



02 March 2016, Gothenburg

2016 March spring term update from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Following the brief term break for 'Sportlov' we are back into the full swing of the Spring Term. We are even seeing some signs of spring, or at least some sun appearing! Hopefully everyone returned with revitalised energy for an important part of the school year. Students are working towards the completion of their year level goals and the School too is turning attention to its long-term goals.

Strategic planning and school goals

As explained in the previous Head of School letter, the Leadership team has developed focus areas across the organisation, to help achieve our overarching goals and live our vision for the school. Groups comprising members of the Leadership team and pedagogical leaders are working on the focus areas.

Below is an introduction to each focus area and its aims, along with the assigned staff representatives. Progress updates will be reported in future Head of School letters, as well as at the upcoming parent information evenings, beginning with Differentiated Learning (15th March), and an overview of goals and focus areas (19th April). These information sessions will be held at 18:00 in the Aula at Götaberg Campus.

One School: *Pernilla Adolfsson, Marilyn James, Moragh Randall*

The 'One School' focus area aims to further unite the school with common values by:

- Spreading school spirit and strengthening school traditions
- Building on existing 'cross-team' activities for students and creating new initiatives to share more of the benefits from each section of the school.
- Enlivening our school events to bring more people together to celebrate our diversity
- Promoting our fantastic parent association (PTA) to all parts of the school to generate greater involvement from all sections.
- Continuing to cultivate a collaborative Parent Council with effective representation for all grade levels from all sections of the school

Differentiation: Corinna Ljungberg, Ellen Trelles, Matt O'Brien, Helena Rundeus

The 'Differentiation' focus area aims to further develop our methods for differentiated learning in the classroom by:

- Tailoring our teaching instruction to meet specific student needs
- Constructing our curriculum and unit planning to cater for students at different stages in their own continuums of learning
- Provide student-centered activities based on individual readiness (pace and depth), interest, and learning style

Bilingual Programme: Maria Lindberg, Maria Laasonen, Ingegerd Lofroth

The 'Bilingual Programme' focus area aims to increase the level of instruction in English for the national section students to:

- Provide more international opportunities for national section students
- Enhance opportunities for cross-team activities
- Provide potential options for families returning or settling in Sweden permanently to study the national curriculum with a significant emphasis on English instruction

Authorisation to teach up to 50% of the national curriculum has been approved and implementation of the bilingual programme is being planned for August 2016.

Information & Communication Technology (ICT): Graham Miselbach, Imre Tomasits

The 'ICT' focus area aims to empower students with relevant technologies for learning by:

- Increasing the number and the accessibility of devices available to students across the school
- Planning for the purchase and trial of 1-1 devices (Chromebooks) for students in MYP and LGRM
- Implementing a long-term plan with necessary 'stress' testing to ensure the IT infrastructure (network, internet and wifi systems) can accommodate evolving needs
- Developing a pedagogical ICT plan to ensure all teachers have baseline competencies, and planning relevant and targeted ICT training for all staff
- Completing a comprehensive set of ICT policy documents covering usage and storage of sensitive data and general internet usage - policies relevant for staff, students and parents

Branding, Communications & Systems: Vanessa Molina Gabinus, James Teasdale

The 'branding, communications and systems' focus areas aim to improve effectiveness and efficiency in the ways we manage and transmit information about ISGR, within the school and to the broader community by:

- Increasing the consistency of our communications to ensure the same information is available to all sections of the school at the same times, including translated information when needed
 - Renewing the 'look' of our communications tools (eg. Letterhead, Newsletters, Presentations), to help build on our heritage and promote the discovery of new horizons
 - Redefining our school values and aligning the school brand with the values to express our collective identity
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- Ensuring our technology platforms, portals and systems are integrated to create efficient and accurate use of data, for clearer communication and more accessible information

School Fees update

According to Göteborgs Regionen's yearly index, the school fees for the 2016-17 academic year will be raised by 2,6%. The new yearly fee will be 31,060 SEK.

Facilities update

The Guldheden Campus Landlord ('Lokalförvaltningen') is continuing to work on the outside of the building, repairing the brickwork and changing all the windows. They are also going to paint all the external woodwork.

In addition, we are implementing plans for some improvements to the inside of our buildings. During the Week 7 break ('Sportlov'), we began painting corridors and doors in A-Wing at Guldheden. We will continue to paint corridors and staircases as well as the craft rooms.. There were also some maintenance and repairs completed inside both Guldheden and Götaberg buildings. Furthermore, the group looking at ways to brighten and refresh our Reception areas at both Campuses have made some good progress and will shortly be presenting initial plans.

The next steps also include freshening up our toilet facilities, and improving our PE change room facilities. We will begin some outdoor painting when warmer weather condition allow.

There is a form available at the Guldheden and Götaberg receptions where parents can make suggestions for improvements at both campuses.

I look forward to sharing more about our plans and strategies in the coming weeks. This is an exciting phase for the school with many milestones ahead. Our students will be working on displays and exhibitions to demonstrate stages in their continuum of learning, and the School will be taking significant steps on its evolutionary path, as we implement our strategic plans and pursue our re accreditation processes. I thank you for your ongoing support and generous contributions to the ISGR school community.

The next Head of School letter will be sent out before the Easter break.

Kind regards,

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Head of School

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