

Dear Parents,

The 2012/13 school year has been a challenging but *very successful one*. Academically we are now seeing tremendous results as the University of Cambridge curriculum which we introduced last year has become firmly embedded within the school (see item below on Cambridge Progression Tests). And very importantly to us, students are not only academically successful but very happy in what we pride ourselves on being the CIS school family. We started the year with a split personality being on two sites and with some teachers having to travel between Devin and Horsky Park on a daily basis to deliver lessons.

However the fantastic Christmas performance at Istropolis saw us all coming together as one family, when students showed their talent and enthusiasm for putting on a show at the theatre! At the end of January we issued 'Vypis' certificates and our own new narrative school reports to round off the first half of 2012/13 schooling. In February and March students went skiing and had great fun in the snow. April saw Easter and then the big move which brought us all together at Uprkova. The school year has now finished with exams, reports and a trips week, and no one who was there will forget the wonderful Mafia themed ball held at the school in May, the latest of many events for students, parents and friends that we plan to host here over coming years.



We are now settled in our fantastic building which will soon be completed with the opening of our new sports complex. The school bought many new interactive white boards in April which, with the ones we already had means that most classrooms now have great modern educational technology with more to follow in the near future. Additionally, over twenty thousand euros of new teaching materials have this week been ordered from the UK and will arrive in August.

Our commitment to enhancing educational technology and traditional teaching materials within the school will take us a significant way towards achieving our goal of being the best international school in the region. But of course no amount of buildings, technology or materials can replace the influence of a good teacher, so we continue to strive to find the best, as some move on and our expansion necessitates the employment of additional staff. Come September, we will have a great 'new' team in place to continue our drive for educational excellence and *the happiness and achievement of our students, our children*.

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Cambridge Progression Tests

At the end of the year, students in Years 3 to 8 took Cambridge Progression Tests in English, Mathematics and Science. The tests were carefully assessed using very detailed mark schemes provided by Cambridge. The marks were then entered, question by question, into the Cambridge central examinations system hosted on the university's computers. The system has provided us with analyses of the performance of each class compared with the average performance across all schools using the system worldwide.

It is extremely pleasing to inform you that the class performance for every class in the school has been above the worldwide average in each of the three subjects. Not only that, but within the separate assessment strands of each subject, the CIS class performance in Years 3 to 6 has been higher for every strand than the worldwide average. This is a truly remarkable performance for a school where most students are not native English speakers and where the Cambridge programmes have only been rigorously taught throughout all classes and at the correct stage for less than two years.

Congratulations to students and teachers on this fantastic performance!



Goodbye to those who are leaving

The end of the school year is invariably a sad time because we always have to say goodbye to students and teachers who are moving on to new schools and opportunities around the world. Although they have not all been here for very long we would like to say a warm thank you and very best wishes to Mr Baker (moving to Singapore), Mr and Mrs Hammerberg (to South Korea), Mrs Szentpaly (home to Budapest), and to Mrs Wartnaby (to BIS to join her husband who is Head of English there). Also of course we have to bid a fond farewell to a small number of students who are moving to colleges and schools elsewhere.

'We hope they will take with them happy memories of CIS and wish them all the best for the future!'

Summer holidays

We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2nd September at 08.30 am. Further information about the new school year will be send to you in August.

And finally ... we wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer holiday!



Building developments

We are sure you all know that we have a large and noisy building site at the back of the school grounds where monsters of mechanical strength are smashing old concrete structures and digging enormous holes to create the space in which our new underground gym and swimming pool will be constructed between July and August. We believe that the project will be finished in September so that we will be able to take advantage of the tremendous new facilities early in the next school year, before the holiday in October.