VIRTUS HERALD

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SECRET LIFE OF TEACHERS

DR. LUQUE



Interview with Dr. Luque

Dr. Luque, our chemistry teacher, was born in Badajoz. As a student, Dr. Luque enjoyed science and although during most of high school he was unsure about what he wanted to study, only making his final decision in the last term of his sixth form years. Chemistry was his strongest subject and he went on to study a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at the University of Extremadura, where he finished among the top three students of his class. He later completed a Master's degree in Biotechnology, motivated by his desire to expand his knowledge.

He then completed his second master's, where he specialised in Applied Chemistry with a focus on Environmental Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Madrid. This academic background allowed him to be accepted into a PhD program in Analytical Chemistry at Universidad Complutense, where he was offered a contract that enabled him to work and get paid while completing his doctoral studies, a step he took mainly because of his deep love for learning and research.



BY: Gabriela Andronis

Dr. Luque worked until 2025 at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), the Spanish National Research Council; now, he is a collaborator with the research group that he used to work with. He has published eight research articles in international research journals such as the Journal of Analytical Chemistry from the American Chemical Society. At the same time, he has always been closely connected to teaching, giving private lessons since he was 17 years old and later working at institutions such as Think Ahead Academy and Complutense University before joining our school, Virtus.

Outside the laboratory and classroom, Dr. Luque has a strong interest in sports. He practiced swimming from the age of 6 to 16 and has been practicing taekwondo since his teenage years. Taekwondo remains an important part of his life, as he continues to train in the evenings at a taekwondo gym and has been a black belter for 10 years already, and practising the sport for around 15. In his free time, he also enjoys playing video games and has a deep love for travel.





As a teacher, Dr. Luque's main goal is to help students truly learn and understand what they are studying. He especially enjoys the moment when he explains a concept and sees that students finally understand it. His personal philosophy is simple: be happy and enjoy what you do.

Dr. Luque's combination of scientific excellence, research experience and genuine passion for education makes him an inspiring teacher and a valued member of the Virtus community.

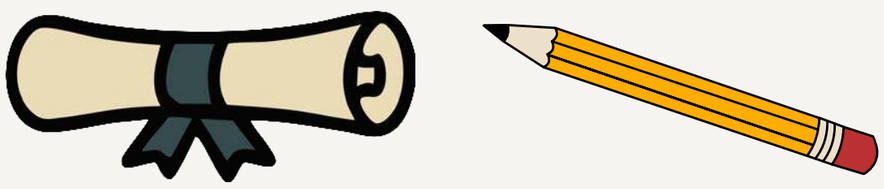
BY: Gabriela Andronis

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

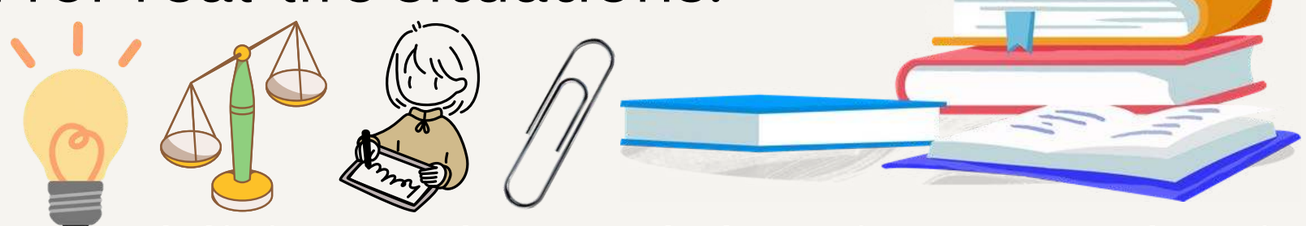
The International Day of Education, taking place on the 24th January, highlights the important role education plays in shaping individuals and societies. Established by the United Nations, this day recognizes education as a basic human right and an essential tool for peace, development, and equality around the world.



The day also draws attention to the millions of children and adults who still lack access to quality education due to poverty, conflict, discrimination, or limited resources. These challenges prevent many people from reaching their full potential and slow social and economic progress. International Day of Education encourages governments and organizations to improve education systems and make learning opportunities fair and inclusive for everyone.



Another important focus of the International Day of Education is the role teachers and schools play in shaping the future. Well-trained teachers, safe learning environments, and modern teaching methods are essential for providing quality education. When schools are properly supported, students are more likely to stay in education, succeed academically, and develop skills that prepare them for real-life situations.



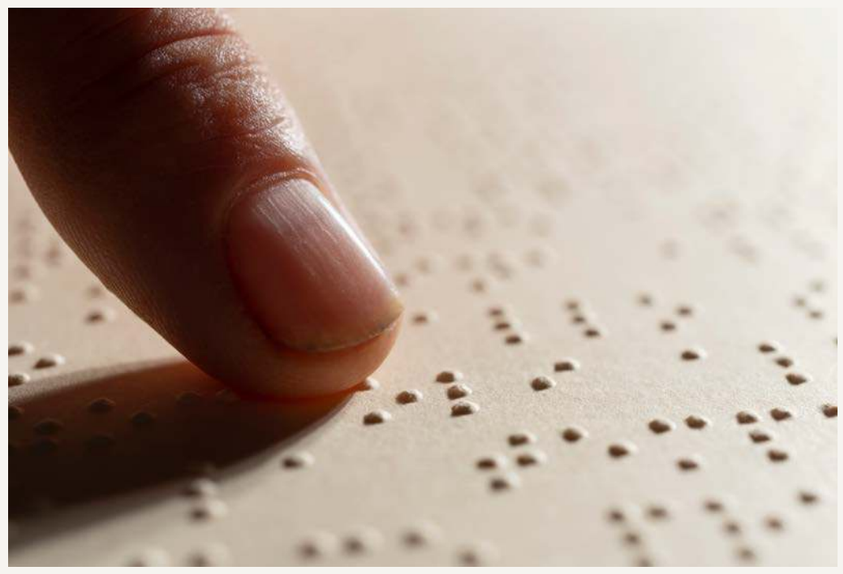


In addition, the celebration emphasizes the value of lifelong learning in today's rapidly changing world. Education helps people develop critical thinking skills, gain knowledge, and adapt to new challenges. By investing in education, societies can reduce inequality, promote understanding, and create a better future for generations to come.

by: Adriana Martínez

WORLD BRAILLE DAY

World Braille Day is celebrated every year on 4 January. This date was chosen to honour the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who invented the Braille system. The day is officially recognised by the United Nations and is observed worldwide to highlight the importance of Braille for people who are blind or visually impaired.



World Braille Day is a global awareness day that focuses on Braille as a means of communication, education, and independence. Braille is a tactile writing and reading system that uses raised dots, allowing visually impaired individuals to read and write by touch. It plays a vital role in ensuring equal access to knowledge, information, and opportunities.





We celebrate World Braille Day to recognise the rights and dignity of visually impaired people and to appreciate the contribution of Louis Braille. The day reminds society that access to information and education is a basic human right. It also encourages governments, organisations, and communities to promote inclusive practices and provide materials in Braille.



World Braille Day is celebrated through awareness programmes, workshops, and educational activities. Schools and institutions organise talks and demonstrations to teach people about Braille. Campaigns are also conducted to promote the use of Braille in public places such as hospitals, lifts, and transport systems. Through these activities, the day spreads the message of inclusion, equality, and accessibility for all.

By: Joao Daruj

VIRTUS' PROMISING GRADUATES

Elena Herrison

Degrees: related to Economics

Countries: Spain, UK , US and Italy. Institutions such as UPenn.

Applications : LSE, University College London, Imperial College London, University of Oxford, Bocconi University, Boston University, New York University.

Offers: She currently holds an offer from Bocconi University, which is also her top choice and IE.





Matías María Navia-Osorio

Degrees: Matías has applied to study PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) as well as Mathematical Engineering with Economics.

Applications: His applications are focused on universities in Spain and the United Kingdom, including University of Warwick, Durham University, University of Bath, and CUNEF Universidad.

Offers: He currently holds offers from these institutions, with Durham University being his top choice.

Lucia Mendoza

Degrees: Lucía has applied primarily for degrees in International Relations at several universities, as well as Land Economy at the University of Cambridge.

Applications: Her applications span the United Kingdom, Canada, and Spain. She currently holds offers from Durham University, King's College London, and University of Exeter.

Offers: Her top choice is either the University of Cambridge or the London School of Economics and Political Science.



VIRTUS' PROMISING GRADUATES

Daniel Ezerzer



Degrees: Daniel has applied for a degree in **Applications:** Applied Mathematics, targeting universities across the United States, the United Kingdom, and Spain.

Offers: He currently holds an offer from the University of Leeds. His top choice is the University of California, Berkeley, where he hopes to pursue his studies.



Rebeca Vidal

Degrees: Rebeca has applied to degrees within the media and communications field.

Applications:She has applied to universities outside Spain, in the UK King's College London, University of the Arts London, Cardiff University, University of Exeter, and Loughborough University and University of Amsterdam.

Offers:She has received offers from all six universities. Her top choice is the University of Amsterdam, as it is the highest-ranked institution for her chosen degree, although she is still considering other options.

Iván Yiwen Liu



Applications: Ivan has applied to several engineering-related degrees, including Mechanical Engineering, General Engineering, and Mechatronic Engineering. In the UK, the US and Hong Kong, including institutions

Applications: such as Imperial College London, University of Cambridge, King's College London, University College London, University of Manchester, The University of Hong Kong, and Columbia University.

Offers: He currently holds offers from the University of Manchester and King’s College London, with Imperial College London as his preferred top choice.

By: Ana Magarzo

VIRTUS IN SPORTS

Ms. Vivero is one of Virtus Maths teachers, as well as a highly skilled badminton player. She started playing when she was 18, simply because she wanted to do more sports. Vivero later realised the good knowledge she had of the game and decided to join a club as well as hired a coach in Thailand. She choose badminton because it is a quick sport that forces you to be alert all the time. She has been involved in many different competition, the last one being on Sunday 1 of February where she played mixed doubles (which she prefers to play over singles) for the TOP (Torneo Territorial Rankeable). One of the main elements that makes Vivero like badminton is the quick reflexes necessary due to the shuttles coming back fast. Additionally the hardest skill to master is footwork she says, but once you master it you can confidently move around the court.





However, badminton also comes with its risk. Vivero suffered from a sprained ankle last December that caused her to be out for a month. She had to exclude herself from the rest of the competitions that season and had a bit of trouble going back to training after. A typical trying session for Vivero consists of 20 min drill practice, followed by 20 min of footwork training, then having 1 hour of shot training and ending with 20 min of game practice to practice the skills acquired. One advice she would give to people looking to start playing badminton in to enjoy the sport just like she does, and to be prepare for a lot of drills.

BY: Catalina Janse

VALENTINE'S DAY



Valentine’s Day is celebrated each year on February 14th and has its roots in ancient history. One of the most well-known stories describes him as someone who performed secret marriages, making him a symbol of love, commitment, and devotion. By the Middle Ages, Valentine’s Day had become closely connected to romantic love, particularly in Europe, where it was believed to be the day when birds began to pair off. Over time, the celebration spread and evolved into the holiday recognized around the world today.



In the modern era, Valentine’s Day is marked by a variety of traditions that emphasize affection and thoughtfulness. Exchanging greeting cards, flowers especially red roses and chocolates remains popular. Many couples celebrate with special dinners, while schools and communities often participate through themed activities and decorations. Technology has also shaped the holiday, with digital cards, messages, and social media posts becoming common ways to share appreciation and love.



Valentine's Day is traditionally about romance, but many now use it to celebrate friendships, family, and self-love. Events like Galentine's Day emphasize the importance of friendship and emotional support, particularly among women. People also engage in acts of kindness, such as volunteering or showing gratitude to neighbors and teachers. This change shows that love extends beyond romantic relationships to include care and connection in daily life. For various individuals, the day can mean celebrating love in countless ways, highlighting the importance of human connections.

By: Lucia Murphy

FUN SECTION

Word search

W	R	C	E	Q	C	O	L	L	E	G	E	P	V
U	E	Z	N	Z	M	U	V	M	W	V	F	K	I
V	S	W	T	C	L	A	S	S	R	O	O	M	S
N	I	X	H	T	B	R	A	D	F	O	R	D	I
O	L	T	U	N	U	L	U	A	V	E	I	Y	O
T	I	E	S	J	N	L	N	P	H	E	C	X	N
A	E	R	I	R	I	F	I	C	T	A	X	L	Y
B	N	R	A	K	F	W	F	L	R	C	F	A	T
I	C	A	S	R	O	F	R	I	P	A	Y	M	M
L	E	C	M	W	R	L	O	N	B	R	A	I	N
I	G	E	C	B	M	A	G	I	C	V	U	X	K
T	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	C	A	B	O	G	A
Y	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y	V	T	W	B	X

Brain
Classroom
Clinic
College
Determination
Enthusiasm
Exam
Integrity
Library
Notability
Radford
Resilience
Terrace
Uniform
Unifrog
Vision

Sudoku

	4	2			5			6
1	9	7					4	
5	6		4			1		9
8		1	3			2	6	
9				7	1	4	5	
		3	2	5	6			
		5		3	2	7		
		4	5	9		6		
			7	6			8	

2		3	4					5
8		9	1	6		7		4
		6		3			1	9
7		2			3		6	
		8	2	5				
		1	6		7			2
		7			5	9	2	6
9	3		7	2				
6				9		4	7	

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES
MRS. RADFORDS OFFICE EDITION

5 differences



By: Cecilia Heras

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN ENERGY (UN)

Why do we celebrate it?

Renewable energy day is celebrated to:

- Raise awareness about clean and sustainable energy, by using sources like solar, wind, hydro and geothermal)
- Protect the environment by reducing pollution and climate change caused by fossil fuels.
- Promote innovation and green technology for a sustainable future.









Facts about renewable energy:

- The sun provides enough energy to power the entire earth for a year in just one hour if we could capture it all

- Wind turbines hydropower is one of the oldest sources of renewable energy, used for thousands of years

- Some countries already run on nearly 100% renewable energy during certain time of the year, like for exmample Iceland

By: Carlos Franco

INTER-HOUSE PADEL COMPETITION

Last Wednesday 11th of February, the Vritus houses showed excellent healthy copetition spirits in the annual inter-house padel competition. After some thrilling matches, **Hawking won the competition**, coming out unbeaten from the matches. Sacole house came in second place, followed by Attemborough and Asuten in third and fourth places respectively. Congratulations to the Hawking players: Yago del Olmo, Joaquín Cortés, Igancio Rodriguez and Diego Carbajo.





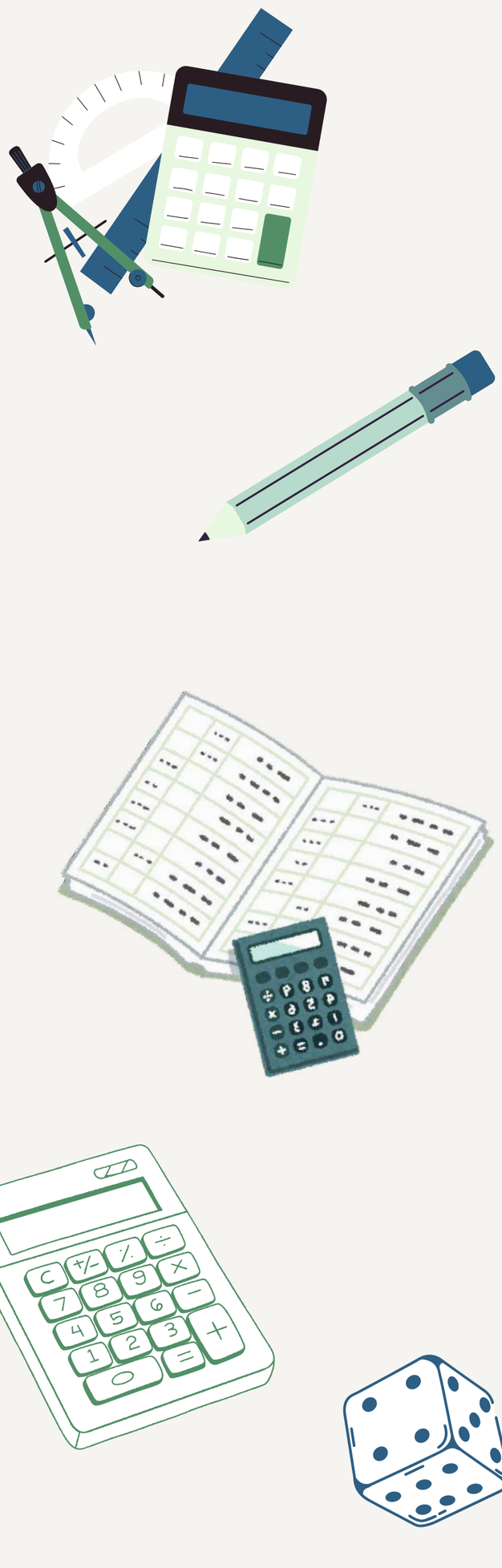
By Gabriela Andronis

HOUSE POINTS

Message from our house captain Catalina:

"Good job guys!"



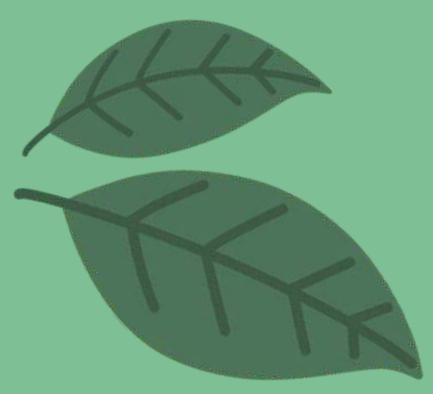


By: Cecilia Heras

HOUSEPOINTS



Seacole
1119 points



Attenborough
798 points



Austen
277 points

1

2

3

4

By: Cecilia Heras

THANKS FOR READING

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