

Topic: Letter from the Head of School  
Date: 21 August 2020



Dear Parents

As we come to the end of our first full week of the new school year, I would like to thank you for your support of our school during the ongoing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are delighted to be able to open the school for 'business as usual' (almost!). It is a pleasure to see children back in their classrooms, learning with their friends, and enjoying the social and academic benefits that being in a close-knit school environment like ISIB can offer. We enjoy ample outdoor space and large, airy classrooms, which are a definite advantage under the current guidelines. ISIB is a healthy, active school community and I look forward to strengthening that tradition.

I would also like to thank the ISIB community for the warm welcome I have received since arriving in Denmark to take up the role of Head of School at ISIB. I feel very much at home in Ikast and Denmark already. Throughout the school day, one experiences the warmth and cheerfulness of children, staff and parents. This was one of the reasons why I chose to come to International School Ikast-Brande. The family atmosphere and community spirit is one of the school's key strengths, and one on which we will build in the years ahead.

Another key strength of the school is our teaching team. It is a privilege to lead a team of such enthusiastic, positive professionals, ably supported by our office and maintenance teams. I have had the pleasure of visiting classes across the school, from Early Years to Year 11, and the rapport is evident between children of all ages and their teachers. This is an advantage of small schools: everyone knows everyone else, and everyone has an important role to play in the life of the school. Through knowing and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of our students in depth, teachers are better able to support each child where needed, and challenge them to excel.

This year we have added four new teachers to our team: Mr Karl Lee (Global Perspectives/History), Ms Emese Sandór (Year 1), Ms Eva Sørensen (Danish), and Mr Gary Wright (Year 6). I would also like to formally welcome Ms Sindu Sitaraman (Danish), who joined ISIB towards the end of last school year. We are delighted to add their skills and experience to our multi-talented team. Existing teachers are also taking on new roles this year: Mr Niall Connell (Pastoral Team Leader); Mr Donnacha Burke (Science), Ms Richa Shukla (Examinations Officer), and Mr Rob Marshall (ICT and Computing, and the school's website and social media coordinator).



The **Parents' Orientation Evening** is taking place in Hjertet next Wednesday (26 August), starting at 4.00pm. This is an important chance to meet the teachers and your fellow parents. This event will be followed by the annual General Assembly at 5.45pm, which will be held in the NLT Room in the school. This is a chance to receive an overview of last school year and learn more about the vision for the school's future. If you wish to attend, remember to email Ms Henny Brayd ([office@isib.dk](mailto:office@isib.dk)) to register. I look forward to meeting you.

The easing of the Covid-19 guidelines means that **Breakfast Club** can once again include breakfast! We would love to see more children enjoying a healthy breakfast with us, if you need to drop your child off in school between 7.00-8.00am. Email [sfo@isib.dk](mailto:sfo@isib.dk) if you would like your child to be enrolled.

**Examination results** have been in the headlines this week, as governments and examination boards worldwide struggle with how to issue accurate grades when no formal examinations could take place because of Covid-19. Cambridge has recently announced that it will accept teachers' predictions. The results will therefore be reissued this morning. We are confident that our students will get the results they richly deserve. More information will be shared at the Orientation Evening and in my next letter to parents.

I would like to end by congratulating all children who are attending their confirmation this weekend. For those who are going on the subsequent day trip on Monday, may I remind parents that you must notify the school – it is not an automatic day off school.

With best wishes for a relaxing and refreshing weekend,

Regards

**Tom Wilde, Head of School**