



**ISCS**

*The British School of Zug!*

# ISCS

## Monthly highlights

### Winter is here...

... and so are the Mock Exams. Our IGCSE and A-Levels students are busy preparing for the exams, so we took the opportunity to take all of our students for much needed ice-skating break.



The whole ISCS community wishes you good luck with the exams!

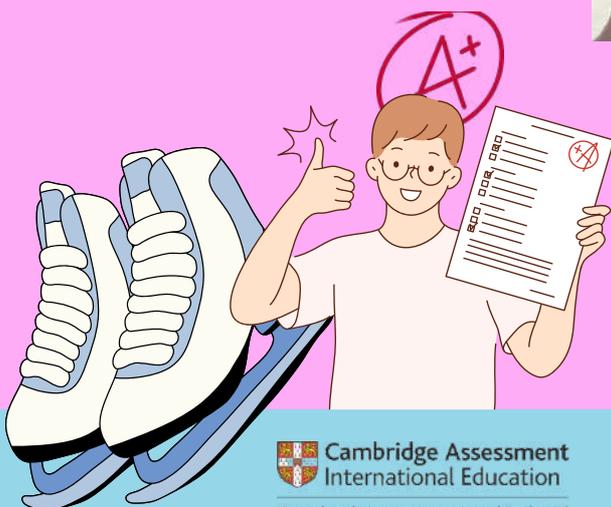
All previous issues of the Monthly Highlights can be found on our website:



### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Ice-skating
- Teacher spotlight
- Phoenix Kids
- Chess tournament
- Stars of the Month

**AND MORE...**



# Monthly highlights

## ICE-SKATING



Every winter our students have the opportunity to try their skills on ice. Both primary and secondary students enjoyed their afternoons spent ice skating at the famous EVZ Bossard Arena. We are lucky several ISCS students play for some of the best hockey teams in Switzerland and could show us how it's done!



February 2023

# Monthly highlights

## ICE-SKATING



# Monthly highlights

## PHOENIX KIDS



Integration into our local community and Swiss life is extremely important to us. Today, our primary students, led by our German teacher Mr Waldispuhl, are joining thousands of Swiss school-age children in a series of daily sports challenges organised by a foundation run by a Swiss Olympian Nicola Spirig. One student in each primary class at ISCS has won a smart watch at the end of the challenge!

Nicola Spirig is an Olympic champion, seven-time European champion and mother of three: Nicola Spirig is one of the most successful athletes in Swiss history. Her foundation, "Pho3nix Kids by Nicola Spirig" promotes health and well-being and encourages more physical activity and sports participation among youth.

Pho3nix Kids by Nicola Spirig is a joint initiative of the Nicola Spirig and Pho3nix foundations. The Nicola Spirig Foundation was founded in 2014 with the aim of giving children and young people from all walks of life access to sport and showing how sport can have a positive impact on their lives. The Pho3nix Foundation is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to empower and inspire children through sport. She sponsors the Pho3nix Team, an international team of top athletes, who embody the ideals of the Pho3nix: triumph over failure through resilience and passion, making them a symbol of hope and strength.

The winners are:  
Sixten, Andrei, Arvid, Liza, Hannah, Liz, Hattie

Congratulations on your win and we hope you will enjoy your smart watches!





**ISCS**

**Chess**

# **SECONDARY CHESS TOURNAMENT**

Our annual Chess Tournament has concluded in February. The winners are Carlo, Dion and Majid. Mr Perlyiev and Mrs Bradley have handed out the trophies and congratulated the winners on their success.

Did you know? Chess has been persuasively linked with improving children's concentration, problem-solving, critical, original and creative thinking – and even mathematical abilities. It is also said to help with memory storage and how young brains manage information. Chess is also particularly helpful for integrating students. While they learn a new language, chess can help them engage with other children and adults without needing good linguistic skills.

Getting students to play chess is a great way to get them offline. It allows them to unplug from the devices and engage in real-life, educational gameplay.



# Monthly highlights

## PRIMARY COMPUTER SCIENCE



Computational thinking (CT) offers an approach that helps to introduce students to computing principles. Integrating computational thinking into an education curriculum early on is important as it helps students to make crucial cross-curricular connections, improves academic achievement, and develops problem-solving skills. In 2022 ISCS has introduced a comprehensive computer science programme benefiting all students as early as in Pre-K. CT is not tied to a programming language, but is a way to solve problems abstractly and systematically.

Educational robots, such as Bee Bots, are one method for integrating CT into the educational curriculum. The Bee-Bot is a friendly little robot that is programmed using the Logo language, which was developed specifically for young children by Dr. Seymour Papert. The emulator provides students exploratory experiences with sequencing, estimation, direction, spatial awareness, and entry level coding. The code entered by the students appears below as they enter the commands. The emulator works nicely to support lessons in various math and language arts concepts as well. Students can choose from a variety of maps in the drop down menu including CVC words, alphabet, shapes, number line, and coins. Arrow keys are prominent and the online Bee-Bot moves with a 1-1 correlation like the physical Bee-Bot.



# Monthly highlights

## STARS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to all the recipients of "Student of the Month - January 2023". These students have been nominated by teachers for outstanding academic achievements in subjects such as Mathematics, Computer Science, Languages, English, Global Perspectives and for sporting achievements. We are very proud of you and are excited to celebrate your successes!

The stars of February are:

Kiril, George, Peter, Dylan, Daniel, Victoria and two students not pictured as they were sitting mock exams: Storm



# Monthly highlights

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

### Jonathan Turner

The award for a teacher who always gets involved with every student project goes to...



#### Tell us something about yourself:

I have lived in 7 countries in the last 28 years: in Spain, Ecuador, Equatorial Guines, the UAE, China, Switzerland and Ireland. I have worked in a variety of education contexts, from teaching kids, to teaching at the University up to Master's level. I've also worked in educational publishing, which has given me an opportunity to travel and work with schools all over the world. I've worked a lot in teacher training as well, especially training language teachers. I have two related master degrees: one in teaching English as a second language and one in educational technology. I'm married with two teenage kids and moving around has given them a really wide vision of the world, something I'm very proud of.

#### Why did you join ISCS:

Before working in ISCS I had been editing materials for an international language school. This meant I was tapping away on my laptop all day, often alone (especially during two years of lockdown). I realised that after over 4 years working as an editor and a trainer in these kind of solitary conditions I needed to get back into the classroom. When I visited ISCS for an interview, I was looking for one thing above all, a happy school where I could make a difference with the students. That brings me to what I like most about ISCS, that it feels like a real community. Classes are small, so you get the chance to spend time with individual students. The school ethos is one of inclusivity, support and dare I say, real affection for the students, and all of this makes it the happy school that I mentioned I was looking for.

#### Why did you become a teacher?

I wanted to make a difference with students and all learn from them. Working all over the world has been a privilege and sharing ideas and an enthusiasm for learning is always the same wherever you are and that's why I keep coming back to the classroom.

#### What do you do in your free time?

I have three children at ISCS who take up quite a lot of my time but otherwise I play squash, go swimming and MTB riding and read books when I get a chance!

#### What's the best thing about being a teacher?

I love watching the students' progress in my classes and their successes - every lesson is different and the students keep me young and fresh!



# Monthly highlights

## The Achuar Community



PLEASE HELP - Can you donate your skills or items to a raffle our school is organising to help the Archuar Community?

The Amazon rainforest has been home to the Achuar people for thousands of years. Skilled hunters and fishermen, they have a spiritual connection with nature and consider themselves the forest's greatest protectors. Life is governed by their ancestors, with family history passed down orally from generation to generation. Yet traditions are being undermined as the young are tempted away by modernity, while their fragile ecosystem faces man-made destruction.

ISCS has forged links with the community and will be buying and collecting books, stationery and educational materials for the youngest members of the Achuar community.

The Achuar leaders have prioritized English language education for two reasons. First, knowledge of the English language greatly increases employability for Achuar youth and adults in a region that is economically underdeveloped and in a job market that is historically hostile to indigenous Ecuadorians. Many community members have expressed a desire to work in ecotourism, a sector in which they can support their families, live at home (as opposed to moving to the city), and engage in environmental stewardship. Second, the leaders believe that English education will help the next generation better engage with international actors as the forest becomes increasingly threatened by illegal logging and hunting, and even government-sanctioned exploitation, as they have seen happen to other indigenous communities. English education, for them, is a preemptive defense against future attempts to exploit the natural resources of their homeland.

The ISCS raffle, organised by Ms MacMillan, aims to raise money for the transport of all the goods we collect. The Archuar community is difficult to reach and the items will have to be delivered on foot. Please show your support and contact the school with any ideas you might have for the raffle.

# Monthly highlights

## Meet our students



This month we spoke to friends Anemijm and Jade from Year 13



### What do you plan to do after ISCS?

**Anemijm:** "I am going to study law in the Netherlands, either at Rotterdam University or University of Leiden. I chose law because the subject really interests me and when I was researching university courses, I noticed that law offers many interesting subjects over the course of 3 years."

**Jade:** "I am very excited about studying in Canada! I chose Business & Marketing, because it opens many doors to a varied and interesting career."

### What is your advice to students taking A-Levels?

**Anemijm:** "Try to decide what you want to study before you choose your A-Levels. Look at the universities of your choice to find out what are the entry requirements and then choose your subjects accordingly"

**Jade:** "Focus on your studies early on. Time flies, the subjects are intensive so it is vital to spend time learning and enjoying the process"



### And what do you like about ISCS?

**Anemijm:** "Easy: small classes. I love it how teachers engage you into what they teach."

**Jade:** "I love how open and diverse the ISCS community is!"



### What do you like doing outside of school?

**Anemijm:** "I play tennis and I really like to read."

**Jade:** "I like going to the gym, I enjoy baking and cooking, painting and bingeing on TV series"

