



Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## MARIA'S NOTES :



Due to the sheer amount of second-hand uniform, and the shortage of storage space, the PTA would like to **pause all uniform donations until further notice!**

Trois Dalton, une seule mission : voir mieux, lire mieux, être mieux ! The French department in Primary during the BOOK DAY



### PTA Donations

So far this term, many students across ISB have benefitted from our fantastic PTA fundraising. If you were lucky enough to see the secondary show *Beauty and the Beast*, you will also have seen the amazing costumes, which the PTA donated €300 towards.

On top of that, to help kick-start the Secondary school PROM, the PTA donated another €300 to the prom committee.

Finally, this week the Primary school had a wild time at their own disco fundraiser for UNADEV, and the PTA provided €200 to cover the cost of sweets and drinks for everyone.

### PTA President

Chloe Elias has stepped down from her role, due to other commitments, and so we're currently looking for a **PTA President** for the rest of the school year. It's a great way to get involved in the school, meet other parents, and help organize fun events and activities for the kids.

You don't need any special experience, just a willingness to help. There's a supportive team already in place to make it easy.

If you might be interested or want to learn more, please let us know. We'd love to keep the PTA going! E-mail : [pta@isbearn.com](mailto:pta@isbearn.com)

### PTA DATES

**Special PTA coffee morning – Let's talk about International Day:** Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 0915 @Jules and John

**Tabletop secondhand uniform sale:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

**International Day event:** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**Primary school bake sale:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

**\*New Date Teacher appreciation lunch :** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May

**Minutes of last week's PTA meeting is attached**

It's hard to believe that we've only been back at school two weeks, when we list all of the exciting things that have been going on since we returned!

Last Tuesday, it all kicked off with a visit by some students from **Beau Frêne**, a local Lycée. The students (and their teachers) that came, are students that are studying to work with old people and children, and that also have taken an extra option of studying English. It is the second time that students from this course have visited our school, and once again, they were a pleasure to work with. They had organised a giant interactive board game for Grade 3, who had to hunt around the playground and complete tasks as a group to advance along the board.



On Friday, Grades 5 and 6 went **Science Odyssey Pau**, to take part in two workshops linked to what they have been doing in history and computing. They enjoyed an archeological dig, where they carefully uncovered a range of artefacts, learnt how to identify them and discussed what they would have been used for. Then they did a robotics workshop where they programmed a microbit in order to direct vehicles through a labyrinth.

They had a great time and, not only were ISB complimented on their impressive coding skills, and use of vocabulary, everyone at Science Odysée made ISB feel very welcome.

A BIG THANK YOU to Miss Susie, the Primary Science Coordinator for organising another fantastic, enriching experience!

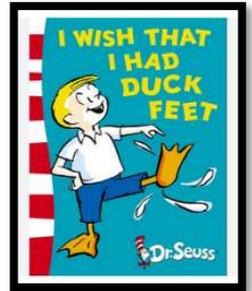


This week we have been celebrating our very special week “**See Better Be Better**”, and what an incredible week it's been. It all started with a few suggestions in the student council meetings, and quickly snowballed into something much bigger!

We started the week with our **ISB anti-bullying day**, “One Change, One Me”. All of the children and teachers were invited to change one piece of their uniform to emphasise the point that we are all different, even though we have lots of similarities too.

During the day, this theme was discussed and celebrated in lessons. It was a wonderful reminder of how our differences make our community special. By changing just one part of their uniform, students celebrated individuality and showed that it’s okay to stand out.

We ended the day with an assembly all together, where Mr Hanrahan read *I Wish That I Had Duck Feet* by Dr. Seuss. In the story, a boy imagines how exciting it would be to have all sorts of animal features, but by the end he realises that he is happiest simply being himself. In the same way, we encouraged students to reflect on what makes them unique and to appreciate that they don’t need to be anyone else – who they are is already something to celebrate.



### Certificates

Class teachers, then presented some certificates to some hard workers from across the school! Well done everyone!!





Mr Hanrahan has also handed out three Head Teacher Awards, this last two week's. Tom (G3), Neriah and Clodagh (G5) were nominated by their teachers for going above and beyond! In Tom's case, it was for putting 100% effort into everything he does, consistently achieving excellent results, and always doing the right thing. What a role model! Clodagh and Neriah were nominated for amazing team-work and innovation during computing lessons. Well done you three!



### Reception Class visit the *Médiathèque*

On Tuesday afternoon, Reception Class went to visit the *médiathèque*. They took the public bus from Rue Copernic, and used the opportunity to also discover what the city of Pau has put in place around our school to help blind people cross the road and navigate the pavements. It was a very interesting afternoon, and once again, we were warmly welcomed by the *Médiathèque*.



### ISB Book Day

On Wednesday, it was **ISB Book Day** and everyone in the school dressed up as a character from one of their favorite books.

This year, as it is a part of our "See Better, Be Better" week, each class worked on creating audio stories, for a school in England, where Mr Hanrahan's brother (also called Mr Hanrahan?!), works, which has lots of children with visual impairments. We're just putting the finishing touches to them, and next week, we're going to send them across the pond.



### UNADEV Visit

On Thursday, we were visited by the charity **UNADEV** (Union Nationale des Aveugles et Déficients Visuels). Carlotte and Manon, who work for UNADEV, brought along Audrey, Jean-Phillipe and his clever guide dog, Undo to meet us all and tell us about life as a blind person.

They started with Early Years and Reception Class and told them all about Undo and how he helps Jean-Phillipe, who could see until he was 54, but then lost his eye-sight. Then Audrey, who has been blind since she was a baby showed the children some of her artwork that she sews. She explained that the reason that she loves her work is because when people look at it, they all see something different, because it is abstract. She then asked us to look at her work and say what we saw.



All of the children met the special guests throughout the morning and got to listen to their stories and ask them lots of questions. We learned that Jean-Phillipe is a keen sportsman who still skis, raquettes, rides and plays “Goal-Ball” – Something that Grades 1-6 had played during the week, thanks to Miss Suzanne H. Jean-Phillipe then invited us to come and watch him train in Pau!

Jean-Phillipe said that he found being blind difficult because it was fairly new to him. He couldn’t read braille because his fingers weren’t sensitive enough, but had lots of other new skills. He talked about how amazing Undo is, but we also learnt that a guide dog costs 25,000 euros, and they are generally bought for blind people, using donations to charities, like UNADEV. Jean-Phillipe also told us about an app called **BE MY EYES**, he couldn’t stop stressing how much it helps him. He explained that its an app that he can use when he needs some eyes to help him e.g. when he has a headache, he uses the app and is connected to someone who can see through his camera. He then shows them his medicine drawer, and they help him to choose the correct medicine. Once, his dog was sick and he wanted to clean it up, but he couldn’t see exactly where it was, so again, he used the app and the person on the other end was able to tell him where to clean. He explained that he uses it almost everyday for little problems that pop up! He told us that parents from a school like ours could help so many blind people by signing up to the app because you can choose what language you speak, and so we could help all sorts of blind people all over the world!! We then found out that one of our teachers already has the app, and loves being able to help whenever she gets a call!



Audrey told us that she had been blind since she was a baby, and so for her, it was very normal. She would love to have a job, but sadly she hasn't been able to find a company that is equipped to have a blind employee and she hopes that one day this will change. Although she doesn't have a regular job, she is an artist and shared some of her wonderful artwork with us. She said that she takes great pleasure in hearing what people see when they look at her work. For her, it is totally different because she thinks of it as textures and warmth.

Audrey gave us lots of insight into her life in Pau, and answered lots of our questions. She said that special raised markings on the pavements are really helpful, but that the city misses having crossings that make noises, because often they don't work, or they were removed because local residents thought they were too noisy?! This frustrates her, because it is not just blind people who would benefit from these, but children and older people too. She explained that she doesn't have a guide dog because as much as they are helpful, you also have to look after them, and so she prefers to walk with a white stick. At the end of our meeting with her, she suddenly started speaking in English! All morning, she had been worried that it wasn't good enough, but it was almost perfect! We were so impressed!



At the end of the morning, Audrey and Jean-Phillipe met Miss Sara and they went up to the art room with her to feel the artwork that grade 6, Grade 3 and Grade 1 have been working on this last two weeks. It was some 3D, texture art, based on Kandinsky's circles. It was so special to see them both enthusiastically feeling the artwork and talking about it. Jean-Phillipe immediately noticed some smells and guessed that some spices and seeds had been used to create the textures. He commented on how cool it was that he could feel *and* smell the artwork!





We really are so lucky to have had this special visit by two inspiring guests. And... Just when we didn't think it could get any better, Audrey has offered to come in in the future and work with a class to produce some art like her own!

If you would like to see some of Audrey's artwork, or even buy some to brighten up your home, take a look at her website: <https://artistemimulus.wixsite.com/couturebroderie>

### See Better, Be Better DISCOs!!

During the week, all of the students designed a pair of glasses that represented their personality, and who they are. These glasses were then the dress-code for the discos on Thursday! During the day Audrey and Jean-Phillipe drew the raffles to see who would win the sought after VIP tickets. The winners were:



Amelia (G4), Sarah (G6), Vicente (G6) and Andor (G6)



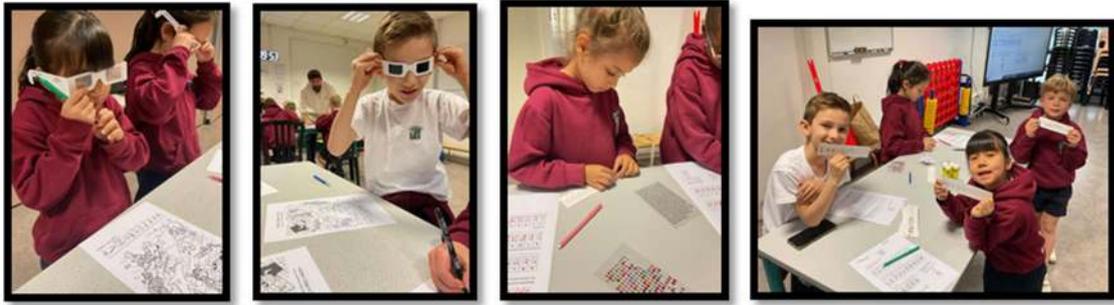
In the afternoon, the discos went wild!! Everyone was dressed in their favourite party gear and rocking their personality glasses!





During the week, there have been all sorts of different activities going on including a chance to play some blind sports for every class, organised by Miss Suzanne H and braille workshops for everyone too!





**Library helpers**

We've finally received our new library shelves, and have somewhat reorganised the lower library, and so are ready for the return of parent library helpers, to help change the children's reading books each morning, between 0845-0930.

Last year, we had a wonderful team of helpers, led by Vicky and Emanuelle. If you have a morning free and would like to volunteer, please send an email or speak to :  
Emanuelle (Ben's mum G5 - emmkhorrami@gmail.com) or  
Vicky (Monty and Eliza's mum - Rec and G2 - victoria.thorp@hotmail.com). #InspiringSelfBelief

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March** – Grades 1 & 2 trip to Chateau de Mauvezin

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** – PTA Coffee Morning, Jules and John 0900 - All parents welcome

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** – PTA Second-hand Uniform Sale (from 1130 tbc)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March (1435)** – Grade 2 assembly – All Grade 2 parents welcome

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March** – PTA Coffee Morning + International Day Organisation, Jules and John 0915

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Last day of school – Non-Uniform Day

**Thursday 21<sup>th</sup> May** – PTA Teacher Appreciation Lunch

\*\*\*\*\* EYFS \*\*\*\*\* PRIM \*\*\*\*\*

In Mathematics, **Early Years 1** have been comparing quantities using the vocabulary “more” and “less” and **Early Years 2** have been practising recognising numerals from 1-10 and matching them to the correct quantities.



With the lovely sunny weather back, Early Years have been enjoying a variety of outdoor activities. They had fun in the mud kitchen, exploring mixing and measuring, and in water play, using droppers to pour and transfer water.





Early Years 1 exploring their creativity through free painting.



**Reception** children are familiarising themselves with the story of **Jack and the Beanstalk**. They started to grow some beans and are observing them germinate before planting them. They enjoyed going to the *Médiathèque*, listening to stories and dressing up for World Book Day. What an exciting learning time we are having!





**Grade 1** have painted their holiday recounts.





Grade 1 practiced their tennis skills playing rounders with a tennis racket.





What would it be like to be blind? Grade 1 used their senses without sight to guess at what we can hear and smell.



In sport, Grade 1 were finding the sound without our eyes and being a blind walker and guide.



Ready for the disco:



In Music and Drama class last week, **Grade 1** celebrated Chinese New Year 🧧 with different activities including this really fun lion dance!

The children had to move to the beat of different Chinese percussion instruments. They then performed with different metal instrument and drums to scare Nian away!

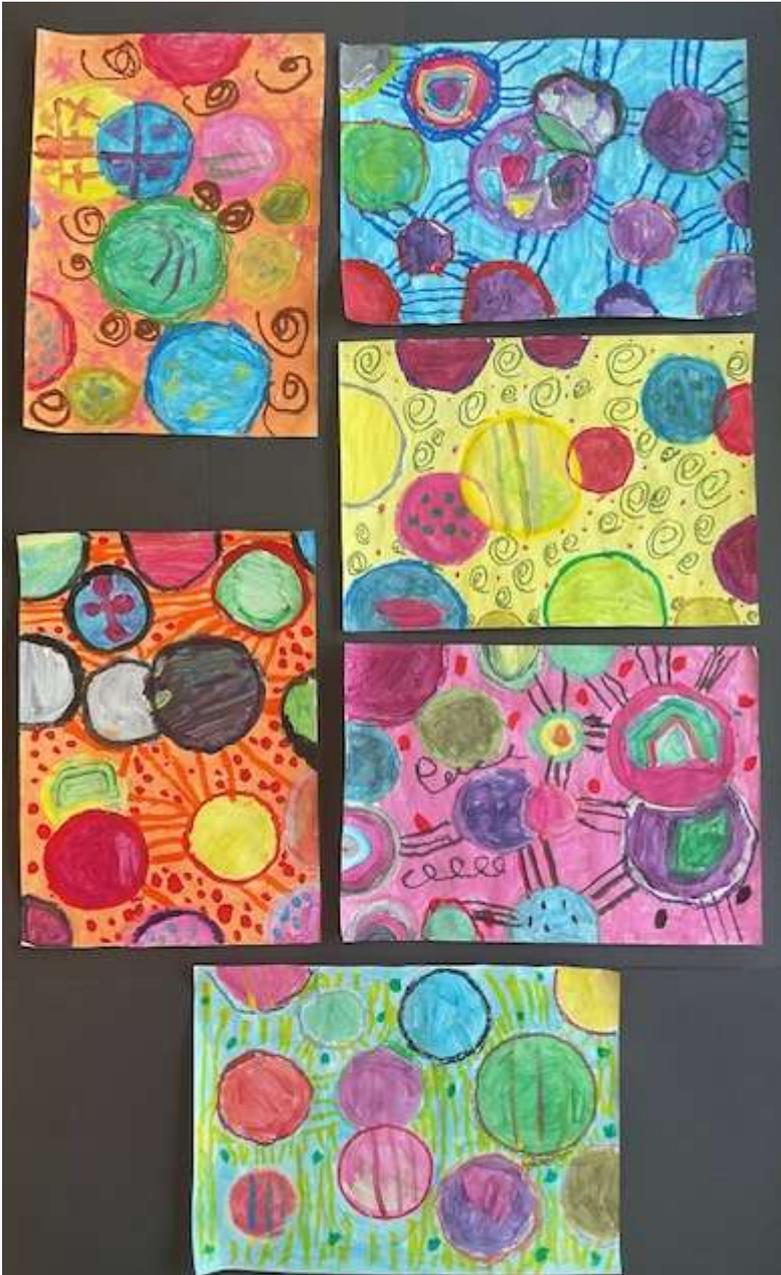
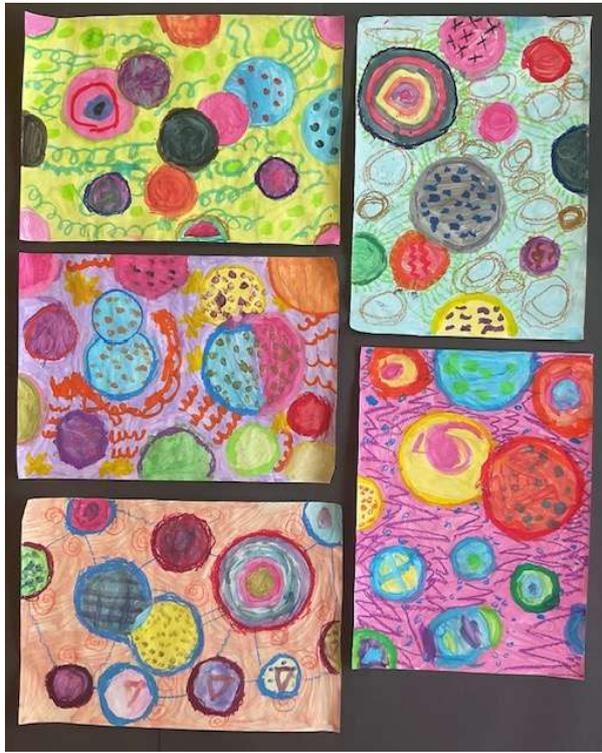


**Grade 1 in Art** have been learning the skills of how to mix colours confidently and indecently. Making secondary colours and also creating tints and shades using white and black.

Next adding patterns of lines for the background with oil pastels and adding extra line details to their work.

They learnt about how to create abstract art through a combination of colours, shapes and lines. Beautiful results, well done.





**Grade 2** designed and built their own medieval castles in history. We made sure that we included features of a castle; battlements, portcullis, drawbridges and some of us even included a moat. We have learnt about different ways to attack and defend a castle and we constructed our own catapults. At the end of the week we met up with Mr Morris and grade 7 who have also been learning about castles. They showed us their models and told us about the different types of castles. We then attacked their castles using our catapults.

**Grade 2 were victorious and won the great castle battle of ISB.**







Ready for the BOOK DAY





**Grade 4** have been learning about decimals. They have been using money to help organise their place value and compare amounts. Fabulous teamwork and accountancy skills!  
Well done Grade 4. 🙌





**Grade 4** created gorgeous and very expressive frozen images around the theme ‘Chinese New Year’, which we celebrated all last week. Xin Nian Kuai Le! May the year of the fire horse 🐎 bring you luck, health and prosperity!





**Grade 5** had an amazing time on their trip to science Odyssey. They became archaeologists and computer programmers in the space of a few hours! Thank you to our science coordinator Miss Susie for organising this cool trip.





Grade 5 learnt all about braille and experienced some of the challenges facing visually impaired people during their *See Better Be Better* workshop with Mr Hanrahan.





Grade 5 had a fantastic ISB book day. We enjoyed reading some stories to grade 2 and finished the day off with a fun World Book Day themed Kahoot.





In computing, **Grade 5** learnt about another form of communication that relies on using other senses than sight... Morse Code. We programmed the Micro:bits to send and receive messages in Morse Code to our friends.



In Art, **Grade 5** finished their self-portrait which they started before the holidays. They learnt about the Brazilian 'Neo-Pop' artist Romeo BRITTO and his vibrant colours and patterns he uses in his artwork. The students then worked in his style adding and creating patterns to portrait themselves. Well done they look amazing 😊



The amazing **Grade 6** trying to guess what shapes are in the bag just from touch and their math knowledge!



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**WORLD BOOK DAY:**

Ms McCombie organized front doors created by students for World Book Day.

→ This first one is based in the novel Hacker by Malorie Blackman and was created by G8.



↑↑↑  
This is the door display created by grade 7, based on the novel Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson.



Here are some photos of model castles that **Grade 7** made. They were fantastic! Last Friday, the Grade 7s also had the chance to show off their castles to the Grade 2 class, who are also studying castles at the moment.







Para el « world book day », los alumnos de **Grade 8**, jugando a “mi historia en imagen” con Don Daniel, han inventado una historia extravagante llamada “Las vacaciones de Pepita Pérez”. ¡Un momento instructivo y divertido!

**LAS VACACIONES DE PEPITA PÉREZ**

Las vacaciones pasadas, fui a Perú. Al llegar a Lima, la capital, surgió en la costa limeña pero por la noche tuve un accidente. También un perro callejero me vomitó en los zapatos. **AL DÍA SIGUIENTE, HABIA UN SOL ESPLÉNDIDO Y DISFRUTÉ EN EL HOTEL** Pero, durante el día llovió y abrí un paraguas.

Así que fui a Machu Picchu donde vi las ruinas y los templos incas. Allí, comí un helado de fresas. **AL DÍA SIGUIENTE, HABIA UN SOL ESPLÉNDIDO Y DISFRUTÉ EN EL HOTEL** Pero, durante el día llovió y abrí un paraguas. Así que fui a Machu Picchu donde vi las ruinas y los templos incas. Allí, comí un helado de fresas. **AL DÍA SIGUIENTE, HABIA UN SOL ESPLÉNDIDO Y DISFRUTÉ EN EL HOTEL** Pero, durante el día llovió y abrí un paraguas.

Al día siguiente llegué a Cusco y jugué al baloncesto con mi hermano y chicos peruanos. Después, anduve por las montañas del circo Iris y por el valle rojo. Pero me rompí las piernas porque me caí sobre un guanaco que me escupió. Entonces, llegó una ambulancia que me llevó a Trujillo.

Donde visité las impresionantes ruinas de Chan Chan pero me enfermé. Entonces, **Compré unos zapatos en una biblioteca** Pero por la noche tuve un accidente. Para terminar organizaré una fiesta con mis amigos Peruanos.

Lo pasó genial  
¡Fue un viaje excepcional!

a grade 8 production!

GG WORLD BOOK DAY



On Tuesday **Grade 10 Geographers** visited Erromardie Beach on the Basque Coast to study coastal processes and management techniques. Pupils enjoyed the warm (if not sunny!) weather and found the process very valuable!



On Wednesday, in Physics, **Grade 12** are investigating the resistivity of niachrome.

The Self defense group was in the newspaper:

**IDRON**

## Le club de self-défense reçoit dans ses nouveaux locaux



Le club Self Défense 64 a récemment accueilli au dojo d'Idron l'International School of Béarn de Pau pour des journées de stage particulièrement enrichissantes, tant sur le plan sportif que sur celui de la défense personnelle. Cette formation s'adressait à des élèves de 4e et de 3e.

Maria Elias, directrice de cet établissement palois reconnu pour son sérieux et la qualité de ses résultats, a choisi de faire confiance au club idronnais, dirigé depuis plus de vingt ans par Laurent Ghyselincq. Fort d'une solide expérience dans les arts martiaux, celui-ci se montre particulièrement attentif à l'évolution des agressions physiques, qui touchent aujourd'hui toutes les générations, et plus particulièrement les plus jeunes.

Laurent Ghyselincq souligne « qu'il n'est pas là pour faire des stagiaires des machines de guerre, mais tout simplement pour mettre des chevaux sous le capot ». Le dojo récemment rénové par la mairie d'Idron est doté de nouveaux équipements très appréciés par le président du club de self-défense, lequel souligne aussi « l'accompagnement des élus et des services techniques pendant les phases de travaux de la salle polyvalente ».



We received on Wednesday the famous French journalist **Christine Ockrent**.

The aim was to be a genuinely interactive and academically meaningful exchange for our Grades 11–13 students (A Level French, History and Business Studies). Student-led questions and will greatly enhance both engagement and academic relevance (geopolitics and international relations, US politics and global power dynamics, technology and political power, the impact of geopolitical instability on business activity, leadership, ethics and responsibility).

# LA GAZETTE PALOISE

## Christine Ockrent échange avec les lycéens de l'International School of Béarn

Ce mercredi, avant la présentation de son nouveau livre « Le Trump de A à Z » (éd. Denoël) au Parvis Leclerc, la journaliste Christine Ockrent, répondant à l'invitation de Sébastien Bonnemason, professeur de lettres à l'International School of Béarn, et de Maria Elias, directrice, a rencontré une soixantaine de lycéens pour un échange autour de l'actualité.

Après une introduction sur le parcours professionnel de son invitée et le rôle du journaliste, les questions ont porté sur les médias en tant que sources d'information fiables face à la désinformation et à l'idéologie qui se faufilent sur les réseaux sociaux entre autres, et qui font qu'il est difficile de s'informer correctement.

Christine Ockrent a ensuite répondu aux questions des lycéens et expliqué sa vision de Trump et des tensions politiques actuelles. Les élèves, issus de 45 nationalités différentes, se sont montrés très intéressés et concernés par la situation de l'Iran, la Chine, la Russie, le Groenland ain-

si que de la démocratie. L'échange, commencé en français, s'est poursuivi en anglais, rappelant que l'invitée a débuté sa carrière dans divers médias des États-Unis, un pays cher à son cœur qu'elle connaît bien.

La « reine Christine », célèbre pour avoir présenté le JT de 20 heures pendant des années et animé diverses émissions, dont l'actuelle « Affaires étrangères » sur France Culture, a montré ses qualités de pédagogue et de vulgarisatrice de l'information.



Christine Ockrent face aux élèves de l'ISB. Claudine Ladevèze

## SECONDARY UPDATE

Ann Byrne

### Non-Uniform Collection

Maria has now sent €116 from the non-uniform day before half-term to the animal rescue charity 'Way of Freedom'. Thank you for your contributions.

### Option Choices Grade 9 and Grade 11 Students

Parent information sessions have taken place for current Grade 9 and Grade 11 parents ahead of the choices around subject options. A PowerPoint for both grades can now be found on your Parent dashboard on FireFly.

The next steps for both grades are detailed below:

G9 Event	Date	G11 Event	Date
Grade 9 reports published	Friday 06 March	Grade 11 Initial option forms sent home	Friday 06 March
Grade 9 Parents Evening and 'initial choices' form distributed	Tuesday 17 March	Grade 11 Parents Eve 3:45 – 6:00pm	Tuesday 10 March
Completed Initial choices returned to form tutors	Wednesday 25 March	Completed Initial choices returned to form tutors	Friday 13 March
'Final option choices' forms distributed in Tutor time	Monday 30 March	'Final option choices' forms distributed in Tutor time	Friday 27 March
Completed final choices returned to form tutors	Friday 03 April	Completed final choices returned to form tutors	Friday 03 April

## Exam Leave

A reminder that exam leave for Grades 11 through to 13 starts from 01 May. **Their last day in school is Thursday 30 April.**

During study leave there will be scheduled revision sessions and the timetable for these sessions will be published soon.

## Parents Evenings – Academic Year 2025 – 26

All events take place between 15:45 and 17:45

Booking for all Parents Evening is now through the Parent Portal <https://parents.isbearn.com>. See below for details of how to make your appointment.

**Please note the table below has been re-organised by date order.**

This information is also on your FireFly Parent Dashboard. Should any dates change you will be notified through this newsletter and on the dashboard page.

Date	Grade	Event
10 March 2026	Grade 11	Parents evening
17 March 2026	Grade 9	Parents evening
24 March	Grade 12 and G13	Invitation only parents ahead of final exams
05 May 2026	Grade 10	Invitation only parents evening ahead of G10 exams

## Booking a Parents Evening Appointment

Please note: there is currently a bug in our booking system that will allow one parent to book multiple appointments for the same time – please make sure that you choose different times for each of your appointments.

Also, please be sure to book appointments for ONLY your child's teachers as ALL teachers of a particular grade will appear on the booking options.

To book appointments:

1. Log into the Parent Portal at <https://parents.isbearn.com/> and click on 'Meetings' on the menu bar
2. Next click on 'Make an Appointment' and select the subject and required appointment time.

*Have a nice week  
Bonne semaine  
Maria*

*Yesterday's PROM 2026*

*The Prom:*

*Before*

