



31st January 2018, Gothenburg

Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Hopefully the new year and new school term has started well for you following a fun festive season and winter break. A special warm welcome to new families joining us for the Spring Term, and perhaps experiencing their first Gothenburg winter!

Admissions Update

International section:

Admissions in the international section was particularly busy during the Autumn Term. We had an initial intake of 40 students in MYP and 100 in PYP (including PYPK). We then had a further 11 MYP students and 27 PYP students join throughout the term, while we farewelled a total of 10 MYP and 21 PYP students. For the initial intake for the Spring Term we are welcoming 12 new PYP and 11 new MYP students, making current totals of 384 and 298 respectively, and a total number of 682 IB students.

National section:

At the start of this Spring Term we welcome five new students to the National Section, two allocated to LgrP at Guldheden Campus and three to LgrM at Götaberg Campus. In total, we now have 462 students enrolled in the National Section, 222 at Guldheden and 240 at Götaberg. The application process for the next coming school year 2018/2019 is underway and will continue until all classes are full. Letters of acceptance were recently sent to students starting preschool, grade four and grade six.

Key dates for Spring Term

First day of Spring Term: 9th January, 2018

Term break ('Sportlov'): 12th-16th February, 2018 (week 7)

Easter break ('Påsklov'): 30th March-6th April, 2018

Last day of Spring Term: 14th June, 2018

For additional dates and information view the school calendar at www.isgr.se/calendar

Accreditations Update

This term we continue with our work on accreditation with the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate (IB) organisation. Last academic year we carried out major evaluations with CIS covering our whole school, and IB covering the Primary Years Programme (PYP). Now we are undertaking the final phases of our five-year IB evaluation for the MYP, with our final documentation due on 1st February, 2018 and the IB team visiting from 7th-9th May, 2018. The IB visitors will spend time meeting with students, parents, teachers and administration staff to examine the implementation of the MYP from all angles and gain a thorough understanding of our approach to transdisciplinary learning and teaching practices within the programme.

Our work with the CIS evaluation process produced some major commendations along with some 'matters to be addressed', which have now been completed through two special issue reports. The first issue included some components of operational systems and safety procedures connected to CIS's enhanced emphasis on child protection policies, which is prevalent in the new CIS standards. The second issue focused on the documentation of alignment in our curriculums, both in terms of sequence within the programmes and alignment across sections of the school. This included the development of overarching indicators of high quality under a newly formed definition of high quality teaching and learning.

Outcomes and plans arising from our evaluation processes will be progressively shared with our school community, through programme education meetings for parents, newsletters and a section on our new website devoted to our guiding statements and framework for ensuring high quality teaching and learning throughout the school. Check our school calendars and ManageBac for information on parent education sessions and newsletters, and stay tuned for the launch our new website in the near future!

School Facilities Improvements

Götaberg campus - extra classrooms:

We have received the necessary permissions to place a portable cabin at Götaberg campus. This will help to give us more space for our students. The cabin will provide 4 additional classrooms and 2 workrooms. It will be placed on the front side of the playground, towards the 'Bamba' (lunch canteen) building. The classrooms will be available to use as of March 2018. This also means that we will be able to reopen the Student Centre.

Guldheden Campus - improved ventilation and PE Halls renovation:

Work will continue this term on improving the ventilation at Guldheden as well as renovating the PE Halls. Both projects are long-term and may involve some reorganisation of classes later in the term. You will be advised in advance by your section principal and/or class teacher of any changes to student schedules or class locations.



Spring Term Events and Highlights

The Spring Term brings many highlights on the academic and community events calendars, including reading and culture weeks, various exchange programmes abroad, and exhibitions of student work! In April (27th-29th) ISGR is also hosting the annual Nordic Network conference, which brings together international schools from the Nordic region for professional development. This year, there will be keynote speakers and workshops on the theme of “Educating Global Leaders for the Future”.

Please regularly check the school calendars online in the “Parent Zone” of our website for the latest information on coming events: www.isgr.se/calendar

Commemorative Ceremony for Former Staff Member

As many of you will know, late last year our valued PYP staff member Janiffer Kelly passed away after fighting an illness for several years. Early this year we held a memorial service to give thanks for Janiffer’s life and contribution to our school. It was pleasing to see the community come together and hold a fitting tribute to Janiffer, with music, readings and stories shared by colleagues, friends and family.

Thank you for being a part of the ISGR community and welcome again to the new families who have just joined our school where we ‘embrace diversity and explore the world’! Wishing all parents and students ‘god fortsättning’ - continued success in the Spring Term!

Kind regards,

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