds of condition. The goal is to develop players who are resilient both on and off the court.

During school terms, it is expected that one tournament per month will be at the European Junior Tour. During the holiday periods the players will play on the tours in whichever categories are appropriate for the level of player. This could be the European Junior Tour, or any of the tournaments below this level.

As well as training, it is important to foster a competitive spirit. This can be done within the group, and at tournaments at the different levels of competitions. As far as possible, the players will travel as a team, in order to help and support the team. For those who do not make the main draw or the qualifiers, there are plenty of opportunities to learn, train, experience this level of tournament and improve as a player and a person by being an active part of the travelling team.

It is very difficult to give an example of a typical year plan, because every student's abilities and needs will be different. The plan will be to play one or two matches every weekend. The tournaments in Mallorca are played over several weekends and the schedule is flexible. Some of the matches will be part of the training process and others will have more focus towards accumulating points. There will always be a recovery day after matches.



Coaching staff

Ivan Barrera will be the head coach of the programme.



Ivan grew up in Mallorca and trained for 6 years at the Escola Balear de l'Esport (EBE, the Balearic Elite Sports school) in Palma, alongside Rafael Nadal and Carlos Moya among others. After his junior career, Ivan began coaching in 2006. Coaching at EBE, Ivan coached the junior group, under 16, under 18 and ATP Futures Experience groups.

From 2009 to 2010, Ivan was employed by Toni Nadal to develop young talent in Switzerland.

From 2010 to 2011, Ivan coached at the prestigious Sánchez-Casal Academy in Barcelona as coach of the junior & ATP Futures players, plus the under 12, U14, U16, ITF U18 & ATP Futures Experience groups.

Ivan is a qualified coach at the RFET (Royal Tennis Federation) as Entrenador de Tenis de Competición.

He is also qualified as a professional tennis coach by the following bodies:

- ICI (International Coaching Institute)
- RPT (International Registry of Tennis Professionals)
- USPTA (United States Professional Tennis Association)

Ivan has additional qualifications from the Human Performance Institute.

Residence and Pastoral Care

The Residence will be home for the students who do not live on the island and will be located at the BEST Centre.

The residential area will be a small village in the grounds next to the BEST Centre. The village will comprise of bungalows housing up to 4 students, a classroom, multi-purpose common room and school office.

It will follow all boarding guidelines as required by British Schools in Spain as well as local laws for residences that house young people.

The primary concern is that of the safety and welfare of the students. The school village will be safe, as well as meet the needs of young people for their privacy, relaxation and interaction. Students need to know that they can live in a community which also affords each person the space to be themselves.



The head of boarding will be responsible for the pastoral care of the students and their day to day life away from the classroom and pool. The head of boarding will be acting in loco parentis, and as such will have the experience and empathy required for the role. The village will be staffed at all times and if students are ill they will remain at their residence and will be seen by the doctor appointed by the school.

The school village will host up to 25 students. When the Academy grows larger than its first 25 students, a second residence will be added or a new residence and school room will be built.

Every student will take responsibility for the cleanliness of the residence and its day to day running. Students will play their part in laundry, cleaning of their own rooms and when required, cooking for themselves.

The head of boarding will also be responsible for the weekly allowance of each student and each student will have their own ledger.



All students will be expected to respect the ethos of the school and respect the needs and rights of their fellow students, staff and the community in which they live. All the procedures that relate to behaviour, discipline, bullying, complaints, time away from the residence and all other welfare issues will be detailed in the full school prospectus.

A place to grow

We want the young people at the BEST Centre Academy to feel as though this is the greatest thing they can be doing with this time of their life. The residence should be a place where our young people can thrive. Their hopes and dreams should be allowed to take flight as the school, tennis programme and daily life at the residence provide our students with the tools and navigational equipment they will need for their onward journey.



We hope some of our students will represent their country at the Olympic Games. We expect all our students to become highly performing individuals who make a positive contribution to the people around them and the world they live in.

Food

Nutrition is an important part of daily life at the Academy. Students will learn about the food we eat and its preparation and will be expected to take responsibility for their diet.

All the food on offer will be healthy and nutritious and will contribute to the energy requirements of the athletic lifestyle.

Wherever possible, the food will be organic, whole food. Lunches and dinners will predominantly be: rice, pasta, grains, fruits, vegetables, salads, lentils and beans. Vegetarian options of all meals will be available.

Some meals will be catered, and for others, the students will be required to prepare meals for themselves and others. Students will take their meals in their own bungalows when they are preparing the meals, and in the common room when the meals are provided.



Applications and Admissions

Academic year September 2012 – July 2013

Applications to the school will open on 1 September 2011 and close on 31 March 2012. Consideration will be given to any applications received after 31 March 2012.

There is no minimum level of academic or tennis achievement required for entry to the school.

Any student who does not speak English to the required level will be placed on an accelerated English learning programme and will join the curriculum when their English is good enough to do so.

Applications to the school are open to students from all countries, races and religions.

Applications to the tennis programme are open to all.

We are not able to offer scholarships of any kind, although we hope to be able to do so in the future.

Visits to the BEST Centre can be made at any time through the year by appointment.

For all application and admission questions and visits to the BEST Centre, please contact James Parrack on +33 687 28 73 68 or +44 161 408 2982 and by email to jamesparrack@BESTswimCentre.com

Fees

The annual fees for the Academy, based on 20 students are as follows:

School + Tennis Programme + Residence:	26,000 euros
School + Tennis Programme:	18,000 euros
School only:	11,000 euros
Lunches (optional):	5 euros per day
Tennis Programme only:	Prices on demand
Additional IGCSE subjects:	Prices on demand
Additional tutoring:	Prices on demand

Note: For an intake of fewer than 20 students, the prices may change.

Additionally:

- All students must bring their own laptop.
- Students will be provided with a book list and equipment list.
- Students will be provided with duvet and pillows but must bring their own sheets, duvet covers and pillowcases (sizes will be provided and students may also bring their own).
- 1 tracksuit, 1 parka, 5 polo shirts, 2 T-shirts and 2 sweatshirts will be issued free as part of the Academy uniform. Any other Academy clothing must be bought.
- Travel to competitions and other excursions are not included in the school fees.

Summary

The BEST Centre Academy aims to be a wonderful place for young people to live, play tennis and be schooled.

The location offers an outdoor lifestyle in Spain, where students will be exposed to a new language and culture.

The ideal setting of the small beach town of Colonia Sant Jordi offers the perfect location to play tennis, study and relax.

We hope you and the swimmers in your family will consider enrolling in the BEST Centre Academy, a School for Tennis players. You will be very welcome.

Visiting the BEST Centre:

We are available for prospective students and their families to visit us at the BEST Centre by appointment at any time. We will show you the facilities and talk with you in detail about the tennis and education needs of the student and whether the BEST Centre Academy would be the right place for you.

We know you will have many questions. For all questions and visits please contact:

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