International Community School

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Weekly Newsletter

A Note from the SMC

Dear ICS Community,
We are very pleased to provide you with the following update on the important work which has been going on behind the scenes, to select the next permanent School Principal for the ICS.

We have been working with the extremely well-reputed executive search firm Odgers Berndtson, and the process of shortlisting the very best candidates has been going very well. The quality of the shortlisted candidates is excellent, but together with Odgers Berndtson we have decided to keep the shortlisting process open over the summer break, as we expect some more strong candidates to apply over the next few weeks. It is still our aim to complete the selection process, and to announce the next School Principal, by the end of September.

This extension of the selection process over the summer break is not because of a lack of quality in our existing short list of candidates. Instead we see this as an opportunity to ensure that no corners are cut on our journey to select the very best Principal for our school. Selecting our next Principal is a very important task, and we would like to ensure that we go through a thorough and transparent process, which involves the SMC, SLT and members of the broader ICS Community.

We would like to add that we are very comfortable during this extended selection process, largely because of the excellent work being done by Matthew Savage as Acting Principal. Matthew, who is also one of the shortlisted candidates for the Principal role, will remain as Acting Principal until August 2018, thereby guaranteeing stability and consistency for the school throughout next year. This would change only if Matthew were to be appointed as School Principal on a permanent basis in September. Under Matthew's leadership we know that the School is in very capable and safe hands indeed.

With kindest regards,
ICS School Management Committee

A Note from the Acting Principal

SMC Announcement

Further to the SMC's announcement, I am grateful to have been invited to lead our precious school for the duration of next academic year. Whatever the outcome of the recruitment process in September, I am excited and energised by the chance to continue to work with such a fantastic staff team, and to continue to turn our powerful and dynamic vision for the school into reality, for the benefit of every single student. Whilst there is still work to be done, I am delighted by quite how much we have achieved in recent months, and I would also like to thank the parent community for their continuing contribution, confidence and support.

Highlights of the Week

The week got off to a fantastic start with the revamped Secondary Awards Ceremony, a cornucopia of student achievement from Year 7 to Year 13, about which Mr Webster will write more in this newsletter. On Tuesday, I was privileged to be a part of the audience at Year 6's final performance of their musical *Macbeth, and what a treat it was! Again, please read Mr Hopkins' update for more details of this fantastic production. And the week ended with the Secondary Leavers' Assembly, a sad but celebratory goodbye to those students who are moving to pastures new.*

Wellbeing at ICS

Ruth Tanjeer, Assistant Headteacher with specific responsibility for student wellbeing, met with a diverse and enthusiastic group of parents on Monday to explore some of the topics we are likely to cover in our new 'wellbeing curriculum'. There was a heartening consensus that wellbeing must always come first, and that we have a duty to teach our children about all the different personal, social and emotional challenges with which they will be presented as they grow and develop. It was also discussed that the best lens through which to do so could be the lens of 'tolerance' - which would tie in with our core values too. I am also delighted to announce that, such has been the impact and success of the wonderful work of our School Counsellor, Christine Shepherd, we have made the decision to seek a **second** School Counsellor for next academic year. Further details of this role will be shared with the school community shortly, so please watch this space!

Marketing Manager

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Khalil Alsukar as the school's new Marketing Manager. Khalil comes with an impressive array of skills and experience in the marketing arena, and, even though he does not begin formally until August, he and I are already working closely together in order to maximise the impact of his role: namely, to distill and celebrate what makes us so special, and communicate it effectively throughout and beyond the school community. I am so excited by what this role will bring to all of us - parents, students and staff alike - and invite you to watch with similar excitement as the fruits of his work begin to form.

Staff Iftar

Last Thursday, we held a special Iftar at the Sheraton Hotel, to thank all the ICS Staff team for their contributions to a complex but rewarding year. This was also a chance not only to recognise those staff who have served 10 years for our school community, but also to bid farewell to those of my colleagues who are leaving the school this year. Saddest of all was saying goodbye to the inimitable Hazel Ajlouni, who has been the PA to numerous Principals during her extraordinary 19 years at the school. On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to thank Hazel, and all our leaving staff, for all they have given to the school, and wish them every best wish for a happy and healthy future beyond our campus walls.

Community Iftars

On Sunday evening, my wife, Asha, and I were delighted to attend and assist with the annual PSA Iftar for underprivileged children from the local community. Thanks to the amazing work of our PSA, ably supported, as always, by Hanna Manneh, our Head of Accounts, not to mention our superb Security Team, we provided entertainment and a fabulous meal for over 100 children. This evening, staff and students alike will support Ms Dina Shomali with our annual Community Service Iftar, in support of members of the refugee community, yet another example of why we are so proud to call ourselves a **community** school.

I wish you all a lovely weekend, and, for those students embarking on one of the adventurous trips as part of next week's Secondary Challenge Week, a safe and enjoyable week ahead too.

With best wishes

Matthew Savage
Acting Principal

PRIMARY NEWS

With a week remaining of this term and academic year, I continue to be energised by the Primary team and our wonderful pupils. In this week I have been fortunate to watch a wonderful performance of Macbeth which I will share more about later and have turned my hand back to being a teacher when supporting Mrs Al Asad this Wednesday in our student led consultation day for one of the Primary classes.

With each day that passes, whilst thinking ahead to the holiday ahead, I also reflect continuously on the year that will soon be over. I had a wonderful conversation on Wednesday at one of the consultations I was involved in when the child waved his hand in the air and said 'I have had an okay year, some things were great and some things I would happily repeat to make them better.' I was honest myself to this and said that, as teachers in our school, we would probably all say the same.

Macbeth

Along with parents of Year 6, and with Mr Savage, who himself has spent many an hour on stage, I spent what I can only state was an hour whereby I was truly flabbergasted by our Year pupils who performed Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. It was a fabulous performance with singing, humour and a very cleverly managed rotation of key roles from pupils who have led our Primary School this year, with high expectations and as role models for all of their peers.

I particularly enjoyed the international adaptations of the play with an arabic word here or there used. To hear 'Yallah' in a Shakespeare play reminded me just why being part of an international school is so important to those children who attend ICS.

I must say a huge thank you to the team of staff in Year 6, to the LSAs, Miss Vivian who supported our soloists and the entire year 6 cohort with the songs, and to Mrs Brasington, Mrs Wilson and Mr Keeler who, with their usual high expectations, directed the play, standing at the rear of the drama studio but going through the motions as if they were on stage themselves.

Well done to everyone who took part!

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PRIMARY NEWS

Goodbyes

With the end of a year approaching it is customary to begin our farewells to those children and teachers who will leave us at the end of this term. For one member of our teaching team, an early leave was essential, as Mr Dillon left ICS on Wednesday and travelled back to the UK this morning as he made his way to be alongside his partner Sarah for the birth of their second child tomorrow! Mr Dillon has worked at ICS for five years and will have taught five classes, over 100 children, yet spoken to, taught and coached many more. Mr Dillon will be sorely missed at ICS and I know he will keep a special place in his heart for a school of which he has many happy memories. We, too, will miss him and I look forward to welcoming him back during the course of term 1 as he returns to Amman to collect the remaining items he has left behind.

Student Led Consultations

A huge thank you to those parents who attended the first of our student led consultations in ICS this week. I wrote earlier that I enjoyed the day as I was firmly back in a place I have always enjoyed, sharing with parents the successes of their child's year whilst talking through with the children their highlights, successes and ways in which they themselves want to develop their learning over the course of the next academic year.

I met a number of parents who expressed their gratitude to members of our team in Primary for all of their efforts over the past term and indeed over the year. As a teacher I have always enjoyed opportunities to meet with parents and, on Wednesday, together with Mrs Al Asad, enjoyed reflecting on this year with the parents of 4C whom I have been teaching since Mr Durrington left shortly before the Spring break.

Wellbeing in Primary

To celebrate the end of the year, the Wellbeing and Community Student Voice teams are planning a Wellbeing Day for ALL primary children on our last full day of school, Wednesday 21st June. The whole day will be off timetable and the children will take part in 3 activities throughout the day: water activities outside on the field (yes, you'll have to bring your swimming costume and your water gun!), a range of art workshops from which to choose, and a range of short movies of your choice to watch together. All children will also be able to come into school in non-uniform.

Head Students

In next week's final assembly of the year, I will be sharing the names of the students duly elected to represent Primary next academic year as Head Students. A huge thank you to the children from Year 5 who put themselves forward for these roles and well done to each and every one of them for being brave in presenting to the full school their reasons behind them wishing to be a Head Student and for conducting themselves so eloquently in the interviews they each had with members of the Primary Leadership team who were each impressed by each of the candidates' approach to the role they were applying for.

Final thoughts..

As I have shared in much of this week's update, I remain engaged and dedicated to our wonderful school. I have enjoyed the journey I have been on this year. In my 20 years of teaching, each and every one has been different and I am glad to say that so has every day.

I am looking forward to what next year brings but before we begin to discover what the year ahead has in store I do wish to say a huge thank you to the Primary team for their dedication and support for all of our children this year. I will share a final goodbye to the remainder of the team leaving next week in the final newsletter of the year.

As ever, I am available to speak to parents about any concerns raised about your child.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to a fantastic final week.

Kind regards

Ian Hopkins

Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

Awards Assembly 2017

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, the Secondary Awards Assembly took place this week, on Sunday afternoon, and I am delighted to say that it was a huge success. Students were treated to a reprise of the top 3 acts from the 'ICS Got Talent' competition that we held earlier this year. Prune (Y9), Sheena (Y11) and Thomas (Y12) all performed their pieces brilliantly. In addition, Yasmin (Y11) and Arthur (Y9) gave additional performances to start and end the assembly, and there was also a reprise of the school's recent production of 'BIG: The Musical', as well as a video review of the year kindly and expertly put together by Aia and Meyss (Y12).

We have a wide range of awards to present this year to celebrate the successes of our students, both in terms of academic performance and their contributions to the school and to the wider community.

First were the 'Academic Excellence' awards, and these were awarded to the student in each year group who had achieved the highest report grades across the year.

Award Name	Winner
Academic Excellence (Year 7)	Rose
Academic Excellence (Year 8)	Angelika
Academic Excellence (Year 9)	Arthur
Academic Excellence (Year 10)	Daisy
Academic Excellence (Year 11)	Youssef
Academic Excellence (Year 12)	Thomas
Academic Excellence (Year 13)	Vukan

Next were the awards for those students who had achieved the highest number of Polio Points in each Key Stage.

Award Name	Winner
Polio Points (Key Stage 3)	Rose
Polio Points (Key Stage 4)	Elea
Polio Points (Key Stage 5)	Vukan

Each faculty also nominated a student to win the 'Subject Awards', for the students who had made the biggest contribution, most amazing effort, greatest ability to work as part of a team and/or the greatest amount of progress in each subject.

Award Name	Winner
Subject Award: English	Lamees (Y10)
Subject Award: Mathematics	Elea (Y10)
Subject Award: Sciences	Vukan (Y13)
Subject Award: Languages	Angelika (Y8)
Subject Award: Humanities	Lavinia (Y7)
Subject Award: Arts	Liliana (Y10)
Subject Award: ICT/Business/Economics	Abigail (Y8)
Subject Award: PE	Laith (Y8)

SECONDARY NEWS

We also awarded four trophies to the students who had made the most significant contribution to the school community.

Award Name	Winner
Outstanding Contribution to Arts	Daisy (Y10)
Outstanding Contribution to Sports	Harry (Y10)
Outstanding Contribution to the Community	Edgar (Y12)
Outstanding Contribution to Upholding ICS Values	Rose (Y7)

And finally, and Heads of nominated of the Year

Award Name	Winner
Student of the Year (Year 7)	Rose
Student of the Year (Year 8)	Bonita
Student of the Year (Year 9)	Iman
Student of the Year (Year 10)	Harry
Student of the Year (Year 11)	Hannah
Student of the Year (Year 12)	Thomas
Student of the Year (Year 13)	Erin

form tutors Year their 'Student Award'.

It was a truly wonderful celebration of our amazing students' successes across the entire year. Many congratulations to each of the nominated and winning students.

Head Students

And finally, to the Head Students. The Head Students will be ambassadors for the school, will embody each of the seven ICS values, will represent the student body through their oversight of the Student Voice programme, will be role models for all other students, and will be leaders. In short, the role of the Head Students is an incredibly important one.

Five students put their names forward for this prestigious role. Through a process of application, gathering references from teachers, and interviews with myself and Mrs Alnasser, our Head of 6th Form for next year, two students were successful. We had five very strong applications and decision was incredibly difficult.

I am delighted to announce that the Head Girl for next year will be Tala-Maria and the Head Boy will be Thomas. Many congratulations to both of them.

Student-Led Consultations

On Wednesday we had our first student-led Parent Consultations for the year, in which students rather than teachers talked parents through their progress over the year and discussed their successes and their learning targets and goals for the next academic year. This was a new format for ICS and the feedback I received from parents and teachers was incredibly positive. Many thanks to all parents who came to the consultations - it was great to see you.

Sustainable Housing Geography Project

Mr Queiros has been working with the Year 7 students during the last couple of weeks on a 'Sustainable Housing' project. The idea of this project is to raise awareness of the need for sustainable housing in developing countries and to give students a chance to consider how they could provide housing that was ecologically sound and affordable. Students produced some amazing work, demonstrating outstanding creativity and talent. Well done to all students who took part in this project.

Continued on next page .....

Secondary News Continued

...and finally…

With the end of the year fast approaching, all that remains is for me to say a massive thank you to all of the parents, teachers, students and board members that have made the year such a huge success. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at ICS and I look forward to many more years leading the secondary school, developing this wonderful community and helping it to become even better year on year. I cannot do this without the support of all of you and I am immensely grateful to all for the support you have shown me over the year. I very much relish the opportunity to continue to work with all of you over the coming years.

For those staff and students who are leaving us this year, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your contributions to the school and I wish you good fortune and happiness wherever you will find yourself in future years.

Have a great summer!

Gary Webster
Acting Head teacher Secondary

A 'thank you' from Mrs Joukhadar

Dear all,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for voting for my Facebook page.

Top Language Lovers 2017 has ended, and my Facebook page "**Français pour tous**" made it to the Top 25 for the "Facebook Pages" category.

The competition received around 1,000 nominations and over 35,000 votes!

Thank you once again for your invaluable help!

PSA Community Iftar

Last Sunday evening the Parent Staff Association hosted its annual Iftar for underprivileged children from the local community.

Many thanks to our PSA volunteers for arranging the every successful event.

Important Reminder

School will finish for the summer at 12.00 noon on Thursday 22nd June, for all students.

Charity Collection
Wanted:

All clothes, shoes, toys, kitchen, hygiene, bedding, carpets, etc. All items go to reputable charities in Jordan to help the poor and needy.

Please leave in the reception area of the administration building (under the stairs near Miss Rana's office.)

Struggling with French?

Need to get fluent fast?

Spend a week in France with Christine Camm

Focus on French! 100%. Don't want to travel? Have On line Skype lessons

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Contact Christine for your personalized programme

Located in the heart of the countryside near TARBES

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Struggling with English?

WANT a trusted private teacher?

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Contact Christine for your personalized programme

Year 6 - GCSE level

simplyfrenchonline@gmail.com