



7<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Important Dates

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### June

- >11 **HS Semester 2 Exams**
- 11 **MS House Challenge**
- 11 **Pre-School End of Year Celebration, 10:00am in The QET**
- 11 **Last Day for Pre-School – Dismissal at 11:00am**
- 12 **ES Closing Ceremony & Slide Show, 8:45am in The QET**
- 12 **MS/HS Assembly, 10:00am**
- 12 **EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM – End of 2018-2019 School Year**

### August

- 8-14 **Teacher In-Service**
- 13 **Kindergarten Orientation, 12:00 noon**
- 13 **New Student Orientation, 1:00-3:00pm**
- 14 **IB Extended Essay Work Morning**
- 14 **IB Introduction Day, 10:00-3:00pm**
- 15 **Start of Semester 1, 2019-2020 School Year**
- 16 **PTO Welcome Coffee, 8:30-10:00am in The QET**

## ▶ From the Head of School

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**Dear Parents,**

Last Saturday, we congratulated our Grade 12s on successfully graduating ISA. When I graduated my own school many years ago, it was pretty much with the same cohort that I started with. We were all British, spoke English at home, followed the same religion and nearly always had white skin. In contrast, ISA's 16 graduates came from four continents, and at least 7 countries. The few that joined ISA in kindergarten would have graduated with a very different set of classmates to the ones they started with. As parents and teachers, we see our children cope with a world of faster change and greater variety to the one we were born in to.

Straight after I graduated university, I spent a year teaching English in China. It was my first opportunity to live among people who were not like me. One time in English Corner, I was asked my opinion on the Opium War. I had never heard of it. My Chinese students were astounded – for them, it was a moment of national humiliation inflicted by the British Empire - I was British – how could I not know about it. But my schooling had emphasised a different set of facts and I had left with the impression that the Empire may have made a few mistakes, but it was generally a 'force for good'. It was genuinely a surprise to meet a large group of people who didn't see things my way.

ISA graduates will not have the same shock at a world of different perspectives. They will not have to adapt awkwardly and self-consciously as adults, because they already have lived in what our world has become. You don't have to leave Aberdeen to live in an international environment – a quarter of the city's population were born outside of Scotland, most of them outside of the UK; companies, not just oil related, come from all over the world to invest here. Wherever they eventually settle, ISA graduates will live and work with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Next week will be the last for some of our other students, not just those from our graduating class. Whether they have been here for one year or ten years, they will look back at the friends they made from all over the world, the other languages and beliefs they engaged with, the many points of view they learnt to see and the more fundamental, less partisan values they developed.

For all who are moving on, I wish you all the best and hope you remember that although you are leaving the school, you will always be part of the wider ISA community. But I would like to reserve a very special goodbye for our leaving teachers – Vanessa Alexander, Margaret Dickson, Kathryn Field, Rae Hoey, Rosemary Jones, Bert Smits, and Clare Taylor; and also to our departing Board members – Joe Farrell and Manuel Guedez. Thank you all for that you have done to make our community special.

For everyone, leaving or returning, I hope you all have a fantastic summer break, so that you can start the next academic year, refreshed and ready to go!

Kind regards,

**Nicholas Little**

Head of School

## ► **From the MS/HS Principal**

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**Dear Middle/High School Parents,**

What a great night on Wednesday! Wonderful performances showcasing the artistic talents of the Middle School students. As a relatively small school, we are able to give each student the chance to show what they can do at evenings like this, and every musician, artist and actor put on a great show. Sound and lighting were well supported by our MS Tech Team and, of course, none of it would have been possible without the hardwork of our Fine Arts teachers. I hope you were fortunate enough to be a part of the large audience.

We finish at 11:00am on Wednesday and, prior to that, at 10:00am will have an end of semester assembly. Students have prepared presentations to revisit highlights from the year, and we will say farewell to our leavers. On Tuesday, the MS Fun Day will see the students build boats that they will then race in the pool to mark the culmination of this year's House Challenge. The MS Awards will be presented later that day at 2:15pm. Grade 11 students should remember that they have an Extended Essay breakfast and CAS work day from 8.30am that day, too.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Rae Hoey, Margaret Dickson, and Kathryn Field from Middle and High School. I would like to thank them for their service and all that they have brought to our community. Rae, Margaret, and Kathryn have been prominent figures at ISA for the last 17, 25, and 9 years, respectively, and have had positive and long-lasting impacts on countless students in that time. I hope you will join me in wishing them well for their future adventures.

Teachers are currently marking exams and writing reports, and the scores and comments will be shared via PowerSchool when it re-opens to parents Thursday evening. Hard copies of reports will then be posted out shortly after this, along with the reflective forms that students complete on our final day.

I am grateful to the many parents who have helped out with events at school this semester and to those that have been so supportive in following up on communications from teachers or myself. I appreciate the strong sense of community that exists at ISA, and look forward to the new academic year in August. Before then, of course, there is the small matter of a well-deserved holiday for our students, and some quality time with family and friends. I hope you have a very pleasant break.

**Angus Carmichael**  
MS/HS Principal

## ▶ **From the Elementary Principal**

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Dear Parents,

I seem to ask at this point every year, *“Where has the time gone?”*

This is the last Thistle article before the summer holiday. The school year has gone by so fast. I’ve begun my annual job of putting a slide show together to reflect memories of this special school year. It will be shown as part of the last day assembly beginning at 8:45am. You are, of course, warmly welcome. As I look over so many precious moments, it’s easy to appreciate how happy ISA students are and what amazing opportunities they have had all year.

This June, we have our usual turnover of students. Transitions away from a familiar and comfortable home can be challenging, especially when the next assignment is unknown, or there are concerns with school waiting lists. It is my hope, however, that all of our families, both returning and leaving, will look back on the 2018-19 school year with many fond memories. As always, it’s a pleasure to serve as the Elementary Principal at an ambitious school with happy kids, supportive parents, and dedicated teachers. I know from reading each report card that this has been a successful year for student learning. I also sense that for our students it’s been a year of strong personal growth, with confidence ‘blooming’, and the capacity for hard work and independent study strengthening.

All of the teachers will be looking forward to a summer break. They have worked so hard for your children and deserve a superb holiday. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their efforts to help make this a successful year. I also wish all of our school families a wonderful summer break. I’ve appreciated your support all year. Your children have earned all of those special days of holiday ahead of them!

A Few Staff Departures:

12<sup>th</sup> June symbolises the start of summer fun, but it is also a time to say goodbye to many friends who will be leaving Aberdeen. At the end of each school year, we say goodbye to families, all of whom have meant so much to the life of the School. For those of you who are moving from Aberdeen, we wish you all of the best and hope you take with you many cherished memories of your time in Scotland. Who knows, one day you might be back!

This year in the Elementary School, we also say goodbye to a few staff members. Each of these teachers has made significant contributions to the education of our students and has enriched the lives of everyone who worked with them.

Vanessa Alexander has been a part of ISA since 2013. During her time, she has been a key member of our Elementary staff and, of course, a cherished first grade teacher. Students have thrived under her care. We thank Vanessa for her time at ISA and, while we will miss her, expect she will return for visits as she moves nearby to take an administration role with the Aberdeenshire Council looking after several pre-schools. For next year, we wish her all the best as she begins her new position.

Margaret Dickson has been teaching Music at ISA since 1994. Always so positive and encouraging, she's had a strong impact on students from Pre-School through 12th grade for 25 years. We thank Margaret for her dedication to ISA over such a substantial length of time. I feel very fortunate to have had such a wonderful colleague. (Monday morning assemblies won't be the same without Mrs Dickson!) I still haven't found a topic Margaret can't find or create a song with which to accompany the students in their studies! All of us at ISA wish her all the best, happy in the knowledge that she plans to continue sharing her passion and skill in teaching and performing music.

Rosemary Jones also joined ISA in 1994. After 25 years at the School she has decided to retire. An extraordinary Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Jones has had a huge impact on the hundreds of students she's worked with at ISA. Incredibly patient with each child, Rosemary's caring and very determined approach helped to assure each of her students has had the very best start to their formal school experience. The lessons she has taught and the encouragement she has provided every day in the classroom have made her an inspiration to all of us who have been lucky enough to work with her. There are students all over the world now who will have lovely memories of their time with Mrs Jones. We want to thank her for her service to ISA and hope she will return as a supply teacher.

Bert Smits joined ISA in 2014. He's been our Dutch teacher for the past five years. Bert has looked after the Dutch education at ISA, enabling his students to gain strong skills and be confident that if they return to Dutch education they will be on or above grade level. In addition to classroom, he is the person many of the students are greeted by when they arrive in the cafeteria first thing in the morning. His cheerful and positive connection with every child helps to make each day start in such a happy manner. He will be missed as he leaves to begin a new adventure teaching in the Caribbean. We are all very grateful for his work at ISA.

Clare Taylor joined ISA in 2012 as an EAL teacher. From her first day, Mrs Taylor relished her role of assisting students to develop their English language proficiency while simultaneously celebrating the native language or languages of each child. When students attend EAL classes, they meet a caring teacher who uses a skilful and dedicated approach to promote both the confidence and the skills needed to acquire a new language. Mrs Taylor is the biggest cheerleader for each of her students. While she is leaving to enjoy new pursuits, especially long stays in Australia, she plans to return to school next year on our supply list. We are all very appreciative of her efforts for the students of ISA.

All of our teaching staff has worked with great commitment to meet the needs of every child. I recently asked some children who are leaving what they will miss most about ISA. The response, for some was "EVERYTHING", but also included, "*The teachers, they give us so many activities and choice, so learning is fun.*" I was also delighted by the observation, "*Everyone is so kind to each other, my class is like one big family.*"

Whether your family is returning next year or moving on to other adventures, I want to thank you for your contributions to the ISA family this year.

Best regards,

**Don Newbury,**  
Elementary Principal

## ▶ **From the Fine Arts Department**

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WELL DONE to all the actors, artists and musicians at the 2019 Middle School Arts Night! What a fantastic evening for everyone!

Have a great summer holiday!

**The ISA Fine & Performing Arts Department**

## ▶ **From the Library**

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It's been a busy year in the library – we've had over 19,000 items borrowed, with still a few weeks to go!

If your children are continuing at ISA in August, they are very welcome to borrow library books for the holiday. However, if your family is leaving ISA (or if there is a chance of this happening), they should have returned all of their library books by **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June**. If you have not done so already, please return these as soon as possible.

If you are looking for ways to keep your children reading over the summer, a visit to your public library is highly recommended as Aberdeenshire Libraries (and possibly Aberdeen City) will be running the Summer Reading Challenge again. If you will be away from Aberdeen over the holiday, you can still download their great ebooks and audiobooks for free directly through an app (BorrowBox for Aberdeen City, Overdrive for Aberdeenshire) – all your family need to access this is a library card and a pincode.

**Josie Crimp**  
Librarian

## ▶ **From the IT Department**

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### **TECH UPDATE**

At ISA, we are keen to use technology to move towards a more paperless environment and to improve our communications with you, our families, over the coming years.

Middle and High School families will already be familiar with the PowerSchool Parent Portal and Elementary families will soon be provided with usernames and passwords. We already use this system to provide information to Middle & High School families, including grades, teacher comments and schedules, but we will be expanding this into a two-way communication from this summer. You will be asked to complete your 'back to school pack' forms through the new 'Ecollect Forms' button in the portal, which should cut down on the paperwork, and give you a chance to check that we are holding accurate information about your child.

There will be sessions available in the final week of the semester for parents to come into school and get help logging on - whether this is your first time or not! If you have any questions please get in touch with Gayle Veitch: [gveitch@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:gveitch@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk).

## ▶ **From the School Nurse**

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Hi everyone,

Just a short note from the Nurse's Office, to say, have a great summer, and to give a final reminder to please pick up any medication that I may be holding for you.

I will do my best to track the students down if they don't come to me. However, anything that is left will be disposed of, as I am not allowed to store it.

Good luck to all our graduates and students that are moving on to pastures new. We will miss you all - take care and look after each other.

**Karen x**  
School Nurse

## ▶ **From the Transport Co-ordinator**

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A reminder that as of the commencement of the new term on 15<sup>th</sup> August, Peace Coaches will take over the operation of the bus routes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

The coaches will display the bus number with the ISA logo.

Have a wonderful holiday.

**Ron Falconer**  
Transport Co-ordinator

# NEWS FROM YOUR PTO

JUNE 7  
2019



ISA Parent Teacher  
Organisation



pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk



With the Summer holidays just ahead of us, we are already planning for some great events to take place next year! Mark your calendars for the **BACK TO SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**, an event packed with fun activities. So if you are looking for an event to kickstart the new school year, make sure to join us on Saturday August 24th!

**BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
ICE  
CREAM  
SOCIAL**

**AUGUST  
24, 2019**

This is the last PTO page in the ISA Thistle newsletter for this year. We hope all families will enjoy their well deserved breaks and are looking forward to seeing you again, fully relaxed and recharged, in August. Our first PTO event is scheduled to take place on Friday August 16. We hope to see many of you there. Please RSVP on the PTO ISA Facebook page so we know how many to cater for!

**PTO  
WELCOME  
COFFEE**

**FRIDAY  
AUGUST 16  
8.30-10.00 AM**



## Fundraising Coordinator

If you would like to join the PTO, we are currently looking for someone who wants to take on the role of Fundraising Coordinator. If you are interested reach out to any PTO board member or contact us through Facebook or at [pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk)



**ISA DADS  
CLUB**

A social club  
for ISA dads



[isa.dads.club  
@gmail.com](mailto:isa.dads.club@gmail.com)

Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,600 big name retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis and ASOS – when you shop, you'll raise a free donation for ISA every time! So why not make a difference when you book your next holiday? Travel insurance, car hire, airport parking, just some items on your holiday shopping list that can raise funds for our school!



**NEXT PTO  
MEETING**

Monday  
September 2  
9.30 AM



**PTO have an exciting new initiative:**

Local businesses can opt into the Bronze, Silver or Gold tier Advertising Programme. We will be advertising the Gold tier businesses on our Facebook page!

If you know of any companies who would like to opt into this programme, or if you would like more details, please contact Jen Sword our PTO advertising member via email [pto.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:pto.advertising@gmail.com)

**Sonya Angus**  
THE UNIQUE BOUTIQUE  
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**BIG MAN BOX**

**RANDOM CRAP**

**SUPER DAD**

LUXURIOUS. UNUSUAL. FOR HIM.  
14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Fix Father's Day in a flash at Sonya's. From family favourite labels to new local names, you'll be choosing from the very best on the market.

Browse our treasurable treats, get gorgeous gift wrapping and, for all those who spend over £30, bag a bottle of BrewDog beer.\*



**The Beauty Fountain**

Award Winning Beauty Salon in Aberdeen the Beauty Fountain is one of Aberdeen's most reputable and popular beauty spa salons.

Established in 1995, Lynn Clark and her highly skilled team are here for you!

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**Website [www.beautyfountain.co.uk](http://www.beautyfountain.co.uk)**

The Beautiful Fountain have currently lots of Autumn offers to make you feel great on these cold dark days.



Innocent Aesthetics skin and laser clinic in Aberdeen caters for all aspects of skin care, including cosmetic treatments and anti-aging therapies.

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