This morning, the Formentera Council's office of social welfare unveiled details behind the new round of free academic support workshops for local year five and six students of primary school. The programme is scheduled to begin on 26 January and continue through to the end of the school year.

The goal of the academic tutoring, in the words of Dolores Fernández Tamargo, councillor of social welfare, is “to help integrate those students who have trouble following a normal class rhythm.”

Tutoring will take place over three hours every afternoon from Monday through Friday. One portion of the sessions will focus on positive study habits, organisation and consistency while the second will be geared toward revising specific class content, especially in maths and foreign languages.

Enrolment – to be handled at the office of social welfare – will start on 15 January and extend through 16 January. The offices are open Monday through Friday from 9am to 2pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 to 7pm.

This is the third year that the tutoring sessions are offered. When the programme was launched in 2011, seven students participated in a cycle of tutoring that lasted three months. In 2012, the number of students grew to 29 and the length of the cycle was also lengthened by a month. After a one-year hiatus, the programme was resumed this autumn and participation has already reached forty-nine.

A teacher has been hired to administer the classes and the office of social welfare – along with several of the office's specialist staff – is closely-involved in the planning of the cycle. For the support to be effective, the teacher maintains close contact with the homeroom teachers (or 'tutors' in Catalan and Spanish) of the island's primary schools. The cost of administering the free academic tutoring is €7,432, a large percentage of which is financed by the Regional Department of Immigration of the Govern Balear.