

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." – Benjamin Franklin

WHAT'S INSIDE

PRIMARY NEWS

SECONDARY NEWS

FROM THE PARENTS ORGANISATION

LEARNER COMMENTS

MEET THE STAFF

Dear ISCS Community,

A warm welcome to all our families to the new academic year!

I would like to start by saying that the health and safety of our students and staff remain our key priority. We are in close contact with the cantonal authorities, adapting our protocol and actions to the situation in accordance with local guidelines and mandatory government regulations.

This summer, we have worked to improve our academic and extra-curricular provision by introducing new initiatives at ISCS. Despite the difficulties linked to the pandemic, we are strongly committed to providing an outstanding international education, no matter the circumstances we face.

To date, there are 85 students enrolled but quite a few families are still pending visas or definitive relocating decisions by their respective companies. We have continued to split grade levels, and now have new full-time teachers on our staff.

Even before the students returned to school, our staff were busy with an induction week. We shared our vision, philosophies, teaching ideas and aims. The ambience was buzzing with creativity and energy.

One of the main changes is the appointment of a Head of Pastoral, Mr. Hopton, who is in charge of developing and implementing a strong Pastoral Programme, which will help to the wellbeing and the emotional development of our students. Mr Hopton liaises with grade tutors and subject teachers on a regular basis, and has made a huge contribution to the development of our PSHE curriculum.

In line with setting German as a core subject, our two new German teachers will strive to deliver differentiated German classes to Primary and Secondary students.

We have also developed an appealing, broad programme of clubs and extracurricular activities so our students can explore different areas and develop new skills. Many of these skills will be transferable, which our students can take to the classroom or the outside world. In addition to the letter sent earlier in the week about the clubs, our staff are preparing explanatory videos for their activities that you will receive next week.

Today, the PO had its first Coffee morning and we are planning the list of events for the first term. For us, the development of a strong ISCS Community is vital and we will do our best to drive it.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your support and wish you all the best for this academic year.

Jose Antonio Parra

Executive Director

Dear Families,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at ISCS. This year we are really looking forward to welcoming new and familiar faces. Three very experienced teachers have joined our Primary team. They are enthusiastic and excited to join your child on their learning journey.

We are always looking at ways to improve communication between the school and home and look at opportunities where we can share positive aspects of your child's learning. With this in mind, this year we will be adding a new channel of communication, 'Class Dojo'. Class Dojo will allow us to connect teachers with students and families to build amazing classroom communities.

Please feel free to contact myself or any of the primary staff should you have any questions or matters you wish to discuss.

Mr Hawthorne

PRE K

We have had a super start to Pre K! We have explored the classroom and really enjoyed playing together in the role play area, learning important skills such as sharing and taking turns. We have chosen our peg labels and have been creating pictures of ourselves. Our topic this week is 'All About Me,' so we have been discussing our favourite colours, foods and talking about our families. In maths we have been playing some fun counting games and introduced our number of the day! We practiced counting to 10 in English, French and German to celebrate all the wonderful languages we speak. We have been singing songs to help us learn our sounds in phonics this week and even had a little go at writing 's' by slithering down the snake! In Science we have been out exploring the grounds, collecting leaves and natural objects to compare and sort. We have also been making some natural faces using the leaves we collected.

What a busy and productive first week! Well done Pre K - A great start! Ms McVeigh

Kindergarten and Grade 1

What a brilliant start to K/1! A week full of dancing, singing and getting to know each other.

We began by exploring our classroom and the importance of following classroom rules to keep up safe and happy.

In maths, we began looking at counting forwards and backwards from various numbers. We used song, visual and concrete materials to support us with our learning.

Our Global Perspectives work introduced us to the world of the farmyard and the importance of the animals. This farm topic linked to our new book in English, 'What the Ladybird Heard', which we sequenced and studied the characters from.

Within science we began to study the structure of plants and thoroughly enjoyed labelling wildflowers!

We look forward to next week's learning adventures.

Miss MacMillan

GRADE 2 & 3

The first week of the year kicked off exceptionally well. All of us had been eagerly waiting to come back to school, meet old friends, and make new ones. We explored our new classroom and set up class rules to ensure safety and everyone's happiness. We did a lot of 'back to school' activities like talking and reflecting upon the summer, an unusually long summer this year. We shared our thoughts about various things that we like and care for, did some activities around our personalities, and what we will all bring to this new year and the new class to make it a wonderful learning space for all.

We also did a 'letter to myself' activity in which we wrote about our feelings at the start of this new school year, hopes and dreams for the future and finally we set some goals that we would like to revisit at the end of the year. Mrs Boelle



GRADE 4 & 5

As always at the start of the year we like to start with exploring rules and routines that keep us all safe and happy in school. Classroom rules can help establish a sense of community when they're built on collective classroom values. In maths we have been looking at the place value of digits in numbers up to 10 million and writing these numbers in words. We have been looking at how we can improve our writing by adding in appropriate punctuation but also the role of punctuation when we are reading. In art we created our own Class Dojo avatar 'monsters' using paints, crayons and markers. These are going to decorate our classroom.



Santiago enthusiastically thinks of some class rules and an excited Roy with his new reading book.

SECONDARY NEWS

What a week! It's been busy up in Secondary as we meet new students, and do all the other stuff in between... sort out lockers, get familiar with our timetables, organise exercise books - phew!

There has been a brilliant atmosphere in school this week as we get back into the swing of things and find our feet with new courses. Some will be moving into our IGCSE and A level years and are already preparing for new challenges. We welcomed Grade 6 into Secondary School and their new tutor, Mrs Bradley, has been helping them settle in.

This year will see some exciting curriculum developments; Business Studies is now taking off, as well as some great new subject plans for Languages, where our aim is to offer a more differentiated learning experience and really bring languages to the forefront of our experience in the outside world.

Staff were buzzing with ideas for the clubs they would like to offer, and I can't wait to find out what our students are interested in getting involved with.

It was fantastic to see the houses together this morning; there was some terrific teamwork and it was lovely to see the younger ones working alongside our older students. Their creativity is exceptional and it gave us all a chance to connect with each other in a different way.

I have a great feeling about the coming year - I am sure that our students will do us proud and showcase their talents in the classroom and beyond. I wish you all a lovely weekend, and will leave you with some quotes from Grade 6 as they reflected on their first week in Secondary School.

Ms Helyer



LEARNER COMMENTS

"My first week of Secondary was GREAT!" - Milan

"Fun...Great...Happy" were some of the words used by Jasmine

"Secondary was exciting and new. I was happy and nervous" - Alasdhair

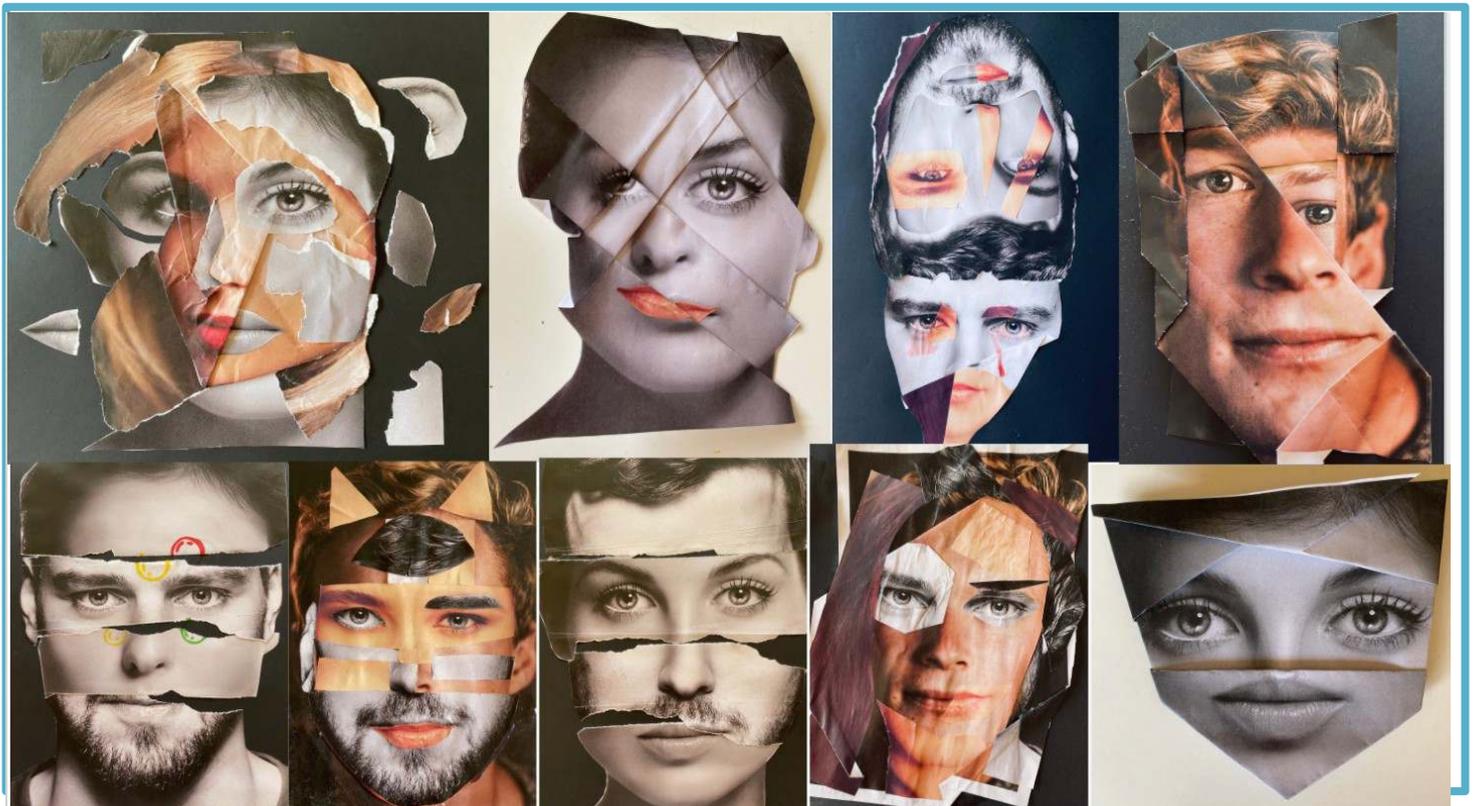
"It's been fun learning" - Majid

"It was very interesting and a really cool experience" - Carlo



ART & DESIGN

This week Grade 10 I-GCSE have started to experiment with the theme of Distortion & Fragmentation through Portraiture as inspired by the artists Aldo Tolino and Bruno Del Zhou. The preliminary results are excellent!



PARENT ORGANISATION

Dear community,

The last few weeks have gone so quickly, and we hope that you had a wonderful and relaxing Summer break!

It is our pleasure to **WELCOME TO SCHOOL!** the returning families and those who just joined our community.

For those who do not know us yet, let's introduce your PO board for the academic year 2020-2021!

Aleksandra Garling: « We moved to Switzerland from London one year ago and are part of the ISCS family since then. My son is now in Grade 1. I recently joined the PO to support the school in making positive changes and to help our children feel part of a community through a range of fun events. In my free time, you will find me enjoying the outdoors with my family.»

Mariska Van Onselen: « We left Netherlands 3 years ago to move to Switzerland. It will be our 4th year in the school, where our oldest daughter, Annemijn, will be in Grade 10. We also have a son who enters Untergymnasium this year. I have been part of the PO for 3 years now. It was always a pleasure to organize fun activities for our community. I see the school as a small family who takes care of each other.»



Like the students and teachers, our committee is already at work planning amazing activities and preparing opportunities for parents to meet to get to know each other, to discover Swiss traditions and to promote school values. We kindly ask you to reserve Sunday September 6th, 2020 for our traditional **“Welcome picnic”** (details will be sent out later).

Audrey Erpelding: « Our family comes from the French part of Belgium. We moved to Switzerland 3 years ago and immediately joined the school family. We have 3 children attending the school: Insia in Grade 4, Milan in Grade 6 and Calista in Grade 10. Similar to Mariska, I have been part of the PO for 3 years now. I have always been delighted to support our community with amusing activities. I know how lucky our children are to develop themselves in a such wonderful environment!»

Don't hesitate to stay in touch with us, either by email to po@iscs-zug.ch or by whatsapp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DRZS7KaqEm1GcbJ9C2IsS8>.

We are looking forward to meeting you.
Your PO team

Audrey Mariska Celine Kasia

MEET OUR STAFF

This week...

Maria Mcveigh



About me...

Hello ISCS ! I am delighted to be joining the team this year teaching in Pre K! I grew up on a small Island in the south of the UK called the Isle of Wight. Lots of sailing events take place on the island, including a week-long regatta takes place and lots of sailing competitions! There are also some great music festivals held on the Isle of Wight which is great since I love concerts, too. I have been a teacher for 8 years now, 5 of which I spent in a quaint village school in a place called Sonning in the UK. I married my husband 3 years ago in Cornwall at a beautiful place called Polhawn Fort.

Hobbies and passions...

I am happiest when I am in the water! Growing up by the sea really set me up to love the beach, the water, surfing and swimming. I was a competitive swimmer and competed in a competition called 'The Island Games' where all islands from across the world compete in many different sports. This took place in Rhodes in 2007 and felt like a mini Olympics with opening and closing ceremonies and a big party to finish! At 18 the world of travel was calling. My best friend and I travelled to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Following this I attended the University of Brighton and studied primary teaching. As part of my University Degree I travelled to Nepal and lived with a family in the Himalayas, which was an incredible experience. We cooked by a fire and ate with our hands- rice was a little tricky!

Did you know...?

I once met a friend of Nelson Mandela (He looked out for Nelson when he was in prison)
I can not stand the sound or feel of nail filing!