



# NEWS LETTER

*What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul.*

*Joseph Addison*

**January 12th 2022**

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### PRIMARY NEWS

Dear ISCS community,

Welcome back to our Second Term and Happy 2022 to the whole ISCS Community!!!

With COVID-19 cases surging and positivity rates on the rise, it's clear we're in for a challenging term. As we navigate the Omicron wave it's important that we be especially flexible and patient with one another.

During our daily communication with health cantonal authorities, we have been informed of a saturation of laboratories doing PCR and antigen tests. This means that the laboratory used for our school testing no longer has the capacity to process school tests. As a result we can no longer do Covid testing until further notice. That said, we have very few cases of Covid in our school community and we will continue to be vigilant and follow required hygiene measures.

I would like to highlight that the cantonal authorities have sent ISCS a compliment regarding the performance of tests and general Covid management inside the school. I would like to praise the whole community (students, staff and families) for that achievement.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school for any doubt or any Covid case or close contact in your family.

This is a transition week after the long break. Still, many families who have been travelling to their home country very far away have not arrived back in Switzerland. I would especially like to send our good wishes to our Kazakhstani students and families for the difficulties the country is experiencing. They are still stuck in the country trying to return to Switzerland.

From the academic side, I would like to share some updates. This Thursday, Parents' Evening for Y12 and Y13 was held. The Secondary Team has prepared an Intervention Plan for the coming months for Y11 and Y13 to enhance the preparation of IGCSE and A-levels exams. Finally, we are adding an additional German teacher in Secondary in order to enrich the provision of German for our students. We will give more details in the coming weeks.

I wish you all the best and hope you enjoy a safe weekend.

JOSE ANTONIO PARRA

### SECONDARY NEWS

### COMMUNITY FOCUS

### PASTORAL

### BASKETBALL

### HOUSE POINTS

### DATES FOR

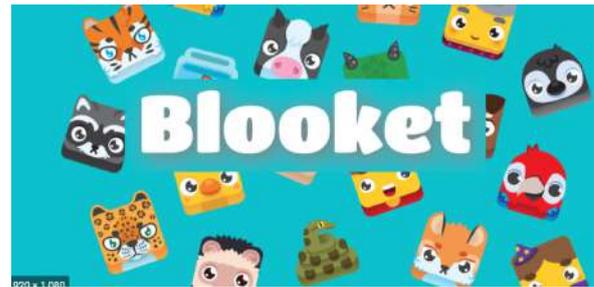
### YOUR DIARY



## YEAR 5 AND 6



This week we have had a big focus on reading since it also marked the end of the reading challenge. We did a lot of comprehension work and examined lots of different nonfiction and fiction texts. In maths, our focus was on the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages and we looked at the tricky topic of percentages of amounts. We explored the forces of air resistance and water resistance in science and embedded our German skills by using 'Blooket' - a web based quiz game platform - that creates great enthusiasm and competition between the classmates.



*Lennox sets up a 'Blooket' game for the rest*

## YEAR 3 AND 4



We are all so happy to be back at school this week. We have welcomed two new students, Isabel and Arvid, both having settled really well into our classroom. The children are missing their friends who have yet to make it back and are looking forward to welcoming two more new classmates in the near future. The class has started so many new things this week. In Maths we have begun to learn about measuring, learning about millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres. They have had fun measuring themselves and things around the classroom too!

In English the class is trying to get to grips with the four types of sentences we use in our writing and starting to learn about what an explanation is. Our new topic in Science is Materials and we had already been exploring types of materials and their properties. In Global Perspectives the children are going to be finding out more about what a Healthy Lifestyle means. Lasty for this week the class is super excited about going to the pool on Friday and will be proud to show off their photos in new week's newsletter.

# YEAR 1 AND 2

Welcome back! We excitedly started our spring term maths topic of division by sharing sweets into equal groups. We will continue to use practical objects to support our calculations, before gradually moving to imagery and then mental calculations.

We loved presenting pictures from our holidays and using a loud, clear voice to explain what we had been doing. This then formed part of our writing work whereby we described in full, detailed sentences or captioned our images.



# EYFS

This week we have been busy creating a castle role play to enjoy for the next few weeks! The children have been great at helping! In literacy we wrote invitations to the king and queens party. We also designed cakes for the party as part of expressive arts and at the end of the week as part of science we saw how materials change when they are heated by making a chocolate cake together for the queens party! We chose a design from earlier in the week and decorated the cake just like it.





## WELCOME BACK!

A huge welcome back to all of our families!

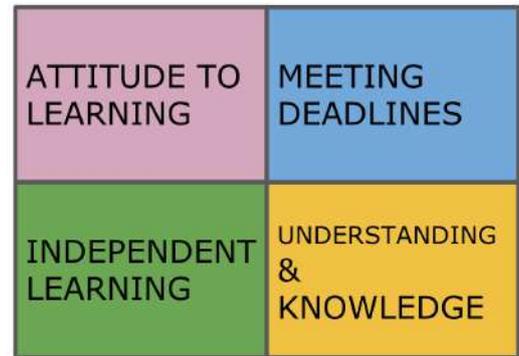
We hope you have all enjoyed a lovely, restful Winter break together with family and friends and look forward to a new term together.

It is so good to see our students wearing their new uniforms and looking representative of our school. Should students require extra items of uniform, please refer to the email from notifications or contact the school office directly.

## FOCUS OF THE TERM

### THE CORNERSTONES OF SUCCESS

In the Winter report, you will remember that we launched an additional Report Page consisting of the 4 cornerstone areas for the first time. In order to reach their **potential** students must satisfy the 4 areas in their subjects.



### THE CORNERSTONES EXPLAINED

**ATTITUDE TO LEARNING:** Students are engaged in lessons, get involved and show enthusiasm. They are proactive in ensuring they understand all concepts covered in lessons and ask their teacher when unsure.

**MEETING DEADLINES:** Students meet deadlines for class work and homework.

**INDEPENDENT LEARNING:** Students review class content and complete additional tasks outside of the classroom. They arrive at lessons fully prepared with research or required tasks completed. Students are proactive and research new or forthcoming concepts independently.

**UNDERSTANDING & KNOWLEDGE:** Students show thorough understanding of the work and content of the lessons so far.

### REPORTING HOME

All students received a numerical score of 1-5 on their recent Winter Report from Year 7 to Year 13. This Report page will now be included in the Easter and Summer Report for all students.

Both Year 11 and Year 13 will receive an additional report of these areas at the February break.

### IN SCHOOL

The four cornerstone areas will be a clear focus for all ISCS students this term so that they understand that **if all of them are given equal high effort, they will be attaining their best possible results.**

They will be displayed in our classrooms and students will have a copy for their planners so that they understand the expectations of the Secondary Team.

Rebecca Bradley



## *Hello, my name is Mariska van Onselen.*

We moved almost 5 years ago to Switzerland. Together with my husband we have 2 kids: Annemijn and Pieter. Our oldest daughter Annemijn started at ISCS in year 8 and is now in year 12. Our son, who is now 13, is in second year in a local Swiss school.

Together with Audrey and Jennifer, we've started the Parents' Organisation 4 years ago. With a lot of pleasure, we help to organise fun things for the school and the parents. We also take care of school decorations during Halloween and Christmas.

I know how important it is to get help from parents, because I am also a teacher. Currently I have the pleasure to teach Year 1 in the Dutch school "De Alpentulp" and I will be the new director of this school from the first of March. This school teaches Dutch after school hours.



School is not only about teaching kids, but also the place where kids spend most of their time, where they make fun, play, socialize and where they can explore and develop their personalities. That is why I think it is so important to help the school in any way that I can and help to make it a great place to be.

In all my five years in this school I have always been amazed by the teachers and their ability to teach our kids and stand by our kids in good and bad times. I find it fantastic to see how the school has developed over the past few years. I like being part of this ISCS family and enjoy seeing the children develop in this great school.

## PASTORAL FOCUS

"Happy New Year to all of you from the Pastoral team. This term, we are adapting the weekly timetable for Pastoral Time - there is a renewed focus on exams and revision for our KS4 and KS5 students and a greater focus on activities to foster resilience in KS3. We still keep in place the weekly quiz (on a Thursday) to boost some friendly competition between the Houses.

Next week, look out for the winner of the second Praise Prize Draw - where another member of the ISCS student body will win a gift voucher for their hard work and determination last half term.

## Basketball Club on Wednesdays

Just a reminder, that after our successful Football Club season, we will move on and have Basketball Club starting in January on Wednesdays.

The students from Year 4+ are welcome to join from 15:30-16:30.

## ISCS House Competition

We are very happy to add some new students to the houses as the competition continues at ISCS.

Yellow House started year 2022 on a high note and increased to 2154 points. Red House follows them with 1876, whilst Blue and Green continue the battle for the 3rd-4th places.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>YEAR 12 MOCK EXAM FORTNIGHT: STUDY LEAVE</b>	Monday 24th January - Wednesday 2nd February 2022
<b>YEAR 11 &amp; 13 REVISION SESSIONS BEGIN</b>	Monday 17th January 2022 - Friday 8th April (Year 13) Monday 17th January 2022 - Friday 29th April (Year 11)
<b>YEAR 9 &amp; 11 PARENT'S EVENING</b>	Thursday 27th January 2022
<b>STUDENT PROGRESS CONFERENCE (ALL YEARS)</b> Parents meet with Tutors to discuss overall progress.	Thursday 7th April 2022 <b>HALF DAY: STUDENTS IN SCHOOL 8:30AM -12 PM</b>

## WISHING YOU A LOVELY WEEKEND!