

After 26 years at *The International School of Luxembourg*, Nicki Crush, ISL Director, retires.

Little did Nicki Crush know in 1991, as a British expatriate who came to Luxembourg for a 5-year period, that this is the country where she would retire 30 years later, after a successful career and adopting the Luxembourgish nationality.

When she joined the *American School of Luxembourg* in 1995, as it was then named, it was based in Limpertsberg and counted only 300 students. Crush fondly remembers the convent building where art classes spilled over into the corridor, music lessons took place in the attic and the Booster Club moms cooked a hot lunch for the students twice per week.

In 1996, she became Upper School Principal only a few years before the school moves to the Geesseknäppchen Campus to accommodate its growth. In 2015, Crush became the first female Director at ISL.

As one of her first actions as the Director, she invited all members of the ISL community to take part in a strategic reflection over the school's identity, ambitions and purpose. The collaborative process gathered thousands of pieces of data and led to ISL's new mission statement and values.

Although the pandemic affected the school's normal operations during the last 18 months, Crush sees the future with confidence « new initiatives will continue at ISL as the skills students need for life keep evolving. The school is a unique kaleidoscope of opportunities for learning, for that is ISL, a school where students learn for life. ».

She adds « The diverse, multilingual and multicultural environment is an extraordinary opportunity that cultivates international mindedness as a way of thinking, which we trust will influence our young people for the rest of their lives. Bridging the gap in understanding between different cultures, languages and beliefs must surely be an even stronger priority for 2021 and beyond».

As she retires at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, Crush passes on the baton to D.J. Condon, who is taking office as of August 1, 2021. She leaves a school with over 1300 students from 50+ nationalities, well known in the international school community, both in Luxembourg and beyond.

Crush concludes « it has been a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of ISL's growth. I look forward to seeing the School's continued success and encourage everyone at school to embrace the changes that will come, to encourage and challenge our students to think big and to develop the passions and skills they will need to be future ready. To keep cultivating the special relationship that exists between students and staff, to focus on the importance of every individual. »

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