

JANUARY / FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



ISB
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BRESCIA



Friday 1st March 2024

Model United Nations

14 ISB students participated between 19–22 of February in the MUN (Model United Nations) in Rome. This international event gathered 739 students from around the world and over 800 participants.

Each student played the role of Ambassador of an assigned country and had the objective of formulating and negotiating, together with their colleagues from around the world, the so-called UN resolutions.

Many ISB students demonstrated their outstanding skills in public speaking, negotiation, teamwork and innovative thought and came back with 5 awards: the Best Position Paper, the Distinguished Delegate and the Honorable Mention. International School Brescia got the Honorable Mention Award, being among the schools with the highest number of awards received at this event.

The MUN was one of the best extra-curricular activities I have ever taken part of. It gives an understanding of how decisions are made in today's world. (Nicolò, grade 12)

MUN taught me countless things such as, it gave me an accurate understanding of how the real United Nations conferences actually work, as well as showed me the roles and the influence that countries have. It was also a good opportunity to build skills such as teamwork, public speaking, leadership and negotiation. (Sophie, Grade 12)

I really enjoyed taking part in MUN! Thanks to my performance, I began to feel much more confident in myself. Now I know that I really enjoy taking part in such events and speaking to a large audience, in front of a microphone. (Elizaveta, Grade 10)

The MUN experience has allowed me to discover my limitations and strengths in the field of debate, negotiation and teamwork. Thanks to it I now know what I have to work on to improve myself. (Camilla, Grade 11)

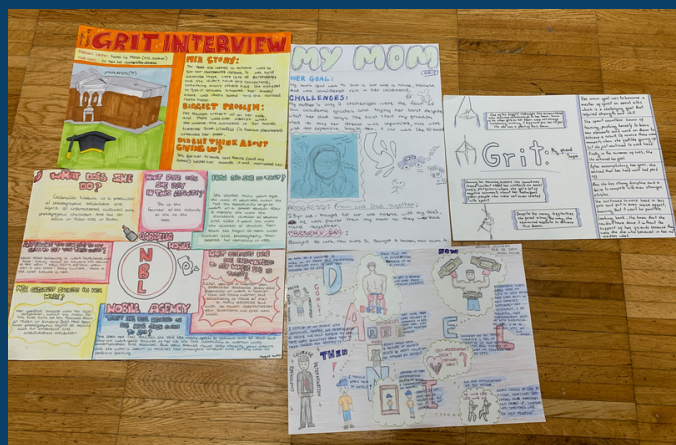


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SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS UPDATE

PYP

PYP students have continued to work on the goal-setting objectives as part of the Approaches to Learning Skills development. They have evaluated where they are in the 'road' to achieving their goal. During an assembly based on personal reflection regarding this, the students then created a whole school visual to show how close we are to achieving our goals, and considering any obstacles or setbacks we may have had and how to overcome them.



MYP & DP

As part of the development of their self-management skills, MYP and DP students have set a goal of becoming grittier. Grit is the concept put forth by Dr. Angela Duckworth as "having a passion and perseverance for long term goals." The first step toward this for MYP students was to seek out gritty individuals in their life and interview them. The students then created a one-pager to display their findings. They shared their amazing stories with their peers during the ATL Skills class and also reflected on how the stories and lessons could be applied to their own lives. Some of the grit interview one-pagers will be displayed at the front entrance. More grit-building activities are planned for the future.

Spotlight on DP Mock Exams

In January, Grade 13 completed their Mock exams with commendable dedication and focus. These practice exams serve as crucial milestones in their academic journey, allowing them to assess their progress, identify areas for improvement, and refine their exam strategies. Despite the challenges posed by the rigorous schedule and curriculum, our Grade 13 students exhibited resilience and determination, demonstrating their readiness to tackle the upcoming final exams with confidence. We applaud their hard work and commitment and stand ready to support them as they continue to strive for excellence in their academic pursuits

What was the most difficult thing about Mock Exams? What did you learn the most about/from?

The most difficult thing about Mock exams was the time management and scheduling to study the best we could. What I learned from this experience is to not underestimate the workload and to start to prepare ourselves before we think we should start. Overall, I think Mocks are very helpful in understanding how the real exams will be set out, and I will certainly start to organize my notes and materials to start studying for my finals at the beginning of March.

How did you prepare for Mock Exams? What advice would you give to Gr.12 on how to best prepare for them?

I prepared by studying with books, Quizlet and videos. I also used past papers to practice writing answers and finding out what information I need to review and learn. I would suggest Grade 12 to look over lots of past papers!

What are Mock Exams, and how do they fit into your exam preparations?

Mock exams were pivotal for my preparation for the real exams since it gave me more self-confidence and it made the exams feel not so “foreign” as they were before. Indeed, there are many conventions that can seem trivial, but that are important for IB and thus it was very important to learn them. For instance, I always forgot to discard the label off my water bottle. I realised how important and sometimes difficult it is to arrive on time, I realised how important it is to have your calculator fully charged and fully working as it can change the grade you get on your paper and so many other things. So, overall it really helped getting ready for my finals!



UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Great news from our DP 2 (Grade 13) students who started receiving their university offers! Part of our guidance programme, Term 1 was used to finalise their universities list and applying. Some students had interviews and sent their portfolio if applying to arts courses, some received unconditional offers, while most got conditional offers. Offers came from the UK, France and Italy. Stay tuned to find out their final destinations!

SAFER INTERNET MONTH

We're thrilled to highlight the success of Internet Safety Month, which took place throughout February. This month was dedicated to fostering a safer online environment for our students. Activities included an engaging workshop on social media literacy and thought-provoking discussions in mentor classes. Our aim was to equip our students with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the digital world responsibly. Through these initiatives, we emphasized the importance of making informed decisions and choices online. Thank you for your continued support in promoting a culture of internet safety and digital citizenship among our school community.

Interview with Gr.11 student

What did we do at ISB to raise awareness?

At ISB we had a long assembly with our school psychologist, Ms Clelia, who reminded us all of the numerous dangers of life on the internet and warned us to always be careful when navigating it. We also discussed it both before and after the February break during our mentor classes and got lots of useful and interesting feedback from the students.

Tips from Gr.11 about staying safe online

G.11 has suggested keeping your social media accounts private or, if for any reason you prefer to have it public, always be aware and conscious that everything you post can be seen and is permanent. As long as you're not naive in your posting, you have complete freedom.

The importance of having knowledge about safe online behaviour

It is very important in order to avoid messy or even dangerous situations with strangers and friends online.





EY Trip to SAFE

Our youngest students had a lovely adventure in the forest in February with Survival Adventure Forest Experience.



Humanitas University Trip

DP students visited Humanitas University and their advanced laboratories in Milan on 1st February 2024. They witnessed a demonstration of the Anatomage 3D table and gained insight into the utilisation of 3D printers in the medical printing lab for research and clinical purposes. The simulation centre offered a glimpse into real-world medical experiences. The students attended a presentation about the university and the courses offered by the university. This holistic approach enhanced the student's understanding of both theoretical knowledge and practical applications in the medical field.





G10/11 Art Trip

Students experienced Vincent Van Gogh's painting in an unprecedented way with 3D creations, virtual reality and immersive rooms. They concluded the visit with an art activity and the projection of their works on the wall.

PYP Greek dancing workshop

Students from Grade 2 to 6 learnt about Greek dancing as a form of expression, with a workshop from the Hellenic society of Brescia. This experience allowed students to learn about cultural expression, communication and collaboration.



GRADE 4 CODING PROGRAMME PROGRESS

Students in Grade 4 have achieved a major accomplishment with their coding program, completing this in record time! This year the coding course began with a review of the concepts found in earlier courses, including loops and events. Afterwards, students developed their understanding of algorithms, nested loops, while loops, conditionals, and more. They worked hard each week on the program, catching up at home if they ever missed a lesson in class. It is a wonderful achievement that all the class have successfully completed the coding course already this year. Now they will be challenged even further with some coding projects in order to apply the knowledge they have learned so far.



Mother-tongue Day 2024



Students celebrated their mother tongue by visually representing a word they felt connected to in their own native language to form a whole school display.

PYP students also participated in workshops to learn snippets of other languages!



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