



THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ABERDEEN

Every Child. Every Opportunity.



Welcome

The International School Aberdeen is for both local and international students, for Scotland and the world beyond. It offers:

- ◆ Excellence in education through a safe and caring learning environment
- ◆ Diversity - a place where local students can meet the world, and expats can meet Scotland
- ◆ Education of the "Whole Child"
- ◆ Competitive fees that include daily buses, text books, IB examination fees, and the majority of after-school activities
- ◆ After-School Care: 3-6pm
- ◆ International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP)
- ◆ International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)
- ◆ Differentiated Instruction
- ◆ CNED French Programme
- ◆ First Class Facilities

We accept students for admission throughout the academic year.

ACCREDITED BY



To arrange a campus visit, contact the Admissions Office on:

 (01224) 730300
 admissions@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk
 www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

Pitfodels House, North Deeside Road,
 Pitfodels, Cults, ABERDEEN AB15 9PN
 Scotland



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Welcome

Welcome to the International School Aberdeen. I hope as you read through our website you will gain a sense of the ISA family, made up of our diverse student, faculty, and parent communities. Regardless of what continent, nationality, or cultural background one comes from, our goal is to provide an educational experience that meets the academic, social, physical and emotional needs of every student. This goal provides our focus as we develop our curriculum, plan our instruction, and develop our co-curricular activities.

ISA provides students with a comprehensive university preparatory education utilising best practices in education. Our school is a partnership of excellent staff, committed parents, and dedicated students. Our students are challenged to reach their maximum potential through academic growth, becoming socially responsible and active global citizens. The International Baccalaureate programme gives our students a programme of study recognized around the world for its excellence.

This focus on our programme is critical as we meet the needs of our students, but it alone is not what makes ISA such a unique place to live and learn. At ISA I believe it is the close relationships between students, faculty, and parents that makes us unique from other schools. The size of our school and the size of our classes allow students and teachers to form close relationships where it is possible for every student to be known and nurtured. In addition, we are able to have close ties with our parent community so that parents, teachers, and students are all closely involved in the education of each child.

Our website provides information on many facets of the International School Aberdeen, which we hope will help you to understand the qualities and characteristics of our school. I look forward to the day you can visit us and we can meet in person.

Nicholas Little
Head of School



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Vision

The International School of Aberdeen (ISA) is locally and internationally recognised for providing excellence in education and exceptional care for every child.

Mission

ISA's mission is to deliver excellence in education through a safe and caring learning environment. Our students are challenged to reach their maximum potential through academic success and personal growth, becoming learners for life and socially responsible, active global citizens.

We provide students with a comprehensive university preparatory education utilising best practices in education from around the world. We serve our internationally diverse student body through a partnership of excellent staff, committed parents, and an involved community.



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Our Values

Respect

We respect ourselves and others' rights, property, opinions and diverse ways of life.

Excellence

We strive to challenge ourselves as individuals and in collaboration with others.

Diversity

We celebrate our diversity and believe that each person is unique, valuable, and worthy of respect.

Community

We care for and embrace the "ISA Family."
We recognise our responsibility to promote wellbeing and an environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

Integrity

We strive to be honest and truthful in our actions.
We encourage and nurture each other.

Service

We strive to instil a sense of responsibility to our school, local, and global communities.



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Learning Expectations

Learning expectations are broad-based behaviours, performances and skills that students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of our school programme. They become the criteria for designing the school curriculum based on future trends and challenges, current research and knowledge of what students will need to know and be able to do.

- **Analytical and Creative Thinking**

by studying and applying a variety of resources and a basic core of knowledge to solve problems;

- **Self-Directed Learning**

by setting priorities, establishing goals, and taking responsibility in pursuing and evaluating those goals;

- **Effective Communicating**

by listening, exchanging, and expressing ideas in a variety of forms;

- **Quality Work**

which reflects creativity, artistry, high standards, pride, and the use of appropriate technologies;

- **Collaborative Work**

by using effective group skills to work well with others.



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History of ISA

The American School in Aberdeen was established in 1972 with a school population of thirty-six students from Kindergarten through grade 12 and a faculty of eight teachers. The original campus was located on Craighton Road in Cults and was a former convalescent hospital, built in 1910 and situated on 9.5 acres of green lawns and woodlands overlooking the picturesque village of Cults.



In 1979, the parents and the corporate payers were having more divergent opinions about how the school should move forward. The sponsoring corporations decided to establish a charitable company to run the school. The property was purchased from Mr. AJ McCormick and Paloak Ltd., the consortium of oil companies, was set up to act as landlord to the school.

A second property, 'Fairgirth' in Milltimber was purchased in 1980 and was originally the Elementary (up to Grade 6) campus of ASA. A series of building works in 1991, 1995, 1996 and 2002 extended the original manor house to include extensive classroom and sporting facilities on the 10 acre site.

In 1996 the High School moved across from the Cults campus to Fairgirth and the entire school was under one roof.

In addition to the merging of the two campuses at Fairgirth in 1996 the school also changed its name to the International School of Aberdeen in recognition of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme that was implemented the same year. At that time ISA was the only school in Scotland to offer the IB Diploma to its senior students.



In December 2005, in the midst of on-going construction work to add a new gymnasium and theatre complex, the school was noti-ed by the Scottish Government that a major roadworks project was being planned to run through the Fairgirth property.



In August 2010 the International School of Aberdeen moved into its new, purpose-built campus at Pitfodels House.



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School Transport

A chartered fleet of safe, modern buses provides transport to and from school. This service is provided for Kindergarten through Grade 12 students for no additional charge. Pre-Schoolers are not permitted to use the school bus service even if accompanied by siblings and must be transported by parents/carers.

A bus service is generally available within the city limits of Aberdeen, as well as the areas of Banchory, Stonehaven and Westhill. To ensure that a bus service is available in any specific locations we strongly recommend that new parents consult with the ISA Transport Co-ordinator before selecting a house.

Given the wide distribution of ISA families in and around Aberdeen, a door-to-door bus service is not generally possible. It is common practice for parents to escort (or drive) their children to a central pick-up point in the morning and to collect them from there in the afternoon.

Pick-up points are generally located on main thoroughfare arteries so as to avoid rush hour bottlenecks and assure safe passage during inclement weather.

Please consult the ISA Transport Co-ordinator if you have any questions about transport to and from school by emailing transport@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk or telephoning +44 (0) 1224 730300.



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Admissions Enquiry

Step 1 – Expression of Interest

Prospective parents should contact the Admissions Office (telephone +44 (0)1224 730300 or email admissions@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk) to express their interest in enrolling their child(ren) in ISA. Fee information and Enrolment Forms may be found on the Admissions page of the ISA website at www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk/admissions. Please note, there is a separate Pre-School Enrolment Form for Pre-School admissions.

A 'no obligation' tour of the facility can be arranged prior to commencement of the formal admissions procedure.

Step 2 – Formal Admission Process

To commence the formal admission process, it is essential that the School receives:

- a completed Enrolment Form (one per child)
- a copy of the information/photograph page of student's passport
- a minimum of three years previous school records (if applicable)

Applications may be sent either by regular post or via email to admissions@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk, with the required documents attached.

All applicants for upper grades are required to sit testing in Maths and English. This is arranged individually at a mutually convenient time.

Upon receipt of the above documentation and once tests have been completed, an appointment will be made through the Admissions Office for student/parent interviews with the respective Principal and Counsellor.

Step 3 – Decision Notification

In the majority of cases, the Principal is able to confirm acceptance at the time of interview. Should the Principal require further information/reports to support the enrolment application after interview, a decision will be notified to the parents as soon as possible after receipt of such documentation. Parents should notify ISA of their decision to accept enrolment.

Testing and personal interviews are not always possible prior to arrival in Aberdeen; in this instance, assuming all necessary documentation has been received, 'provisional admission' may be indicated and testing/interviews will then be scheduled upon arrival.



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Step 4 - Upon Acceptance

If children are accepted, parents will receive a 'start of school' pack from the Admissions Office which includes forms for completion prior to the start of School, as well as further information on ISA, its Community and activities.

Parents should arrange an appointment to meet with the School Nurse as soon as practicable, to ensure student medical information is up-to-date and to discuss any concerns (telephone +44 (0)1224 730300 or email nurse@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk).

All fee queries should be directed to the Business Office (telephone +44 (0)1224 730300 or email jane.duncanson@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk).



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Glossary of Terms

The International School of Aberdeen (ISA) is divided into three school levels:

Elementary School: Division of a school that usually includes Kindergarten to Grade 5 (ages 5-11). Entering students must be 5 years old by 1 September of the school year to enter Kindergarten. We also have a Pre-School, for children 3 and 4 years old. In Elementary, students are assigned to one classroom, and the class goes as a group to various specials classes including art, music, library, computers, and modern languages or EAL.

Middle School: Division of a school for children aged about 11-14 (Grades 6-8). Middle schools try to meet the needs of pre-adolescents by providing interdisciplinary curriculum, team or block teaching. We have a weekly advisory programme where students get to know students at all three grade levels of Middle School; our advisory groups are called Clans. Students attend classes in various grade-level groups and may have options or elective choices for their specials courses with students in all three MS grades. To help parents, teachers, and students work together, our Middle School teachers report assignments and projects on web based software, which is accessible to all parents and students.

High School: Division of a school for students generally aged 14-18 (Grades 9-12).

Students attend courses taught by specialists in each field, in a departmental approach.

Students earn one “credit” (Carnegie Unit) for a year of study for each high school course, working to meet the minimum 24-credit requirements for a High School Diploma. In their final two years, students may enrol in the **International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme**, a rigorous, pre-university course of study that leads to examinations accepted by more than 100 countries for university admission.

Programmes to support student learning:

EAL (English as an Additional Language): Teaching English to non-English-speaking or limited-English-speaking students in small groups or individually to help them reach an academic level in English. Various levels of EAL support are available, dependent upon the needs of students.

Learning Support: Additional assistance provided to students with various documented learning styles/needs who require additional support to succeed in a school setting.



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Achievement tests: Assessments used to measure how much a student has learned in various school subjects. ISA students at different grades will take standardised achievement tests, such as the International Schools Assessment. High School students may sit standardised tests (PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT) to aid with university admissions.

ISA Specific Information and Terms:

Who are we? Some titles may be different from those in other systems. For example:

Head of School: The Educational and Administrative Head of School.

Principal: The Head of a particular level of school. At ISA we have an Elementary Principal and a Middle/High School Principal.

Counsellor: ISA has two school counsellors. A school counsellor has earned an advanced degree to be prepared to work with students in educational, personal, social, career university-planning, and family issues. The ISA counsellors meet and register new students and work with students individually and in small groups throughout the year.

PTO (Parent Teacher Organisation): This group helps the school in a variety of ways; parents volunteer to help in classrooms, the Library, and at other activities; fundraising is done to provide special activities for the school, and social activities are scheduled for the entire school (students, faculty, and parents). Parents elected to various offices and committees lead PTO, but all parents and teachers are automatically members.

Thistle Talk: Weekly school newsletter. Emails are sent to each family with links to this newsletter, available on the ISA website: www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk.

Accelerated Reader (AR) Programme: A programme that encourages student reading by allowing students to set their own goals related to reading and work for various levels of award in reaching those goals; a supplement to grade-level reading programmes.

Lunch Programme: Students may choose to bring lunch from home or to buy lunch in the school cafeteria. Depending upon the age and needs of the student, options are available from set lunches for younger children to various snacks, salads, pastas, sandwiches, and desserts for older children.

School calendar: ISA's school calendar is available on the ISA website www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk. In general, school begins the third week of August and ends the third week of June. Our holidays are consolidated to allow for travel



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opportunities for our families. We take one bank holiday in September, a one-week October holiday, a three-week holiday in December-January, either one week in February and one in the Spring, or a two week holiday in Spring, and a bank holiday in early May.

Student Council: Students elected to organise various activities with and for students at Middle School or High School. The Elementary School offers a Fifth Grade Leadership Group for the same purpose. Activities planned may be community-service based, fundraising, or all-school activities such as movie nights or MS or HS dances.

E-mail: Each staff member at ISA has a school email address, and it is very common for parents and even older students to communicate with teachers via email. If a parent emails a question or concern to a school staff member, that person will usually phone at a time when children are not in the classroom, or arrange an appointment to discuss the issue.



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Admissions Table

Age	ISA / USA	Scottish	English	Dutch	French	IB World
3	PS Junior	Nursery	Reception	Groep 1		P2
4	PS Senior	Nursery	Reception	Groep 1		P2
5	K	P1	Year 1	Groep 2	Grand Section	P3
6	Grade 1	P2	Year 2	Groep 3	11 - Cours Primaire	P4
7	Grade 2	P3	Year 3	Groep 4	10 - CE1 - Cours Ele 1 st Year	P5
8	Grade 3	P4	Year 4	Groep 5	9 - CE2 - Cours Ele 2 nd Year	P6
9	Grade 4	P5	Year 5	Groep 6	8 - CM1 - Cours Moyen 1 st Year	P7
10	Grade 5	P6	Year 6	Groep 7	7 - CM2 - Cours Moyen 2 nd Year	P8
11	Grade 6	P7	Year 7 1 st Year 2 nd Year	Groep 8	6 - 6eme - Sixieme 6 th Year	M1
12	Grade 7	S1	Year 8	Klas 1	5 - 7eme	M2
13	Grade 8	S2	Year 9	Klas 2	4 - 8eme	M3
14	Grade 9	S3	Year 10	Klas 3	3 - 9eme	M4
15	Grade 10	S4	Year 11	Klas 4	2 - 10eme	M5
16	Grade 11	S5	Year 12	Klas 5	1 - 11eme	IB1 Post 16
17	Grade 12	S6	Year 13	Klas 6	- 12eme	IB2 Post 16



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Non-Corporate School Fees

Annual fees per student comprise the Tuition Fee plus the Registration Fee. Tuition Fees are inclusive of school bus transportation, text books, and the majority of after-school activities. ISA does not have a formal school uniform requirement.

Non-Corporate rates are only offered to families receiving no company sponsorship whatsoever. To be eligible for the Non-Corporate rate parents will be required to complete a Fee Agreement form and provide a letter(s) from their employer(s) confirming they do not contribute to school fees in any way.

Students starting part-way through an academic year will be liable for the full cost of the Registration Fee; a start date during the first semester will be liable for the full annual Tuition Fee; during the second semester, half the annual Tuition Fee; and in the fourth quarter, one quarter the annual Tuition Fee.

If a student is withdrawn part way through a school year, a 60-day notice period is required. Refund of Tuition Fees will be made on a pro-rata basis.

2018-2019	Kindergarten to Grade 5	Grades 6 to 8	Grades 9 to 12
Tuition Fee	£12,830	£13,690	£14,100
Registration Fee:			
New Students	£500	£500	£500
Returning Students	£250	£250	£250

Sibling Discount

25% discount on Non-Corporate Rate Tuition Fees for 3rd child and 50% discount on Non-Corporate Rate Tuition Fees for 4th and further children.

Financial Support

The School offers a limited number of places for Financial Support for all grades, excluding Pre-School. There will not necessarily be any Financial Support places in a prospective student's year group at any particular time. Availability of places will depend upon the overall enrolment per grade.

Applications for Financial Support will not be accepted from families who are in receipt of either full or partial corporate support.

Eligibility for Financial Support is determined by the family's ability to afford the Tuition Fees as assessed by the School Finance Committee.



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Financial Support must be applied for on an annual basis. The student's standing at school, together with the family's continuing need is considered by the Finance Committee in determining the renewal of support.

Families awarded Financial Support are still responsible for the full cost of the Registration Fee.

If you have any questions, please direct these to:

Admissions
International School Aberdeen
Pitfodels House
North Deeside Road
Pitfodels, Cults
Aberdeen AB15 9PN
Scotland
UK

Tel: +44 (0)1224 730300

Fax: +44 (0)1224 865558

Email: admissions@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk



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Pre-School Fees

A Registration Fee of £175 is charged for each new child.

No. Days Attending Pre-School	Annual Fee
3 days per week	£6,735
4 days per week	£8,970
5 days per week	£10,795

School Year

Full year 16th August 2018 – 12th June 2019

1st Semester 16th August 2018 – 14th December 2018

2nd Semester 7th January 2019 – 12th June 2019

If a child enters after the year has begun, payment will be pro-rated for the remainder of the academic year.

The semester in which the child is withdrawn will be chargeable in full.