

ISW NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS **OCTOBER 2026**

BACKERSHAGENLAAN 5, 2243 AB WASSENAAR, WWW.INTERNATIONALSCHOOLWASSENAAR.NL



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WASSENAAR
RIJNLANDS LYCEUM



OCTOBER EDITION



The International School of Wassenaar's Bi-Monthly Update for Parents & Students



UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- **19 October - 23 October** - Autumn Break
- **16 October - 12 November** - DP November Resits
- **27 October** - WW1 Poetry MYP4
- **30 October** - Halloween Dress Up Day
- **6 November - 8 November** - MUNISH
- **11 November** - Diwali Celebration
- **12 November** - Table Tennis House Tournament

A WORD FROM MR. VERLOOP

Immerse yourself into the world of the ISW - Enjoy the newsletter!

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

As we approach the autumn break, it is wonderful to reflect on what has already been a busy and exciting start to the academic year. We have welcomed new students and staff into our ISW community, and it has been a pleasure to see everyone settling in, reconnecting and embracing the opportunities that a new school year brings.

The past few weeks have been filled with memorable experiences, from the DP2 trip to Berlin and DP1's visit to Texel to the MYP1 adventure at Outdoor Valley and MYP2's trip to Vlietland. Back in the classroom, students have been engaging in exciting activities across Sciences and Humanities, while our German students have enjoyed the opportunity to visit Leiden University and meet an author in person. MINIMUN also brought opportunities for discussion, collaboration and global engagement.

This year is particularly special as we celebrate 90 years of Rijnlands Lyceum Wassenaar, a wonderful milestone that reminds us of our school's rich history and the community we continue to build together.

As we head into the autumn break, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for their enthusiasm and contributions to such a positive start to the year. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to all that lies ahead!

Kind regards,
Robert Verloop



INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Dear Students, Parents and/or Guardians,

Attendance Reminder

We would like to remind parents of the importance of notifying the school office of any student absences by 8:30 a.m. each morning. Timely communication helps us ensure the safety and well-being of all students and allows our staff to maintain accurate attendance records.

If your child will be absent, please send an email to: office@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl or leave a voicemail message on 070 512 1801 before 8:30 a.m. on the day of the absence.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us keep our attendance procedures running smoothly.

Enjoy your autumn break!

Kind regards,

Mrs Lubiana and Mrs Wilde

ISW Administration Team



GOLD JOURNEY

The International Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award is a program where participants develop a skill, volunteer, participate in a sport, execute an adventurous journey, and complete a residential project. It ranges from three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold, and as a participant who completed all three levels, Gold truly was the peak of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

The residential project is unique to the Gold level, demanding a high degree of independence by requiring participants to live and work alongside unfamiliar peers towards a shared, meaningful objective. For my residential project, I completed a Korean C1 language course in Korea, aiming to elevate my fluency while also connecting with my culture. My peers pursued similar ambitious tracks, ranging from law courses at Oxford, medicine programs at Cambridge, and volunteer work at local churches.



GOLD JOURNEY (CONTINUED)

Our adventurous journey was a six-day expedition in Germany's Black Forest, which combined both our practice and qualifying journeys. Inspired by the region's folklore, our group aimed to recreate the story of Little Red Riding Hood. As we navigated the dense forest trails, we captured a series of photographs that we would later edit to bring the fairytale to life.

The expedition was a truly unique and amazing experience. In the moment, navigating unexpected detours, scaling steep hills, and hacking through overgrown paths felt utterly exhausting. Yet those gruelling moments made the trip so memorable. We bonded and improved our teamwork skills by lifting each other's spirits with jokes and steady conversation whenever the pace slowed. The refreshing, cold springs at our campsites and the swimming pool visit on our free day were also heavenly in the warm weather of July. Playing Mr Rutkowski's Blood on the Clocktower and Harry Potter trivia games also made the evenings and hikes much more enjoyable. Ultimately, our expedition journey was incredible and memorable, leaving us wishing for a 'Platinum' award... minus the ticks, of course.

By Hanna Kim, DP2B



WELCOME, MYP1!

When Ms Mehta first asked me to write an article about how my first few weeks here went, I was completely stumped. How was I supposed to put all the chaos, excitement and exhaustion of starting middle school in a neatly written Word document? I still can't say that this article will do it justice, but I hope it will give you a pretty good idea.

So, to be completely honest, starting school wasn't as scary for me as it was for my classmates, because of my older brother Hridhaan, who is way up in MYP5. I felt like I already knew most of it before the first day. Knowing where the library was and just seeing a familiar face in the hallways made everything feel so much better and easier.

But knowing this doesn't mean I'm suddenly a wise all-knowing sensei. I still forget where my classroom is and stare at the schedule for 5 minutes trying to figure out what my next class is and where it is. It's been really fun figuring it out with my new and old friends, though. It really helps to know we are all in the same boat.

The one thing that stood out to me about ISW was the genuine niceness of everyone. The teachers are so understanding when we get lost or forget something in our lockers for the third time that day. They don't get mad or shout at us. They actually help us out. Even the older students are so kind. If we look lost, which happens like 50 per cent of the time, they ask us if we need help or if we are ok and that makes the transition like 10 times better.

I've been here for a couple of weeks, but honestly, it feels like months. Although I'm still figuring everything out and getting used to the ridiculously heavy bags, I'm very excited to see what happens next, and most importantly, have a whole lot of fun while doing it! :)

By Kayra Waghela, MYP1A



WELCOME ASSEMBLY

The Welcome Assembly took place on Thursday, 10th September. A very warm welcome to all our new students and staff at ISW, and welcome back to all our returning students!

The assembly provided an opportunity for students to get to know some of the familiar and new faces around school, with introductions to members of staff and a warm welcome from our new Deputy Head, Mr Rees. Students also heard more about Community Engagement and our House system, including the introduction of the new House Leader for Aquila, Ms Mackey.

The Debate Club also made an energetic start to the year with an introduction to the club and a lively mock debate, giving students a taste of what they can expect if they decide to take part.

It was a lovely way to bring the whole school community together and begin another exciting year at ISW. We look forward to all the opportunities, experiences and achievements the year ahead will bring!



MYP4B DEBATE

Have you ever thought of living in a state which isn't capitalist? In our Integrated Humanities class, we researched different types of economic systems, some from the past and others that are still in use today. We worked in groups to investigate their advantages and disadvantages, discuss arguments against other systems and take part in the final debate.

Research was crucial for understanding how everything functions and for examining the advantages of our assigned system and the disadvantages of others. From the perspective of communism, which was our allocated system, we found a lot of information about its history and why some people supported or opposed it. Our group's favourite points were that communist ideology promotes equality and collective effort to ensure that everyone has their basic needs met.

Another important step was discussing arguments against other systems. We listened to other groups present their systems and took notes. From that, we learned about the disadvantages of other systems and identified the most important ones that weren't present in our system. This helped us prepare for the debate and think of rebuttals.

Taking part in the final debate helped everyone understand how to make arguments for ideas they didn't necessarily believe in and put themselves in someone else's shoes. It also taught us the importance of well-structured opening and closing statements. Success in the debate depended on active participation by fighting back and supporting your system, as well as giving challenging questions to other groups.

In conclusion, the task helped us improve our research skills, our active participation in the group through discussions and our debating skills. This is why mock debates can help students understand more about difficult themes and remember information for longer periods of time, as they are actively participating in the task.

By Alisa Zadvorkina, MYP4B



MYP2 VLIETLAND TRIP

This year, we went on a trip to Vlietland! It was such a memorable experience, and I will never forget the adventurous day we had. We started by cycling to school, where MYP2 and the Brugklas met up before setting off together towards Vlietland. Cycling to Vlietland is a special tradition at our school, and although the journey was long, it was a fun experience to share with everyone.

When we reached our destination, our activities were not scheduled to start until 10:00, so lots of us splashed each other and played around in the water until almost everyone was soaking wet!

Our class and the other class then split up to start our activities. We first started with pedal boating, where we could have a maximum of five people in each group. Our activity instructor explained the rules, and soon enough, we were off! We started with an impromptu race and kept switching turns to see who would pedal. The water was very calm, and we were in a quiet, almost deserted part of the beach.

After the activity, we had a break. We could change our clothes if they were wet and eat our snacks. We were all quite exhausted after the pedal boating, so the break was a good chance to relax and recharge. After that, we moved on to our final activity of the day, as some of our other planned activities had been cancelled because of the rain.

Our last activity was rafting. First, we had to learn how to build a raft using ropes, logs and barrels. It was a tough process, but we eventually managed to build them. We then had a race to see which group could get to the other side faster. It was half of the class against the other half!

In the end, we all swam in the water for a little while before it was time to leave. Despite the rain and the activities that were cancelled, we all had a great time. No amount of rain could stop us from having fun!

By Nyra Singhal, MYP2B



DP1 TEXEL TRIP

Our DP1 Texel trip was certainly one to remember. We had the amazing chance to spend time with our friends and classmates outside of our usual school environment. Although the weather did let us down on occasion, we still managed to have a great time in each other's presence, really making the most of everything. In a way, the unfortunate weather made our trip even more memorable as we found new ways to stay positive and have fun!

One of the highlights of our trip was when we visited the indoor swimming pool. It was a great way to forget about our upcoming schoolwork and just take some time to swim, chill, go on the slides and bond with our peers and friends. Spending time at the pool helped to make the atmosphere more relaxed and fun. Another thing we really enjoyed was the food. We had some good meals throughout the trip, like the barbecue one evening, and eating together gave us even more opportunities to talk and laugh. Even a simple meal felt more enjoyable because we were all sitting together and sharing the experience. Food became another part of the trip that brought everyone together, even if it was just snacking in the tent.

Overall, this trip was an amazing experience. Although the weather was not always on our side, it taught us to turn an unpleasant situation into something positive, and we created lots of funny memories along the way. Most importantly, this trip gave us all the opportunity to grow as friends and take a step away from the regular school life we all know. Looking back on this trip, I have realised that we don't always need perfect circumstances to have a great time. Sometimes when we have an unexpected moment or challenge, it makes for a new memory to be made.

By Abigail Bartsch, DP1A



DP1 TEXEL TRIP



DP1 TEXEL TRIP

Earlier this year, all the DP1's went to Texel. The trip was a 4-day and 3 night long trip. I personally enjoyed visiting Texel along with my friends, as it was a great way to start DP, packed with adventure and plenty of quality time with my friends.

We first took the coach to Den Helder, where we got off and took a ferry to go to Texel. Once we arrived at Texel, we first visited the Texel lighthouse, which was on the complete opposite side of Texel. At the camp, there were big tents equipped with everything we would need. Groups of 4 were assigned a tent each, and I was lucky enough to be in a tent with 3 of my close friends, which made the campsite experience better. Later on Tuesday, we went to get dinner and ended the day with mini golf and bowling.

Wednesday was easily my favourite day, where we began by receiving our bikes, which we used to travel around Texel on Wednesday and Thursday. We went to a field where we played bubble football and archery tag. We then biked back to the camp to have lunch and pack our stuff to go to a waterpark.

For me, the waterpark was the highlight of the whole trip. The waterpark was almost empty and barely had any people, which meant we had the whole park to ourselves. It consisted of 4 slides, a hot tub, an indoor pool, an outdoor pool, and a lazy river. My favourite memory from the water park was going down this big white slide, with all the boys together.

We ended Wednesday by having dinner and the Bonte Avond, which is essentially a show where groups or individuals perform in front of everybody. I was in a group that did a fashion show, which was interesting.

Thursday started with us visiting Ecomare, a sanctuary and museum dedicated to rescuing seals and showcasing marine life around Texel. The aquarium was full of fish, other marine life and the very cute seals. We then went to the beach to have a beach battle. There were 6 teams and 6 games in total. The team with the most points would get a time bonus in the final. This was a fun activity, but the weather made it slightly disappointing. At the end of the day, we were split into groups and had a long quiz about the museum.

Friday was the last day, and we spent the morning cleaning up the tents, getting them checked by the teachers and getting ready to leave. We left the camp at around 11:40 and made it back to Wassenaar at around 3.

Overall, I enjoyed the entire trip and my experience in Texel. I was also able to get to know the new student who joined our year better and made new friends, which I am very happy about.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms Calero, Mr Pretorius, Mr Castillejo, Ms Oosterman and Ms Foster, who were supervising us during the trip and made the whole trip possible.

By Rishabh Bagul, DP1B



DP2 BERLIN TRIP

The DP2 Berlin trip was one of the best weeks I've had at school. It was a mix of history, museums, free time, and fun, and a great chance to spend time with my classmates outside the classroom.

A big part of the trip was learning about Berlin's history, which was much more interesting in person than in a textbook. We saw the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, walked along the East Side Gallery, the longest remaining part of the Berlin Wall, and visited the Checkpoint Charlie Museum. The Holocaust Memorial and the Jewish Museum were my favourite visits, and they were some of the most meaningful parts of the week as well!

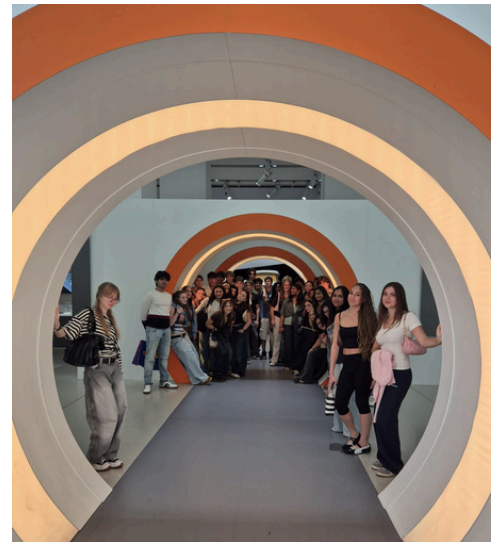
There was plenty of variety too. We went to the Futurium, a museum about the future and sustainability, the Hamburger Bahnhof for exploring modern art, the Deutschland Museum, and even a Volkswagen museum, so there was something for everyone.

The trip wasn't all museums. We went bowling, had dinner together at an Italian restaurant, spent time at Hackescher Markt and a shopping mall, and saw the Blinded by Delight show. For me, the best moment was going to my first orchestra concert. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I enjoyed it much more than I thought I would.

Some of the best parts were the small things like relaxing by the water after the East Side Gallery tour, getting around the city by train, and spending a whole day exploring with my group. I got to know my classmates better and came back with a suitcase full of memories.

Overall, Berlin was a trip I'll remember for a long time, and a great way to make memories together before the final months of DP2.

By Aaratrika Patil, DP2B



MYP2 ISC

During our ISC lesson on the 16th of September, MYP2A had to measure how many body parts were 7 meters long. The body measurements were: a whole body, a foot, and an arm.

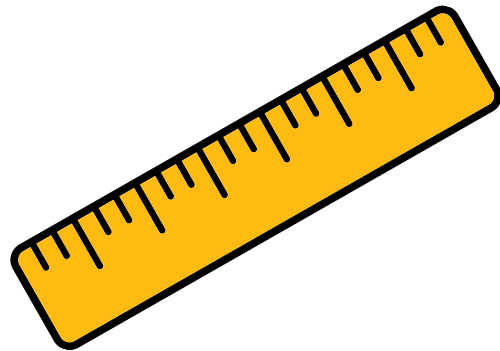
The reason MYP2A used body parts to measure was that they were measuring like one would measure back in the day, without the tools we have now, such as a measuring tape or a ruler. So, in groups of 3, the students each had to measure a line of 7 meters with their body parts and count how many body parts it takes to measure 7 meters.

The students then shared their answers in the class, and they quickly saw how the result would never be quite accurate when everyone doesn't have the same body height. One answer that was pretty similar to most of the students was the feet. Most students counted 27 feet in 7 meters. This is because, at the ages of 11 - 13, most children have the same shoe sizes.

Example:

(These are the results in one group):

- Arms: 16 arms and 1 hand
- Feet: 27 feet
- Bodies: 6 bodies and 3 hands



This activity was a great way to learn about how measuring was done earlier, before rulers or measuring instruments were invented. It was also interesting to compare the different answers and see which students were taller or shorter.

The MYP2A students enjoyed the activity and understood more about how measuring was done earlier. It was a great ISC lesson!

By Mathilde Callendret, MYP2A



MYP2 + BRUGKLASS = FAST FRIENDS

Fast Friends was an amazing event that took place at International School Wassenaar on 21st of September. The Brugklas and MYP2 had a fun, engaging activity.

We had to sit in 2 circles (on the inside were the MYP2 students, and on the outside were the Brugklas students. After some time, the outside circle rotated, facing a different person, and they asked many questions to get to know the other person better. Many of the students engaged and enjoyed the activity, and I am sure many people made some friends because of it.

The school made sure that when students walk around during the breaks and see their peers, they are not strangers. I hope ISW hosts more events like this in the future, as we all enjoyed ourselves making our community bigger and better.

By Mukta Akolkar, MYP2B



MYP1 CAMP

I had the best time ever at MYP1 camp! Out of all the memories I took home with me, I would say the most memorable and fondest memory of mine would be the waterslide. It was basically a huge slip-and-slide that led into a lake, but doing it with friends who pushed you to do it made the experience ten times better. Sure, some times weren't as fun, such as trying to sleep in a tent where your so-called 'comfortable' air mattress was as thin as a saltine cracker, or falling into a murky mud pit without knowing what is actually lurking in the depths, but they do say experiences shape a person, right?

Overall, I think it was a one-of-a-kind camp which I personally wouldn't go to again, but that's just because I am more of a glamping person.

By Kayra Waghela, MYP1A



For me, camp wasn't abysmal, but it wasn't the best either. Here are some reasons why:

Why it wasn't abysmal:

1. I really liked canoeing and archery because they were the most fun activities.
2. The mud wasn't even that muddy, and the water slide at the end got rid of most of the mud on my body.
3. Swimming in the water was nice, and most people were swimming.

Why it wasn't the best:

1. For our free time, we only had a football to play with.
2. The boys' showers/changing room wasn't in its best days.
3. Some mosquitoes were bigger than they should be.

By Hanish Tanglidu, MYP1B



MYP1 CAMP

I really loved camp! We did lots of fun activities and things to train us. At camp, we played games, tried archery, went canoeing, did mud tracks and swam in the lake.

I mostly loved the parkour above the mud; it was very scary, and the water was freezing! But most of it was very fun. The tents were very big and could contain a lot of people. It would get cold at night, so our mentors told us to bring very warm clothes and bug spray because there were so many bugs at night.

We also roasted marshmallows on the campfire, told some interesting stories, played games and solved riddles. In the tent, it was very cosy and comfortable for us to sleep.

It is very sad that we only went for 2 days and 1 night, but at least I had the greatest experience camping. We learned lots of things about camping and about the camping place. It was very big, and it had a lot of space. And the view was so beautiful that I couldn't stop looking at it. Outdoor Valley was the best!



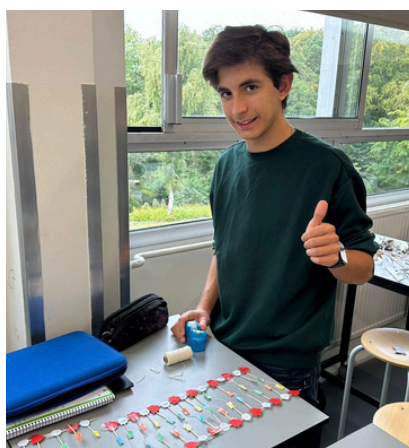
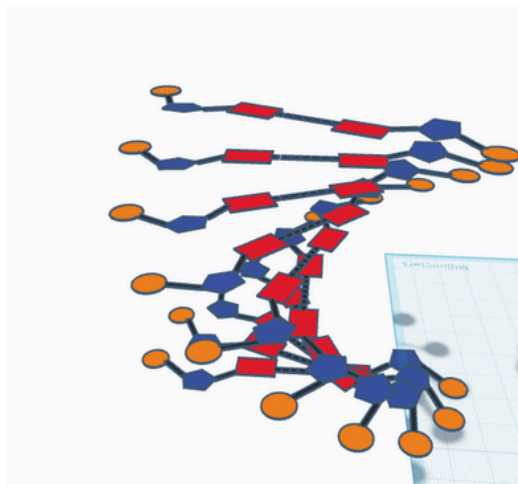
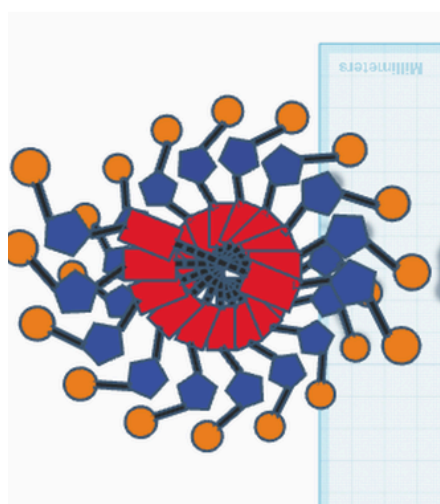
By Anna Dagaeva, MYP1A



MYP5 ISC DNA BUILDING

For me, the DNA Modelling task was an amazing way for us to not only learn more about DNA, its bonds, and its structure in a 3d environment, but also for us to showcase our creativity; for example, some people in our class made DNA exclusively out of popsicle sticks, while others used pipe cleaners or cotton balls. I also found that actually making the DNA structure in real life helps get it into your long-term memory more easily.

By Omar Elkhamisy, MYP5B



MYP5 GLA

I found our field trip to Leiden University to meet the author, Marwil, to be a truly wonderful experience. I learned a lot about his life, as well as German history and the fall of the Berlin Wall. I thought it was really interesting that we didn't just focus on the written material but were also given the opportunity to do a little drawing ourselves. It was also a great opportunity to see the University of Leiden from the inside.

By Mathilda Lippe, MYP5A



MYP5 IHM TRADE GAME

During our humanities class, we played the trade game. We were put in groups and assigned countries which started with different numbers of resources depending on the economic development of the country. Since no country had enough resources in the beginning to complete the tasks, we had to form alliances and trade with the other groups. Over the course of the game, we were able to better understand how trade works between countries; we encountered disagreements and had disputes over the price of resources. Everyone was engaged in the game, with each group wanting their country to win.

By Aliz Labody, MYP5A



MYP2 AND BRUGKLAS PARTY

On Friday, October 2nd, we had a champion-themed party with the Brugklas. We got there at around 19:00, and there were already lots of things set up, such as multiple table tennis tables, a disco/dance room, a photo booth, and some food and drinks at the canteen.

Everyone was dressed based on the theme, champion, with some wearing medals, superheroes, and also multiple sparkly and eye-catching costumes. It was loads of fun to party and 'hang out' with our peers on the national side and connect with them.

There were some events at the party, such as musical chairs, which resulted in major chaos, but ended up being really fun to watch and play. There were also awards for best costumes, four of which were handed out, and those awards went to Spider-Man, Mario and Luigi, a runway/fashion model, and last but not least...Batman!!! (which was – not to brag – me). Aside from those events, we also had a lot of fun playing table tennis and foosball with friends. The party ended at 21:30, and I genuinely did not want to leave, since I was having tons of fun and I'm sure everyone else was too. But it unfortunately HAD to end, and this party was such a memorable experience; for the next MYP2s, I hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

By Pauline Jabrayilov, MYP2B



MYP1 MOVIE NIGHT



We decided to watch the comedy movie *Yes Day*. Everyone was excited because we wanted to relax, have fun and enjoy a great film together.

Before the movie started, we prepared some delicious snacks, including popcorn, chips, sweets and drinks. We made ourselves comfortable, turned off the lights and got ready for an entertaining evening.

The movie *Yes Day* is about a family in which the parents decide to say “yes” to their children's requests for one whole day, as long as the requests follow certain rules. This leads to many funny, surprising, and exciting adventures. The movie made us laugh a lot, and we enjoyed seeing all the crazy things the family did together.

Overall, MYP1 Movie Night was a great success. Watching *Yes Day* brought us closer together and gave us many happy memories. It was an evening full of laughter, delicious snacks, and entertainment. I would definitely love to have another movie night like this soon!

By Aria Faleiro, MYP1A



MINIMUN

I was very honoured to be President of the General Assembly at this year's MINIMUN, hosted at RLW/ISW. In its totality, it was an awesome day and wonderful to see how many members of our school were involved, whether they were delegates or acting as admins.

To see familiar faces in unfamiliar roles debating, proposing resolutions, amendments, and making speeches representing the different delegations was amazing. It was great to see our students stepping out of their comfort zone to take on new challenges and be part of diplomatic discourse.

The success of MINIMUN was particularly satisfying as it was the result of the shared commitment and co-operation of our school community. Looking forward to the next conference!

By Pranshu Panchal, DP1C



MYP5 PERSONAL PROJECT

Please come and support our MYP5 students as they display the amazing products from their Personal Projects! Your feedback helps them evaluate their products as a part of the process. We are so proud of the MYP5s and all they have done!

Date: Wednesday, 18 November

Time: 15.30 - 18:00

D-Wing Lobby



90 YEAR CELEBRATION!

On Thursday 8th October, the school celebrated 90 years of existence and held a fun fair for all RLW/ISW students. It was extremely fun and very exciting. There was an obstacle course and a rotating beam, plus a rodeo bull. The teachers were operating the machines, and they made sure nobody got hurt. We had a lot of fun, especially at the Karaoke stand. You just picked a song and sang with your friends to your heart's content.

It was very nice that there was food provided at the party. You could get fries and Luciano's ice cream. You were given a stamp card, so that everything was organised. There were fairy lights and picnic tables if you wanted to sit down and eat your food.

Eventually, the MYP 1-3 and Brugklas, years 2, 3 and 4 had to leave, as the older students got to have some fun! We all loved celebrating this milestone!

By Vivienne van Oosten, MYP2A



**90 JAAR
RIJNLANDS**

A MESSAGE FROM JULIEN BUC

Julien Buc from the ISW class of 2026 contacted us to let us know about a couple of opportunities for secondary students from the Yale Policy Institute. He encourages you to try if you are interested!

One is a writing competition (Due in December):
[Essay Competition – Yale Policy Institute](#)

The other is a fellowship, but the deadline is October 30: [YPI Fellowship – Yale Policy Institute](#)



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our after-school clubs have been buzzing with activity this half-term, offering students plenty of opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills and have fun with friends!

From practising their batting and bowling skills in Cricket Club to putting their strategic thinking to the test in Chess Club, there has been something for everyone. Board Game Club has brought students together for some friendly competition, while the mysterious Mystery Society has seen our budding private detectives solving puzzles, uncovering clues and putting their investigative skills to the test! Meanwhile, Arts and Crafts Club has provided a creative space for students to express their imagination, explore different techniques and bring their artistic ideas to life!

It has been wonderful to see students getting involved, making new connections and enjoying themselves beyond the classroom. We look forward to more exciting club activities after the half-term break!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to DP1, supervisors, Mr Hindmarsh & Ms Seijger! DP1 students received their official Personal Project certificates from the IB on 14th of October!



DIWALI CELEBRATION

