



Friday 15th December 2025

LAST NEWSLETTER OF THE TERM

Happy New Year to all families

DON'T FORGET: SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12.00 FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY!!!

Wednesday 17th December is a non-uniform day: please wear festive jumpers

Winter holidays: from Wednesday 17th December at 12.00 to Monday 5th January at 8.30

We received free tickets, from Pau Mayor, for the big wheel (LA GRANDE ROUE) in Pau centre. If you want any, please tell me.



PRIMARY NEWS

John-Mark Hanrahan

OOOOOOO LLLAAAA LLAAAAAA, it really has been an incredibly busy last two and half weeks here in the primary school, and what a juggling act it's been! Children have been completing their end of term assessments, practising for the end of term musical shows, writing and posting letters home, singing at retirement homes, performing end of term shows to parents... and we even had a visit from Father Christmas... It's been non-stop!

In our first assembly, Mr Hanrahan spoke to us about the importance of team-work. We talked about teams that we are a part of and lots of us came up with some great ideas, from football teams, to house-teams, to Team ISB and someone even suggested that their family is even like a small team that has to work together to get things done. Mr Hanrahan then explained how important team-work was going to be throughout the last two weeks of term, with all of the special events happening. He chose some children to come and hold up some letters, and the Monty, from Grade 2 had to try and unmuddle the letters to spell a word. It was a bit tricky at first, so he asked a couple of audience members if they could help him get started- a great example of team-work! He then very quickly guessed the word and put the rest of the children in the correct order so that they spelt....TEAM!



It was then time to give out some well-deserved certificates of merit!



Finally, the house captains had made the intrepid journey around the school, collecting all of the house points that had been collected over the previous two weeks, and so the winning team had been announced. It was great news for the red team who finally have their first trophy of the year!! Pia, their house captain, came to proudly collect the trophy from Mr Hanrahan.

Grade 1 & 2 Christmas Show – The Greatest Snowman

On Tuesday morning, Grades 1 & 2 gave a magical performance of their show, The Greatest Snowman. It was a jam-packed spectacle full of beautiful singing, groovy dancing and oscar-worthy acting!! Well done everyone involved! (There is a dedicated channel on TeamISB if you want to see more beautiful photos!)



EYFS Christmas Extravaganza!

On Wednesday morning, it was Early Years and Reception Class' turn to perform their beautiful show. This time the school atrium was transformed into a winter wonderland, where the children from 2.5-5 years old, sang, danced, played instruments and even narrated their wonderful story. It was beautiful but difficult to watch through such watery eyes! Well done and thank you again to everyone involved in this festive treat!



Teachers Wreath Workshop

On Wednesday afternoon, Mme Elias organised a Christmas wreath-making workshop for the teachers. It was great opportunity for some team-building and creativity, and a wholesome time was had by all! The workshop was run by non-other than Miss Ella’s talented mum Mel C!



Special Visitor (no, not headlice!)

On Friday, there was a very special visitor in the primary school! Nobody could believe it when Father Christmas turned up during lessons, wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and giving all of the children a gift/chocolate. It was a very exciting moment for everyone!



Assembly Again

This week's assembly was another exciting affair! We started off by looking back over the last term and thinking about our favourite moment. It was unbelievable how many different suggestions there were, from French Day to school shows, to dissecting hearts in science lessons, to karaoke at lunch times! It illustrated perfectly, just how lucky we are at ISB to be able to learn in so many different ways.

We then started the assembly with an extra special house points trophy. Throughout this term on Tuesday's, Mss Nairac has organised TTTRS (Tuesday Times Tables Rock Stars). During Tuesday lunchtimes, Grades 3-6 have been invited to her classroom to partake in multiplication competitions, and this week, they could even play at home (limited to 10 minutes per night) to try and win as many points for their team as possible. She had a fantastic response and literally thousands of points were won throughout his week's competition! There could only be one winner though, and Vicente from the green team was presented with the all-important house points trophy.



He wasn't the only one to receive an award though! Students from all four teams were recognised for their hard-work and skill and were given certificates for being the team's MVPs (most valuable players!)



Class teachers then gave out the final merit certificates of 2025!



It was then time to say a sad goodbye!

After 6 years at ISB, **Miss Keswani** is leaving us and moving to London. She has been a fantastic teacher, starting in Grade 3 and then moving to Reception Class, where she taught many of the children still currently at ISB. Of course leaving with her are her two fantastic daughters, **Pia** (G6) and **Lila** (G8) and they will be dearly missed by us all.

Mme Elias presented Miss Keswani with a beautiful necklace to remind her of all of us at ISB, and Miss Michelle presented her with a scrapbook of ISB memories.

On behalf of everyone at ISB, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU and GOOD LUCK to Miss Keswani, Lila and Pia!



Ooh la la, there were then some extra special certificates to be given out – Head Teacher’s Awards!!! A few children who have *really* stood out this whole term were nominated by their teachers for things like, “*exceptional resilience and effort*”, “*Demonstrating the values of ISB, perfectly!*”, “*setting an amazing example to others*” and more!



And finally... We had *another* house-points trophy to award! This week, the house-points had only been collected for a week, but there still some pretty impressive totals! With only the blue house yet to win their first trophy, there was a sigh of relief with the cheers of joy, as blue team pipped the red team to the post, with 409 house-points, and Emanuele was able to come and collect the first trophy for the blue team, and the last trophy of 2025!



Spreading joy and goodwill!

On Monday morning, and Tuesday afternoon, Grades 3-6 visited two retirement homes, to sing to the residents and bring them a little bit of festive joy. They sang beautifully and were very well received. Once they had finished their performance, they even gave out some hand-made Christmas cards to the residents. Well done Grades 3-6, and of course, well done to Miss Clara!



Talking of spreading joy and goodwill, some Secondary students came across to the Primary school on Tuesday morning and sang carols for some of the classes, which even included some audience participation!



PTA Christmas Cookies!!

On Wednesday, the PTA organised a fantastic cookie decorating event for all families, which took place in the atrium. Great fun was had by all, lots of cookies were decorated (and eaten), and the children (and parents) behaved exceptionally! Thanks again to the PTA for this super event!





Mme Elias took this moment to say thank you to Miss Chloe who has not only been a super PTA president this term, but has also been helping Mme Elias mainly the IT side, whilst Marjorie has been on her maternity leave. Thank You Miss Chloe!!

Whilst on the subject of thank yous – On behalf of the all of the staff, we would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU for all of the generous gifts we have received, it has been wonderfully appreciated and has certainly helped us feel very festive as we come to the end of term.

REPORTS

Just a quick reminder, that on Tuesday, ALL EYFS-Grade 6 parents should have received an email link to the December reports. If you have not received yours, please check your spam. If you still do not find it, please email Mr Hanrahan at john-mark.hanrahan@isbearn.com and he will try his best to help you!

There will be a parents evening in January, so that you can discuss these reports further with your children’s teachers.

Thank you all for your support this term. When we look back, September already feels like a lifetime ago! The children have been working so hard, right across the school and definitely now need some time to enjoy their holidays and recharge their batteries, ready to hit the spring-term running, in January!

All of the staff in the EYFS and primary school wish you all a safe and happy holidays!



IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 17th December (09:15) – G 3-6 Musical Breakfast (All G3-6 parents welcome)

Wednesday 17th December – Whole school non-uniform (festive dress-code!)

School closes at 12:00 for Christmas Holidays



On Wednesday afternoon, the PTA GINGERBREAD DECORATING afternoon was a very successful event. It was the opportunity to thank Chloe, our amazing PTA president:



Early Years had a wonderful time celebrating Scottish St Andrew's Day with Katherine's Mummy and Jessie's Mummy. We enjoyed making delicious shortbread and listening to how each of their families celebrates St Andrew's Day.



A big thank you for coming to Early Years and sharing your traditions with us!



as also our **EYFS Christmas Extravaganza**, and we are so proud of the children for all their hard work practising the songs and dances. Well done to everyone - you were fantastic!





And backstage....



Early Years also enjoyed a range of festive activities.

They enjoyed scented water play with orange slices and cinnamon sticks, explored sensory play with colourful pasta and created beautiful Christmas tree collages and paintings.





Early Years were so happy to welcome Santa in the classroom

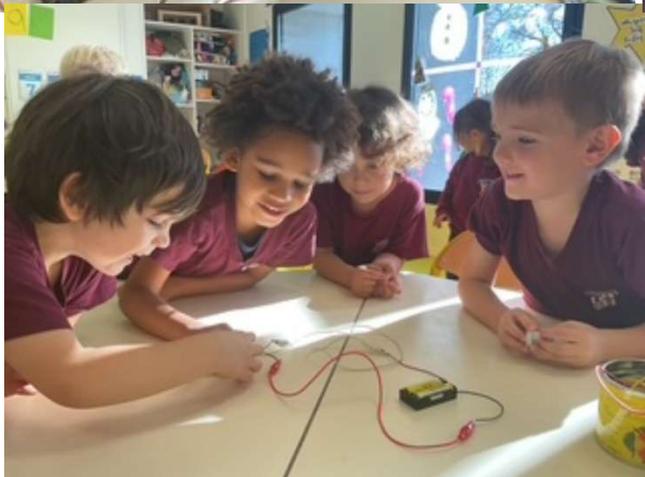
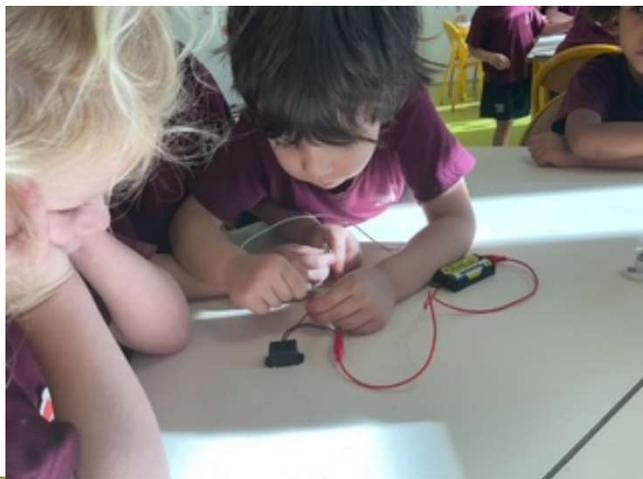
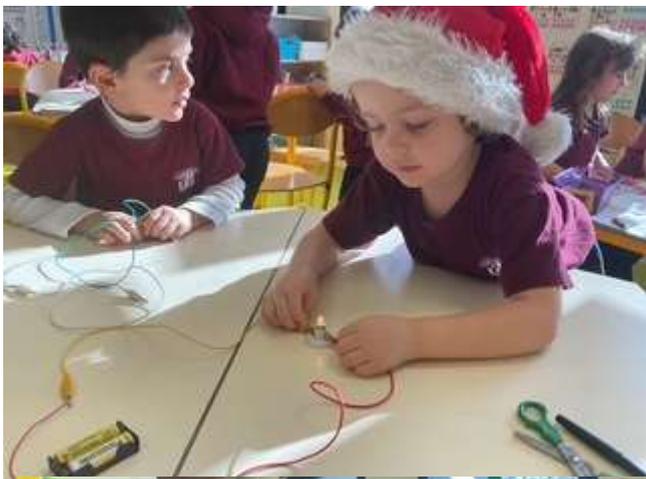






Good-bye Early Years

Reception have really enjoyed exploring how electric circuits work as part of our dark and light topic!



Reception had a very special visitor this morning! They were all very surprised and very polite- but no surprise there as they really are the best Reception class EVER! Thank you Santa!



Reception class in Art have created these festive cone trees. They were busy selecting, arranging, cutting and gluing. Also learning to recognise 3D form in art compared to 2D.



Les élèves de **Reception** ont préparé la fête des lumières en créant un cœur lumineux. Samedi 13 décembre, la fête des lumières aura lieu à Pau, à partir de 18:00.

Plus d'infos ici: <https://www.pau.fr/actualites/la-nouvelle-fete-des-lumieres-et-le-feu-dartifice-samedi-14-decembre>



In Science, **Grade 1** learned that liquids are materials too and made lava lamps.



Grade 1 making lava lamps, decorating our trees and finding naughty elf everyday in our classroom.



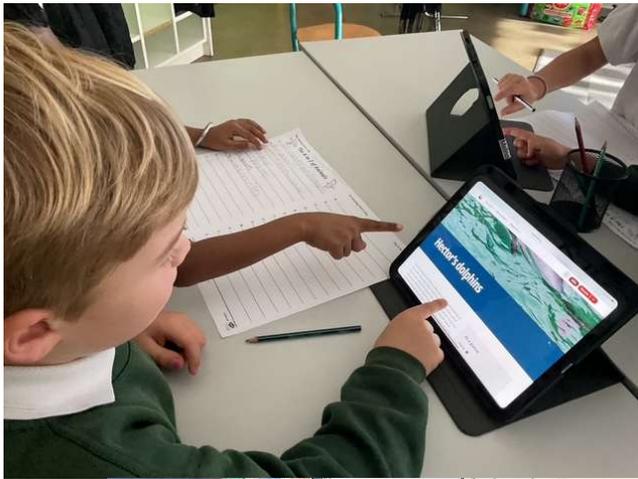
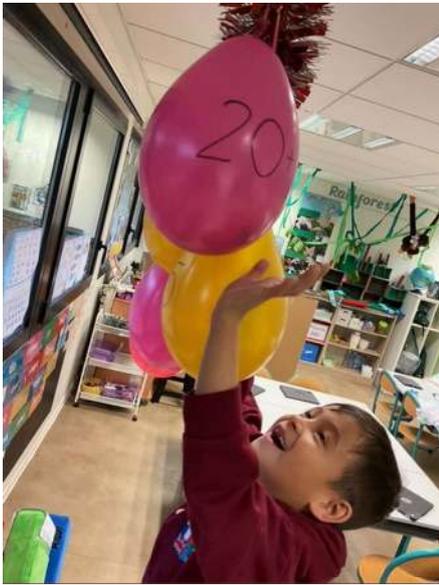


Grade 1 in art have been making either a snowman or a polar bear. Having fun with printing and collage. So, so cute!





In between performing our show **Grade 2** have been building the layers of the Amazon rainforest using recycled materials, researching endangered animals, tracking polar bears on the iPads and counting down to the holidays with our maths problem balloon calendar!



Grade 2 in Art have been doing some beautiful work creating these gorgeous snow globes.





What an amazing show! **Grade 1 and Grade 2** you are teal stars!!!!





To finish off our science topic on light and shadow 🌑, **Grade 3** have been making their own shadow puppet theatres!



We were so happy to welcome Father Christmas to the Grade 3 classroom! 🎅

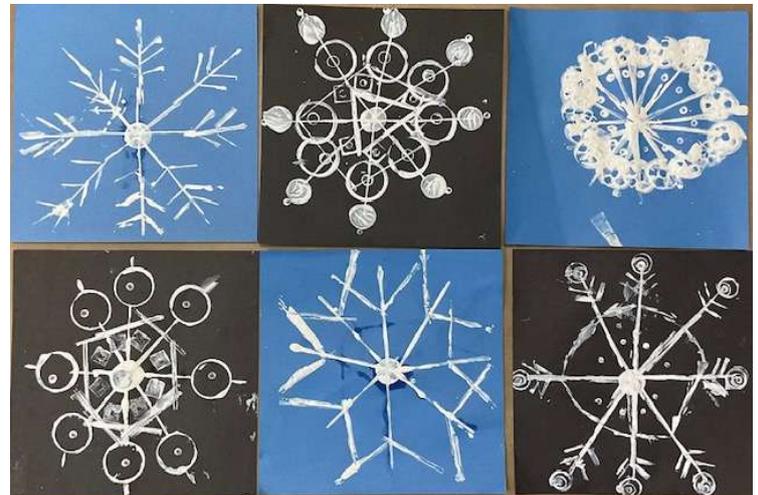
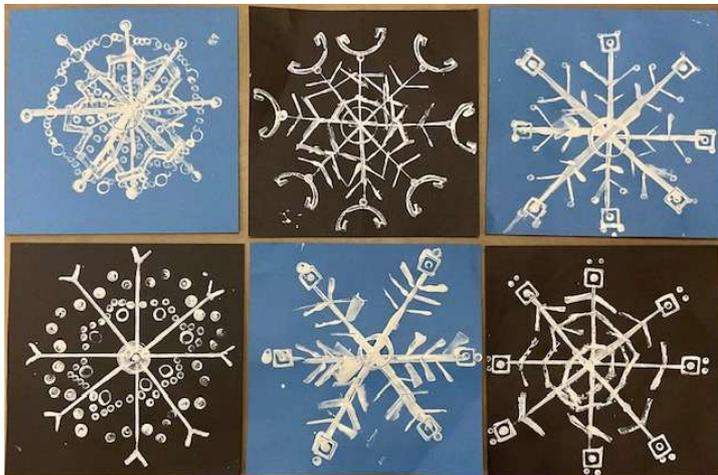


Grade 3 in art have been creating these whimsical trees inspired by the Tree of Life by the artist Gustav Klimt. Working in either hot or cold colours for the background. Fine brushwork for the tree and finishing off with glue, glitter and sequins. Amazing 🌳





Also making some printed snowflakes.



Grade 4 in Art have had fun creating these Ugly but very lovely jumper designs. Using various media (paint, crayons or felt-tips) of their choice. Very festive and jolly!



Grade 6 enjoyed a visit to the 'Poetry Cafe' in English this week. They were able to feast on a range of poems and choose their favourites to have as a starter, main course and dessert!





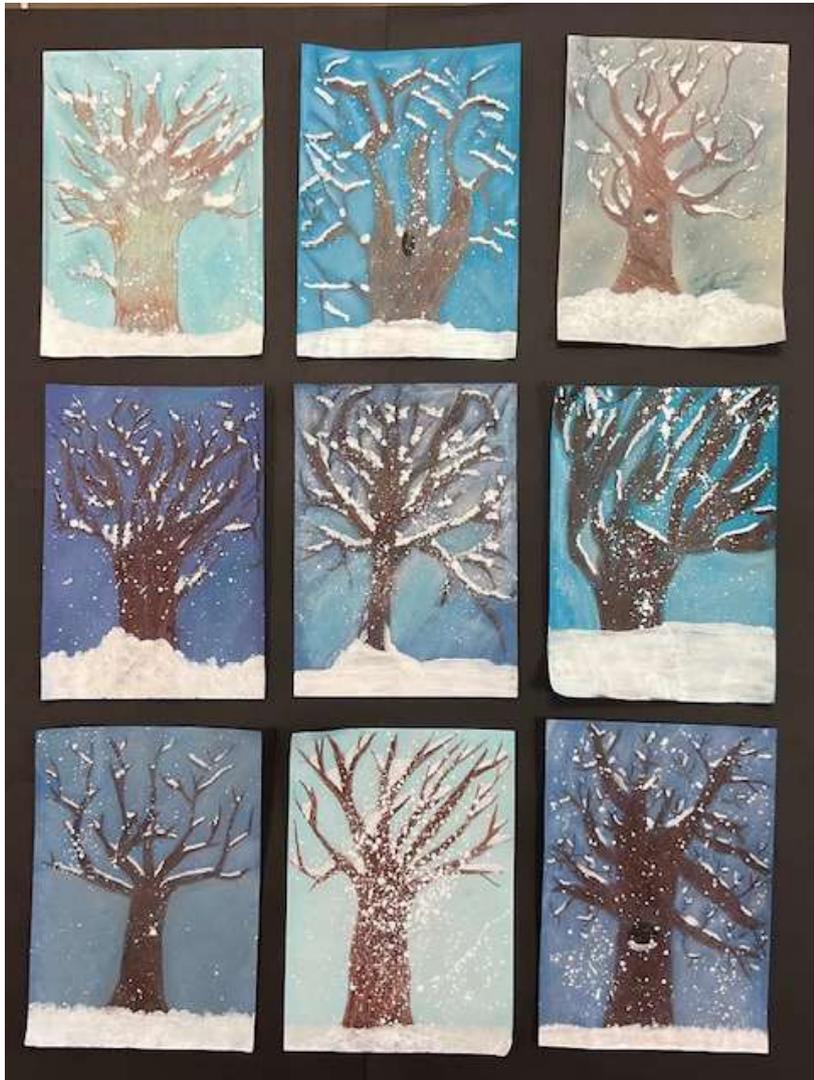


Les élèves de Grade 6, du groupe de FLM de Miss Murielle, ont déjeuné ensemble jeudi midi. C'était l'occasion de dire **au revoir à Pia** qui part s'installer en Angleterre. Lorea avait fait un délicieux gâteau et Miss Murielle avait prévu boissons et crackers.



In Art, **Grade 6** have created these beautiful wonderland trees. Learning how to draw trees, creating an atmosphere in their artwork and developing their fine motor skills.





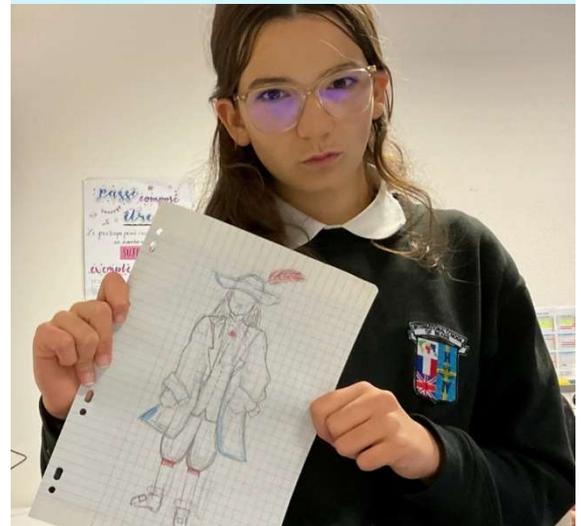
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Avec la classe de **Grade 8** nous avons passé un moment très agréable à découvrir Pau et ses spécialités de Noël. Une activité en Français et en espagnol sous le signe de la bonne humeur. Joyeux Noël y Feliz Navidad!! ¡Hasta la vista!



Avec les élèves de **Grade 9 en FLM**, nous étudions **Le Cid de Corneille**. Dans ce cadre, ils devaient travailler en binômes pour imaginer une mise en scène de la scène du Soufflet. Leur proposition devait faire apparaître de manière claire la déception, la frustration, la jalousie et l'insolence du Comte, ainsi que, pour Don Diègue, son assurance et sa fierté au début de la scène, puis son désespoir final après l'affront.

Chaque groupe devait ensuite présenter son travail en fournissant une explication détaillée et une justification précise de ses choix de mise en scène (musique, costumes, déplacements, gestes, lumières, etc.).



Costumes

Le comte: manteau rouge, un collant blanc, une épée et des poulaines blanches.

Don Diegue: un chapeau violet, une robe violette, un manteau bleu, des pantalons marrons et des poulaines d'or.



Don Diegue



Le comte

Les costumes

Le comte: On a choisi la couleur verte pour Le Comte car elle symbolise la jeunesse, la fraîcheur et les nouveaux départs



Verte
Marron
Noire

-Don Diegue: on a choisi la couleur rouge parce que ça symbolise le pouvoir et la puissance, le bleu symbolise l'autorité.



Rouge
Bleu
Rose

The **KS3 PE groups** (Grades 7-9) switched around this week. Here are photos the new starters at tennis.



KS3 PE rope climbing at gymnastics



On Tuesday 9th December, students from **Grade 9, 10 Art, and Grade 11 Art** travelled to **Toulouse** for a cultural day out. The visit began at the **Fondation Bemberg**, where students explored the museum's historic setting and diverse collection. They then enjoyed lunch at the festive **Toulouse Christmas Market** in Place du Capitole and some took the opportunity to do some ice skating!. In the afternoon, the group visited **La Halle de La Machine**, where they experienced the impressive *Grande Impro* performance and saw the giant mechanical creatures in action. They also participated in some mechanical performances. Students represented the school wonderfully and enjoyed a memorable day in one of France's most artistic cities.





Grade 10 studying biological molecules. The class had to identify the types of molecules found in different foods and we also extracted our own DNA!



The scrapbook club: The students have made their own scrapbooks from scratch, decorated them in their own style and filled their pages with their favourite things. We've also made 3D shapes and pop ups and generally had a fantastic term of fun and creativity!



SECONDARY UPDATE

Ann Byrne

Social Media

As you will have seen recently in the news, many countries are considering legislation to limit the age of young people having access to social media. A recent survey showed that many Gen Z parents who grew up with smartphones say it damages mental health — and that they would keep their own children offline as long as possible.

Experts at Oxford University are launching a ten-year study into teenage mental health called BrainWaves. They say that initial data suggests that the more time youngsters spend on social media the more likely they are to suffer anxiety and depression. Yet despite these quite shocking findings we know that many of our students spend considerable amounts of time unsupervised on social media, with many of them believing that their phone/device is private and that their parents have no right to check what they are doing online.



With the two-week Christmas break fast approaching, please take some time to reconsider and review your child’s use of social media and other online resources.

Despite their tech-savvy ideals, many young people still fall victim to a range of negative symptoms from their use of social media including:

- > Disturbed sleep
- > Depression
- > Cyber bullying
- > Exposure to inappropriate content
- > Anxiety
- > Less healthy activity
- > Low self-esteem

Please encourage your child to use their phone/device in areas of your home that are shared by the whole family and be sure to check their phone/device regularly. Finally, please discuss with them the permanent nature of images and chats; despite many students believing that SnapChat etc “is only there for a limited time” all it takes is a screenshot and that inappropriate comment or image is out there forever.

Beyond Equality

A reminder that we welcomed ‘Beyond Equality’ to ISB, from the UK on 15th/16th December and our **parent seminar** was opened to all ISB parents, of both primary and secondary students. **The seminar offers a great opportunity to better understand the pressures that boys are facing, particularly online. The seminar was on Monday 15th December**

For our Grade 10 –13 students on the 15th and 16th there will be a series of workshops and activities

These two days are compulsory and all students must attend school. The Christmas break starts at 12:00 on Wednesday 17 December.

Parents Evenings – Academic Year 2025 – 26

All events take place between 16:00 and 18:00

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.

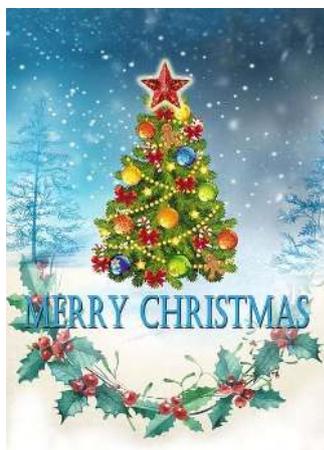
Date	Grade	Event
13 January 2026	Grade 7	Parents evening
20 January 2026	Grade 11	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
20 January 2026	Grade 12 and G13	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
27 January 2026	Grade 8	Parents evening
10 March 2026	Grade 11	Parents evening
17 March 2026	Grade 9	Options and 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

1. Go to 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.



A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of the staff in Secondary.



*Have a nice holiday
Happy New Year
Bonne Année
Maria*

