

# URSULINE MOTHERS' SCHOOL 200 YEARS IN SIGÜENZA



The Ursuline Mothers arrived in Sigüenza on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, in the year 1818. They moved into the Hospital Nuestra Señora de la Estrella, or the former San Mateo Hospital.



In 1825, the Community of Nuns then moved to some houses along San Roque Street and there they stayed for 42 years. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 1867, they made their final move to the old Barefoot Franciscans' Monastery, which is currently the Ursuline Mothers' Monastery-Boarding School of the Order of Saint Augustine.

**them to face their future lives with success and strength supported on that labor of teaching through the message of Jesus Christ.**

The Ursuline Mothers' School in Sigüenza belongs to the Religious Institute of Saint Ursula, which was founded in Brescia, Italy in the year 1535 by **Saint Angela Mérici, the first woman dedicated to education.** One of the main focuses of the school, following in the footsteps of Saint Angela, was that of educating young girls and teenagers, **helping**



During these past 200 years of such important work in the field of education, always accompanied by diocesan priests, as well as lay teachers, 131 Ursuline Mothers and 34,444 students have passed through the doors of this school.



Consequently, if we think about the number of students that have been educated at this particular school over these past 200 years, we are made aware of the cultural and educational development fostered by the Ursuline Mothers' School, not only for the students coming directly from the city of Sigüenza, but also including the surrounding area, various points throughout Spain, and foreign countries. For many years now, since the 1960s, it has been one of the most highly attended boarding schools in the Province of Guadalajara and, even today, many of the former students remember it with great fondness and gratitude for all that they learned here.



Presently the circumstances of sending children to a boarding school has changed. Now, in the majority of the small villages, it is easier to get to Secondary School within the same area. Even so, 60 pupils are studying currently at the boarding school of the Ursuline Mothers.



Social work, as well as being a support to families in helping their children to get ahead by giving them a better education, as much in their intellectual, emotional, social and physical development as in their spiritual development, have always been strong reference points and understanding the **comprehensive education of the human being.**



**In 1989, the Ursuline Mothers joined with the Colegio Episcopal de la Sagrada Familia** and since then, their work was not only dedicated to girls, but also to boys, even though the Preschool has always been coeducational.





Presently it is a subsidised and bilingual center.

We have always been an innovative center and consider it imperative to advance and develop our teachers, the same as our students for the new age and new ways, just as much in teaching as in learning. Along these lines, we can point out our professional development course **UpToYou** that the entire teaching team has been taking for the past two years, 2016-2018,

working to improve education through reflection and spreading emotional education understood as integration.



Many years ago we implemented the Doman Method for early stimulation and the Artigal Method for teaching English to the very youngest by acting out stories.

We belong to the BEDA Program for increasing the qualitative and quantitative teaching of English, and count on native language assistants. We offer very economical extracurricular English classes every day for all of the students that attend Preschool and Primary School and we are an Official Cambridge Examining Center from the **University of Cambridge** (Cambridge, England).



At this moment there are 400 students attending our schools ranging from Preschool through High School.

In our educational initiative we seek to ensure the students with a comprehensive education in such a way whereas they can

harmoniously build their physical, intellectual and moral skills, gradually acquiring a sense of responsibility and preparedness for participation in social life. On the other hand, we want that they themselves become active subjects of their own education.

**Our value system is for life and coexistence.** For this reason, we insist upon educating for society. Academic work, as well as the rest of the educational activities are aimed at developing their capabilities using the necessary tools for learning. We expect, above all, that they acquire the habit of studying, the task that is stimulated through the mentoring initiative.

We promote working as a team coupled with effective communication at all levels of the educational community: between the directors, teachers, families and pupils. We pay particular attention to children in need: boarders, immigrants with specific needs and diversification. There has always been, for the Ursuline Mothers and their



teaching staff a special sensitivity towards the attention of diversity considering it to be a fundamental value lending personalised attention to the students.

The school consists of a true Educational Community: Ownership, students, teachers, parents, administrative personnel, and service participating in the preparation and implementation of all of the educational work in a climate of freedom and participation that lead each

one of its members of the community to consider the school as something their own, being the work and responsibility of everyone.

The founder of the Ursuline Mothers was Saint Angela de Mérici and thereby we have an explicit reference of the school and its members, the Christian vision. The values of the Gospels are the educational norm, motivation and final goal of the guidance and activities that take place in the school. All of the personnel accept, respect and work accordingly to and within these values.

The student is the main protagonist and subject of his or her education and the parents are the first and foremost responsible for the education of their children, for which the school helps in the educational action of the family. Starting with the families, a positive collaboration is established with the teachers, respecting and supporting the decisions that are made based on the main mission and professional knowledge.



Finally, to underline the educational work that the Ursuline Mothers have carried out in the city of Sigüenza during these past 200 years, has always been a great reference point for this city and the surrounding area and they have succeeded in forming one big Ursuline Family, of which we are all proud and grateful.