



28th February 2018, Gothenburg

## Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you keeping warm and even finding ways to enjoy the sub-zero temperatures, which produce some opportunities for skiing and skating, with the right, warm clothing of course!

### Accreditations Update and Award of CIS Accreditation

We are pleased to announce that ISGR has been awarded Council of International Schools (CIS) Accreditation, so your child continues to attend a school assessed as meeting rigorous international standards. ISGR was first accredited by CIS in 2008 and has since maintained accreditation in our PYP and MYP Programmes, and also grades 0–9 in the National Section. CIS accreditation affirms our dedication to high quality education and continuous improvement in order to provide students with knowledge, skills and abilities to pursue their lives as global citizens wherever their studies or work may take them.

We continue our work on accreditations with the International Baccalaureate (IB) organisation and final phases of our five-year IB evaluation for the MYP. Final documentation was submitted in early February and the next step is the IB team visit from 7th-9th May, 2018.

### ISA Standardised Tests

In February, our international section students undertake the International Schools' Assessment (ISA) standardised test, which is designed specifically for students in Grades 3–10 in international schools. ISGR has been conducting the ISA test in the International section of the School for the past four years, while the National section follows the Swedish national test programme.

The ISA is based on the construct and frameworks of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment (OECD PISA). In the last round of testing in 2017, ISGR was shown to have overall parity with other schools and above in some areas. Results in maths were slightly above and reading results were significantly above other schools, while writing had overall parity with other international schools. As this is now the fifth year of administering the test, we will be able to identify meaningful trends and provide a more thorough analysis in the coming months.

## **International Section School Fee**

As advised in our terms and conditions, the School Fee for attending the international section is subject to yearly adjustments according to indexation used by the Gothenburg Region (GR). Accordingly, the School Fee for the 2018-19 academic year will be raised by 2.3%. The new yearly fee will be 32,475 SEK. Further information about the [School Fee and Government Subsidy](#) is available on the ISGR website.

## **School Facilities Improvements**

*Göteborg campus - extra classrooms and reopening of Student Centre:*

This week you may have noticed the portable cabins being installed at Göteborg campus. The cabins will provide 4 additional classrooms and 2 workrooms. The classrooms will be available to use after the Easter break when we will transfer our three MYP6 classes to the new facility. The fourth room will be used to schedule classes for other grade levels. The facility will also provide additional workspaces for staff, and allow us to reopen the Student Centre in its original room on the fourth floor of the main building.

Whilst not a permanent solution, the new spaces will be very beneficial for our current teaching and learning requirements in the school. We will monitor the transition to the new rooms and evaluate the effectiveness of the overall set-up alongside other options that we continue to explore. We also sought construction permits to place portable cabins adjacent to the main building (where currently there is car parking), but only received permission to install a single level building with two classrooms there. As we needed four classrooms, it was determined necessary to use the location at the front of the main building.

*Guldheden Campus - improved ventilation and PE Halls renovation:*

Work on the long-term projects of improving ventilation in the main Guldheden building as well as renovating the PE Halls is continuing - two changing rooms are almost completed and work on the final two changing rooms is underway. We are also working with the building landlord ('Lokalförvaltningen') on drainage and playground conditions.

From now we begin to notice the days getting a little brighter, if not yet warmer. The winter can linger in Gothenburg so it's a good time focus on work and studies with many exciting activities of the Spring Term ahead!

Kind regards,

**Birgitta Sandström Barac**

Head of School

[birgitta.sandstrom.barac@isgr.se](mailto:birgitta.sandstrom.barac@isgr.se)

**T +46 (0)31 708 92 15**

