

## Letter from the Head of School 25 September 2020



Dear Parents,

### **Parents' Survey**

The parents' survey closed yesterday. We received 70 responses, and the results are attached in a separate document. I was delighted to see such positive responses, and I welcome the many constructive and supportive comments that will help us to refine our school improvement strategy.

The responses emphasised the strength of the school's reputation for being a safe and happy place where students learn strong social skills and self-discipline, and where everyone is treated equally. Other strengths include academics (90% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that we deliver a high quality education), and the range of opportunities we provide (94% agreed or strongly agreed).

Some areas for improvement emerge. 13% of respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the school's communication with parents and reporting on children's progress. Individual comments also highlighted aspects which the school's Board and leadership team are aware of, and for which we are already implementing strategies. These aspects include: developing a varied and rigorous programme of **after-school activities**; improving **staff retention**; enhancing our **Danish programme** to meet the varying needs of our Danish and expatriate families; and **addressing misconduct** among students swiftly and effectively.

The school scored an encouraging 7.9 out of 10 in the overall rating at the end of the survey. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

### **Students' survey**

The students' survey results are similarly positive – overall, ISIB students scored our school over 8 out of 10. For reasons of space, I will discuss the results in detail next week.

### **Parent-Teacher Meetings**

Our first round of parent-teacher meetings takes place in the week before the half-term break, on the afternoons of 6-8 October (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). Letters will be issued for primary and secondary appointments. Appointments will be made on a 'first come, first served' basis, so when you receive the letters please sign up promptly for the days and times which suit you best.



## Healthy Eating Week

Next week is Healthy Eating Week at ISIB. Teachers will be incorporating messages about healthy eating in lessons and activities throughout the week, to reinforce the importance of healthy eating on everything we do.

We have noticed that many students in secondary are not eating healthily at lunchtimes. Some do not bring in any lunch at all, while others bring only unhealthy snacks. Students need a balanced, healthy lunch and a break time snack to sustain their energy levels and focus throughout a challenging and active school day. This is especially true of adolescents, who are growing rapidly and need to build healthy minds and bodies to last them a lifetime. Please talk to your teenager about food he or she can eat that is healthy and tasty too!

## Arriving safely at school

We encourage students to cycle to school as a healthy and environmentally friendly habit. It's important they do so safely. Some students have been cycling on the cycle path on the side of the road nearest to ISIB, which means they are cycling in the wrong direction on that path. This is dangerous because drivers entering Bøgildvej (for example, from the IB Gymnasium) will not be looking for cyclists coming from the right. There have been some near-misses recently.

If your child cycles northwards along Bøgildvej on their way to school, please remind him or her to use the cycle path on the far side of the road, and to dismount and cross the road on foot at the traffic island opposite the school.

I would also like to ask parents who drop off their children in the IB Gymnasium car park to drive slowly and cautiously while in the Gymnasium's car park, for safety reasons.

## Pathways

We now have wood chips on our pathway running alongside the school building, leading to the side and rear entrances. These woodchips protect the grass and prevent mud forming. **Please use the wood chip pathway rather than walking on the grass** – otherwise the grass will become muddy.



## **Purple Mash**

ISIB has purchased a subscription to the virtual learning tool 'Purple Mash' for Primary students. Mr Marshall plans to use Purple Mash in ICT and Computing lessons throughout the year, as it allows the use of a range of software to support learning. There are also lots of great resources for English, Maths, Science and topical lessons that can be accessed at school and home. This week, children have been logging into the site to see what it has to offer. Some have even taken their usernames home to try out some of the Maths and English learning games!

The school login portal can be found here: <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/internationalsch110>

A useful video for parents about Purple Mash can be found at: <https://2simple.com/purple-mash/purple-mash-parents/>

## **Our Library: the Grand Opening!**

The grand opening of our reorganised and refreshed library took place at 1.30pm today. Congratulations to all of the successful candidates for the post of librarian, as follows:

Year 4: Evann, Avantikka, Sid, Jayant

Year 5: Kaya, Shriya, Cedric, Dharshan

Year 6: Yasmin, Sakthi, Pablo, Muthuguru

Year 7: Maria, Sophia, Caroline, Eliette

Year 8: Neeharika

We still need librarians from IG1, IG2 and Year 11. This is an ideal opportunity for our senior students to contribute to the school community, be part of a team, and add to their portfolio of achievements and contributions ahead of applying for high schools and universities. Interested students should contact Ms Martin ([jennymartin@isib.dk](mailto:jennymartin@isib.dk)).

With best wishes for the weekend,

Regards / Med venlig hilsen

**Tom Wilde, Head of School**