



NEWS THAT MATTERS

It's time to communicate

JANUARY
2012
EDITION

ICS is an independent International Baccalaureate World School located in London providing a dynamic learning community for 3 to 18 year old learners

Everything is a Matter of Perspective

A personal opinion from Philip Hurd, following on from the "Life Without Fear" Personal Passion Assembly



Imagine a world where there is no right or wrong, where there is no good or bad, and where there are no problems (or solutions).... and nothing is real. Can you imagine it if you close your eyes?

Open your eyes and see, it is all around us.

A while ago in Japan there was a wise old Buddhist monk, who one day won a shiny new Ferrari. "Wow" his friends said, "you are so lucky!" He replied quietly, "maybe, maybe not".

The next day he had a bad crash in his shiny new Ferrari and ended up in hospital with a broken leg. His friends all came and said, "wow, you were so unlucky". He replied quietly, "maybe, maybe not". That evening whilst he was in the hospital there was a terrible storm and the cliff collapsed and his home was washed into the sea, his friends came round and said, "wow you were so lucky you were not at home". He replied... "Well I guess you've got it now!!!"

If you haven't really got it yet try this tomorrow, you are late for school and trip up as you go downstairs. You fall all the way downstairs and break your leg in two places. Are you unlucky that you broke your leg? Or are you lucky that you didn't break your neck?

My point is that it doesn't matter the only thing that matters is to feel better, so choose whichever story feels better... there is no truth, no right way, whatever you chose to put into your own head becomes your truth.

So my suggestion: put in nice things!

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Message from the Editorial Team

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read our secondary school newsletter. If you have any comments, please contact our Editor in Chief, Matthew, at matthew.cook@ics.uk.net.

The goal of each edition is to inform you of key strategies that are unfolding at the school, their impact on teaching and learning, and to keep you connected with events past, present and future.

Best wishes
The Editorial Team



ICS presents

Disney's
Aladdin JR. 
© Disney

January 24th & 25th 7:30pm

The Rudolf Steiner Theatre

Tickets £12

Tickets available in advance or at the door



Reasons to be Jubilant!

EAN ORLANDO ALLEYNE: MYP CO-ORDINATOR

With the dawn of 2012, a Diamond Jubilee year, an Olympic year, and an IB MYP Evaluation year awaits ICS. The IB MYP is evaluated every five years by members of the IB, which is based in The Hague. The visiting team members will evaluate the IB MYP based upon three very large standards: 1) the School's philosophy; 2) organization which includes leadership, structure and resources; 3) the School's curriculum and assessment. From September to December, MYP teachers have been working hard to review the practices that accompany each of these standards. The Heads of Department have been helping to lead this process with myself, and members of the Secondary School Management team. The MYP is alive and well at ICS and I am extremely confident that the 3-day visit, which begins on the Wednesday after the two day Diamond Jubilee celebration, will be an overwhelming success.

One such example of excellent MYP curricular spirit was that of the MYP2 form whose task it was to deliver an assembly. In a day an age of high class technology, powerpoint presentations have become the modus operandi of all things presentable. However, the MYP2 students developed an innovative way to present on the theme of health and social education. They wrote a song about healthy eating and sang it to a very jazzy a capella beat by Bruno Mars' – The Lazy Song (food remake). The first two verses are below:

Today I don't feel like eating junk food

I wanna eat some dairy foods,

No more Macca's, KFC,

No more Burger Kind for me.

Today I don't feel like eating junk food.

I'm gonna eat all meat and proteins I can

Eat some grainy bread that's covered in ham

Nobody's gonna tell me I can't

I'm gonna eat all the carbohydrates I should

Eat my pasta noodles 'cos they really taste good

Gives me energy to dance

MYP1 students in recognition of World Aids Day on 1st December 2011 launched a campaign to raise awareness about HIV by writing calls to action to members of parliament, and writing and acting out two sketches about the stigma society in general has attached to people diagnosed with HIV and how this can affect their ability to gain employment and seek the proper medical and dental attention. Their level of engagement and message was impactful on two MYP1 members and MYP1 form tutor, Ms. Maria Campbell were invited to attend a reception at the Houses of Parliament to meet members from both the House of Commons and Lords. This was certainly an honour for the entire class, and student council representatives from MYP1, Eduardo Loureiro and Callaghan Ebojoh, were nominated by their peers to attend on behalf of their form group.

As we look to usher in 2012, I look forward to the continued good work and steady progress students in the MYP at ICS will make. The IB MYP is about developing globally minded citizens and learners for the 21st century and the faculty here at ICS have certainly achieved this goal. I look forward to more reasons to be jubilant in 2012!



Chinese Language and Food Culture Experience

LUI FANG - MANDARIN TEACHER

Last term a group of eight ICS MYP1 students, who select chose Chinese as their Language B visited "Tian Fu" Sichuan Restaurant near Westfield London. The Sichuan Dish is one of eight famous dishes in China. Students were asked to practise the Chinese they had learned in class to order their food. They had the opportunity taste spicy Sichuan dishes themselves and got to know Chinese the food culture.

Amanda Sedlock, English co-teacher and I organised the trip to "Tian Fu" Sichuan Restaurant. The reason I chose this restaurant is that we native Chinese love the food there, which reminds us of the taste of food from home. The speciality of Sichuan food is that all the dishes are prepared with spices.

All the spice ingredients are shipped from Sichuan province, in the south west of China. The more you eat, the more you want to eat! This is the reason that "Tian Fu" has become well known among native Chinese in London.

Before we went to the restaurant, all the students learned the basic dialogues in the classroom. They knew they must speak Chinese to order the food, otherwise they could starve. When they sat down, they started to order drinks one by one. I told the waitress that she needed to understand the students' pronunciation. Everyone was very happy to speak Chinese to order the drinks. Some of them told me that they reviewed what they learned at home the night before and they were excited to speak in Chinese. Luckily, the menu also had photos. The student pointed to the photos of what they would like to eat and said "I yao zhe ge" (I want this), "wo bu xi huan na ge" (I don't like that). The waitress was very happy to speak to them in Chinese and to take the order for them.

Everyone was excited to see the dishes came to the table, and shared the dishes that they were served with each other.

This restaurant visit opened eyes and expanded the students view of Chinese dishes. The students practised their language skills, and this gave them motivation and interest to learn more of the Chinese language and culture.

Language Week

JOANNA COOPER - IB DIPLOMA CO-ORDINATOR

For the final week of the autumn term, ICS had its first official Language Week. In keeping with the principles of the IB, ICS has a language policy which promotes the maintenance of students' mother tongue, which allows students' to keep their cultural identity. Furthermore, intercultural understanding is a key component of the ICS philosophy.

As part of this initiative, on Monday 12th December students were given language lessons in a range of different languages, including Icelandic, Arabic, Chinese and Italian. These lessons were led by ICS students and the challenge was to teach students who were absolute beginners.

All of the language lessons were supervised by teachers, who were very impressed by the way our student teachers rose to the challenge.

Language Week continued on Wednesday 14th with a celebration of the work of William Shakespeare. All MYP students study a Shakespearian text, this year MYP 2 students have studied The Tempest and MYP 4 students have studied The Merchant of Venice. Students worked in groups to adapt a scene from a Shakespearian play using modern language and settings. This approach allowed students to see the timelessness of Shakespeare's themes and characters. The students performed their adaptations at the end of the day and teachers were impressed by their imaginative response to literature.

All in all, the week was a great success and it was great to see how involved our students got in all the activities.



Spanish Market Visit

CAMILLE BRIGNOLLE - MODERN LANGUAGES CO-ORDINATOR

For the final week of the autumn term, ICS had its first official Language On 20 October 2011, MYP2 Spanish students embarked on a Spanish adventure in London to explore the opportunities available to them to practise their Spanish.

Our students went to Portobello Road to a Spanish supermarket to discover the items that they had learnt about in class and practise the dialogues in real life situations such as asking for prices to the Spanish staff or ordering food in the Spanish language,.

Students then went on to savour some traditional Spanish dishes in Café Garcia. MYP2 students would like to recommend "chocolate con churros" and "pasta con chorizo". ¡Qué rico!

Travel and Learn Trip to Cern, Switzerland

RYAN BISHOP - SCIENCE TEACHER

On the first weekend in December ten eager students and two excited teachers ventured to Geneva to explore the greatest experimental physics research facility in the history of our race. We woke early, blurry eyed and barely conscious and boarded our trusty Easyjet flight to Switzerland. Ferried from airport to accommodation and onward to CERN we arrived surprisingly fresh and energetic, ready for our tour of the largest science centre on Earth.

With our enthusiastic Italian researcher-come-tour guide in tow we wondered from laboratory to laboratory seeing particle accelerators that shoot protons at near light speed and the computer server that birthed the Internet. The students learnt about the international pursuit of the elusive Higgs particle and confirmation of Einstein's famous work in theoretical physics.

In the following days we strolled the city seeing the UN, riding boats across the beautiful lake and indulging in all of the decadent chocolate treats this wonderful European city had to offer. Upon our return we all agreed the journey was an outstanding success and I can say without a shadow of a doubt that I will be planning this trip again in the coming school year at ICS.



Art Trip

LUCINDA METCALFE - ART TEACHER

In the final week of last term, Miss Lucinda took all of the Diploma art students on a Tate to Tate adventure! Starting at the Tate Modern, students explored this huge space and made studies of their favourite work in 2 main galleries.

The highlight for many was seeing the special exhibition: a retrospective of Gerhard Richter's extraordinary paintings, from photo-real seascapes and beautiful studies of his family, to giant abstracts, full of vibrant layers of colour. Students were then transported on a boat to the Tate Britain, on the North side of the river, to study and draw from more traditional paintings and sculptures, culminating in a magical mystery tour through "Coral Reef", a permanent installation by Mike Ne son, which takes you into many different rooms and corridors, each representing a different culture and community, living on the edges of society.

This trip is the start of the new project: "Investigation": an artist project inspired by the work they most enjoyed from this day full of inspiration and new experiences!



Life Skills Bowling Event

SAMIR CHIEDDE - PE TEACHER

On Sunday, 27th November our ICS Life Skills sports team was invited to participate in an Open Special Olympics Ten-pin Bowling event. The event gathered athletes from the Greater London Special Olympics team in Surrey Quays and our athletes did well. Mousa received a gold medal in his category and Eleni earned a bronze medal. "I enjoyed going bowling with other people and students from ICS primary school, I also enjoyed it because it was Mousa's birthday" said Eleni. Eishiro earned another gold medal for the team in his category. PYSE students were represented by OZ in this fun day. Well done Life Skills, we are all proud of you.



Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 19 Personal Project Release Day
- 24-25 School Musical Production - Aladin
- 25 Humanities: 'What is History?' At National Archive, Kew

FEBRUARY

- 1 ICS Football match vs College Francais Bilingue de Loudres. 4pm at CFBL sports ground - Belsize Park
- 2 School closed from 12.15 for safeguarding training
- 8 International Day
- 12-18 Travel and Learn Winter Sports Trip
- 12-19 Half Term Holiday
- 25-2 Book Week