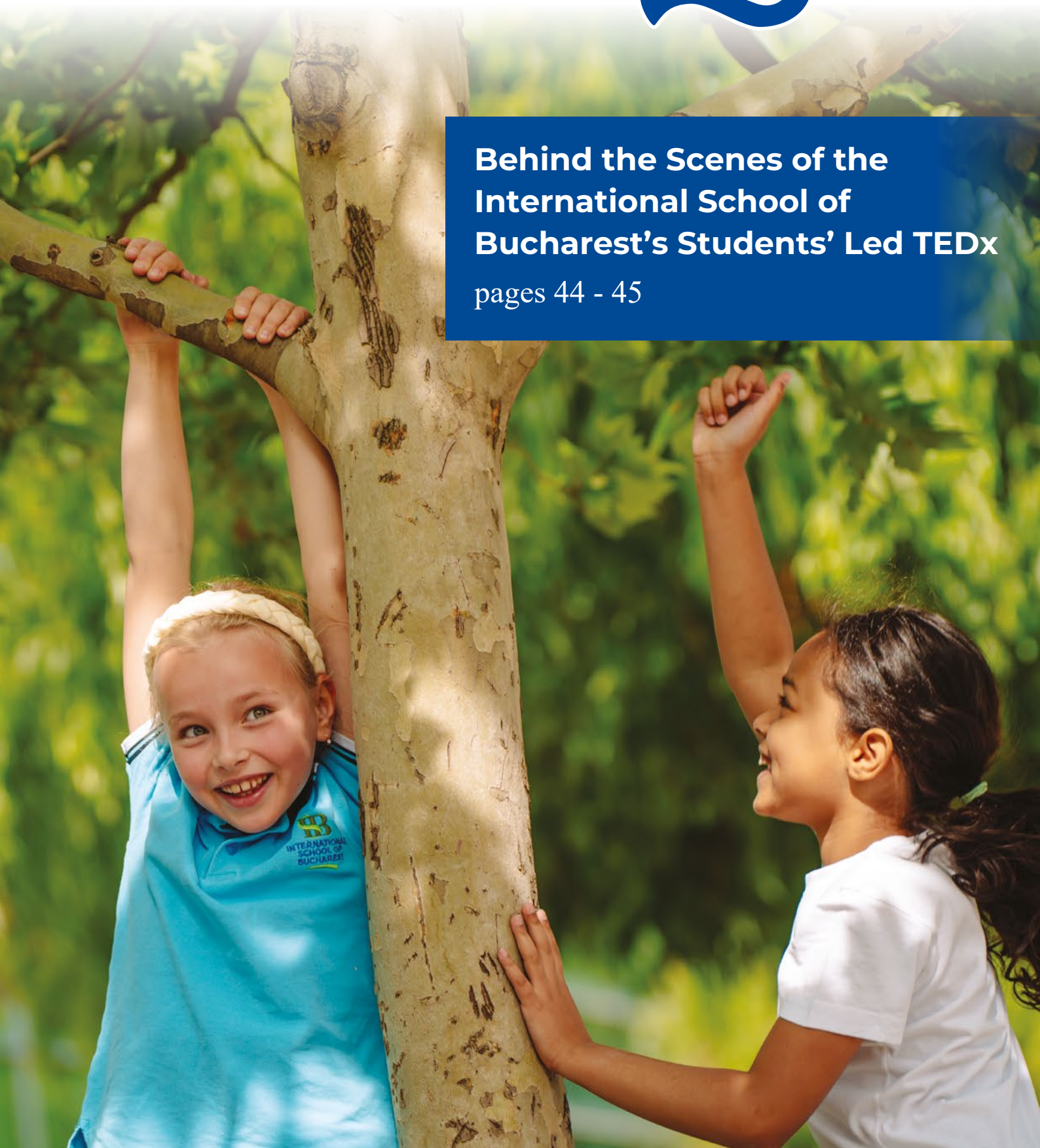




**Behind the Scenes of the
International School of
Bucharest's Students' Led TEDx**
pages 44 - 45



Link to video

TEDx International School Of Bucharest



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A New Chapter in ISB's Journey of Excellence

"Service learning is integral to fostering a sense of responsibility towards our community and the world, and it is a key component of the education we provide."

Welcome to the first issue of Insight for the 2024-2025 academic year. The Insight serves as a vibrant reflection of the teaching, learning, and activities that make ISB such a special place. Through the pages of Insight, we aim to share the voices of our students and staff, offering you a glimpse into the dynamic and creative life at ISB. I hope that you find inspiration in the stories, reflections, and achievements featured in this issue.

As I reflect on my five years of service as Head of Secondary alongside my role as Director, I am filled with gratitude and pride for our incredible journey together. In line with our commitment to distributed leadership and ensuring comprehensive support across the school, my role has evolved to focus more on whole-school leadership, while Mr. Oytun will be taking on my responsibilities in the

secondary school. His expertise and dedication make him the ideal leader to continue the work we have begun. While my focus expands to encompass the entire school, I remain deeply committed to supporting Mr. Oytun, the secondary school, and our broader ISB community as we continue to strive for excellence.

In our Primary School, Mr. Mustafa will continue to lead with the same passion and dedication that have become the hallmarks of our primary education. His unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds ensures that our students receive the best possible start to their educational journey.

This academic year also marks the most significant investment in our campus since we moved to our current location. We have transformed the



front yard into a state-of-the-art facility with a completely renewed and larger football field, a new fitness centre, a modern running track, two new multi-purpose courts, and a new playground for KS2 and KS3 students. These additions are not just enhancements to our physical infrastructure; they are investments in the holistic development of our students, providing them with more opportunities to engage in physical activity, teamwork, and healthy competition.

In our continued commitment to offering a world-class education, we have welcomed 15 new highly qualified members of staff across both Primary and Secondary schools. These educators bring a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives that will undoubtedly enrich our teaching and learning environment. Their expertise spans various disciplines, and we are excited to see the innovative approaches they will introduce in our classrooms.

At ISB, we are deeply committed to embedding service learning into our curriculum as part of our character education programme. This approach aligns with our values of honesty, empathy, responsibility, and open-mindedness and prepares our students to be active, compassionate, and informed global citizens. Service learning is integral to fostering a sense of responsibility towards our community and the world, and it is a key component of the education we provide.

Our dedication to high-quality teaching and learning has been consistently recognised by external bodies such as the Council of International Schools (CIS) and British Schools Overseas (BSO). These commendations affirm our commitment to a student-centred approach that prioritises the individual needs and potential of each learner. We continue to adapt and innovate, particularly in the realms of global citizenship and digital citizenship, ensuring that our students are equipped with the skills and values necessary to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and digital world, especially in the age of artificial intelligence.

I extend my best wishes to all our students and parents. I hope you enjoy this issue of Insight and that it serves as a source of inspiration and reflection. Together, we will continue cultivating a learning environment where each student can flourish, achieve their best, and prepare to make meaningful contributions to society. Let us embrace the opportunities ahead with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a shared commitment to excellence.

Serdar Sakman

Head of School



Welcome to Primary, Where Love and Learning Comes Together

Every start of the year brings with it the challenge of another brilliant learning journey and the promise of yet another busy year at ISB.

Every year we make a promise to ourselves and to our community to maintain our high academic standards as well as to develop and improve every aspect of the school life for our students and community. With this in mind, we included articles of good practice which are meant to offer guidance and support to both professionals in education and parents. We also included samples of the students' excellent work, projects, trips, fun events, or campaigns they are involved in, which we hope you will like.

It has been a very busy first term, with numerous school activities and events which involved our students, teachers and our helpful community.

In early December, we celebrated our students' excellent sports and academic achievements. We organised educational and cultural activities at International, Health and Fitness Week, Books, Humanities and Art Weeks with our diverse community.

Thanks to our very dedicated members of the PTA,

Primary School students enjoyed the Winter Fair, Santa's visit. While Secondary CAS students opened many stalls to engage the visitors, primary house teams ran some amazing games. With the constant feedback we received from our community, with the big support of PTA, we have organised another successful event, Summer Fair, where we also had the privilege to host respected PTA members of our sister school ISO, International School of Oradea.

Learning that is led by students and centred around inquiry

At ISB, we believe in nurturing young minds and empowering them to become global citizens. Our vision at ISB is to inspire a love for learning and foster the development of well-rounded individuals who are equipped with the skills and mindset to thrive in an ever-changing world. We strive to create an educational experience that promotes academic excellence, critical thinking, creativity, and a strong sense of social responsibility on our journey to raise global citizens of our future. Our primary school offers a dynamic and inclusive



learning environment where every child's potential is recognised and celebrated.

We are committed to providing a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum that is aligned with international standards and tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students. Our dedicated team of educators utilises innovative teaching methods and resources to engage students in meaningful learning experiences across a range of subjects, including mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, and more.

At ISB, we understand the importance of nurturing the whole child. In addition to academic learning, we place a strong emphasis on the development of essential life skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Through a variety of extracurricular activities, sports programs and community service initiatives, students have the opportunity to explore their interests, develop their talents, and cultivate a well-rounded identity.

As an international school, we celebrate diversity and promote cultural understanding and appreciation. Our multicultural environment provides students with the unique opportunity to interact with peers from around the world, fostering empathy, tolerance, and a global mindset. Through cross-cultural experiences and international exchanges, we aim to prepare students to thrive in an interconnected world and become responsible global citizens.

We believe that education is a collaborative effort between school and home. We encourage open communication and meaningful collaboration with parents, valuing their input and involvement in their child's education journey. We start the year with

“Meet the Teacher” event, introduce our practices and routines, develop our relationship with Year Group Breakfasts and keep the communication by regular Class Representatives Meetings. Through regular communication channels, parent-teacher conferences, workshops, and events, we strive to build strong partnerships that support the academic and personal growth of every student.

At the International School of Bucharest, we are dedicated to providing a transformative educational experience that prepares students for success in the 21st century. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey as we inspire curiosity, ignite passion, and unlock the potential within each and every child. We hope that the magazine will help parents with practical solutions related to their children's education and share best practices with professionals working in education. We will continue to write about all the fun we experience at school and about all our planned events and activities.

Going through the pages of the magazine one more time before it goes to print, I am amazed with the amount of work everyone in the school has put in this term and I am grateful and honoured to work alongside such a wonderful team. Thank you all for all your hard work and commitment to the school's overall success. I hope you will enjoy reading the Insight as much as I did. I would like to express my special thanks to the authors of the articles, the editor of our magazine, Ms. Madalina Cioc for their huge effort and excellent work to make this possible.

Mustafa Soydemir

Head of Primary School



A Musical Adventure. Early Years' Performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk"

"The 'Jack and the Beanstalk' musical was a celebration of imagination, teamwork, and the sheer joy of storytelling. "

The Sparkling Stars, shining Sunshines, radiant Rainbows, and shimmering Moonbeams took to the stage, retelling this classic tale with enthusiasm and charm. Musical performances offer opportunities for students to explore their creative potential, develop confidence, and cultivate important life skills. Through participation in musicals, children learn the importance of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, all while developing their artistic talents in music, dance, and acting.

The audience was captivated by the children's enthusiastic performances, which demonstrated their remarkable creative talents in a magical display of music, dance, and storytelling. With beaming smiles and boundless energy, each child took to the stage, delivering songs and dances with confidence.

The pride and joy radiating from our young performers was clearly evident as they shared their hard work and dedication with their families.

Laughter, cheers, and applause filled the air, creating memories that will be cherished for years to come.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our talented children for their incredible performance and to the parents for their unwavering support. Together, they brought the magic of "Jack and the Beanstalk" to life, leaving the audience entertained, enchanted, and immensely proud.





Celebrating Success. Busy Bee@ISB Toddler Group

“From its very beginning, Busy Bee@ISB Toddler Group blossomed into a vibrant community where toddlers embark on exciting journeys of exploration and discovery, weaving together the threads of friendship and shared experiences.”

Guided by dedicated facilitators and fuelled by the boundless curiosity of its young participants, the Busy Bee@ISB Toddler Group has grown into a nurturing environment where every child is celebrated, cherished, and empowered to thrive.

At the heart of Busy Bee@ISB lies a commitment to holistic development. From sensory-rich play experiences that ignite the imagination to collaborative activities that foster social skills, every moment is an opportunity for growth. Through a carefully curated blend of play-based learning and hands-on exploration, children aged 18 months to 3 years embark on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment, laying the groundwork for a lifetime of learning.

The Toddler Group Busy Bee@ISB offers a variety of engaging activities tailored to the developmental needs of young children. Our sessions include storytime, singing, and creative arts and crafts, providing a rich tapestry of experiences that stimulate cognitive and emotional growth. The

outdoor play area is a favourite among our toddlers, where they can explore nature, develop their motor skills, and enjoy the fresh air in a safe and secure environment.

One of the key features of our programme is the focus on building strong relationships. We encourage parents and carers to actively participate in sessions, fostering a close-knit community where families can share experiences and support each other. It provides wonderful opportunities for children and their families to bond and create lasting memories.

Here's to many more years of laughter, learning, and limitless possibilities at Busy Bee@ISB – where every child is a star, and every moment is a celebration of success.

Carol Foster

Early Years Foundation Stage Coordinator



Learning Through Exploration.

Year 1 Class Trip to the Park

“At our school, we believe that hands-on experiences and a strong connection to the local area are vital for a child's education. “

Recently, our Year 1 class took a walking trip to Pantelimon Park, combining scientific exploration with a delightful Teddy Bear's Picnic. This outing was carefully planned to align with our Science unit on plants, our Topic unit on travel, and our English unit on Paddington Bear, which features many adventures and explorations of his local area.

The children were actively involved in planning the trip. They made packing lists and decided what activities to undertake and what items to bring. This not only engaged them in the practical aspects of trip planning but helped to foster their organisational and decision-making skills.

Upon arriving at Pantelimon Park, the children immersed themselves in nature. They explored

the park's flora and fauna, collecting data on the different living things they encountered. Equipped with notebooks and pencils, they made detailed drawings and practised their observation skills, noting the various plant species and insects they discovered. This hands-on scientific exploration allowed them to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting, enhancing their understanding and retention of the subject matter.

After their scientific endeavours, the children enjoyed a picnic under the trees, each bringing along a teddy bear to join them! This part of the trip was inspired by our English unit on Paddington Bear and provided a fun and relaxing way to conclude the day's activities.

As an Eco School, we emphasise the importance of caring for our environment. The children ensured that all rubbish was collected and disposed of properly, leaving the park cleaner than they found it. This practice instils a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship in our students.

Such activities are integral to our educational approach, providing students with a holistic learning experience that goes beyond the classroom. By exploring their local area, engaging in scientific observation, and participating in creative and social activities, children develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of their subjects. They also cultivate important life skills such as teamwork, responsibility, and environmental awareness.

Our trip to Pantelimon Park was a resounding success, and we look forward to more opportunities to learn through exploration and hands-on experiences.

Sian Cresswell and **Alice Asmarandei**
Year 1 Class Teachers



The students explored the park's flora and fauna, collecting data on the different living things they encountered.



Equipped with notebooks and pencils, students made detailed drawings and practised their observation skills.

Understanding Cognitive Diversity: Embracing Unique Learning Journeys

"Education is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. As educators, we are often reminded of this truth through our daily interactions with students."



Each child brings a unique set of cognitive abilities, learning styles, and challenges to the classroom. Understanding these differences is essential for fostering an inclusive and effective learning environment. This article explores the intricacies of

cognition, the barriers to learning, the importance of recognising that no two students learn the same way, and how our school is embracing these truths in our teaching practices.

The Complexity of Cognition

Cognition encompasses the mental processes involved in gaining knowledge and comprehension. These processes include thinking, knowing, remembering, judging, and problem-solving. Cognitive functions are critical for learning as they enable students to process information, understand concepts, and apply knowledge to new situations. However, cognitive abilities can vary widely among students due to a range of factors including genetic predisposition, environmental influences, and educational experiences.

Barriers to Learning

Several barriers can impede a student's ability

to learn effectively. These barriers can be broadly categorised into cognitive, emotional, and environmental factors.

1. **Cognitive Barriers:** These include difficulties with memory, attention, and executive function. For instance, a student with dyslexia may struggle with reading and decoding words, while a student with ADHD might find it challenging to maintain focus during lessons.
2. **Emotional Barriers:** Stress, anxiety, and low self-esteem can significantly affect a student's ability to learn. A child who feels anxious about their academic performance may find it difficult to concentrate and absorb new information.
3. **Environmental Barriers:** These encompass factors such as inadequate instructional materials, poor classroom management, and socio-economic challenges. A student from a low-income background might face additional challenges such as lack of access to educational resources and a conducive learning environment at home.

The Importance of Individualised Learning

Recognising that no child learns the same way is crucial for creating effective educational strategies. Here are a few approaches to accommodate diverse learning needs and how our school is implementing

these strategies:

1. **Differentiated Instruction:** This involves tailoring teaching methods to meet the diverse needs of students. For example, using a mix of visual, auditory, and kinesthetic activities can help cater to different learning styles. At our school, we incorporate project-based learning and hands-on activities to engage students with varying preferences.
2. **Personalised Learning Plans:** Developing individualized learning plans based on each student's strengths, weaknesses, and interests can enhance engagement and academic success. Our school employs a team of educational specialists who work closely with teachers to design and implement these personalised plans, ensuring that each student receives the support they need.
3. **Inclusive Practices:** Implementing inclusive teaching practices ensures that all students, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds, have equal opportunities to learn. This can include providing additional support for students with learning disabilities and creating a classroom environment that celebrates diversity. We have established peer mentoring programs and provide professional development for teachers on inclusive education strategies.
4. **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Incorporating SEL into the curriculum can help students develop the emotional skills needed to overcome personal barriers to learning. Teaching students how to manage their emotions, set goals, and build positive relationships can create a more supportive and effective learning environment. Our school integrates SEL into daily activities, offering workshops and counseling services to support students' emotional well-being.

How We Do Things

Our commitment to embracing cognitive diversity is reflected in several key initiatives and practices. At ISB, we design classroom spaces that encourage collaboration and active engagement. Flexible seating arrangements and group workstations

enable students to interact and learn from one another. We utilise educational technology to personalise learning experiences. Tools such as adaptive learning software and digital portfolios allow students to progress at their own pace and showcase their achievements. Continuous learning for our educators is a priority. We provide regular training sessions on the latest research in cognitive science and effective teaching strategies to ensure our teachers are well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of their students. We actively involve parents in the learning process through workshops, conferences, and regular communication. By partnering with parents, we create a supportive network that reinforces our commitment to individualised learning.

Conclusion

Understanding and addressing the cognitive diversity in our classrooms is essential for fostering an inclusive and effective educational environment. By recognising the unique learning journeys of each student and implementing strategies to overcome barriers, we can create a more equitable and successful educational experience for all. As educators, our goal should be to nurture the potential of every student, acknowledging that while the path to learning may differ for each child, the destination of knowledge and growth is a shared goal.

In embracing these principles and implementing these practices, we not only enhance the educational experience for our students but also contribute to a more inclusive and understanding society. Let us continue to celebrate and support the unique cognitive abilities of every learner, ensuring that no child is left behind in their quest for knowledge at ISB and beyond.

Kasey Daye

Year 2 Class Teacher

Year 2's HERO Assembly. A Journey of Values

"To celebrate and embrace our Character Education value system at ISB, Year 2K proudly presented a unique play titled "If I Only Could," inspired by the values of Honesty, Empathy, Responsibility, and Open-mindedness."

This exciting project began with a school environment in chaos, where students felt sad and frustrated due to the absence of these core values. The transformation began when our heroes arrived, each embodying one of the HERO values.

Our play was creatively punctuated with a parody of Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill," rewritten to "If I Only Could," which we performed to introduce and demand help from our heroes. This engaging element brought energy and excitement to our performance.

Through a series of dramatic and humorous scenes, we showcased the journey from disorder to harmony, emphasising how these values can positively impact our school community. The heroes taught us important lessons: Honesty by sorting out the truth, Empathy by comforting others, Responsibility by organising and caring for our spaces, and Open-mindedness by encouraging inclusivity.

Our dynamic and heart-felt play, complete with colourful costumes and props, captivated the audience and highlighted the importance of these values in everyday life. The assembly was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved. We are super proud of our efforts and the message we shared.



Kasey Daye, Year 2 Class Teacher

HONESTY

EMPATHY

RESPONSIBILITY

OPEN-MINDEDNESS



Great Fire of London. Year 20 Class Assembly

"The fire, by God's mercy, consumed the houses, but not the lives of our citizens, and the desolation was so total that the ruins of the city were a great pitiful sight." **John Evelyn, diarist and contemporary witness of the Great Fire of London 1666.**

The Great Fire of London is a topic studied by students in Year 2 and is linked to the Humanities (History and Geography) curriculum.

One of the objectives of this unit is to place the Great Fire of London on a timeline and explore how London was different in 1666. Exploring the events of the Great Fire and Samuel Pepys' experiences brings suspense and excitement to every lesson.

Investigating some of the reasons the fire lasted so long, and the measures that were put in place to ensure a fire of such a large scale develops reasoning and critical thinking for primary learners. Considering how we know about the Great Fire, looking at sources including Pepys' diary, pictures,

reports, and artifacts, develops a new perspective and understanding of history.

Geography is also included in the curriculum, covering London landmarks identification, sketch map creation, navigation between landmarks, and compass direction use.

Class Assemblies summarize all the knowledge about the Great Fire of London children achieved and provide a cross-curricular approach.

Oana Ionescu

Year 2 Class Teacher & Year Leader



Unveil Ancient Egypt. Year 4B Assembly

"I loved the part where we got to dance," said Alexander, one of the 4B students. "It was so much fun, and it felt like we were really bringing a piece of history to life."

The ISB Theatre echoed with applause as the students of class 4B presented an engaging and humorous assembly on Ancient Egypt. The event was a perfect blend of education and entertainment, leaving students, teachers and parents with smiles on their faces.

The students of 4B delivered their lines with confidence and humour, making the Topic lesson enjoyable for everyone. The students worked incredibly hard to not only understand the historical facts, but also to present them in a way that was entertaining and engaging.

The play included a series of comedic sketches that highlighted key aspects of Ancient Egyptian civilization, from the building of the pyramids to

the process of mummification. The witty dialogues had the audience laughing out loud while learning about the daily life, culture, and innovations of ancient Egyptians.

"I loved the part where we got to dance," said Alexander, one of the 4B students. "It was so much fun, and it felt like we were really bringing a piece of history to life."

The success of the Year 4B Ancient Egypt assembly emphasises ISB's commitment to learning. By transforming traditional lessons into interactive and enjoyable experiences, ISB continues to promote the love for learning and a deeper understanding of the world's rich history.

Year 3 Residential Trip to Club Vila Bran

The change of environment can provide inspiration and help improve creativity amongst pupils (and teachers) across a range of subjects. Over the course of residential trips, relationships can be forged and strengthened in ways that might not occur in the conventional school environment. The shift from classroom to the mountainside allowed both students and teachers to engage with each other in new, dynamic ways.

Year 3 children embarked on their first residential trip for one night to Club Vila Bran, a complex in a renowned mountain resort. This destination offers a variety of activities tailored for children, making it an ideal location for our adventure.

One of the highlights of the trip was horseback riding, an activity that not only builds character but also boosts confidence. The children eagerly participated and enjoyed the experience. Additionally, they tried their hands at bow and arrow shooting, which helped improve their hand-eye coordination and focus, while also fostering patience.

Another memorable part of the trip was visiting the Valley of Stories. Here, the children met some well-known characters from famous fairytales and had the opportunity to explore their homes, adding a magical touch to their adventure.

Overall, the trip to Club Vila Bran was an enriching experience that combined fun and learning, leaving the children with lasting memories and valuable skills.

Andreea Bacalu

Year 3 Class Teacher



“Residential trips offer a unique opportunity to break down the barriers between pupils, teachers, and the traditional classroom setting.”

Year 4C's Wild Amazon Adventure: Don't Panic!

"Year 4C students performed a captivating play based on "The Great Kapok Tree" by Lynne Cherry. This enchanting children's story follows the journey of a man who ventures into the Amazon rainforest with the intent to cut down a beautiful kapok tree."

Our primary assemblies take place every Friday, offering children a sense of community and providing them with various opportunities for growth and engagement. These gatherings serve as a platform for sharing information, celebrating achievements, and promoting social and educational development. A favourite among our pupils are our class assemblies, where students take the lead. These student-led assemblies offer valuable opportunities for showcasing talents and creativity in front of peers, teachers and parents, fostering confidence and self-expression. It's a time for students to shine, contribute to the school community, and build essential skills for their personal and academic growth.

This year, 4C decided to centre their assembly around the Amazon Rainforest and the challenges it faces. As part of their presentation, they performed a captivating play based on "The Great Kapok Tree" by Lynne Cherry. This enchanting children's story follows the journey of a man who ventures into the Amazon rainforest with the intent to cut down a beautiful kapok tree. However, as he rests beneath its branches, he is visited by a series of animals who reveal the tree's vital role in the ecosystem. Through the persuasive voices of these creatures, the man learns about the interconnectedness of all life in the rainforest and the dire consequences of deforestation. The students of 4C absolutely loved playing the roles of the different animals and did a fantastic job of bringing the story to life. Their enthusiasm and dedication shone through in their performances, making the play both engaging and memorable for everyone in the audience.

In addition to the play, the children presented fascinating facts about the rainforest and shared with the audience ideas on how we can help the animals, plants, and people of the Amazon. Their presentation highlighted the importance of conservation efforts and practical steps we can take to protect this vital ecosystem, such as supporting sustainable products, reducing deforestation, and raising awareness about the challenges faced by the rainforest. The assembly was both informative and inspiring, encouraging everyone to take action in preserving the Amazon rainforest.

Cathryn Quinn

Year 4C Class Teacher





Year 4 Trip to the Seaside

“Year 4 students explored Greek and Romanian ruins, they enjoyed beach games, a dolphinarium visit, and a guided tour of the Naval Academy, creating countless cherished memories that enriched their academic journey and well-being.”

This year, Year 4 embarked on their residential trip to Mamaia Beach. The picturesque coastline, the Black Sea, and delightful weather surpassed the expectations of our eager students. For three days, the children enjoyed the beautiful and sunny beach resort.

They embarked on an exciting quest around Constanța, delving into the history of the coastal city while visiting many significant and impressive buildings. Among the highlights of the hunt was a visit to the Archaeological Park, where students had the opportunity to explore both Greek and Romanian ruins. The prominent monument to Romulus and Remus in the city centre provided the children with insight into the popular Roman myth. With tired feet from walking the quaint streets and plazas of the city, the quest concluded at the magnificent casino and promenade.

Our hotel overlooked the sea, allowing plenty of time for the students to enjoy the beach. They spent quality time together building sandcastles

and worked in teams to participate in a friendly sandcastle competition. They enjoyed collecting seashells and paddling in the sea. Beach games were played, with hours dedicated to football matches, obstacle courses, and team activities.

They also visited the mini zoo and dolphinarium, where they were fortunate to see a baby dolphin born just a week ago! A particular highlight was a guided tour of the Naval Academy, where they experienced a naval ship simulator and gained a glimpse into life on a real navy ship in the ocean—it was incredibly realistic.

Year 4 had a fantastic time on their trip, creating countless cherished memories. This underscores how a residential excursion not only enriches a student's academic journey but also contributes to their overall well-being.

Cathryn Quinn
Year 4C Class Teacher



Year 5 Residential Trip to Sighisoara. Fostering Learning Outside the Classroom

“The air was thick with excitement on Monday morning as students, buzzing with anticipation like bees around a hive, boarded the coach for a three-hour journey towards the enchanting Valea Prahovei.”

On Monday, May 27, Year 5 embarked on an exhilarating adventure to Sighisoara for a teambuilding residential trip, set to last three memorable nights. The air was thick with excitement on Monday morning as students, buzzing with anticipation like bees around a hive, boarded the coach for a three-hour journey towards the enchanting Valea Prahovei. Their first significant stop was at the imposing Rupea Fortress, a stone sentinel of history where the students were transported back in time, unraveling the rich tapestry of the Transylvanian Saxons and the storied past of Romania. The remainder of the afternoon was a whirlwind of team games and a thrilling wall-climbing session, culminating in a lively Mini Disco Party that had everyone dancing joyfully under the

spell of glittering lights. That evening, a sumptuous three-course dinner was served, featuring a special cake to celebrate Irene’s 10th birthday. After such a jam-packed day, everyone was tucked into bed early, sleeping like logs under the starry sky.

Tuesday was when the real magic began—the day started with a visit to Danes Dracula Domain, where the students marvelled at the horse stables and the quaint small zoo, filled with fascinating animals. The carriage ride provided a taste of old-world charm, evoking the elegance of bygone eras, while the highlight for many was the exhilarating experience of riding the majestic horses of the domain. By lunchtime, the group returned to their accommodation, their hearts racing with the thrill

of adventure. The afternoon brought a refreshing swimming session at the luxurious Hilton DoubleTree, where laughter echoed off the water's surface, followed by an enchanting sightseeing tour of the historic Citadel of Sighișoara. As we returned to the hotel, several excited students from 5V clamored for a short hike to explore the verdant surroundings of the accommodation. As the sun dipped below the horizon, painting the sky in hues of pink and gold, the students gathered for a hearty dinner, ending the day with a spirited Just Dance party that left everyone happy.

Wednesday morning greeted the group with a blanket of rain, causing them to peer hopefully out of the windows, waiting for the weather to clear. By afternoon, the clouds parted and the sun emerged, prompting everyone to don their waterproof gear and head to the Citadel of Sighișoara. They explored the ancient towers of the City, the House Guilds, the House of Medieval Arms and Maps, the storied school from the hill, and the famous covered 300-step stairway, each step echoing with the whispers of history. The candy shop and souvenir stalls captivated the students, leaving them with sweet memories and trinkets of their adventures. As evening fell, they returned to their accommodation for dinner and a cozy cinema night, where the flickering screen mirrored the twinkling stars outside.

By Thursday morning, the trip was drawing to a close. The day began with a hearty breakfast, followed by a meticulous room inspection and a heartwarming award ceremony, celebrating the students' resilience and newfound confidence. This residential trip had been a fantastic opportunity for the children to gain independence, develop new skills, and forge lasting friendships. As they boarded the coach for the journey home, everyone carried fond memories of their time in Sighișoara, memories that would be cherished for years to come. The laughter, the adventures, and the bonds formed during these few days would remain a bright spot in their school years, much like the cherished residential trips of my childhood.

Veronica Damian

Primary Teacher & Y 5 Leader



Transforming Time. Fifth Graders Bring Ancient Greece to Life in Spectacular Fashion Show

"The crowning jewel of the fifth-grade students' 'Ancient Greek Mythology' unit in Topic was an incredible fashion display that showcased their project-based learning 'Ancient Greek Outfits.'"



The "Ancient Greek Outfits" was a vivid culmination of weeks of immersive study and creative effort. Through their meticulous planning, diligent development, and careful production of these masterpieces, the children had the opportunity to discover the rich history of Ancient Greece. They eventually transformed into magnificent gods and goddesses, fierce warriors, and even the mighty Zeus himself.

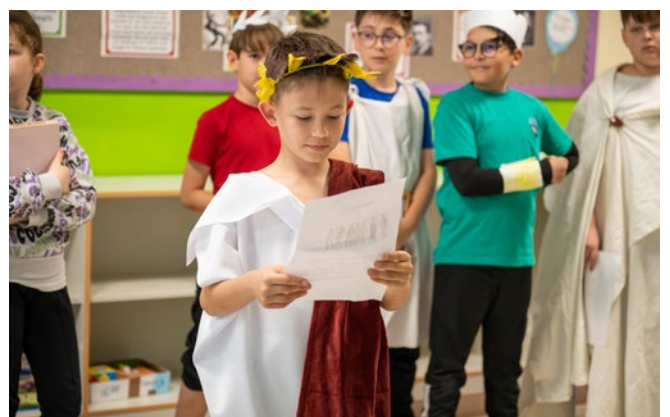
The students possessed a detailed understanding of the exact locations and timelines of several significant ancient Greek historical events, making their knowledge both broad and precise. Year five students engaged in spirited discussions comparing life in Sparta and Athens, giving them insights into the contrasting lifestyles and values of these iconic city-states. They explored the early days of democracy in Athens, appreciating its foundational impact on modern governance.

Furthermore, our Year 5 students' curious minds gained valuable information about the ancient Greek Olympics, drawing fascinating parallels between those historic games and the modern Olympics. They utilised ancient Greek pottery as a primary source, which provided an authentic glimpse into the past and enriched their understanding of ancient Greek culture.

Thank you to all of the Year 5 students for your dedication and hard work! Your enthusiasm and commitment have brought the ancient world to life in a truly remarkable way.

Veronica Damian

Year 5 Teacher



Y6 Students' Community Spirit

“The empathy and responsibility shown by the Y6 students were truly inspiring, making their Martisor Market project a standout success in their educational journey.”

As part of their "Enterprise" learning topic, the Year 6 students at ISB organised a vibrant Martisor Market back in March, blending local traditions with entrepreneurial skills. This engaging project allowed them to delve into the rich cultural heritage of Martisor, a cherished local tradition, while also honing their business understanding.

The students embarked on their entrepreneurial journey by developing their own unique brands and crafting comprehensive marketing campaigns to promote their Martisor products. Through this hands-on experience, they learned valuable lessons in branding, advertising, and customer engagement, all of which are essential skills in today's business world.

The Martisor Market was a resounding success. Demonstrating remarkable empathy and social responsibility, they decided to donate 4000 lei of the proceeds to the Homeless Animal Hospital.

To make the donation even more meaningful, the students visited the hospital, gaining first hand insight into the vital work that veterinarians do to care for homeless animals. This visit not only broadened their understanding of veterinary care, but also underscored the importance of compassion and community service. The visit was followed by a presentation at our school given by Dr. Aurelian Stefan, the manager of the Homeless Animal Hospital. He spoke about the importance of being responsible pet owners and how we can further help animals in need.

The entire project was a testament to the students' dedication, creativity, and willingness to make a positive impact. It beautifully illustrated how combining cultural education with practical skills can lead to significant contributions to society. The empathy and responsibility shown by the

Y6 students were truly inspiring, making their Martisor Market project a standout success in their educational journey.

Liane Moldoveanu

Year 6 Teacher & Year and Maths Leader



The Sky's the Limit. Science Week @ISB Primary School

"This year's theme, 'The Sky's the Limit,' led to a variety of creative and engaging activities across different grade levels."

Science Week at the International School of Bucharest took place between 8-12th April and it was a thrilling and exciting experience for students and staff alike. The event aimed to promote hands-on activities, inspire curiosity, and foster a love for science among students of all ages. This year's theme, "The Sky's the Limit," led to a variety of creative and engaging activities across different grade levels.

Engaging Activities and Hands-on Learning

From making "Galaxies in a Jar" to using Oreo cookies to learn about moon phases and creating moon craters, students engaged in activities that were both educational and enjoyable. These experiences not only enhanced their scientific knowledge, but also inspired a lasting curiosity and passion for science.



Exciting Field Trips

Foundation Stage 2, Year 1, and Year 2: Edera Pan and MamaPan Bakery

One of the highlights of Science Week was the field trips, particularly for Foundation Stage 2, Year 1, and Year 2 students. These young learners visited two local bakeries, where they had the opportunity to see firsthand how science is applied in everyday life, especially in the process of baking bread.

Year 3: Antipa Museum

Year 3 students embarked on an educational trip to the Antipa Museum, one of the most renowned natural history museums in Romania. Students had

the opportunity to explore a wide variety of exhibits showcasing the rich biodiversity of our planet. They learned about different species of plants, animals, and microorganisms, observing specimens up close and discovering the diverse habitats in which they live.

Special Presentations and Experiments

Year 4-6: Astronomy with WOW Lab

Later in the week, Year 4, 5, 6 students were treated to a visit from WOW Lab, an innovative Romanian science education company. The presenter delivered a captivating presentation about astronomy, sharing fun facts with our Year 4-6 students about some of the wonders of the cosmos such as asteroids, comets, black holes, and even the aurora borealis. Everyone came away with a better understanding of what goes on beyond the blue skies of Earth!

Year 6 and Year 8: Asteroid Impact Experiment

Year 6 students visited the Secondary Science department and, along with Year 8, participated in an engaging experiment investigating how the distance of an asteroid's impact with Earth correlates to the size of the crater it creates. This activity showcased magnificent examples of teamwork between the two year groups and even led to the formation of some new friendships.

Science Fair

The culmination of Primary Science Week at the International School of Bucharest was the science fair, where students had the opportunity to showcase their experiments and investigations to their peers. It was a remarkable display of creativity, enthusiasm, and teamwork, fostering a sense of camaraderie

and collaboration among the young scientists. During the science fair, students presented a wide range of scientific investigations and experiments. One of the most remarkable aspects of the science fair was the partnership between Primary and Secondary students. This collaboration exemplifies the inclusive and supportive environment fostered at ISB, where students of all ages are encouraged to work together, learn from each other, and pursue their scientific interests with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Overall, the success of the Primary Science Week highlights the vibrant culture of scientific inquiry at ISB and underscores the school's commitment to nurturing the next generation of innovators and thinkers. By providing opportunities for collaboration, exploration, and discovery, ISB empowers students to reach for the stars and realise that indeed, "The Sky is the Limit."

Mădălina Leondar

Primary French Teacher and Science Leader





FirStep 2024

The FirStep Science Competition is an esteemed annual event that unites students from Lumina schools to showcase their scientific talents, enhance their communication skills, foster teamwork and creativity. This prestigious competition not only challenges participants to think creatively and critically, but also encourages collaboration, innovation and a passion for science.

FirStep Science Competition is highly appreciated by our primary students, because it encourages collaboration and allows students to choose their partners and topics, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility in their projects. This collaborative environment teaches students to harness each other's strengths, communicate efficiently, and distribute tasks appropriately. By working together, students develop a sense of camaraderie and unity, striving collectively towards the common objective of excelling in the competition.

With great enthusiasm and emotion, students showcased, explained and demonstrated their projects in front of the jury members, expressed their thoughts, received and responded to feedback,

and partook in meaningful dialogues both in the school round and in the Grand final. As a result of students' hard work and determination, ISB Primary earned 1 gold medal, 1 silver medal, and 1 bronze medal this year.

Congratulations to all of you! We are very proud of your achievements!

Mădălina Leondar

Primary French Teacher and Science Leader



ISB Sports Day Extravaganza 2024

After a long year waiting for one of the most popular and important sports events in our community, the Sports Day April 2024 was a real success for students and a very much appreciated event for the parents.

We, as teachers, were very pleased to see the engagement, focus, determination and real joy of our students who gave their best to win the races planned for them.

It was a real success for our students from a parents perspective who showed real happiness and joy seeing their childrens give their best to win every single race, also the fair play during competition.

The ISB's students demonstrated once more their physical qualities and pleasure during this event. We would like to thank and congratulate all of them, students and parents and we wait with enthusiasm for the next Sports Day in 2025.

Dinu Sănmărtean
PE Teacher





Celebrating World Water Day at ISB - A Splash of Creativity and Awareness

On March 22, 2024, ISB celebrated World Water Day. This global event is an annual celebration that focuses on the importance of freshwater. This year's theme was 'Water for Peace', which focused on the critical role water plays in the stability and prosperity of the world.

World Water Day was celebrated with a series of engaging and educational activities, transforming the campus into a vibrant hub of water-themed celebrations. The event was marked by creativity and a deep sense of environmental responsibility.

One of the highlights of the celebration was a charming play titled "The Water Fairy," written and performed by the students. The play depicted the magical journey of a water fairy who teaches children about the importance of conserving water. The young audience was captivated by the

imaginative storyline and the vibrant performances of their colleagues.

Students from all year groups showcased their photography skills, capturing powerful images that depicted the importance of water in everyday life. The competition entries, displayed in the school gallery, ranged from serene landscapes to everyday scenes of water use.

The Water Poems written by Year 5 & 6 students reflected their understanding of water's role in nature and human life. Moreover, ISB students participating in the World Scholars Cup competition wrote insightful essays and engaged in spirited debates, discussing various aspects of water conservation, management, and its global importance.



Science classes across all year groups joined the celebration by conducting experiments involving water. These experiments provided hands-on learning experiences. Students eagerly participated, enhancing their scientific understanding while reinforcing the day's theme.

By engaging students in diverse activities that combined creativity, science, and critical thinking, ISB successfully highlighted the essential role of water in our lives and the importance of its conservation for future generations.

Dana Breitenhofer

Year 4 Teacher

Eco Coordinator for Primary School

Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader



The HERO Tree. An Eco & Character Education Project

“The HERO Tree project is a fantastic example of how art can be used to teach important lessons about both environmental sustainability and character development.”

Students at ISB have embarked on a unique project that transforms recycled plastic bottle caps into a vibrant art installation. The project named **“The HERO Tree”**, emphasised the school’s commitment to sustainability and the cultivation of Character Education values.

Over the past months, students have been diligently collecting plastic bottle caps of different sizes, shapes, and colours. This initiative not only promoted recycling but also encouraged students to think critically about waste and its impact on the environment. The collected caps served as the primary material for the collaborative art piece designed to promote creativity and teamwork.

The HERO tree’s branches are adorned with ISB HERO values — Honesty, Empathy, Responsibility and Open Mindedness. Each branch of the tree represents one of these values, serving as a daily reminder of the principles that guide the ISB

community.

The HERO Tree project is a fantastic example of how art can be used to teach important lessons about both environmental sustainability and character development. ISB students have shown incredible dedication and creativity in bringing this project to life, and we are immensely proud of their efforts.

The collaborative nature of the HERO Tree has encouraged teamwork, communication, and mutual respect — skills that are essential both within and beyond the classroom.

Dana Breitenhofer

Year 4 Teacher

Eco Coordinator for Primary School

Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader

End of Year Assessments



Assessment is a key part of today's educational system. Assessment serves as an individual evaluation system, and as a way to compare performance across a spectrum and across populations. The purpose of assessment is to gather relevant information about student performance or progress, or to determine student interests to make judgments about their learning process. After receiving this information, teachers can reflect on each student's level of achievement.

Continuous assessment provides day-to-day feedback about the learning and teaching process. Assessment can reinforce the efficacy of teaching and learning. It also encourages the understanding of teaching as a formative process that evolves over time with feedback and input from students. This creates good classroom rapport.

Student assessments are necessary because:

- Throughout a lesson or unit, the teacher might want to check for understanding by using a formative assessment.
- Students who are experiencing difficulties in learning may benefit from the administration of a diagnostic test, which will be able to detect learning issues such as reading comprehension problems, an inability to remember written or spoken words, hearing or speech difficulties, and problems with hand-eye coordination.
- Students generally complete a summative assessment after completing the study of a topic. The teacher can determine their level of achievement and provide them with feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. For students who didn't master the topic or skill, teachers can use data from the assessment to create a plan for remediation.
- Teachers may also want to use informal assessment techniques. Using self-assessment, students express what they think about their learning process and what they should work on. Using peer assessment, students get information from their classmates about what areas they should revise and what areas they're good at.

NFER End of Year Assessments due to happen during the first two weeks of May. Here are some tips how you can get ready:

How to handle assessments days:

- Be prepared. Start the day with a good breakfast, and give yourself plenty of time to get to the exam hall. Remember to take everything you need, including pencils, a rubber, a ruler etc. A bottle of water.
- Take a few minutes to read the instructions and questions. Then you'll know exactly what's expected of you. Ask an assessment supervisor if anything is unclear – they're there to help you.
- Plan how much time you'll need for each question. Do not panic if you get stuck on a question, but try to leave yourself enough time at the end to come back to it.
- Once the assessment is completed, forget about it. Do not spend too much time going over it in your head or comparing answers with your friends. Just focus on the next assessment instead.

Guzel Mirasova
Assessment Leader



1st Place for Our U11 ISB Eagles at Verona Football Tournament

The Verona Football Tournament was a thrilling adventure for our team. Our 14 enthusiastic Eagles embarked on a journey from Bucharest to Verona at the beginning of the summer term. The games kicked off on Friday and concluded on Sunday, offering a weekend filled with intense football action. After the first day of matches, our students took the opportunity to explore the historic centre of Verona, soaking in the local culture and sights.

Competing against 32 teams from 10 different countries, our students showcased their dedication and skill, honed through rigorous training since September with sessions three times a week. Their hard work was evident as they topped their group, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and strategy. Throughout the tournament, our team played 11 games, winning an impressive seven matches and

losing four. This performance highlighted their resilience and competitive spirit.

Returning to school with the first-place trophy and medals, our students celebrated their remarkable achievement. This victory not only marked a significant milestone in their football journey but also emphasised the rewards of perseverance and teamwork. The experience in Verona provided invaluable lessons and memories, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment among the students and the entire school community

Ahmet Yasin Tuncer

KS2 ESL Teacher

Pastoral & Wellbeing Leader

Lumina Football Cup 2024

As the school year came to a close, students engaged in a flurry of sports activities, culminating in the eagerly awaited Lumina Football Cup. This dynamic event highlighted not only the athletic abilities of our students but also the spirit of competition and unity within our school community.

Covering various age groups, from U9 to U13, the Lumina Football Cup brought together young athletes from primary and secondary levels. Held over a weekend in May the tournament featured teams from private schools, adding an international flavor to the matches.

On the field, players demonstrated their skills and strategic thinking, captivating spectators with their agility and game tactics. Each match showcased the dedication and training of our student athletes as they competed for victory.

Beyond the competition, the Lumina Football Cup fostered camaraderie among participants. Coaches, students, and PE teachers collaborated to ensure the success of the event, creating an atmosphere of celebration and sportsmanship.

As the tournament concluded and winners were announced, lasting memories were created. The Lumina Football Cup not only displayed the talent of our students but also reinforced the values of teamwork and perseverance.

Congratulations to all participants for their hard work. Special thanks to the organisers, coaches, and volunteers who made the Lumina Football Cup a success.

Looking ahead, we anticipate more exciting tournaments as our school continues to support and celebrate the sporting achievements of our students.



Ingrid Stanciu

Head of Enrichment Primary School



Celebrating Our IGCSE Achievements and Looking Ahead

As we step into the 2024/25 academic year, it is with great pride and reflection that we revisit the remarkable journey undertaken by 69 of our students during their IGCSE exams in the previous academic year. The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) programme, known for its comprehensive and challenging curriculum, played a crucial role in laying the foundation for their academic growth. These students demonstrated incredible diligence and perseverance, and we are now thrilled to share their outstanding achievements.

The IGCSE, with its focus on fostering knowledge and understanding across a broad spectrum of subjects, equips students with essential skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, and effective communication. These competencies are vital, not only for their success in the IGCSE but also as they transition into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). The IBDP, recognized for its rigorous curriculum and emphasis on developing global citizens, will provide our students with further opportunities to hone these skills and deepen their learning.

With the IGCSE results now in hand, we are delighted to see that the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students have been richly rewarded. Their excellent results reflect not only their academic potential but also the strength of our educational programme, which continuously strives for excellence. These accomplishments are a testament to their resilience and the guidance of our dedicated teachers who have supported them throughout their journey.

As they move forward into the challenges and rewards of the IBDP, our students are well-prepared to continue excelling. The strong academic foundation they have built through the IGCSE programme will be a vital asset as they navigate the next stage of their education. We are confident that they will approach the IBDP with the same level of commitment, curiosity, and determination that they exhibited during their IGCSE experience.

We congratulate all our students for their remarkable achievements and wish them continued success in the IBDP and beyond. Their journey is far from over, but they are undoubtedly ready for the challenges ahead. As a school, we remain dedicated to supporting them every step of the way, confident that they are prepared to face any future challenge with competence, confidence, and a global perspective.

Oytun Pekel

Head of Secondary School



Top Achievers

IGCSE Examinations 2024

A*-A

31.75%

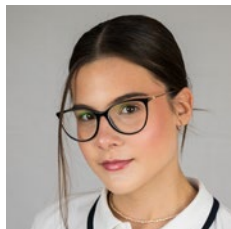
A*-C

71.67%



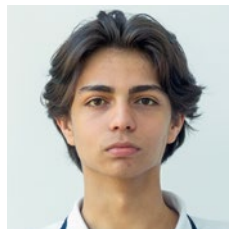
Giorgio S.

7A* 2A



Evelin I.

6A* 2A



Gabriel L.

5A* 3A



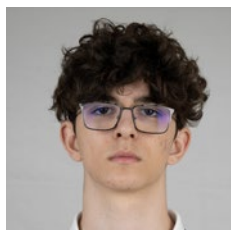
Ioana M.

5A* 3A



Toma R.

5A* 2A



Adrian I.

4A* 3A



Yijia Z.

4A* 4A



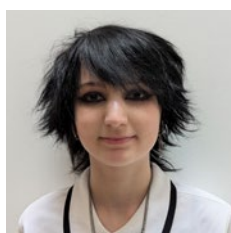
Sanziana C.

4A* 3A



Rada T.

3A* 3A



Maia M.

3A* 2A



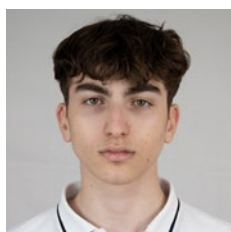
Sara C.

3A* 2A



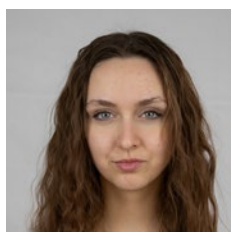
Yun-Lin C.

3A* 2A



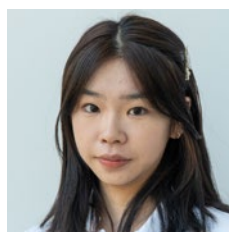
George V.

3A* 5A



Maria Z.

2A* 4A



Zhanyue X.

2A* 4A



Gemma C.

2A* 7A

HONESTY

EMPATHY

RESPONSIBILITY

OPEN-MINDEDNESS



Celebrating Growth and Success: A Reflection on the Academic Year

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is time to reflect on the journey we have taken together. This year has been one of personal and academic growth for our students at ISB.

All scholars have demonstrated remarkable progress and dedication to their studies. From mastering complex mathematical equations to analysing literary works, acting and playing music, they have shown resilience and determination in the face of challenges. As educators, it is rewarding to witness their growth and development, observing them getting the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their future endeavors.

However, academic achievement is just one facet of our students' success. We have also witnessed an impressive number of students actively engaging in extracurricular activities, demonstrating their diverse talents and passions beyond the classroom walls. Whether it be on the sports field, the stage, or in community service initiatives, our students have embraced opportunities for growth and enrichment. It has been a joy to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions in our weekly newsletter, showcasing the depth and breadth of their talents.

Beyond academics and extracurriculars, we have also prioritised the development of essential life skills, including good manners and social etiquette. Understanding that our students are not just preparing for exams but for life beyond the school gates, we have instilled in them the importance of respect, kindness, and empathy. Through numerous discussions, they have learned how to navigate social situations with grace and confidence, laying

the foundation for them to become respectful and responsible members of society.

Furthermore, many of our students have embraced leadership opportunities, taking on roles as class representatives or leaders in various activities. Whether they are organising events, representing their classmates' interests, or mentoring younger students, they embody the values of leadership and service that we strive to instill in all our students.

As we say farewell to another academic year, let's take a moment to celebrate the growth, achievements, and successes of our students. We are very proud of all of them and look forward to witnessing their promising future.

Adina Iacob

Head of Pastoral Care
Secondary School

Embracing Science Week. An Educational Adventure Beyond the Classroom

“Science Week has been an extraordinary journey, opening students' minds to the wonders of science and its real-world applications.”



For one week, the ISB Secondary School students immersed themselves in Science, both within and outside the classroom, a celebration of scientific discovery and learning. The excitement was palpable as students ventured on various educational trips, each designed to ignite curiosity and foster a deeper appreciation for science.

Year 8 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to Reptiland in Bucharest. Far more than a typical museum, Reptiland is a vibrant sanctuary of natural sciences. Here, students marveled at the stunning diversity of reptiles and exotic plants housed in expansive, automated terrariums and vivariums that mimic their natural habitats. This modern marvel offers a unique blend of education and relaxation, set amidst the bustling cityscape. Reptiland's mission to promote respect for nature and biodiversity resonated deeply with the students, providing them with a profound understanding of the world's ecological beauty.

Year 7 students dived into the world of experimentation at "The House of Experiments" (Casa Experimentelor). This innovative science center challenges young minds to think like inventors, drawing inspiration from greats such as Marie Curie and Henri Coandă. With a plethora of hands-on exhibits and interactive experiments, the House of Experiments epitomises the "learning by doing" philosophy. Students explored scientific phenomena through personal experiences, fostering creativity and critical thinking in a fun, informal setting.

The week culminated with Year 9's visit to The Museum of Technology. Students were introduced to the fascinating world of electricity. Guided by enthusiastic educators, they engaged in practical experiments that illuminated the principles of electrical circuits, conductivity, and energy transformation. This hands-on experience not only deepened their understanding of electricity but also kindled a passion for science and technology. The trip was an inspiring success, leaving students eager to bring their newfound knowledge back to the classroom.

These trips have not only enriched their academic knowledge but have also instilled a lifelong curiosity and love for scientific exploration.

Victoria Foster

Science Teacher

Andromeda Robotics. A season of Innovation and Achievements

Andromeda Robotics team had an incredible season full of challenges, growth, and numerous accomplishments. As we look back on our journey, we are proud of our achievements and the experiences that shaped us. From regional competitions to initiated events, every occasion has helped us grow as a team and as individuals passionate about robotics and technology.

Participating in the regional competition in FTC (First Tech Challenge) was a highlight of the season. The level of competition presented a significant challenge, but it rather pushed our limits and inspired us to improve. During our robot matches, we experienced both victories and losses with our Robot PAUL, each serving as valuable learning opportunities and despite these fluctuations, we made invaluable connections with other robotics teams, developing new relationships and learning from one another. The atmosphere was electrifying, full of enthusiasm and collaboration from each and every member and through effective teamwork, enjoyment, and learning from our mistakes, we grew closer as a team.

Throughout the season, in addition to participating in regionals, we were actively involved in several notable events that provided valuable platforms to showcase our work and engage with others. Our occasions included a presentation at Titu Maiorescu Primary School, where we interacted with a younger audience eager to explore robotics - by demonstrating our robot's functions and control mechanisms, we captivated their interest and curiosity.

Moreover, we took the lead in organising "MEET the Future" at ISB, a meet event that brought together 20 robotics teams, where they had the opportunity to partake in friendly matches. Our aim was to ensure that all participants, including ourselves, had an exceptional experience, both during the



Group Photo of the Andromeda Robotics Team with the Mr. Serdar Sakman, the Head of School, during the "Meet the Future" event at ISB.

matches and throughout the event.

Furthermore, we seized the opportunity to exhibit our robot at an international competition, Infomatrix held in Romania. In addition to showcasing our robot, we volunteered for various roles, including assisting with the Lego Sumo matches which demanded a comprehensive understanding of technology and robotics, allowing us to put our knowledge and skills to the test.

Additionally, we collaborated with FEDEVO to organise "Meet the Tech Expert" where we shared insights from our robotics journey with a tech-interested community. By discussing the details of our projects and engaging in conversations, we further fueled interest in robotics and technology.

Lastly, our commitment to engaging with the ISB community remained steady. We frequently demonstrated our robot and implied our competition actions during school fairs or in "Andromeda Connects", fostering excitement and

interest among the students and teachers.

While we prepare for the next season, we are excited to welcome new recruits to the Andromeda Robotics Team! Welcoming new recruits with fresh perspectives and enthusiasm will energise our projects in each department. We are dedicated to creating a supportive environment where every team member can excel and contribute to our collective success.

We are actively seeking sponsors to support our efforts. Sponsorship will allow us to gain access to better resources, compete in more contests, and advance our skills. We believe that with the right support, we can scale even higher and continue to innovate in the field of robotics.

This season has been filled with fun, learning, and memorable experiences. Despite our drawbacks, the thrill of competition, the excitement of seeing our designs come to life, and the satisfaction of overcoming obstacles together all made the experience extremely rewarding.

We have grown as a team and are eager to take on new challenges in the future! We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our mentor, Ms. Monica Tele, our sponsors: Amma print, Craft Solutions, Custom Projects and Office Nova Concept - and the International School of Bucharest

for their continuous support. We can't wait for the next season and the exciting opportunities it will bring.

Maria Argeşeanu

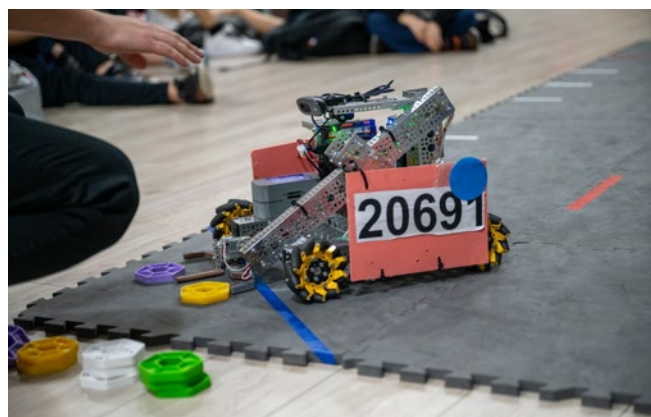
Andromeda Robotics Team Member



We frequently demonstrated our robot and implied our competition actions during school assemblies, fostering excitement and interest among the students and teachers.



Andromeda Robotics Team is recruiting. Make sure you don't lose this chance if you are a tech savvy.



Our robot, PAUL. We experienced both victories and losses together.



Celebrating Achievement. Secondary School Awards Ceremony

On the 12th of April, the International School of Bucharest (ISB) hosted a grand Award Ceremony to honour the remarkable achievements of its students across various fields in international events.

Here are the highlights:

The event commenced with Mr. Oytun Pekel's (Deputy Head of Secondary School) speech congratulating the students for their hard work. It continued with an introduction to the esteemed Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) program, a transformative journey empowering young individuals to develop key skills for life. ISB takes pride in being a participant in this prestigious program, which fosters personal development through adventurous activities, community service,

and skill-building challenges. Students were honoured for achieving the Awards for Bronze, Silver, and Gold, showcasing their resilience and determination. Alongside them, the award leaders, supervisors, and assessors were recognised for their guidance and support.

ISB students shone bright as they qualified for the Tournament of Champions, demonstrating their intellectual prowess on a global stage in London.

Andromeda Robotics Team received certificates for their performance in the FTC season this year, inspiring future engineers.

The ISB Band captivated the audience at the Talent Show and received recognition for their musical

talents.

Athletes and scholars alike were celebrated for their excellence in sports competitions, Mathematics International competitions, and International Economics Olympiads.

The event concluded with the harmonious melodies of the ISB band and soulful piano solos of Eric M. and Mihnea D., reaffirming the school's commitment to nurturing talent and celebrating success.

As the ceremony came to an end, students, parents, and faculty members mingled, sharing their pride in the collective accomplishments of the school community. As attendees left the ISB theatre, there was a palpable sense of optimism and excitement for what the future holds for these young trailblazers. The ceremony was a success, marking yet another milestone in ISB's journey of fostering excellence and inspiring greatness in its students.

Monica Tele

Member of the Organisation Team





Celebrating the Achievements of our IB Students

As the 2023-24 school year comes to a close, we are thrilled to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) students. This year has been marked with memorable events, exhibitions, and experiences that truly showcase our students' dedication and talent.

Highlights of the Year

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Exhibition

Our DP1/Year 12 students demonstrated their critical thinking skills in the TOK exhibition. They presented thought-provoking displays that explored complex knowledge questions such as “Why do we seek knowledge?” “What counts as knowledge?” and “How do we distinguish between knowledge, belief, and opinion?” The creativity and depth of analysis demonstrated by our students were truly impressive.

Collaborative Sciences Project

DP1 students taking different Science courses worked together on a groundbreaking collaborative project, addressing real-world problems through research and experiments. Among the examples of project titles were “How does climate change influence biodiversity in Europe?”, “Preserving the

Roof of the World: The Himalayas”, “How can we mitigate the melting of glaciers”, and many more. Their efforts not only deepened their understanding of scientific principles but also fostered teamwork and collaboration.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Experiences

CAS is a fundamental part of the IBDP, and our students have been involved in various activities this year. They have organised and led community service projects, such as winter and summer fairs and the Un Paste Mai Bun charity campaign, in collaboration with partners. Additionally, they have participated in creative arts, sports, and Duke of Edinburgh activities, developing valuable skills and making meaningful contributions to society. Notably, our Sixth-Form students have organised remarkable events like the FDR Model United Nations ISB and TEDx ISB, showcasing their leadership and organisational skills in the past academic year.

Internal Assessments

Throughout the year, our DP1 and DP2 students completed various internal assessments, demonstrating their knowledge and skills across different subjects. These assessments are a testament to their hard work and academic excellence.



Visual Arts Exhibition

This year's IBDP Visual Arts exhibition showcased the creative work of our talented students. The exhibition featured a diverse range of artwork created over two years, celebrating our students' dedication to the visual arts program. The audience was captivated by the variety of mediums and styles on display, making it a proud moment for our school.



Celebrating Achievements

The May 2024 exam session was a significant milestone for our DP2 students. Despite facing challenges, they approached their exams with resilience and determination. We are eagerly anticipating the release of the results in July and hope that they will reflect the dedication of our students and the support they received from their teachers and families.

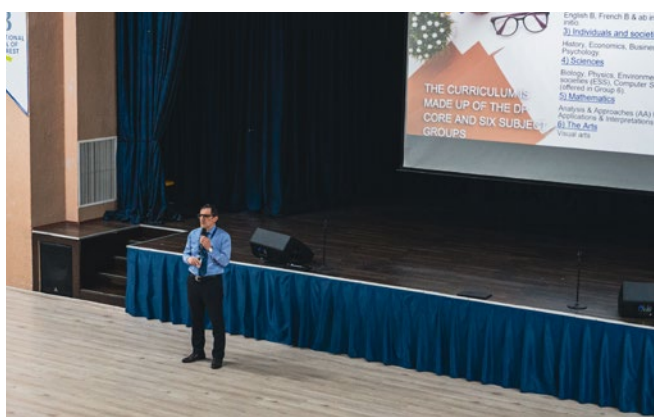


As we await the exam results, we take pride in the accomplishments of our IBDP students. Their achievements this year exemplify the values of the IB program and the spirit of our school community.

Regardless of the outcomes, it's important to celebrate the journey and the growth each student has experienced. The IBDP is not just about the final grades but also about developing critical thinking, international-mindedness, and lifelong learning skills.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our teachers and parents for supporting our students through this demanding period. Your contributions are invaluable to their success.

As we conclude this academic year, we are excited to commemorate our students' accomplishments and milestones as they pursue their futures. Here's to hoping for excellent results in July and another successful year ahead!



Yusuf Suha Orhan

IB Coordinator



International School of Bucharest (ISB) Students Host Model UN at Parliament House

"No one word in the English dictionary would do FDRMUN justice – you just had to be there."

Crafted with passion, sleepless nights, and restless days waiting for the fateful week to roll around, FDRMUN, short for Franklin D. Roosevelt Model United Nations, is a conference organized for ambitious students by Year 11, 12 and Year 13 ISB ambitious students. Aiming to simulate the United Nations, FDRMUN exists to help teenagers familiarise themselves with the dynamics of a diplomatic job and facilitate the difficult decision of choosing whether to follow a career path in international relations or politics. The conference itself is split into several committees found in the UN, where students represent delegations of countries and work together to draft ingenious and

comprehensive resolutions for problems met in the modern world. This year's topic, "Sustainability in a Developing World" relied on the astute minds of 130 participants from 30 high schools in Romania and abroad (Bulgaria, Ireland, Denmark, etc) to drive ardent discussion. Without a doubt, the pages upon pages of resolutions drafted by the students are a hint that they mercilessly dissected the issue and weren't satisfied until they found the optimum solutions.

FDRMUN shines like a bright star in the galaxy of MUNs. It would be too time-consuming to list all its superlatives and achievements, however by

handpicking a few may help paint a clearer picture of the project. It is the first conference in Romania to be NATO and UNICEF affiliated, incorporate a financial aid program, hold multiple sessions at the Palace of the Parliament, have a zero net carbon emission, boast the highest diversity ratio in Romania – and we are handpicking here.

One erroneous conclusion to draw would be that FDRMUN is a debate competition. Indeed, FDRMUN stimulated fruitful and passionate debate, however, whereas regular debate competitions highlight rivalry, forcing students to focus on their differences, FDRMUN made debate the first step in finding common ground. Discussion was used to make sure every voice was heard, and that the proposed resolution was a middle-ground that left everybody satisfied and represented – a skill we are proud to instil in the future generation of diplomats.

The conference stretched across five days. It opened in the majestic Palace of the Parliament, and under the twinkling chandeliers of a lavish staple of politics and diplomacy, speeches from the representative of UNICEF in Romania, FedeVo, and organising members set the stage for the delegates for what was to come in the following week. Even with such ample time, every day that followed was jam-packed with heated debate and passionate lobbying time where delegates worked to draft two resolutions for two topics of debate. Tackling real-life problems – morally ambiguous at times – sharpened the students' critical thinking skills, and we were oftentimes left in awe at their abilities to extract solutions from even the most critical and profound problems, in the most precarious positions, combining history with economics, politics with sociology, to create comprehensive, feasible solutions to intricate problems. The final day marked the apotheosis of the delegates' hard work, and the real satisfaction came from seeing their resolutions get sent to UNICEF, taking one step closer to turning a Model United Nations into a real United Nations conference, and its participants into real delegates.

Bittersweet speeches filled the Senate room in the Palace of the Parliament, with tears being shed as the outstanding efforts of delegates were recognised in a chamber abundant with history. The growth of our delegates was undeniable and mentioned

on several occasions by the esteemed chairs, who watched with immense pride as the committees took their advice to heart and grew as debaters, delegates, and people. The final strike of the gavel against the sound block was so forceful that it flew into the air in an iconic moment, signalling the end of FDRMUN 2024.

Talking about the conference without acknowledging and thanking the incredible organising team and every member of staff and press that brought the conference to life, from an ambitious idea to an exhilarating reality, would be blasphemous. It is in projects like these that the most valuable life lessons are learned, and the most meaningful connections are formed. The success of FDRMUN is simply a reflection of the bonds formed between people, passions, and projects, which rested as the foundation of the rest of the project.

With heavy hearts, the organizing team, the press, the staff, and the delegates wish FDRMUN 2024 goodbye, but the story is nowhere near over.

FDRMUN shapes the future, and its legacy will continue to unfold with each passing moment.

Liza Gilca

Head of Press at FDRMUN

Year 12 ISB Student





Behind the Scenes of the International School of Bucharest's Students' Led TEDx

'Small actions influence significant and unforeseen consequences' This is the root of the Butterfly Effect and the theme behind the inaugural edition of TEDx ISB. We are thrilled to share the resounding success of this event's first edition, held on the 6th of April 2024. TEDx events are independently organised events which follow the same structure and format of the globally renowned TED Talks. As organisers, the biggest reward we could have was seeing the event day run smoothly in tandem with the sentiment of believing we managed to ignite inspiration to young minds through the transformative ideas and thought provoking speeches we tried to deliver.

With the theme of the Butterfly Effect in mind we started curating a diverse lineup of speakers whose

experiences embodied the spirit of our theme. From lawyers who showcased the effect of the butterfly effect in altering the legal system to parenting experts dedicated to the goal of improving familial relationships, we considered the speaker list a crucial aspect of the event into which we poured our hearts and skills to guarantee a success. Organising TEDxISB was no small feat. Months of meticulous planning, brainstorming sessions, and collaboration went into shaping this event.

Saturday, 6th of April. The day of the event finally came. The excitement was palpable as attendees started appearing in the theatre, eager to be inspired. Looking back one of the highlights of the day was witnessing the power of connection through dialogue as participants reneged in

lovely discussions during our networking breaks. The exchange of ideas and perspectives further underscores the profound impact of small actions in fostering meaningful connections and influencing positive change.

Blue kaleidoscopes of butterflies fluttered around the stage and crimson red flowers blossomed around the TEDx letters; ISB history was about to be made. The event gave 10 speakers from all walks of life the opportunity to share their wisdom and insight on the theme of the event. One after the other, our speakers, both students and adults, filled the stage with their presence and unique ideas told through engaging stories.

Everything from scientific phenomena to familial relationships and habit-creation was dissected on stage, taking the audience through a carefully curated journey that explored every corner of the Butterfly Effect. A galaxy of ideas revealed itself in the dim theatre, an interconnected constellation being carefully woven – and together, the speakers walked our audience through the marvel of the Butterfly Effect.

The theme was applied to the lives of teenagers first, inciting them to take control of their lives and begin with small, good deeds that extend like a fractal spreading its' limbs into the lives of others. Then, the adverse perspective was explored, imploring parents to rethink the little aspects of their relationship with their children.

Audience's members were taught how to build long-lasting habits through small, effortless steps, and how the fragility of our memories should not be underestimated. A compelling speech dived into the essence of pedagogical needs of children nowadays, and another brilliant speaker divulged the intimate relationship between empathy in the judicial system and judicial reforms. The Butterfly Effect was also applied in the arts, with both an artist and actress explaining the importance of small actions in their respective fields, and our titular devil's advocate of the event presented an antithesis in the culmination of the event, urging us to also take into consideration other theories alongside the Butterfly Effect. Finally, NASA's youngest analogue astronaut retold her compelling experiences in a life-changing mission and stressed the importance of accountability and meticulous planning – it

saved her life, and perhaps one day it might save our audience's in unexpected ways!

It was with immense pleasure and pride that we awarded our speakers, volunteers and organising team for their tireless hard work, but it was also with heavy hearts that the day ended. As our audience members eventually filed out of the theatre, we were filled with a sense of hope that our event had managed to knock down the first domino, and from there on out a chain reaction would be unleashed, the effects of which would be felt in the lives of our attendees and in the wider community of which they were a part of.

We would like to thank once more every speaker, participant, and volunteer that helped create the first-ever edition of TEDx International School of Bucharest, and who helped make it an unforgettable event.

Maia S.
ISB Student



Actual Intelligence

We've just had three parent-teacher meetings, where I tend to start each appointment with the question, "Who's your baby?" I don't know when I started asking that, but it seems to put the visitor at their ease. In my last school before joining ISB, I was at a parents' evening and the Mathematics teacher next to me said to an anxious mother, "She didn't do too well on her calculator test, but she was better on her non-calculator test." After the parent left, I said to the teacher, "So why not just take her calculator away?" The teacher smiled at me, as if to say, "Yes - very funny." I saw a similar smile recently, when I was told by a proud ISB ICT teacher, "...and we've just bought several new 3D printers", to which I asked what I considered a reasonable question: "Why didn't you just buy one? And then print the others?"

I mention these exchanges because we are experiencing a cultural revolution. AI is the latest buzz phrase, with the world divided between those thinking it to be an exciting pathway to new possibilities, whilst others see it as the coming of the apocalypse. I went through something similar in the seventies, when my school life was flipped on its head by an innovation that would change everything we know - the pocket calculator. These mini-miracles, with their gleaming red digits, could be used to add, subtract, multiply, divide and - most thrilling of all - spell rude words if you typed in numbers like 58008 and held the device upside down. What new witchcraft was this?? In 1978, the calculator was the iPhone 15 Pro Max of its time. We all thought Maths lessons were a thing of the past, but the teachers managed to outsmart us - calculator tests! Booo!!

The only change calculators seem to have ushered in is a generation that struggles to function without them. Even I, with my sound grasp of mental arithmetic and my willingness to write smug articles like this, will often open my phone's calculator app for the most basic of sums. In public, though, I try to resist. I was once at a meal in Lipscani when the bill arrived, and two guests had to check their



phones to see what they owed from the total of 600 lei. There was four of us. That's 600 divided by four. If my dog couldn't figure that out without a calculator, I'd take him back to the pet shop.

So now we have the 'writing' version of a calculator - ChatGPT. Or any of the different AI programmes out there. I've tried a lot of them. I wasn't impressed. Don't get me wrong - AI can do some amazing stuff. I've got film of me speaking perfect Romanian, a skill I absolutely do not possess. I also have Turkish and Chinese versions of the same clip. They're impressive, but they're not real. I don't speak any

of those languages. It's a trick. Similarly, AI writing an essay is currently, at least, an amusing ruse, like watching a dog walk on its hind legs. Or the apps on the first smartphones that showed a pond of carp that rippled when you touched the screen. Anyone remember those? Do you still have that app? Nope, didn't think so. The currently available AI programmes are no more writers than Tamagotchis were real pets. Did you ever try cuddling one?

That won't discourage students around the world, who grasp any innovations that will alleviate their workloads. As a tool, they can be useful, but over-reliance makes written work sound like what it is - machine-generated. It's like eating food without seasoning. We want your voices, not Siri's, or Alexa's, or C3PO's. The technology is still at the teething stage. So are the tools created to detect it. Last year, the ISB staff were alerted to an early version of a programme that detected AI-generated text. As a test, I fed in the instructions for using the programme. This came out as 34.6% original, even though I didn't write any of it. Then I fed in a proposal for my latest invention, the marzipan yoyo. This came out as 99.98% original: good news, as I probably won't be sued once I start marketing these ingenious and delicious toys. Finally, I fed in the opening paragraph of *A Tale of Two Cities*, the biggest-selling English language novel of all time. Apparently, I wrote 70% of it. Can't wait for the royalty cheques to start pouring in.

Now don't misunderstand - I love gadgets and technology. My apartment looks like the storeroom at Media Galaxy. I love real books, but I'm leaning

more towards my Kindle simply because it can explain to me the words that I don't understand. This is also my go-to method of checking if a student wrote their own essay:

ME: What does that word mean?

STUDENT: No idea.

ME: Just as I thought. I'm supposed to be marking your work, not some app's.

We still need the human bit of the equation. In 1995, *Toy Story* conquered the world, but not because it was the first fully digitally generated movie. It was because it was brilliantly written. By pink things with eyeballs, elbows and actual intelligence. Today, any of us can create an animated clip on the gadget in our pocket storing our phone numbers, but it won't be *Toy Story*. Similarly, anyone can write an essay, but there's little satisfaction or reward (or actual learning) in typing the essay title into a website and copy-pasting the result. Students can be sassy, opinionated, literate, sophisticated and compassionate. AI can't manage that yet. An algorithm-assisted essay is fooling no one. It's not... well - it's not your baby.

Ian McShane

BA, PGCE, AI (adequately intelligent)

P.S. Of course I blame all this plagiarism stuff on Romania. If you call your children 'copii', surely that's just asking for trouble.



ISB TV. Behind the Camera

Dear Reader,

We have ventured through a treacherous year, navigating through oscillating trepidations and evanescent moments of ecstasy. Alas, our students have survived the tempestuous scrutiny of teachers and finals, moving on to take pleasure in their upcoming leisure activities during the summer. Yet this writer could not herself enjoy the blazing rays glimmering across the sea's varnish without briefly reminding our readers about these past few months we spent together.

September began with an induction week for some, into the rigorous program otherwise known as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Students were submerged with explanations regarding their Internal Assessments, CAS, TOK and Extended Essays. Others found comfort in reuniting with long-missed colleagues, and our students began organising their initiatives for the months to come.

ISBTV, the host of your writer, opened its new website early on, diversifying its portfolio and delving into the literary aspects of journalism.

The Nest expanded its network throughout the school, engendering the concept of community. Our Robotics team, Andromeda, immersed in the world of event-planning and materialised competitive innovation while IB students placed their focus on student-run clubs and fundraisers, such as IGCSE Economics, IGCSE Spanish, the Eco Club, Basketball tournaments, Non-Uniform Days and workshops.

Students' superintendence plagued ISB, with events like FDRMUN and TEDx infiltrating the societies within our institution. Governed by students, in collaboration with the Romanian Parliament, FDRMUN debuted its second edition this February, exploiting the intricacies of antagonistic, international disputes, together with delegates from around the globe. While diplomacy subjugated the half-term break, TEDx accosted the convolutions of life through the lens of "the butterfly effect"; a cause intertwined with the chaos theory, stating that the smallest of changes in our initial conditions can gravely impact our futures, yielding a grande audience as well as teacher and student involvement in the project.

At last, this writer can not abstain from praising the participants of events promoting a cordial interscholar rivalry, on national and international scales. Beginning with students' most recent achievements in the regional round of World Scholar's Cup 2024, a trip down memory lane offers the most impressive accomplishment in events such as Infomatrix, FirSTep and Mathematics Olympiads. Encircled in academic lore, our students did not shy away from the escapades of the Duke of Edinburgh program, enabling critical thinking in their quests to conquer necessary survival skills.

In this semester's finale, students raced to finish their exams, making use of their last efforts before retiring into the season's heat and tranquillity (or not). As our seniors marked their last presences on the attendance catalogue, elections were held to determine the new head students. This writer must say, it is an honor to be elected, and thus we grant a well-deserved commendation to Ana Violeta Banica, Maia Sraer, Emir Uteu and Arda Uteu.

Acting as an outro to this year's occasions, ISBTV has branched out a new page dedicated to fostering young writers. This writer wonders what upcoming projects our students scheme behind the scene... I guess we'll have to wait and see.

It was a pleasure to address you, dear Reader,

Violeta Bănică & the ISBTV Team

Contact :

ISBTV - www.isbtv.org, instagram: @isbtv.ro, email: isbtv@isb.ro

The Nest - www.thenestisb.com, instagram: @thenestisb, email: thenest@isb.ro

Andromeda Robotics - instagram : @andromeda_robotics, email: andromeda@isb.ro

FDRMUN - www.fdrmun.org, instagram: @fdrmun, email: mun@isb.ro

TEDx - instagram: @tedxintlschoolofbucharest, email: tedx@isb.ro

ISB Eagles (Basketball): instagram : @isb_eagles, emir.uteu@isb.ro, arda.uteu@isb.ro

Head Students - emails: violeta.banica@isb.ro, maia.sraer@isb.ro, emir.uteu@isb.ro , arda.uteu@isb.ro





Collaborative Science Projects

"From the majestic Himalayan mountains to the lush Amazonian forest, and even the remote Tuvalu islands, our students embarked on an extraordinary journey to explore the impact of climate change on biodiversity in diverse ecosystems."



All students from Year 12 taking Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science were involved in a joint project with the general theme of "The Influence of Climate Change on Biological Diversity.". The topic was chosen based on the interests of our school (the Eco program) and on the fact that the school has just celebrated the

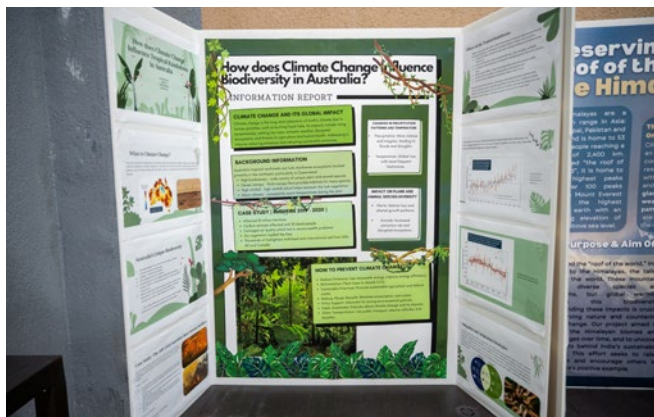
International Day of Biodiversity. 13 groups of students analysed a different region of the world, looking at how the changes in the climate have affected the environment.

IBDP students took the stage to present their Collaborative Science Projects. From the majestic Himalayan mountains to the lush Amazonian forest, and even the remote Tuvalu islands, our students embarked on an extraordinary journey to explore the impact of climate change on biodiversity in diverse ecosystems. Their dedication and passion for understanding our planet's complex environmental challenges left us in awe.

Lavinia Andora

Chemistry Teacher

Coordinator of Collaborative Science Project



Esma K., Mert M., Emir U., Yinxi X.



Katia H., Tsam-Lam Y., SungMin C., Arda U.



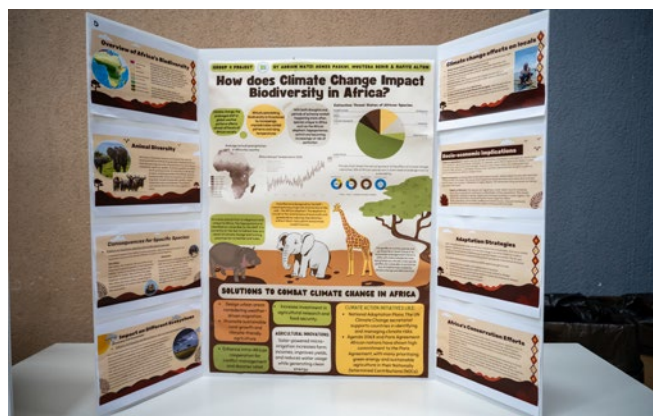
Liza G., Yixin Z., Jiafan X., Ronen M.



David N., Elia L., Philip M., Lena M.



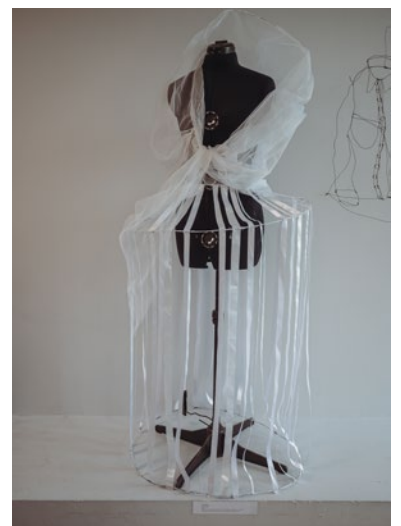
Sharon T., Cezara I., Faris S., Zhang H.



Rafyie A., Adrian M., Agnes P., Bedir M.

Showcasing Creativity: The IB Students Art Projects Exhibition

The IB Students Art Projects Exhibition was a highlight of the artistic talents and creative achievements of our International Baccalaureate candidates. This exhibition is a culmination of months of hard work and dedication, showcasing a wide range of art forms including paintings, sculptures, digital media, and installations. Each piece reflects the students' personal explorations and responses to various themes, demonstrating their technical skills and innovative thinking. The exhibition not only celebrates their artistic journey but also serves as a critical component of their IB exams, providing a platform for students to present their work to the school community and beyond.



ISB Students Soar to New Heights at NASA Conference

Twelve ISB students attended a four day NASA conference in Los Angeles, USA, from May 23-27, presenting on Space Colonies. They met NASA astronomers, learned about rockets, and heard a motivational speech from astronaut Jose Hernandez. The trip included visits to science museums, Caltech, Stanford, Universal Studios, and Hollywood!

This unforgettable experience has not only broadened their scientific horizons but also inspired them to reach for the stars in their future endeavors.



Embracing Challenges and Growing Together: Students' Reflections from DofE Zărnești Trip

Yixin: The adventurous journey is sometimes about making new friends

Our DofE trip to Zarnesti was memorable for all of us, full of personal growth and fun. A highlight of our trip was our hike to a monastery located in the mountains. The trail was treacherous and muddy due to the poor weather condition, but arriving at the serene monastery was extremely rewarding. We all gained a great sense of accomplishment for overcoming the difficulties and enjoyed the monastery's tranquility. Another enjoyable aspect of the trip was interacting with locals. 'Marcel', our new friend, who enlightened us about his life in Zarnesti, where he talked about daily routines attending a small local school. Overall, the challenges we've encountered brought us closer as a team. Together, we laughed, explored the region and created beautiful memories. The valuable lesson we learned is the importance of adaptability and finding beauty and joy in every situation.



Grace: The importance of teamwork and finding a group you are comfortable with

After completing our DofE practice expedition, we have learned several new things and changed our perspectives on some others. If I were to give another team advice, there would be several things I would advise them on.

For example, I would emphasise the importance of teamwork and finding a group that you are comfortable with. In my experience, persevering through challenges is much easier and more bearable when around your friends. Since we had an understanding of each other's needs, skills and weaknesses, we were able to more effectively delegate tasks and divide work.

In addition, I would implore the team to focus on the details of their planning as well as the big

picture. There were several instances where we had overlooked something simple just from a lack of attention. For instance, we forgot to bring cooking oil as it is something most people take for granted in the kitchen. While not a big deal, small mistakes like that can build up and impact your overall DofE experience.

In conclusion, despite the challenges we may have faced and the physical pain we may have endured, I had a good experience and definitely will consider making changes for when we do our final expedition.



Emir: The adventurous journey is also about challenging weather

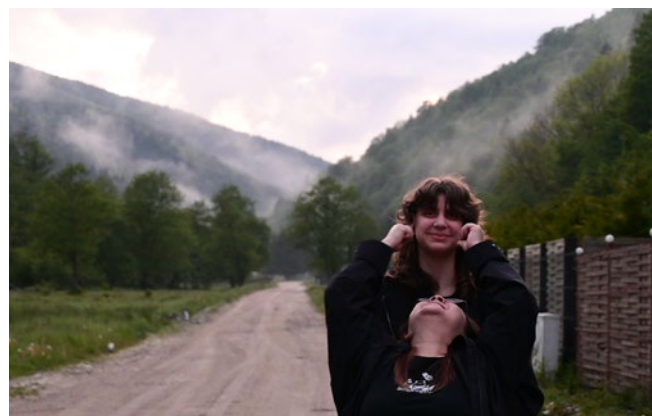
Looking back on our DofE Gold preparation trip, it felt more like a vacation than a survival challenge. I was in charge of food, and I think I managed it pretty well, taking in consideration the feedback from my friends. Everyone did their part really well, which made things easier. We faced some tough weather, like when it started raining during one of our hikes. But we stuck together and kept going. Overall, even with the challenges, it was a great experience that brought us closer as a group.





and instead washed the dishes afterwards, while the cooks relaxed. Another reason for the importance of teamwork is that having peers with you is always more enjoyable than simply doing a task alone. It's more entertaining to have people to speak to and it's easier to get yourself through hardships if you see someone similar to you being able to complete the difficult hike. Having friends with you is a good motivator in general.

Our team got along very well and split the tasks up well. There weren't any difficulties with the map as we could all read it. If one of us struggled to figure out where we were, we would huddle up and help each other out. Overall, despite the severe muscle pains and difficult physical activity, we had a very pleasurable time together. However, it probably helped that we knew each other and were all friends beforehand."



Daria: Having friends with you on DofE trips is a good motivator

"I believe it is important to work as a team for an expedition to complete the other team members' shortcomings. For example, the tasks can be split up, depending on the skills of each team member. For us, Grace and I could not cook, therefore we left most of the meal preparation to the other people,



Andrada: Teamwork was crucial for sharing responsibilities and ensuring our safety

“Now that the practice expedition in Zarnesti is over, I feel proud. For me, the highlights were exploring the mountains, learning to cook some different meals than usual, and navigating successfully. The rough paths and staying on route were challenging and tested my resilience. I built on some new skills, which boosted my self-confidence through the expedition. We were organised and efficient. Next time, I would prepare just a few more essential needs, as well as pack more efficiently. Being away from family, friends, and social media allowed me to focus, appreciate nature, and bond with my friends. I was truly impressed with myself and my personal growth during this expedition.

Teamwork was crucial for sharing responsibilities and ensuring our safety. We got along very well, supporting and motivating each other, which made our journey enjoyable. Clear communication and mutual respect helped us collaborate effectively. Despite occasional disagreements and fatigue, we overcame these quickly. For example, when we encountered a steep path, we planned a safer route together. We shared different roles, like leader, navigator, and chef. This teamwork and collaboration made the experience both effective and fun.

Our expedition was a very nice and enriching learning experience. Our route plan was accurate, and we followed it closely, making adjustments as needed. For future expeditions, I would prepare more thoroughly for varying weather. We balanced safety with adventure, which made the trip fulfilling. For our final Gold expedition, I look forward to exploring another mountainous region. My advice to other DofE teams is to plan well, stay flexible, communicate openly, and lastly but certainly not least is to enjoy the experience.”



Arda: Reflecting on the beauty of immersing yourself in nature

“Our Duke of Edinburgh’s Award expedition took us to the breathtaking landscapes of Zarnesti, Romania. Set at the edge of the Piatra Craiului National Park, Zarnesti offered the perfect blend of challenge and beauty for our adventurous group. We navigated through dense forests and climbed rough

trails. The trip to Zarnesti was more than simply a physical test; it was an unforgettable experience that strengthened our teamwork and resilience, leaving us with wonderful memories and a great respect for nature. Onto the next one!”



Maria: It was more than an adventure; it was a journey of self-discovery, teamwork, and resilience

“Reflecting on my Duke of Edinburgh trip to Zărnești, I feel a deep sense of accomplishment and growth. The breathtaking landscapes of the Piatra Craiului mountains provided a stunning backdrop

as we faced various challenges, from steep climbs to navigating difficult terrain. Reaching unpopular areas of nature and Manastirea Coltul Chiliilor was a highlight, offering a rewarding view that made every effort worthwhile.

The trip emphasised the importance of teamwork and resilience. Despite sudden rain showers and cold winds, our group supported each other, turning hardships into opportunities for bonding. Evenings where we contributed to dinner were a time for reflection, sharing stories, and appreciating the tranquility of nature.

Throughout the journey, I honed practical survival skills, like orienting using a compass, which enhanced my self-reliance and responsibility towards my team and environment.

This trip to Zărnești was a transformative experience, shaping my character and outlook on life. It was more than an adventure; it was a journey of self-discovery, teamwork, and resilience.”





Maia: Unforgettable adventures and unyielding bonds

During my DofE practice trip to Zarnesti together with my teammates we embarked on an unforgettable adventure amidst the stunning landscapes of the Carpathian Mountains. Each day was filled with challenging hikes, breathtaking views, unique challenges and opportunities to bond with my teammates.

The trip consisted of numerous ‘ups’ and ‘downs’ which tested our skills and challenged us to push outside our comfort zones. The experience not only strengthened our camaraderie but also pushed us to our limits, teaching us resilience and teamwork with first hand experiences that we will surely never forget.

Reaching the Gold level was the culmination of years of dedication and growth. Preparing for this final stage of the program was crucial in order to guarantee success in the qualifying journey to come. In this trip I learned to trust my judgment and make critical decisions under pressure. We learned to trust each other's abilities, communicate effectively, and share responsibilities. ”



Liza: From City Streets to Mountain Peaks

“Watching the train depart from the Zarnesti train station was, on the first day, almost like watching my life vest float away. But on the last day, it was with a heavy heart that I left behind the mountains of Romania. I am accustomed to the city — I expected to be challenged by the conditions and demands of the trip, which, with hindsight, were definitely the most challenging aspect of the trip. But while being outside of my comfort zone, I

was subconsciously gaining new skill sets such as map-reading, and sharpened skills I'd previously had, such as teamwork and collaboration. Without realizing it, I was effectively expanding the horizons of my comfort zone!

And these efforts were worth it, as they led to moments I will never forget, such as the exchange with the priest at the top of the mountain, who was kind enough to share his experience and life stories with us, and whose tenderness and sageness impressed me. Meeting new people was undoubtedly the highlight of the journey!

I'd be lying if I didn't mention the difficulty of staying off my phone for that long, but after overcoming the biggest hurdle of setting it down, I recognized the way I was effectively reconnecting with myself, nature, and the people closest to me.

I was also incredibly lucky to go on this trip with some of my closest friends, which inevitably helped us work well together. Communication and honesty was valued in our team — we were ready to praise each other when we achieved a goal or a milestone, but were also ready to offer constructive criticism when something didn't work. Also, since we knew our strengths and weaknesses, we were able to delegate tasks that worked off of our abilities. Working in a team was critical, since most of us were out of our usual environment, and in order to swiftly and successfully adapt, a team-effort was needed. One that certainly pulled through in the end!

The expedition also allowed us to toe the line of an exciting adventure and planned expedition. Although some unpredicted weather conditions derailed some of our plans, we were able to quickly recalibrate and adjust our plans, even down to the food we packed. Next time, I would study the terrain more closely, especially taking note of elevation and hiking difficulty in order to alleviate the stress and difficulty for my teammates. But for our gold journey, I am more than proud of myself and my teammates for the effort and fun we had. I've never laughed as much in a week as I did with them!"





ISB Volleyball Teams Shine in a Stellar Season, Girls Claim 1st Place Trophy Twice

The ISB Volleyball teams had an exciting start to the year by competing in the annual Beach Volleyball competition, where the girls' group secured the prestigious 1st place trophy. This victory energized the students, boosting their motivation and dedication during weekly training sessions as they prepared for upcoming competitions.

As the BISAAC season commenced, both the boys' and girls' teams displayed enthusiasm and strong performances in every game, whether home or away. Their efforts paid off as they advanced to the final four teams in the tournament. The coaches played a crucial role in maintaining the students' engagement and motivation during each training session. They focused on enhancing volleyball skills and fostering team spirit, which significantly

contributed to the teams' success.

The ISB volleyball teams concluded the competitive season on a high note. The boys' team achieved a commendable 4th place, while the girls' team triumphed with a 1st place finish. These achievements have fueled the players with even more energy and determination to continue their volleyball journey in the next academic year.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the volleyball competitions! GO EAGLES!

Ingrid Stanciu

Head of Enrichment Primary School



World Scholars' Cup from Bucharest Round to Global Round in Stockholm

On the 9th and 10th of May ISB played host to one of the most exciting academic events of the year: the World Scholar's Cup Bucharest Round. The event brought together hundreds of students from diverse backgrounds, all united by a common love for learning and a spirit of intellectual curiosity.

Students from 4 countries and 12 schools participated, and as recognition they all got to "adopt" an alpaca plush - the mascot of WSC.

ISB participated with 71 students and 66 got qualified in the Global Round in Stockholm.

The first day of the Global Round of the World Scholar's Cup in Stockholm was filled with excitement and camaraderie. With around 2000 participants, students from around the globe

gathered for a vibrant opening ceremony at the Intiman Theatre, a prestigious venue in the heart of Stockholm. We were presently surprised by the presence and encouragement of the Romanian Ambassador to Sweden.

Following the ceremony, students participated in a scavenger hunt at Skansen, Stockholm's renowned open-air museum and zoo. Divided into teams, they explored the museum's historical buildings and Nordic wildlife exhibits while solving puzzles and challenges. The hunt encouraged teamwork and cultural exchange, as students from diverse backgrounds collaborated and bonded over shared experiences.

Exploring Stockholm: A Memorable Tour for our ISB students

Stockholm, often referred to as the "beauty on water," recently became the backdrop for a memorable



WSC Day 1 in Stockholm Global Round Group Photo

tour for our WSC group. Their exploration of this Scandinavian gem was filled with visits to historical landmarks, culinary delights, and moments of shared joy and discovery.

The journey began with a tour of the Royal Palace, one of the largest palaces in Europe and the official residence of the Swedish monarch. The students were captivated by the grandeur of the palace, with its stunning architecture and rich history. The changing of the guard ceremony added a touch of tradition and pageantry, offering a glimpse into Sweden's royal heritage.

Next on the itinerary was Stockholm's City Hall, an iconic symbol of the city. The students marvelled at the building's majestic brickwork and the golden mosaics of the Golden Hall, where the Nobel Prize banquet is held annually. The panoramic view from the tower provided a breathtaking vista of Stockholm's unique landscape, with its harmonious blend of water and urbanity.

A stroll through the city centre allowed the students

to soak in the vibrant atmosphere of Stockholm. They wandered through the narrow, cobbled streets of Gamla Stan (the Old Town), where mediaeval buildings stand side by side with modern shops and cafes.

A highlight of the tour was the opportunity to experience Scandinavian cuisine. The students indulged in traditional dishes, savouring flavours unique to the region.

Throughout the tour, the students were guided by knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour guides, who brought the history and culture of Stockholm to life with their engaging narratives.

Yale University, Here we Come!

So proud of our 27 ISB students who rocked the Stockholm Global Round of the World Scholar's Cup! Competing with bright minds from 33 countries, they secured their spot at the Tournament



of Champions at Yale University!

Highlights:

- Seniors: 20 Silver, 35 Gold, 9 Trophies
- Team 634: 7th in Europe, Team 633: 2nd in Europe, 10th overall
- Juniors: 24 Silver, 13 Gold
- Team 415: 2nd in Europe (Juniors), Team 141: 3rd in Europe (Super Juniors)

Their success showcases incredible talent and dedication. Best of luck at Yale!

Monica Tele

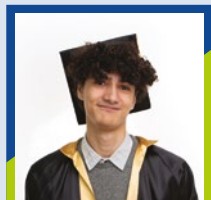
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Wishing you all the best for your university journey ahead.



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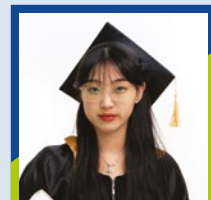
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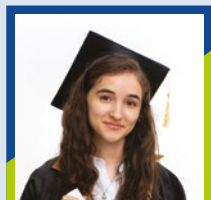
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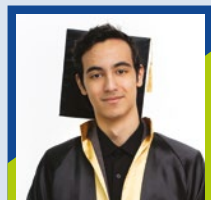
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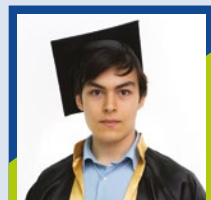
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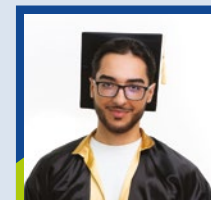
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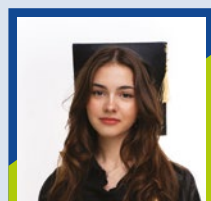
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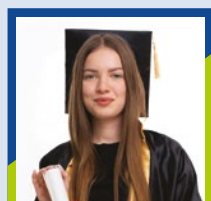
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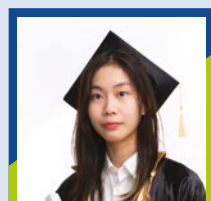
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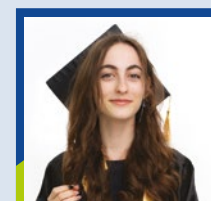
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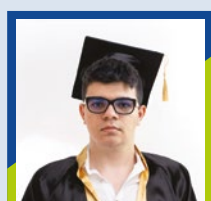
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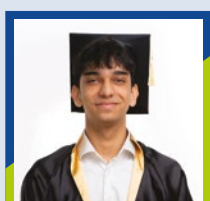
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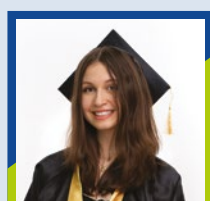
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