



# ISCS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020 - WEEK 15TH - 20TH

*"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."*

ALBERT EINSTEIN



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## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Dear Families and ISCS Community,

By the time you read this, we will have navigated five days of ISCS Virtual School. But now, today, I want to look further ahead than next week and consider how we want to remember this time. Later, when this time has passed, we will tell stories of stores sold out and how toilet paper became more valued than gold! Later, we'll ask, "Where were you when the coronavirus came?" Some of us will remember the time as a family time, sometimes calm and many others hectic and stressed (remember I have two babies at home!). Some of us will remember the anxiety and fear as numbers rose and we wondered about our loved ones far away. We'll remember the memes and jokes. People have always turned to humor for relief and comfort when times are hard and life is disrupted. We may remember what we weren't allowed to do, how our lives became smaller. We can choose to experience this as loss or we can see it in terms of social responsibility and citizenship. Hard times have a way of putting life into perspective. **They highlight our values and beliefs and test us to live up to them.**

At ISCS this week we have been transforming the teaching and learning processes as we knew them. Progressive learning with world-class students, teachers, and parents has happened and it has been amazing to see our keen and committed pupils rising to the challenge of the "virtual learning experience". Everyone has been committed and focussed at work, students using the school's online platforms, teachers have been able to set activities and tasks, monitor progress, provide real time feedback and mark work since the transition to virtual learning. I would like to thank all members of the ISCS team for their impressively hard work over the last week, creating brilliant resources and providing guidance so that students stayed on track. A big thank you to the parents for supporting our efforts to give all our children the best possible learning experience in such trying times even when you had to put your own commitments to one side. **We are very proud of our ISCS community.**

*by Mr Wickham*

# ISCS "VIRTUAL SCHOOL"



## ISCS TESTIMONIALS

*"I like home schooling as I don't have to leave mum, but I miss Mrs Deutschle and the other teachers."* Zoe (Grade 1)

*"I like home schooling. I can allow myself to work in a more relax way and avoiding the drive to school saves me one hour I can spend on something I like. Thanks to Google meet and other social media, I can stay in touch with my friends, so I don't feel alone. It is just a shame than video calls sometimes bug!"* Calista Longo (Grade 9)

*After almost a week I have to say it is fun.... but I prefer a regular day at school. I miss my friends, teachers, chats, laughs and general noise of school :)."* Hannah (Grade 6)

*Doing school at home is very different than normal school. In online school we get tasks to complete during the normal lesson time, but in the comfort of our own home with no risk of going out. So far it has been easy, straight forward, and a really good temporary replacement so we don't lose any school.* Sebastian Saenz (Grade 8)

*The virtual school is a necessary but enjoyable way to study. It protects us from this pandemic but it doesn't affect the way we study. It is very efficient and helpful because of professional teachers and the fact that we can stay at home, safe and sound.* Nikita (Grade 11)

*Although we may not be on the school premises, school is still continuing for us online. In my experience, online school is a peculiar set up, however, for the time being, will work. I prefer to have school in the flesh, but the same amount of work and lessons are being conducted and the teachers are working extremely hard to ensure that we have the best education.* Zoe Walton (Grade 11)



We are now at the end of the week. I would like to say a personal thank you to you all from primary, for your support and honest feedback. You have been amazing! Remote teaching on this scale is something none of us have experienced before, either as teachers or as families and so it is a learning process for all of us. In fact, when I look back to 25 years ago when I first started teaching in Australia, I could only communicate back to England via a landline or letter. How far we have come with technology! We are all missing your children, since they have become a big part of our lives working with them, planning for them, keeping them safe, worrying about their progress, listening to their news and worries and of course laughing with them. Hopefully this situation will soon improve, since we can't wait to get them back into the classrooms at ISCS. In the meantime but please at a safe distance, make the most of this lovely weather at the weekend and try to enjoy the beauty of Switzerland at this time of the year!

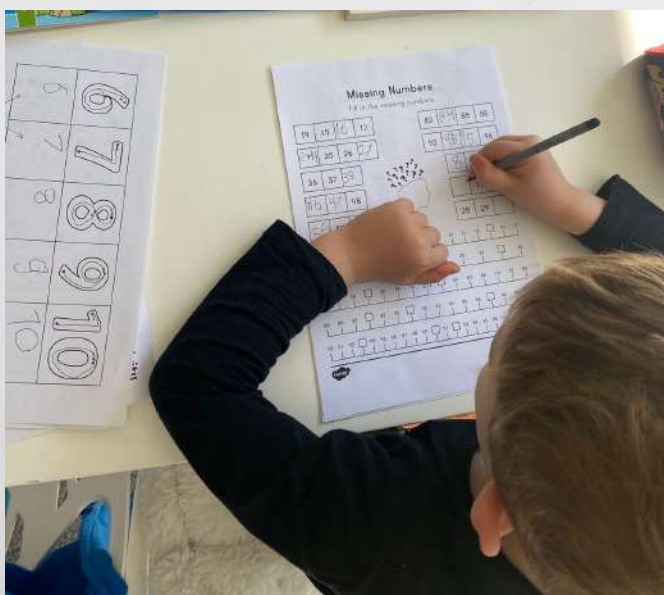
*by Mr Hawthorne*



## KEY STAGE 1

Literacy: in Grade 1 we are beginning to focus more on sentence structure, looking at who, what, where, when and why sentences. Students are beginning to use adjectives to describe nouns and conjunctions to add more depth to their sentences. We continue to slowly touch on 1 blend group a week, while regularly talking about many other blends as we sound out words in our writing. We are learning our spelling words creatively in class, using scrabble tiles and building spelling stairs!

Numeracy: we have been tackling fraction, using key vocabulary so far, such as: whole, parts - unequal and equal, halves, thirds, quarters/fourths.



## KEY STAGE 2

Last week in Grade 3,4 and 5 we continued working very hard in maths on converting units of time and then using our knowledge of this to solve word problems involving time. Some of the children found this tricky so it might be an idea to look at opportunities to read bus timetables, cinema showing times etc and ask them verbally questions in a practical situation. In English, we continued with Non - Chronological reports and we looked at a comprehension based on the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. They were fascinated by the supposed 'curse' and so we investigated it further.

## EARLY YEARS

This week has been a challenge in the Early Years Stage. Even when the "staying indoors" conditions have been compulsory, children have been finding creative ways to learn and have fun. Imagination has been a must in the Early Years homes and parents have been "superheroes" supporting the learning, routine and fighting the boredom.

Ms Mooijer has been in close contact with the Early Years parents each morning. The children have been working on literacy and numeracy activities and parents have been sending photos of the completed work back. The children and Ms Mooijer have been sharing greeting videos with each other and on Wednesday Ms Mooijer sent them a simple recipe for playdough!





Grade 11 Google Meet English Session with Ms Helyer

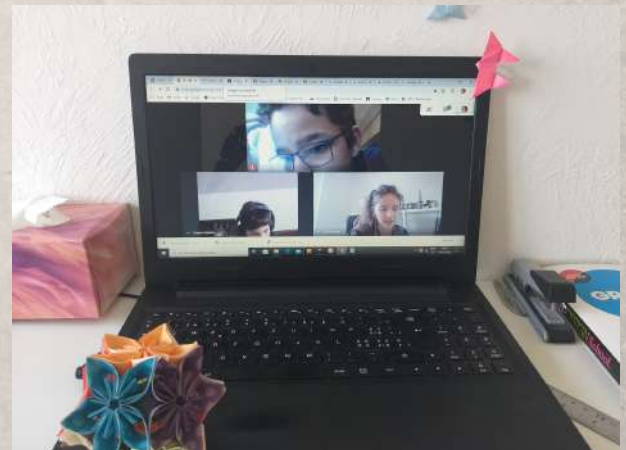
As our first week of online teaching and learning comes to a close, I would like to say a special thanks to our Secondary students who have shown a lot of dedication at this challenging time. They have been checking in with their tutors, who have also been working hard to make sure students are ok and keeping up with their work. There have been lots of motivational messages from teachers, and the online environment has proven to be productive and collaborative.

We are navigating our way through shared folders, online resources and video conferencing to be able to keep the learning alive. I will leave you with a screenshot of Grade 10's English class on Tuesday morning, and a big "Well Done" to everyone. Keep up the good work!

*by Miss Helyer*



Grade 6/7 successfully started the online learning this week. The students are enjoying the time being home with their families, but at the same time they do their best to keep their learning on a high level, solve their school assignments and always busy with Google hangouts and work load from their teachers. Do you get help from your parents or also pets? *by Mr Perliyev*



Ms Azpeitia working "virtually" with her students



Dr Caracheo teaching online



Dear ISCS community,

We hope everybody is staying healthy and adjusting to the current and unusual situation. Having the whole family at home 24 hours a day, working together is a new challenge!

Of course, each of us, parents, students and teachers have their particular way to manage it.

We wish you a wonderful weekend. Please take care of your families, be patient and try to focus on the positive side of this situation.

Remember, as Charles R Swindoll said: " *We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.*"

Your PO team,

Audrey, Mariska, Céline & Kasia



## USEFUL RESOURCES:

- Free access to the World Library: <https://www.wdl.org/en/>
- Free children's literacy resource: <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach>
- <https://www.twinkl.com/>

## MEET OUR STAFF

THIS WEEK... Miss Christine Helyer

### ABOUT ME...



Hello ISCS! I came back to ISCS in August 2019 and am excited to be part of the school's first year as a centre for the Cambridge curriculum. I grew up near Newcastle in the UK, and have been teaching Secondary English and Literature since 2005. I worked in schools in the UK and Spain before moving to Switzerland. My daughters were born here and it has really become 'home.' I feel very lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

### HOBBIES AND PASSIONS...

- I love to run! I'm happiest outdoors, running through the forest or going for long walks. In my spare time I read, draw, paint and cook. I've been to a lot of interesting places. My travel highlights include Iceland, Japan, India, Morocco, South Korea and Cameroon. My husband and I lived in India for a little while when our daughters were very small, which was an amazing experience. I can speak Spanish, some German, and can play the piano (although I'm a bit out of practice). I haven't always been a teacher. When I left university I started a career in operations and logistics at a large chemical company, using my Spanish to work with our customers there. If I wasn't teaching English and Literature I would still have to do something related to reading - as a children's illustrator or a teen fiction writer.