

The Cervantes Saavedra, "a boat with a history"

The "Cervantes Saavedra" is a training ship, the only one of its kind in Europe, capable of providing an appropriate teaching and learning environment on board as well as being a fully sea-going vessel with the highest safety standards guaranteed.

The "Cervantes Saavedra"s sea-crossings have shown it to be an unsurpassable learning environment, where students learn to live together, to share and cooperate and to establish firm bonds of friendship. The discipline that such a shared adventure demands, the knowledge gained from visiting new places, the activities on-board and the taught lessons, make this programme an excellent learning opportunity for all the participants.

The boat was first launched in 1934 and in 1970 underwent a full re-fit to convert it into a tall-ship suitable for, primarily, recreational use. It is a truly impressive Brigantine. In 2009 it underwent a further re-fit with a transformation and modernisation of all its equipment, making it eminently suitable for use as a "training ship", authorised for such use by the regulatory authorities.

Today the boat can boast every type of facility:

- Individual, double and triple berths, all en-suite.
- Inside dining facilities as well as on-deck dining areas
- Comprising a Captain and 11 fellow crew members
- Air-conditioning/ heating in the berths

Technical data

- Length: 48,5 m.
- Beam: 7,8 m.
- Draft: 4,6 m.
- Displacement: 525 metric tons
- Sail Area: 16 sails (720 square metres) over three masts
- Propulsion: Deutz Dresol developing 840 Hp.
- Speed under engine power -8 knots, under sail-12 knots

To navigate under sail is one of the most exciting adventures that can be experienced, a new challenge every day, allowing us to explore our deepest feelings, helping us to discover ourselves. Being on a sailing ship gives us an insight into the immense power of the sea, and is an expression of freedom, a symbol of liberty and an invaluable exercise in self-discovery

*The Brigantine-"Cervantes Saavedra",
is one of the few training ships still afloat*

*It has made a number of circumnavigations,
and participated in classic tall-ships regattas.*

*The SEK International Institution
has converted it into a unique learning
environment for its students.*

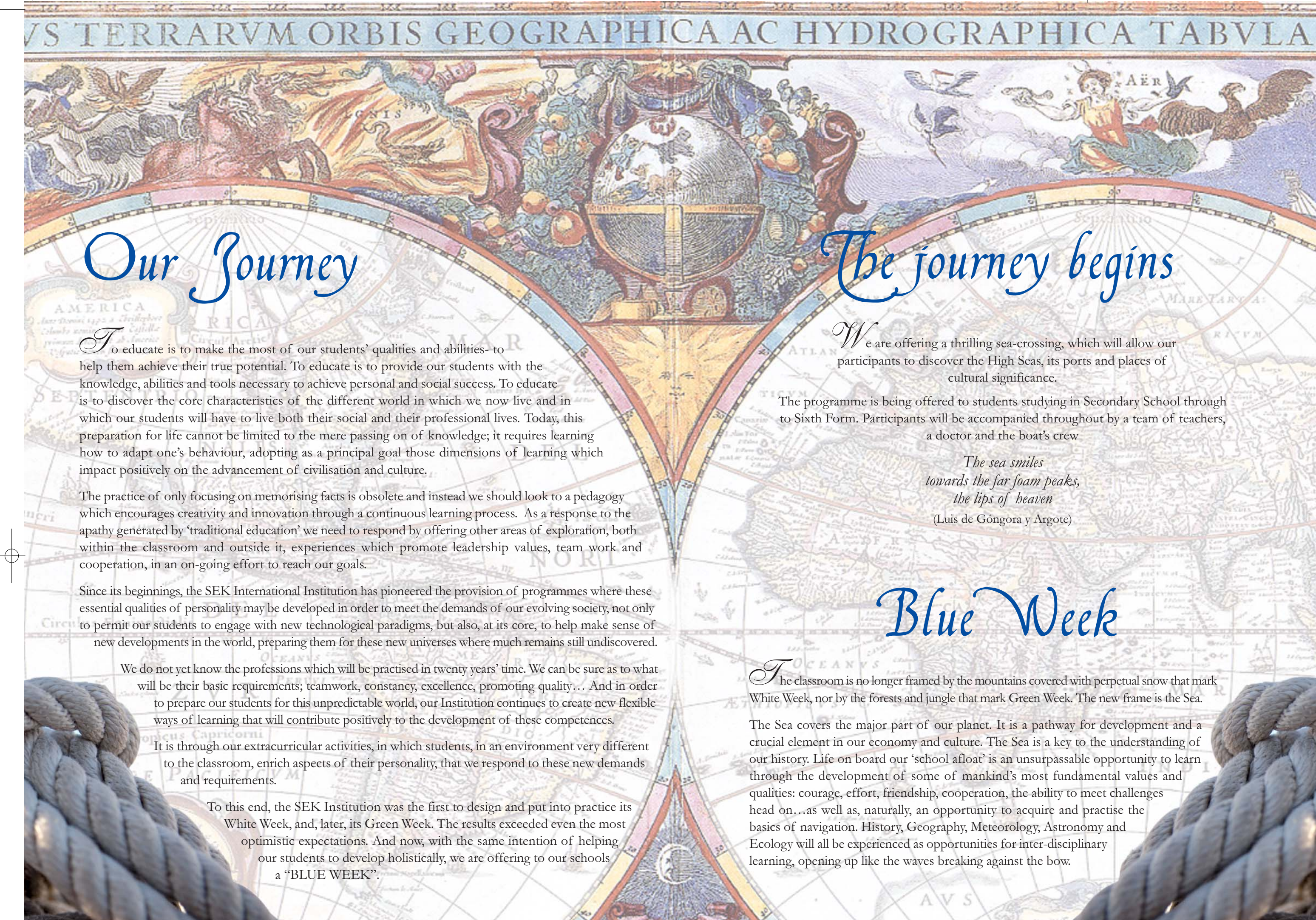


*"A thrilling
sea adventure"*

Blue Week

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Our Journey

To educate is to make the most of our students' qualities and abilities- to help them achieve their true potential. To educate is to provide our students with the knowledge, abilities and tools necessary to achieve personal and social success. To educate is to discover the core characteristics of the different world in which we now live and in which our students will have to live both their social and their professional lives. Today, this preparation for life cannot be limited to the mere passing on of knowledge; it requires learning how to adapt one's behaviour, adopting as a principal goal those dimensions of learning which impact positively on the advancement of civilisation and culture.

The practice of only focusing on memorising facts is obsolete and instead we should look to a pedagogy which encourages creativity and innovation through a continuous learning process. As a response to the apathy generated by 'traditional education' we need to respond by offering other areas of exploration, both within the classroom and outside it, experiences which promote leadership values, team work and cooperation, in an on-going effort to reach our goals.

Since its beginnings, the SEK International Institution has pioneered the provision of programmes where these essential qualities of personality may be developed in order to meet the demands of our evolving society, not only to permit our students to engage with new technological paradigms, but also, at its core, to help make sense of new developments in the world, preparing them for these new universes where much remains still undiscovered.

We do not yet know the professions which will be practised in twenty years' time. We can be sure as to what will be their basic requirements; teamwork, constancy, excellence, promoting quality... And in order to prepare our students for this unpredictable world, our Institution continues to create new flexible ways of learning that will contribute positively to the development of these competences.

It is through our extracurricular activities, in which students, in an environment very different to the classroom, enrich aspects of their personality, that we respond to these new demands and requirements.

To this end, the SEK Institution was the first to design and put into practice its White Week, and, later, its Green Week. The results exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. And now, with the same intention of helping our students to develop holistically, we are offering to our schools a "BLUE WEEK".

The journey begins

We are offering a thrilling sea-crossing, which will allow our participants to discover the High Seas, its ports and places of cultural significance.

The programme is being offered to students studying in Secondary School through to Sixth Form. Participants will be accompanied throughout by a team of teachers, a doctor and the boat's crew

*The sea smiles
towards the far foam peaks,
the lips of heaven*

(Luis de Góngora y Argote)

Blue Week

The classroom is no longer framed by the mountains covered with perpetual snow that mark White Week, nor by the forests and jungle that mark Green Week. The new frame is the Sea.

The Sea covers the major part of our planet. It is a pathway for development and a crucial element in our economy and culture. The Sea is a key to the understanding of our history. Life on board our 'school afloat' is an unsurpassable opportunity to learn through the development of some of mankind's most fundamental values and qualities: courage, effort, friendship, cooperation, the ability to meet challenges head on...as well as, naturally, an opportunity to acquire and practise the basics of navigation. History, Geography, Meteorology, Astronomy and Ecology will all be experienced as opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning, opening up like the waves breaking against the bow.

On board

Throughout the sea journey our students will have the opportunity to acquire the following skills:

- Knot-making- learning about the different types of knots and their practical uses
- First Aid, as necessary at Sea as on Land
- A formal qualification (for those aged 16 and above), authorised by the governing body of recreational sailing, for boats up to 6m in length. This qualification will cover:
 - International sea norms
 - Naval technology
 - First Aid
 - Engines
- Sea safety
- Snorkelling
- Meteorology
- Art and History classes related to the places visited

And above all, develop the values that today, and always, help make us better people

