



30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## Important Dates

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### October

- 30 MS Dance, 6:30–9:00pm in the Black Box Theatre  
31 NHS “Trunk or Treat” and Costume Parade, 5:00-7:00pm

### November

- 2 PTO Meeting, 9:30–10:30am in the Muirfield Room  
3 Grade 11 ‘Safe Drive Stay Alive’, 10:00–11:00am  
4 Armistice Day Recital, 9:30–10:30am in The QE Theatre  
4-7 ISSA HS Boys Soccer (London)  
6-7 MS Soccer Tournament (London)  
7 SAT Exams, 8:00am–2:00pm  
10 IB1&2 Art Exhibit, 3:00–4:00pm in the Black Box & Upper Corridor  
11-14 ISSA HS Boys/Girls Volleyball Tournaments (London)  
11 HS Student Council Breakfast, 9:40–10:10am  
12 EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM  
12 Parent Conferences, 12:00–4:30pm & 6:00–9:00pm  
13 Parent Conferences – STUDENT HOLIDAY  
16 Spanish Play “Primera Cita” 8:40am–9:50am  
18 Career Assembly, 9:40am–10:40am  
18-23 Travelling Book Fair  
19 MS/HS Parent Coffee, 9:00am–10:00am  
20-22 MUN Trip to Leiden, The Netherlands  
20 MS Movie Night, 6:00pm–9:00pm  
20 HS Winter Dance, 7:00pm–10:00pm in the Black Box Theatre  
25 MS Assembly, 9:40am in The QE Theatre  
25 Grade 2 Drama Production, 6:30pm in The QE Theatre  
26 Grade 2 Drama Production, 4:30pm in The QE Theatre  
27 TEACHER IN-SERVICE – STUDENT HOLIDAY

## 4 From The Director

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Dear ISA Families

We are all shocked and saddened by Wednesday’s incident at Cults Academy, and our heartfelt condolences go to the family and friends of Bailey Gwynne. We would like to offer our sincere support and sympathy to the young man’s family and everyone at Cults Academy.

We know that there are ISA families with connections to the Cults Academy community. Our MS Counsellor, Valerie DeGraw, and our HS Counsellor, Jeff Harper, together with all our staff, are available to support any of our students affected by this tragic event.

BBC News has posted some helpline contacts that might also be helpful for those of you and your students who have extended contacts at Cults Academy:

Aberdeen City Council has set up a dedicated support number – 01224 264299 – for those affected.

Also, any child affected by this incident can call ChildLine on 0800 1111 for anonymous help if preferred.

**Dan Hovde**  
Director

## 4 From the MS/HS Principal

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Dear Middle/High School Parents,

Bookings for our Parent-Teacher Conferences will open next week. These are taking place at ISA on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Our Parent-Teacher Online Conference Booking System will be ready for you to retrieve your log-in details and book conferences as of 4:00pm, Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November. Parent-Teacher Conferences are a valuable opportunity for communication and a chance to discuss your children's progress with their teachers.

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, our 11<sup>th</sup> Grade students will attend the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' programme at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen. With so many of ISA's 11<sup>th</sup> graders obtaining their driving licences (and many others planning to do so in the next year), we felt it was important for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend this event, which is organised by Safe Drive Stay Alive Scotland. Its purpose is to raise the consciousness of young drivers about the great responsibility that accompanies the right to drive a car. According to 'Safe Drive Stay Alive', the goal of November's presentation is "to reduce the number of accidents and deaths on our roads".

If your children are going 'trick or treating', remember that, in Scotland, you have to tell a joke to get your treat! Thanks again to the NHS students for organising our annual "Trunk or Treat", and thank you to the families who have volunteered to decorate their cars and give out candy for this special event.

Best Regards,

**Sarah Bruce**  
MS/HS Principal

## 4 From the Elementary Principal

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### Parent-Teacher Conferences

This Friday, student progress reports are being mailed out to all of the Elementary parents. In the envelope we've included a schedule for Parent-Teacher Conferences. The conferences take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November. These conferences are scheduled twice during the school year, each fall and spring, to exchange ideas about your child's activities, habits, experiences and achievements. We strongly encourage all parents to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss their children. If

you would like to make additional conferences with any of the specialist teachers, please call Mary Rayne.

A list of suggestions to make the most of these conferences, compiled by a group of teachers and parents several years ago, is listed in this article. Prior to the conferences, parents are encouraged to send in to teachers any questions or topics they particularly want to discuss.

## **A TEAMWORK APPROACH TO PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

- **Plan Ahead.** Make notes of what you want to discuss before the meeting. If you have an issue to discuss, make an effort to inform the parent/teacher prior to the conference, so that there are no uncomfortable surprises.
- **Work Together.** Talk about concerns in a positive, problem-solving manner. Keep an open mind to suggestions.
- **Involve your child/student.** Open communication between parents, teachers and students is the foundation of an effective partnership. An important goal is to promote student ownership for learning.
- **Work towards Understanding.** Ask questions, rely on facts and avoid blaming each other. Share Relevant Information. Discuss major changes that have occurred or been observed. Focus on present skills & future progress.
- **Stay on Schedule.** Arrive, start and end on time. Remember you only have 15 minutes for this conversation!
- **Create an Action Plan.** Summarise the main points discussed and steps agreed upon to encourage the continued progress of the child. The goal is to establish a plan to support the child.
- **Respect Each Other.** Remember there are at least two experts at the table: the expert on this child (parent) and the expert on education for children this age or in this subject (teacher).
- **Celebrate Success.** Show appreciation for the efforts of the child and for the encouragement and work of each other. Let your child/student know that you value an ISA partnership.

**After the conference...**

### **Be Responsible**

At ISA parents, teachers and students are expected to discuss questions/concerns in a timely manner throughout the school year. All parties should follow through with actions discussed, allowing for additional communication as needed.

### **Joining an After-School Activity**

It's wonderful that so many of our students participate in the after-school activities. Please remember, however, that the one condition for participation is that students must be *formally* signed-up prior to joining an activity. Attendance is taken at the activities and parents will be phoned if students show up who haven't registered or fail to attend some activity they have signed-up for. Parent assistance to keep communication up-to-date regarding after school attendance is greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,

**Don Newbury**  
Elementary Principal

## 4 From the Fine Arts Department

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Mark your calendar....

**Armistice Day Recital**  
**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
**9:30 am**  
**The Queen Elizabeth Theatre**

This beautiful recital commemorates the services and work of our veteran and enlisted military. A beautiful recital. Please write Kent Walter if you would like to reserve a seat.  
[kwalter@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:kwalter@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk)

**Kent Walter**  
**Fine Arts Department**



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**PTO Ceilidh for Parents and Teachers  
Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
7-11pm**

A Scottish Ceilidh is the best remedy for dark winter evenings. With that in mind, the PTO has organized a ceilidh for parents and teachers at ISA on Saturday, 5th December.

Tickets are £15 per person and include supper, soft drinks and one of the best bands that Aberdeen has to offer, Graham Geddes Band. Eillie W hYTE will “call” all the dances, so even if you are new to Scottish Dancing you will be able to participate fully.

Each table will seat 10 people, so groups can take a full table or we can organize smaller groups or couples to be seated with friends or parents from same grade. Either way it is a great opportunity to have some fun and get to know other parents and teachers in the ISA Family without talking “shop”. You may bring your own alcohol and feel free to invite friends from outside ISA.

Tickets will be on sale from Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November after school or by email at [brenda.holohan@btinternet.com](mailto:brenda.holohan@btinternet.com). Senior High School students will be helping out but other students may not attend.

**Brenda Holohan**  
PTO President



Don't forget to like us on facebook! You can find us as ISA Parent Teacher Organization.

International School of Aberdeen

# ARMISTICE DAY RECITAL



The Queen Elizabeth Theatre  
9.30am Wednesday 4th November 2015

# ISA Aquatics 2015-16

## ISA Students & Families

### ISA Pool Schedule

For weekly updates, please refer to our homepage; <http://www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk/>  
Top of page go to: **QUICKLINKS/ Thistle Talk**

- 6:00-730am** Monday – Friday mornings – Adult Lap Swimming only.
- 3:15-5:00pm** Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoons - Free play and lap swimming.
- 3:10-4:10pm** Tuesdays and Thursdays – Lap swimming
- ISA Swim Club** 'non-competitive' students ages 8-15 (Free and fun)  
Starting 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- 12:30-1:45pm** Saturdays Family Swim and Lap Swimming.

All Lessons taught by **The Aberdeen Amateur Swim Club** starting at age 4 - Masters  
Contact: <http://www.aberdeenasc.org.uk/> email : [aberdeenlts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aberdeenlts@yahoo.co.uk) Phone : 01224 319004

Need more information, contact:  
[Brad.ill@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:Brad.ill@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk)

**Brad ILL**  
**ISA Aquatics**  
**Reception 01224 730300**  
**Pool Office 01224 730334**

Special programs are advertised in the **after school activity schedule** throughout the year.  
**Refer to the Thistle.** (I.e. surf and paddle club, kayaking club). Sometimes programs are cancelled and rescheduled – **please refer to the Thistle.**

**ISA High School Parents (9-12):**

# **USA College Night**

**Monday, November 16, 6:00pm – ISA QE Theatre**

If you have considered a USA university education for your children, this is a rare opportunity in Aberdeen to learn about three great USA universities and USA Higher Education admissions in general from representatives from a USA Polytechnic University, a Public State University and a Private Liberal Arts-based Research University: **Clark University (M A), University of Vermont (VT), Worcester Polytechnic Institute (M A).**

Parents of students in grades 9-12 who have children who may be interested in attending university in the USA are welcome to attend this early evening program presentation to learn more about USA university admissions. There will not be any opportunities for individual/private conversations with the university representatives. There will be a program for interested ISA STUDENTS ONLY at 3:00pm the same afternoon.





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During the last school year the PTO gave funds through the Enrichment Programme to the Science Department for improvements to the pond. The following is an update from Dr Carmichael.

“I wanted to give you and the PTO an update on the pond following your generous donation towards improving the area.

The pump has made the water much cleaner and produced a healthier environment for the fish. As well as filtering the water, the drop back in aerates the water, which is putting life back into the pond. We have purchased some aquatic plants that are thriving. There is also a small willow tree and the gardener has made plans to replant the area to encourage more invertebrates. This planting will take place in the spring and we will buy the remaining plants then.

Next semester we will be able to promote the space as an interesting ecosystem and invite more classes to make use of the area. At the moment, the pond water and elodea are very useful to chemistry and biology classes respectively.

Thanks again for your support,

Dr Carmichael

*Please note that donations can be made to the PTO by leaving a cheque at reception. Please make the envelope “For the attention of the PTO”. Any amount is gratefully received.*

# SPIRIT WEAR

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## November Sale!!

**£5 OFF ALL JACKETS!**

(Does not include team jackets).

### HYDRAPLUS JACKETS

- Wind and rain proof
- Great for cold wet days

Adult was £60 now £55!

Sizes available: XS, S, M, L

Child was £35 now £30!

Sizes available: 3/4, 5/6, 9/10, 11/12

### KID'S MAC IN A SAC JACKETS

- Lightweight pullover jacket
- Comes with a small carry sac

Was £30 now £25!

Sizes available: 5/7, 8/10, 11/13

This sale is only being offered for the month of November. As always, you can fill out and drop in the PTO box, an order form, or stop by and see us between 3-4pm Wednesday's in the Street.

# It's the YEARBOOK!!

## Order Form for 2015-16 Book

The price of this year's book remains at **£40**. The book will be distributed in the spring.

(Please make cheques payable to 'International School of Aberdeen' or 'ISA'.)

Students' names, grade levels (and in case of elementary students please also include teacher's name):

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment of £\_\_\_\_\_ made by:

Cash

Cheque

Card

IPayImpact

cheque # \_\_\_\_\_

Yearbooks may be paid for in the business office, or directly from Yearbook Adviser (Chandra Gair). No money to be accepted at Reception. **Books cost £40 after 10 October 2015** and will be distributed in the spring by the Yearbook staff.

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### Customer Receipt

The price for yearbooks is £40 **per** book.

Number of books ordered and paid for: \_\_\_\_\_

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment of £\_\_\_\_\_ made by:

Cash

Cheque

Card

IPayImpact

cheque # \_\_\_\_\_

Yearbooks may be paid for in the business office, or directly from Yearbook Adviser (Chandra Gair). No money to be accepted at Reception. **Books cost £40** and will be distributed in the spring by the Yearbook staff.

In case of cash payment: Signature of salesperson/ Business Office stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

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## WHAT & WHY REPLAY IT?

The Jostens ReplayIt® app is the best way to share photos with your school community while making them available for your school's yearbook. After going through moderation, your photos are viewable by community members for tagging, liking and sharing. ReplayIt is the best way to collaborate and celebrate moments that matter. Download ReplayIt from the App Store or Google Play for free today!

**STEP 1**

From the App Store or Google Play, download ReplayIt and launch.

**STEP 2**

To get started, find your school name. Click on it.

**STEP 3**

Connect with Facebook or create an account.

**STEP 4**

Stream lists all photos already on ReplayIt. To add, click the tab to add from your phone library or to take a new photo.

**STEP 5**

Select Category, tag the photo and add names of the people on the photograph. Click upload.

**STEP 6**

After getting approved, the image can be shared on social media and liked.