

Letter from the Head of School 18 September 2020



Dear Parents,

Parents' Survey

My thanks to all of the parents who have already responded to the parents' survey. We have over 40 responses so far. Please be sure to share your views on or before Thursday 24 September. I intend to share the findings next Friday.

It has been a pleasure to read the many positive comments about our school, and to have a clearer sense of the areas where parents feel improvement is needed. I am glad to see that a lot of the issues raised are in line with areas we are already focusing on, such as developing an exciting and varied programme of co-curricular activities.

Students' survey

This morning we also conducted our students' survey. The Student Representative Council members helped Mr Burke and Ms Gunasingham to administer these surveys, as did the Year 11 students. It's always a pleasure to see the older students supporting their younger schoolmates. The results will help us to gauge the attitudes and opinions about school of children from Year 1 to Year 11. As with the parents' survey, we value the opportunity to gather data from across the community in order to guide our strategy for improvement and development.

Lesson Observations

This week, Ms Bell and I have begun carrying out the first series of lesson observations for the year, as part of the school's appraisal programme. Teachers have already devised their own 'SMART' targets for the academic year, and identified the professional development that will help them to achieve their professional goals. It is always exciting to get into classrooms across the school and see how children are learning at different ages and in different subjects.

After each observation, we share our feedback and discuss how we can build upon the existing strengths, and address any areas or improvement, so that we can continually enhance the quality of teaching and learning taking place. Teachers will also be taking part in peer observations, where they visit each other's lessons in order to learn from one another. This is a powerful way of sharing and learning effective strategies and techniques.

Library

The library has been under maintenance for the past few weeks, as Ms Martin, Ms Casey and Ms Thomas have been working busily to reorganize our collection of books, reference titles and other printed materials. As part of this process, the outdated or worn books have been culled from the collection, to free up space for new books. Ms Martin has also established a link with the Ikast lending library, so that homeroom groups can request the books the children are interested in. These books will then be brought to the school for students to read. There will also be a scheme for students to apply to be librarians, and help with borrowing and returning books. We look forward to reopening our beautiful reading zone next week for everyone to enjoy!

Social Media

Our new social media channels are proving popular, with new followers joining every day. We would like to reach an initial target of 100 followers by next week, so if you aren't yet following us on Instagram, Facebook or LinkedIn, you can find the links on our website at www.isib.dk.

Maths Olympiads

As you will have seen from Ms Shukla's letter earlier this week, we are launching a new initiative to take part in online Maths Olympiads. These monthly online competitions will give our upper primary and lower secondary students a chance to work in teams, tackling challenging and fun mathematical problems and puzzles. Numerous parents and students have already expressed interest, and we look forward to creating our first teams. If your child is aged between 8 and 14 years of age, and would like to take part, please contact Ms Shukla for more information (richashukla@isib.dk).

Enjoy the late summer sunshine this weekend. I look forward to seeing you and your children again next week!

Regards / Med venlig hilsen

Tom Wilde, Head of School