



**Bavarian
International
School**

Annual Magazine
2021 | 22

Believe. Inspire. Succeed.

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A sparkling future



Believe. Inspire. Succeed.
To me, our school motto describes perfectly the BIS of the past, present and future. Over 30 years ago there was a group of people who believed in the project of building a second international school in the greater Munich region, to the north of Munich.

an important skill as well as a critical step in moving forward, improving, and succeeding. Without reflection, we simply continue to make the same mistakes instead of failing forward.

It can be quite disappointing when we do not achieve the results we are seeking and reflecting on the reasons why is simply not enough. Our reflection must lead to changes and the willingness to try again. We must persevere. BIS has and continues to persevere.

They were inspired by the success of the international schools worldwide as well as Munich International School to the south. And they were successful in garnering political, corporate and financial support to get the school founded and open to students.

Over the course of the past 30 years, thousands of students, staff and families have experienced the highs and lows of a growing and maturing school, including building purchases and projects, expansion to a second campus, world economics, local/state politics, a global pandemic and, most recently, increased tensions due to escalating conflicts/war in neighbouring Eastern Europe. Throughout, our BIS community has continued to reflect, persevere and adapt, in other words believe, inspire and succeed.

“It always seems impossible until it is done.”

Nelson Mandela

If the last 30 years, and especially the last few years, are any indication, the future of BIS is set to sparkle. We have an amazing staff who provide the strong foundation for our learning community, supporting students as well as one another through the most trying personal and professional dilemmas. We have a proactive parent community, helping to sustain the caring atmosphere beyond the school campuses. And we have an engaged Supervisory Board, continuing to focus on the stewardship of BIS for the future.

We have big goals for the future of BIS and with this community, we are well positioned to achieve them.

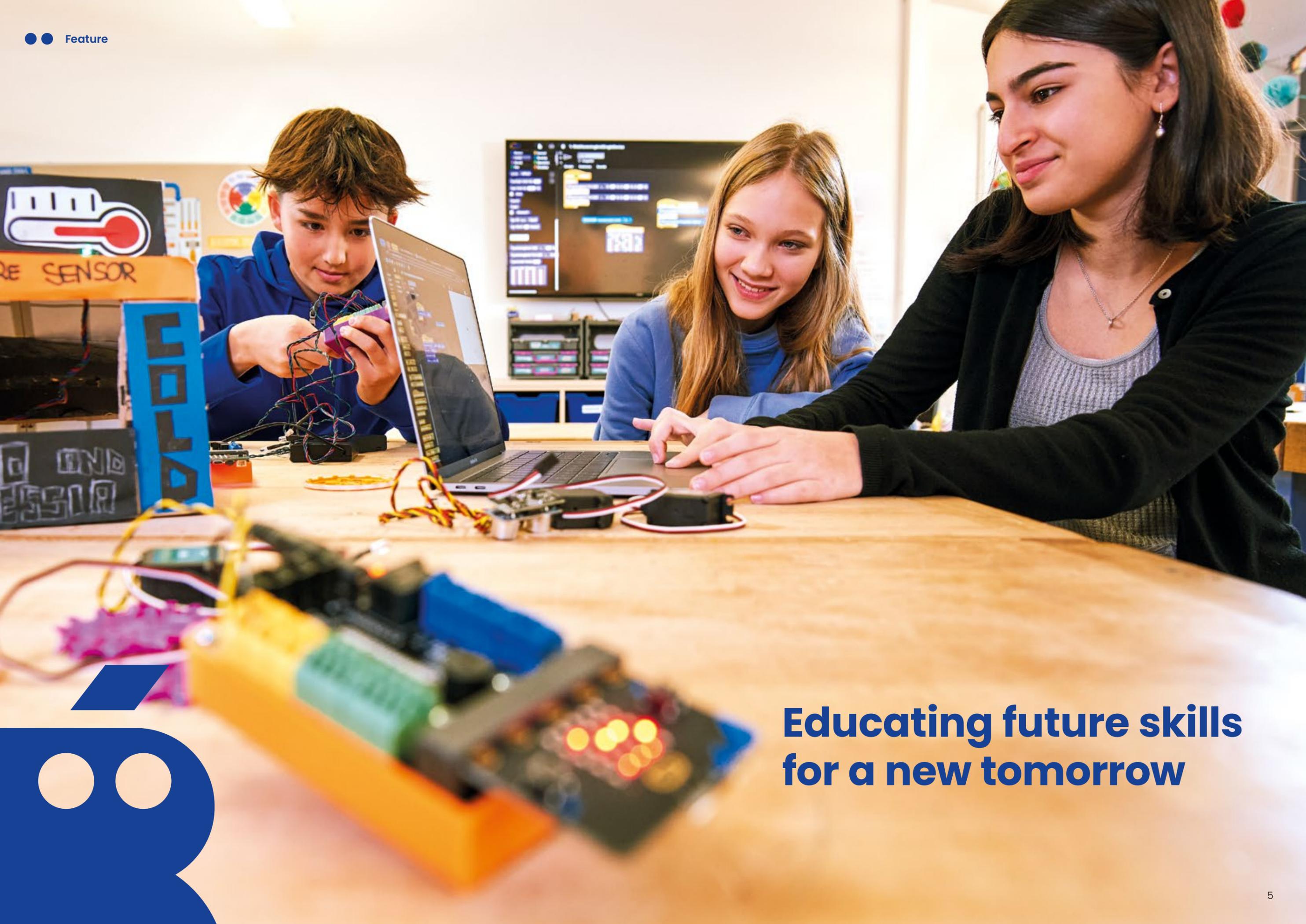
“Fall seven time and stand up eight times.”

Mary Anne Radmacher

Reflection is an activity we never stop engaging in. The older we get, the more we actually welcome the opportunities to find quiet space to be able to reflect – whether that is reflecting upon items such as organising ourselves to meet a deadline or how best to present a proposal to garner support, financial or otherwise. Reflection is

Warm regards

Dr. Chrissie Sorenson
Head of School & Executive Board of BIS



**Educating future skills
for a new tomorrow**





32 awardees for "The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award"

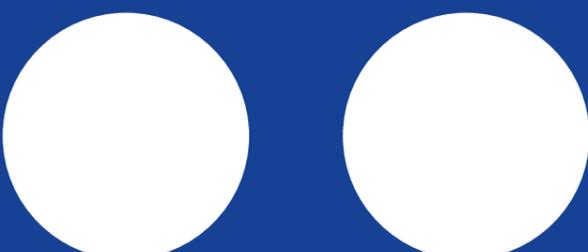
Gold:

Vivienne Holsman, Madeleine Phillips, Karis Koutsourelakis, Georgina Jenkins, Robin van Wasen, Jerome Holland, Maya Michel

Silber:

Mick Hofmann, Genaro Damiani, Sophia Schwind, Miguel Alonso Hernandez, Aneska van Rensburg, Feini Phoenie Chen, Thomas Richardson, Ines Oliveira, Ben Hienz, Andreas von Vequel-Westernach, James Copping

Plus 14 Bronze students



General facts

1991 Foundation of BIS (30th anniversary in 2021)

1 school, 2 campuses, 1 spirit

1.200 students from more than **60** nations

180 teachers from more than **30** nations



2nd largest international school in Germany
Only international school in Germany offering all **4 programmes of the International Baccalaureate Organization (PYP, MYP, DP, CP)**



1 of 5.500 accredited
IB World Schools in **160 countries**



Academic facts

IB DP* students	78
IB DP passing rate of BIS	100%
IB DP passing rate worldwide	86%
IB DP average score of BIS**	36 points
IB DP average score worldwide	32 points
BIS highest IB DP score	44 points
BIS students with 40 pts or more	18
BIS students with bilingual diplomas	44
IB CP*** students	10
IB CP passing rate	100%

* International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP)
** Equivalent to the Abitur grade of 2.0 in the German state system
*** International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IB CP)

Languages

5 modern native languages are taught at BIS: **English, German, French, Spanish, Mandarin**

17 languages in the Home Language Programme



After School Activities

approx. **80 per week** with more than **400 participants**

BIS Awards 2021-22



Theory of Knowledge (ToK) Award:
Noah Verhoog (Ireland/The Netherlands)

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Award:
Linda Förster (Germany)

Service Award:
Ekaterina Kasyanova (Russia)

Community Award:
Lara Abdel Malek (Australia)

ECIS Award:
Raquel Torres Garcia (Spain)

Academic Excellence Award:
Clara de la Fuente Carmona (Spain)

CP Award:
Mackenzie Hofmockel (USA)

BIS Students 1st choice of universities

(examples 2021-22)

- University College London (UK)
- University of Manchester (UK)
- New York University (USA)
- Technical University Munich (GER)
- Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (GER)
- University of Maastricht (NED)
- Hitotsubashi University (JAP)
- Eindhoven Technical University (NED)
- University College Maastricht (NED)
- EDHEC Business School (FRA)
- Francisco Vittoria University (ESP)



Top companies whose employees send the most children to BIS:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------|---------|
| Eurofighter | Microsoft | Eur. Patent Office | Audi |
| BMW | Siemens | Eur. Space Observation | Allianz |
| Airbus | Amazon | Infineon | Essity |
| Samsung | Google | Huawei | MAN |
| Sandoz | Linde | Nokia | Denso |



Important economic factor for the region

In 2021-22 we saw the end of the more strict corona measures. After two very challenging years we experienced a higher demand for student spaces as we were previously used to at BIS.

The current school year (2022-23) is benefiting from an unexpected and high demand in places. Enrolment, which is close to or even beyond our budgeted numbers, has a significant impact on financial stability.

During the school year 2021-22 BIS made a few upgrades to the premises and its facilities. In Haimhausen the usable space inside our security zone was utilised more efficiently by setting up a new security gate system between the custodian workshop and new sports hall and also relocating our security guard to the perimeter of the campus. As the City Campus building is still fairly new, there was not much modernising to be done and some smaller projects e.g. garden shed, security system upgrades, etc. were carried out throughout the year.

Despite uncertainties with the economic situation, BIS has to continue to invest in infrastructure. The Creativity and Innovation Centre (CIC) project was continued and our planners went into more detail to make sure BIS builds a cost effective yet state of the art school building. At the same time we carefully monitored developments in the building sector to make sure we can commit to a large building project without jeopardising the current and future budgets of BIS.

Attention to detail and perseverance

At the heart of the business side of BIS we have a small, very committed and highly skilled team which ensures a welcoming spirit for parents, students and faculty staff,

well maintained facilities, cost efficiency and legal/tax compliance.

Two great successes were achieved on subsidies: Kindergarten subsidies for Haimhausen which we had pursued for two years and an unexpected retroactive adjusted subsidy payment of almost 500,000 euros were granted. Attention to detail and perseverance are key for successful business, BIS is showing these abilities on a daily basis. We should all be proud of such performances.

Last but not least we want to mention that our efforts to petition for a more appropriate legal status of international schools in Bavaria are giving us hope that a solution for legal protection and reasonable subsidy support are on the horizon. International schools are an important economic factor for the greater Munich area and Bavaria as a whole. Politicians recognise this importance. Without international schools, recruitment of experts from abroad would be very difficult for companies who require expats in specific fields. Their families and especially students need a home away from home when they relocate from another country.

Sincerely,

Marco Dahl
Business Director & Executive Board



Four of nine members of the BIS Supervisory Board 2021-22 (from left): Kai Klicker-Brunner (Vice Chair), Marija Vuksan Delić, Marc Aghili (Chair), Leonardo Peruzzi. Missing on the photo: Manuel Cubero, Marcus Fischbacher, Roger Hamada, Philipp Härle and Ralph Panzer.

Home away from home

In the second year of the pandemic, just as we were getting used to the “new normal,” the present has already changed drastically again: the 2021-22 school year was different and filled with challenges.

The pandemic is not over yet, and now a country two hours' flight from Munich is being invaded by its neighbor. It is a catastrophe for Ukraine, and it also shapes the everyday life of the students in Germany at our school. The war and its consequences invade their minds, and it demands the utmost attention from all of us – even if we ourselves are distracted by the events. It was not an easy year. But it was also one of the most successful for us at Bavarian International School (BIS).

At BIS we traditionally live and work in a particularly international environment. Peaceful coexistence is no empty phrase here, it is the condition for success – our value compass. In 2022 we were given the opportunity to bring our ideal of community, openness, and diversity to life in a very concrete way: 40 students from Ukraine were able to attend our school, free of charge. They were welcomed by peers who know what it means to leave the social environment to which they are accustomed. Because, we have always been a home

away from home. This understanding of our role was and will be a permanent guideline for us – including the faculty team and admin staff, from Early Childhood to Secondary School, which we thank from the bottom of our hearts for their dedicated work.

Strategic development

The current and future work of the Supervisory Board is intensely shaped by the challenges of our time. We provided guidance and counsel to the school's leadership and discussed long hours the most pressing questions: How do we ensure stability? What does inflation mean for ongoing operations of BIS? A particular focus of the work was on the strategic development of BIS. Financial stability, further development of the quality of education and presenting BIS as the school of choice for academic excellence.

We thank Lynda Sagrestano, Silke van Wasen and Stephan Bauer for their dedication to the board, while welcoming Kai Klicker-Brunner as new Vice Chair, Marija Vuksan Delić and Leonardo Peruzzi as new members. The next year for sure will have its surprises, but that's the good thing about a value compass: it points the way. With clear values, a thoughtful strategy, and a worldwide community we are more than ready for 2023.



One guide to capture it all

Bavarian International School has a clear strategic plan for the development of the school and the future of learning. On this one-pager, we share the BIS mission, our definition of learning and our learning principles, as well as the strategic priorities of our Supervisory Board, all on one page.

B Believe
Inspire
Succeed



Definition of Learning

Learning is a process of growth, development and transformation. In our BIS community, we believe everyone can learn and succeed when:

- We engage in inquiry, experiences, collaboration and reflection.
- We are challenged, inspired, empowered and can exercise agency.
- We take risks in a supportive culture.
- We make connections.

Mission

Inspiring and challenging young minds as a caring and committed international community to achieve excellence, assume responsibility and pursue life-long learning.

Above and beyond best practice

Year by year, excellently educated global citizens and future changemakers graduate from BIS.

The best evidence for the quality of a school comes from the experience students have on a day-to-day basis over time. When children are challenged and thriving in school, parents see and feel it. Accreditation and authorization add an external validation to the trust parents put in their child's school. BIS began an accreditation/authorization process in the school year 2021-2022, which will be completed in 2022-2023.

Regular self review and analysis of stakeholder data are critical to the health of an organisation determined to model continuous improvement. Quality schools such as BIS seek outside certification from organisations that examine operations and provide reports validating adherence to its mission and specific programmatic standards.

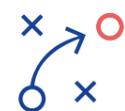
BIS is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). For schools to be awarded the status of 'accredited', they must undergo a regular self-assessment process coupled with external evaluators' assessment, consisting of document reviews and site visits. BIS was seeking re-accreditation and authorization by both organisations. "I've been involved in a number of

such processes and this one was among the most challenging because of the need to satisfy both IB and NEASC requirements," said Shary Marshall, BIS Deputy Head of School and the school's leader of academic programmes.

To use the extensive IB curriculum and publicise BIS as an IB World School, BIS is re-quired to adhere to the strict calendar of IB authorization and meet or exceed all the organisation's standards. Many leading international schools also seek accreditation from NEASC for the additional certification it provides.

Of special note was the school's decision to engage in a new review process combining the IB and NEASC reviews into one overarching process called the Collaborative Learning Protocol (CLP). The visiting team left with a very positive impression of BIS; as a community focussed on learning and reflecting on learner impacts rather than outputs, as well as how to identify evidence of those learner impacts.

"I was truly impressed by the commitment of so many leaders and teachers to take the process seriously and make a difference in the lives of BIS students and families," said Ms. Marshall.



Supervisory Board Strategic Priorities

- Quality of Education
- Financial Stability
- School of Choice for Academic Excellence



Learning Principles

- Engagement
- Inclusion
- Assessment
- Governance and Leadership
- Learning Space and Time



“There is nowhere else I would want to work”

A big chapter is closing for Brett Meuli in the 2022-23 school year. After 22 years in international schools and 12 of them at Bavarian International School, the New Zealander is going to retire. A good reason to conduct a farewell interview with the Secondary School Principal for grades 6-8, to say a heartfelt thank you and to wish him all the best for the future.

Mr. Meuli, the last school year 2021-22 was the third school year affected by the Corona pandemic and in February the Russian war against Ukraine began. It goes without saying that our teachers and students have been faced with many extraordinary challenges. Why are you proud of their responses to these specific circumstances?
 “I feel that we have been operating in crisis mode since March 2020. I clearly remember lockdown day and the feeling of dread about what was happening and how long it would last. Well, not only do we know that we coped remarkably well but we also

learned that it wasn't the limit of our ability to cope as when the Ukraine invasion began we found the capacity to respond immediately and with the warmth and care that typifies our BIS community. It made me immensely proud.”

Often, the greatest learning comes through hardship. What have students taken away, which special lessons or skills have they gained?

“I wouldn't say that the greatest learning comes through hardship; that idea plays to the fallacy that whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. What students are most likely to take away is that the world isn't fair, that extremism takes many sinister forms and that we must be clear, honest and timely in our responses. As for skills, I'm not sure as we already had flexible learning platforms that played to their digital skills and so on, but my guess is they have learned resilience. My concerns are not about lessons or skills, they are about the long-term effects of such massive

dislocations in their lives. A respected colleague told me that these kids will live with this for up to 18 years and I can believe it. We see evidence every day that their lives are not the same - academically, socially and emotionally. Resilience is helpful but it is not okay to presume that just because the masks have gone that the damage doesn't remain. We can't just pretend it hasn't happened and move on.”

Believe. Inspire. Succeed is the motto of BIS. Can you give us one or two examples of how this slogan is brought to life on a day-to-day basis?

“I've worked hard every day of my life in education and hard work, not luck, is what success comes from; I see that in our teachers, students and families every day too. My belief is that we are growing a community here where people come and choose to stay because of its values and what it has to offer, educationally and socially. I'm inspired every day by driving through the Schloss gates and seeing our beautiful Schloss and campus. I then spend my whole day working with fabulous, inspirational people - students, teachers, administration and facilities. Why wouldn't you want to belong to our community?”

What makes BIS a special school in your opinion?

“All schools are special in their own way but BIS just felt right to me from the first day and it still does. It was always the right mix of community, of growth, of achievement, and of unlimited potential. Every time I had an offer from somewhere else I always figured my adventure was still here. A lot of that has to do with the people I have worked with and especially those who have been with me since day One in July 2010.”

You have been working for BIS for 12 years - what is the one BIS story you always tell to your family and friends?

“I don't think I have one story or one meaningful moment. I still send family and friends photos of the Golden Room and the chapel, when it's snowing or the leaves are falling or it's beautifully fine, and I tell them how lucky I've been to work here and live in Munich. But if I had to state one event, then that would



“I spend my whole day working with fabulous, inspirational people.”

Brett Meuli

be the 30th anniversary last year; it's the best school event I've ever been to. I can remember late in the day sitting quietly close to the stage for a few minutes and just trying to take in everything I'd just seen and been a part of.”

You are retiring in 2023 - what are your future plans?

“I'm going home to the mountains and the sea. I don't want to work in another school and I won't continue my work with IB. I've had a great innings here and it's time to leave with gratitude and good grace.”

What do you wish for BIS in the future?

“We need to understand our whakapapa (heritage) and turangawaewae (where we belong). Be proud of where we have come from, who we are as a community, and grow with patience and dignity until we have gone from good to great, but that's the never ending journey.”

Thank you very much, Mr. Meuli!

Creativity & self-confidence on the catwalk

What a show! And what an excellent example of how we nurture creativity, self-confidence, innovation and critical thinking in our academic programme. 136 students from grades 9 - 12 transformed BIS into the biggest catwalk of the region.

Congratulations to our incredible visual art teachers, Sarah Proudler and Elizabeth King, our secondary school students, and the BIS community. The BIS Wearable Art Show in October 2021 was an incredible night! The event takes place every two years, but had been postponed an additional year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am passionate about art and art education. Good practice in teaching is important, but also for students to have a celebration of their artwork, such as in this high profile event." Over the nine years at our school,

Sarah Proudler has seen the Wearable Art Show grow from 60 student participants to 135 students on the catwalk this year.

"It is a fantastic feeling when students 'get it.' This is the reason us art teachers do what we do. It was phenomenal to see how engaged all students were, not only in transposing themselves into the character of their creation, but in the behind the scenes preparation for the audience who saw it. Being able to facilitate the imagination and creativity of young people is exhilarating."

"We are so grateful that the Wearable Art Show was finally able to return live and in front of an audience after the pandemic. Over the past few months the students have done a great job, the art rooms have been filled with ideas and creations," added BIS Art Teacher, Elizabeth King.

BIS students transformed the sports hall into the biggest catwalk of the region.





Diversity rocks! Celebrating 30 years of BIS

On the 4th of September 2021, BIS celebrated its 30th anniversary as an international school, centre of educational excellence and home away from home for global citizens.

This was a very special occasion for many reasons. Despite the pandemic-related restrictions on large-scale events, the community was able to gather. This was the first time that BIS could come together, after nearly two years of “pandemic life” including distance learning and lockdowns.

More than 2,000 guests from our community and several guests of honour from politics and business attended the open-air event, hosted on our spacious Haimhausen campus “Schlosspark.”

The day covered so much of what makes BIS special: student performances on stage, project demonstrations from Educational Technology and Design Technology, football games organised by our alumni, panel discussions with experts on the topic of

diversity, a keynote speech by a leader from Apple, delicious food and drinks, and finally, a band that really rocked! “With our anniversary event, we made clear that we are a community that values diversity and inclusion. We also showed that we are a creative and innovative ‘school of the future,’ today,” said Head of School Dr. Chrissie Sorenson.

“I am particularly pleased that our BIS community was finally able to come together again.”

The anniversary event also marked the start of the fundraising campaign for the Creativity & Innovation Centre (CIC). In the evening, the well-known Munich cover band Gerry & Gary provided the musical highlight, while the Haimhausen Castle shone impressively in rainbow colours.

BIS International Festival 2022




Bavarian
International
School

Believe. Inspire. Succeed.



Celebrating community and diversity*

At Bavarian International School, community is key. This is why we make sure to host a number of whole-school community events each school year. The BIS International Festival, at the start of the school year, allowed students, parents, teachers and staff to come together - and new families to feel welcomed into the community.

Around 2,200 members of the BIS community followed the invitation and enjoyed a happy, relaxed and varied day at the Haimhausen Campus, interrupted only by a two-hour heavy rain.

After the joint flag parade of the primary students from both campuses, the next highlight of the youngest followed: the first joint choir concert of Haimhausen and City Campus students on a big stage. After that, the secondary students showed their qualities as solo artists.

The final highlight - after overcoming the rain - was the BIS Staff Band "The Tuesdays" with Phil Sartor, Kim House, Lydia Nova, Jennifer Orszag, Duncan Bradshaw and Tim Salter.

The program of the day was as diverse as the school: soap bubble artists, face painting, sports and games, art exhibition inside and outside the old sports hall, a flea market to benefit the Ukrainian charity Care in Action e.V., soccer matches of BIS students and alumni, a raffle of the graduation committees and Eco-School performances.

The event showed impressively how important it is to offer such events for students, parents, teachers and staff and how strong the feeling of belonging to the community is.

* The BIS International Festival was not hosted in school year 2021-22, but in September 2022. We chose to feature this photo gallery in this BIS Annual Magazine as the memories are still fresh.



Bavarian International School

Diversity Rocks! – BIS International Festival







Bavarian International School **Diversity Rocks! – BIS International Festival**



**Many thanks to all partners and sponsors!
And a big thank you to all who helped make
this event a success!**

**Special thanks to our amazing performing students, all the music
and arts teachers, the facilities team, the Eco-schools team, the alumni
footballers and the communications team as main organisers.**

A very special thanks to the amazing staff band "The Tuesdays"!



huut.

Partnered with:

GRAL



“Get informed, form your own critical opinion”

You could have heard a pin drop while Natalie Amiri, ARD foreign correspondent, book author and TV presenter (“Weltspiegel”), spoke in the BIS auditorium in February 2022.

More than 80 grade 7 students were fascinated by Natalie Amiri’s talk, as she shared the realities of the current situation in Afghanistan, the Taliban’s takeover of power and the dramatic emergency situation there, all based on her own experiences visiting the highly destabilized country recently. Such a tangible, authentic learning experience was strengthened by Miss Amiri’s strong personality and culminated in an enthusiastic Q&A session.

“If everyone had been as interested in Afghanistan as you are, many problems there would not have arisen in the first place,” said Natalie Amiri to the room full of 12 and 13-year olds.

“Check the sources”

Amiri, a 43-year-old German-Iranian born in Munich and “Journalist of the Year

2021,” connected her talk directly with the students’ curriculum, as they were reading the novel “The Breadwinner” by Deborah Ellis, which is set in Afghanistan. Miss Amiri said she is passionate about ensuring that even young students understand globalization and are able to comprehend international political and economic interconnections. “I have high hopes for the new generation to develop more political interest in the world again. Knowledge is more important than ever in a time of disinformation,” said Miss Amiri, who speaks seven languages.

At the end of the nearly two-hour event, the award-winning journalist gave the young BIS students some tips to take with them: “Get informed, form your own critical opinion, use diverse international media and check the sources.”



“BIS is a community built on diversity”

Lifelong learning is one of Leonardo Peruzzi’s guiding principles. This mindset of openness, curiosity and the uncompromising desire to constantly develop himself was something he absorbed as a student at BIS. The Italian, now 31, also benefits from this attitude in his job at BMW. He can live it through another function – as a newly elected member of the BIS Supervisory Board.

This story could have come from a screenplay. At the age of eleven, Leonardo Peruzzi came to Germany with his parents and sister, without speaking a word of English. “My world was turned upside down. I moved away from my friends and the city I grew up in. BIS was at the other end of this journey. It welcomed me with open arms, made me feel at home,” remembers the native of Milan.

After eight years at BIS in Haimhausen, he graduated in 2009, followed by a bachelor’s and master’s degree in American Studies at Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. During his studies, he left his comfort zone to spend a year studying abroad in Detroit (USA). This new adventure had a wonderful side effect: he met his wife, Paula, there. Once he returned, he started working at a Munich-based startup. This experience opened the doors to the BMW Group, where he is working as Customer Experience Specialist. Just 13 years after graduating with the International Baccalaureate Diploma

(IB DP), Leonardo Peruzzi returns in an official function to BIS, joining the nine-member Supervisory Board.

Open-mindedness as part of the DNA

“BIS is a community built on diversity. Part of the added value of acknowledging diversity and promoting inclusion is the way it changes our perspective of the world. Through this, we understand that there is not a unique view of the world, that different opinions are not only to be understood, but also valued. This for me is the essence of lifelong learning, the curiosity and openness to the new,” explains the young father (his son Nicolás was born in November 2021), who speaks Italian, German, English and Spanish fluently.

In August 2022 he celebrated a significant anniversary, because exactly 20 years ago he came to Germany with his family and joined BIS. Another special chapter in the screenplay called life...



Proud winners: the BIS Blooms (on the right of the photo: BIS teacher Emma Morris).

And the green oscar goes to ...

Commitment to environmental protection and sustainability is important at BIS. Taking responsibility for our planet is an essential skill for the future.

Our students’ enthusiasm is reflected in the Eco Agents, Eco Club and Green Teams at both campuses of BIS. As a result of all its efforts, BIS was awarded three stars as an European Eco-school for the second time in a row in December 2021.

Then, in June 2022, BIS students crowned their “There is no planet B” activities with two special awards: at the premiere of the “Climate Heroes Award”, BIS took first and second place, out of 80 entries.

Double triumph for BIS

The winners were BIS Blooms with their contribution to biodiversity and the idea of a global “Schools Bloom” seal of quality – they received 10,000 euros in prize money for their sustainability project and 2,000 euros for their team. Second place went to the

“Giving Greens” with their project to promote healthy nutrition and draw attention to the negative effects of meat and milk production (7,000 euro prize money plus 1,000 euro for the team). The BIS students, a total of 13 young people from 10 nations, thus reached a total of 20,000 euros for Eco-school projects at Bavarian International School.

The grand finale of the Climate Heroes Award took place at the start of the Munich Science Days and FORSCHA at the Deutsches Verkehrsmuseum. The teams had to present their project and then answer critical questions from a jury. The Climate Heroes Award is organized by the Arvantis Social Foundation. Students from grade 7 can work on a sustainability project and develop innovative solutions to fight climate change.

Scan the QR code to read more.



Founded the 8thUniverse brand together: James Copping (GB) and Fabian Pletzer (AUT).

Entrepreneurship at the age of 16

It all started in art class on the top floor of the Schloss Haimhausen. Fabian Pletzer and James Copping, both 15 years old at the time, formed a team on an art project. The collaboration quickly developed into a deep friendship. A year later, the Austrian and Englishman are business partners and founders of their own start-up: the streetwear brand 8thUniverse.

The new brand includes unisex streetwear clothing in the form of custom fitted designs on garment types such as t-shirts, hoodies, and pants – all sustainably produced with organic materials. The name 8thUniverse derives from two sources of ideology, the name universe from a Drake song, and 8 because when you rotate it by 90 degrees you end up with infinity. The two meanings link together to reflect the goal of the brand which is longevity and creativity. The first

collection from 8thUniverse was called Trauma and deliberately thematized sorrows and fears from the coronavirus pandemic.

Fabian and James work together as equal partners and complement each other perfectly with their respective specialties. Fabian concentrates more on design, fashion and marketing, while James brings his strengths in technology and finance. "The project has allowed us to learn an extensive

amount of knowledge about business, specifically things that you can not learn from a textbook. All of the mistakes we have made have allowed us to grow and be able to apply them to our future use cases in the real world," said the 16-year-old entrepreneurs. They have experienced the rocky road of founders, had to cope with setbacks, faced problems with production and fundraising the start-up capital was also challenging. Their persistence paid off, and 8thUniverse was launched in October 2021, with a boom. An event at an exclusive streetwear store in Munich, with gastronomy, family, friends, and many others celebrated the launch of the brand. The electric atmosphere created a tightly knit community, and celebrated what the streetwear community is about – fun and creativity.

Now Fabian and James are focusing on new collections, building their community, raising awareness and opening new distribution channels.

Life skills for a new tomorrow

The Bavarian International School has played no small part in the success of the young global citizens. Fabian's English skills were quite good prior to his entry into 9th grade, however the immersive atmosphere at BIS turned him into a fluent speaker. Both emphasize how they have developed their research skills in particular and can combine knowledge from different disciplines.

The two young gentlemen also noted, "When you're founding a startup, you do get confused. If you can't make basic connections between different disciplines, you can get lost along the way."

"BIS is not only a place where we learn knowledge, but it also allows us to meet innovative and creative people to broaden our network at a young age, unlike other schools, which expect you to 'swallow a textbook' and only memorize facts and dates. BIS teaches us to think and think for ourselves, gaining knowledge independently in topics we love. Critically evaluating statements and points of view to come to a balanced conclusion, a skill that is becoming even more important as our world media, and opinions become increasingly polarized," explained Fabian and James.

In the school year 2022-23, the two friends will start the final chapter of their school career at BIS - Grade 11 and 12 to then graduate with the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB DP).

No matter what direction Fabian and James take later, they will stick with 8thUniverse and keep going. "It's our first business, so it will always have a special place in our hearts." It definitely doesn't sound like it will be the Austrian-English duo's last entrepreneurship...

www.8th-universe.com



Essential backbone of the school

The Information Technology (IT) team at BIS is responsible for much more than one would think. Because of their integration with academic systems, as well as with Educational Technology, BIS IT is the essential backbone of the school.

Especially at the beginning of the Corona pandemic, the importance of a highly professional IT team, functioning infrastructure and digitally-savvy teachers became clear as if through a magnifying glass.

“The pandemic was an interesting proving ground. While the technologies and platforms BIS already had in place were extremely effective in a distance learning environment, we also learned we needed to take great care to ensure that students and teachers had the support they needed to get the most out of those technologies while using them under new and sometimes challenging conditions.” says Kevin Skidmore. The American is the Head of IT and will celebrate his 20th jubilee at BIS next

year. His team includes the helpdesk team lead and three helpdesk staff members, a network and systems administrator and an academic systems coordinator. The extended tech team additionally includes three Educational Technology specialists.

The BIS IT team supports around 1500 staff and students using Mac, Windows, and iOS devices, across a wide variety of self hosted and cloud based educational and business application platforms.

“IT and Educational Technology are complementary in a school environment,” explains Mr. Skidmore, the 52-year-old father of three, who comes from Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, USA) and previously worked

in IT for around ten years in the private sector at software, telecommunications and financial companies.

“The IT department’s greatest purpose is to support teaching and learning, whether it’s by managing the back office processes that are integral to the function of a school, or providing useful technologies and platforms that can be directly used with students in their studies. Educational Technology is the concept of applying technology to education in a meaningful way, and the two areas need to coincide in harmony.”

Disruptive technological changes

A dedicated IT team, digital-savvy teachers, robust WiFi, modern devices and applications for everyone with every student grade 3-5 receiving a BIS provided iPad, and grade 6 onwards moving to a ‘bring your own device’ programme – this versatile combination is a gold standard for schools everywhere to aspire to. Especially when it comes to preparing young people for the new world of tomorrow, digital skills are an essential basis.

Or in Kevin Skidmore’s words: “The reality is, our young students will likely see technological changes so disruptive that many of today’s careers may become obsolete, or at least transformed in unpredictable ways. So the key takeaway for me is that students

need to learn the critical thinking, problem solving, and technology skills that will allow them to successfully navigate the challenges of the future.”

“The IT department’s greatest purpose is to support teaching and learning.”

Kevin Skidmore

Fortunately for BIS, programming and electronics are among the hobbies of the IT leader – along with biking and playing guitar and bass – so it’s in his nature to constantly develop, and keep himself busy with upcoming trends. According to Mr. Skidmore, schools will always remain a social place of real-life interaction, but Virtual and Augmented Reality or Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can also support the learning experience – if used wisely.

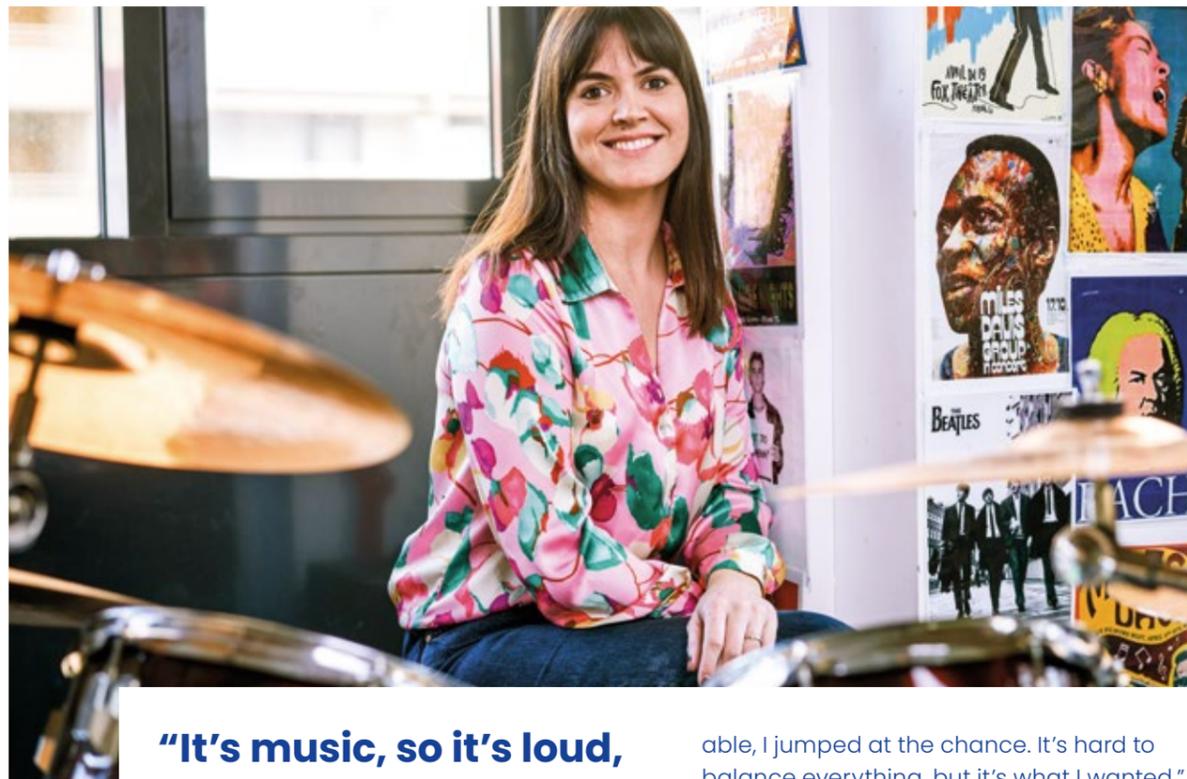
Mr. Skidmore and his team are currently working to further connect technology with the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) philosophy, to gain experiences in programming and robotics, and to improve the user experience of families by streamlining communications processes and channels – all with the aim that IT remains a strong backbone of BIS, helping to shape the future of learning.



How can we help?
The friendly faces of the BIS IT team (from left to right): Kevin Skidmore, Garrett Weinheimer, Jayna Dahya, Markus Poplawski, Mehbub Yusuf and Rowan Meldal-Johnsen.

New beginnings and grand plans

There are many reasons to start fresh: the end of a pandemic, a new job, a new role, or a new baby. These BIS teachers know the power of a fresh start and are always thinking ahead; developing themselves to better contribute to student learning and experience.



“It’s music, so it’s loud, it’s fun, there’s a lot going on!”

**Deborah Jermyn,
Music Teacher, City Campus**

Deborah Jermyn came to work at BIS City Campus in 2018, after teaching in Scotland, China and Malaysia. In school year 2021-22, she started the year at home with her child, and then returned to teaching music in March 2022.

“I was excited and ready to come back. I love working here. But I did find it challenging, having to balance my new life. Also, coming back halfway through the year was not easy. But I always wanted to work full-time. So when a role became avail-

able, I jumped at the chance. It’s hard to balance everything, but it’s what I wanted.” Miss Debbie always knew she wanted to be a music teacher and got her Bachelor of Music Education from the Royal Conservatory of Scotland. At City Campus, she’s worked with all ages of students, from Early Childhood through grade 5.

“I love my job. BIS leaders appreciate the work that goes on behind the scenes, like preparing for concerts, assemblies, and BIS community events. They value music and that’s not always the case in other schools.”

“We have 60 students doing one-on-one instrumental lessons. That’s a huge portion of our City Campus student population. As the school expands, I would love to have more music!”



Voice, choice and ownership

Vice Principal and Primary Years Programme (PYP) Coordinator, City Campus

PYP is one of many abbreviations in the world of International Baccalaureate schools. Primary Years Programme is what it means, and it refers to the educational framework for Early Years and Primary School. Nicola Moloney is incredibly familiar with this and the German/Brit is “Mrs. PYP” of the BIS City Campus.

Nicola Moloney has been the Vice Principal and PYP Coordinator at the Schwabing Campus for over five years and has worked for BIS for over 20 years in total. “City Campus has its own very special and unique feeling.

It is a very caring, active and collaborative community where teachers, students and parents work together. This supportive learning environment provides a rich, future-facing education,” says the mother of three, whose children have already graduated from school. She enjoys being an active part of this community, greeting children and parents at the entrance or in the underground car park in the morning, visiting the classrooms and seeing the engagement of the students (“This is always inspiring”) and being approachable at every school event. “Give my best and go the extra mile to support others”, is not without reason the motto of the experienced educator (Master’s degree in Education from Bath University with additional expertise in school leadership, learning support and English language acquisition).

Foster global citizens

The programme lays strong foundations for the next steps in the International Baccalaureate, developing intercultural understanding and supporting the growth of the whole child. “Students are motivated and want to learn, developing their understanding as well as their skills. Giving voice, choice and ownership empowers them to follow their interests”, says Mrs. Moloney, who loves reading, educational research and being outside (walking, biking, swimming, skiing, camping and dining al fresco) in her free time. She is convinced that this approach in particular will foster the development of global citizens of the future. Learning should be fun, age-appropriate and customised to individual needs.

“Since factual information is available with the click of a button, education has changed. It is crucial for our students to develop critical thinking and creative skills, whilst learning to negotiate and collaborate effectively as part of a team. Successful individuals enjoy being involved and using their skills, so often resulting in them wanting to take action and make a difference.”



“My students inform my teaching”

Liam McDermott, Primary Teacher, Haimhausen Campus

Liam McDermott is from Ireland, studied journalism at university and never planned to become a teacher. A passion for new places led him to a career in education.

“My first job was at 12 years of age. I would travel round to local farmers, offering to clean their sheds. Then I transitioned to the construction industry and worked as a scaffolder. There are houses all over the West of Ireland that I have had a hand in building. In university, I trained as a journalist. I have had a few articles in national and regional newspapers in Ireland. However, when I graduated in 2013, job prospects in Ireland were quite poor. Rather than spend time struggling to eke out a living at home, I chose to move to China and teach English.”

The experience teaching in China was so positive, it changed Mr. McDermott’s mind about his career path and got him back in school to become a teacher. He gained a teaching degree and a Master’s Degree. As someone who has experienced the

excitement of following an unplanned path, ‘Mr. Mac’ brings a passion for new interests into his classroom.

“I do my best to have my students inform my teaching. I try to learn what their interests are, be it books, films, video games, etc., and use this information in my teaching.”

After working for a short time in Denmark, Mr. McDermott started working at BIS, at the end of summer 2020, just a few months into the pandemic. During the school year 2021-22, Mr. McDermott taught second grade. In the current school year, he is teaching fifth grade.

“I see myself at BIS for the foreseeable future,” said Mr. McDermott. “But that itch to move somewhere new will never go away. I would like to see more of the world before I eventually hang up my white-board marker.”



“Reading, research and social-emotional learning”

Stephanie Zeckser, Librarian & Media Specialist and Community Lead, Primary School Academic Council, Haimhausen Primary School

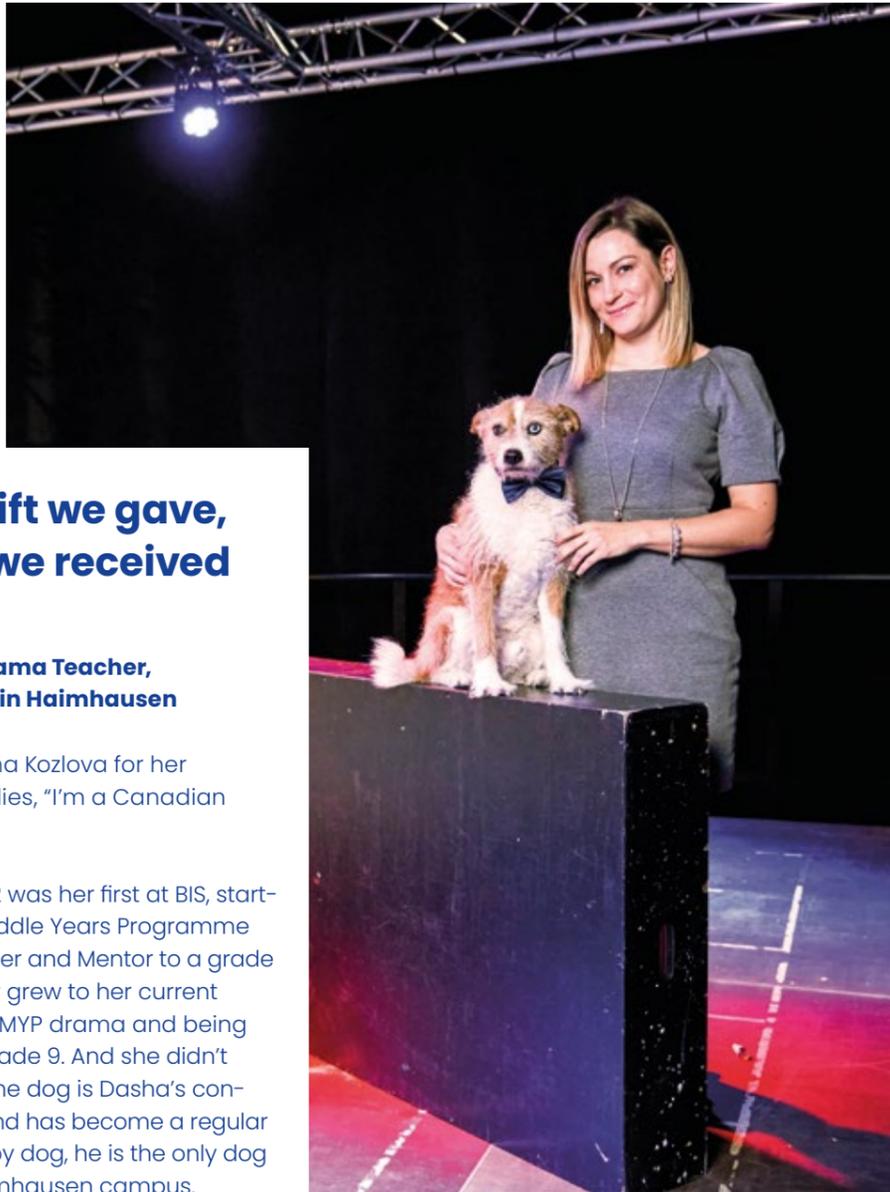
Stephanie Zeckser has been the librarian at the Primary School in Haimhausen since 2016. After studying library science in Kansas, USA, and getting her Master’s Degree, she worked as a high school librarian for five years. Disappointed with how library science was undervalued in that country, she decided to look for ‘greener pastures’ and found a job at BIS.

“Moving to Germany and working at an international school was the right choice for me. The importance international schools give the library programme is quite different from my experience in American public schools.”

In school year 2021-22, with distance learning largely over and learning happening in-person again, Ms. Zeckser saw a number of changes. “The difference between doing

storytime online and doing it in-person is a night-and-day difference. There’s nothing to replace an in-person storytime. Secondly, the kids are so much more technology savvy now, working with their iPads and using Google products. The other side of that is they are more attached to devices than they used to be.”

“And finally, we really devoted time, energy and money to developing our social and emotional learning. After distance learning, students needed this support. We create character education lessons, where we talk about how to show empathy, get along with others, and conflict resolution. We put other things on hold to be able to focus on building a community within the class. We want students to understand, this is who you are, this is who we are, this is your school where you belong.”



“It was a gift we gave, and a gift we received as well”

Dasha Kozlova, Drama Teacher, Secondary School in Haimhausen

When you ask Dasha Kozlova for her nationality, she replies, “I’m a Canadian born in Belarus.”

School year 2021-22 was her first at BIS, starting in a role as a Middle Years Programme (MYP) Drama Teacher and Mentor to a grade 8 class. That quickly grew to her current role teaching all of MYP drama and being Pastoral Lead for grade 9. And she didn’t come alone! Jack the dog is Dasha’s constant companion and has become a regular fixture – as a therapy dog, he is the only dog allowed on the Haimhausen campus.

In March, BIS decided to accept 40 Ukrainian students who had fled the war. “Because I was born in Belarus, that part of the world is close to my heart. I wrote to Dr. Sorenson directly and offered my help.”

The Russian-speaker became a critical member of the integration team, helping students to adapt to life in Germany and life at BIS.

“I was like their pastoral leader. We had chats at lunch to talk about their struggles, how to use German public healthcare, how to use the public bus, everything! I taught some of them in my drama classes as well.

Jack was there through it all and helped with those lunchtime circles.”

“It was a really wonderful thing the school did and it was an opportunity for the students to have stability for them in a time of complete chaos. I got to know some of them very well, which was positive and heartwarming for me. I’m still in touch with some of them. It was a gift we gave them, and a gift for ourselves as well. It showed how much we can help, individually and as a community.”

A number of Ukrainian students are still with us at the BIS Secondary School.



“I’ve been a teacher for ages”

Oliver Blackley, Integrated Humanities Teacher, Middle Years Programme (MYP), Haimhausen

Oliver Blackley graduated from BIS in 2009 and started working as an Integrated Humanities Teacher at BIS in school year 2021-22. A true third-culture kid, he was born and raised in Munich, and his parents are Scottish and Irish. He holds a Bachelor and two Masters degrees, as well as his teacher certification, which he only recently completed.

“Without realizing it, I’ve been a teacher for ages. I ran the Model United Nations club at BIS, was a student ambassador during university, worked for an NGO in London, and taught in Hong Kong. During COVID, I missed teaching and decided to do some substitute work at BIS. I enjoyed it so much, I got my teacher’s certification. I’ve only just done that, though I’ve been teaching for 10 years already.”

“At first, being back at BIS as a teacher was really strange. The strangest thing was wearing the orange vest! I teach history, geography and politics to about 125 grade 7, 8 and 9 students. I really like the kids because they are inquisitive learners. I also like the flexibility I have to try new things, like building up an interest in debate at BIS and helping with the Infinity Programme.”

“Humanities is about making arguments. It’s about interpreting information, making claims about it and contextualizing your place within the world. It’s a key skill. When I was at BIS, I had a history teacher who really inspired me. His name was Leon McCluskey. He was the reason I went on to study history and politics. When I graduated from BIS, there was a publication done by the student council that predicted what everyone was going to do in the future. For example, president of the USA, professional football player, etc. Mine was, ‘He will be the next Mr. McCluskey.’ It was funny at the time, but they were right; it’s come true!”



“This is a fantastic place to be making and creating”

Kim Kermath, Head of Design Technology/ MYP & DP Design Teacher, Haimhausen Campus

School year 2021-22 was Kim Kermath’s fifth year teaching at BIS and her first year as Head of Design Technology. She started as a Design Teacher for the Middle Years Programme (MYP), then added Diploma Programme (DP) design classes before taking over at the Head of Department. Her success lines up with the success of the department as a highly desirable area of study for BIS students.

“Our subject is something that students really enjoy and see value in. I think parents see that too. The interest in taking design at the DP level has doubled as we now have two DP classes in grade 11 for the first time. School leadership recognizes that and are investing in the programme as well. We’ve gained another teacher and an additional workspace. This is also a result of the work other team members have done, building

up the programme over the years.” One of her first major challenges as Head of Department was how to adapt the design curriculum to COVID regulations.

“I was coming from a school that didn’t have the resources we have at BIS, so my mouth was on the floor! This is a fantastic place to be, to be making and creating! Then COVID came. We weren’t allowed to touch the tools because of the regulations. So as Head of Department, I had to factor that in and make changes to the curriculum. It was a lot of collaboration and a good challenge for me. I hit the ground running and I feel proud of myself for doing that. I had a great team as well to support me.”

“Design thinking is special. It’s a subject that really lends itself to teamwork and conversation. It’s not just a school project. It can be something that’s taken out into the world and beyond. As the Head of Department, I am now looking beyond my classes and seeing the progression, thinking about the new technologies coming about, thinking about new opportunities, especially after COVID. What can we do for the whole school? How can the department bring something to that mix?”



“I hope to make the arts more visible at this school”

Isabel Moraes, Head of Visual and Performing Arts, Service as Action Coordinator, and Theatre Teacher, Haimhausen Campus

School year 2021-22 was the year Isabel Moraes decided she was ready for more. With Connie Panagakis leaving at the end of the year, the role of Head of Visual and Performing Arts was in need of a new leader, and Isabel was the perfect fit.

“I’m interested in curriculum development and alignment. Connie had done a

fantastic job, she was doing so well, and I was motivated to keep going and continue what she had started. I felt I was at a point in my career where I was equipped to be the one leading the department.”

Isabel is currently in her fifth year of teaching at BIS. Her husband is also a teacher at the school and they have two children who attend as well. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre and Education, which she completed in Brazil, and a Masters in Educational Theatre for Communities and Colleges from New York University.

What are her goals for her new role? “I’m hoping to grow the arts department and make it more visible around the school. I want to bring more productions to the Secondary School. I want there to be more things happening in the arts, so I’m starting a drama club for smaller performances. I want to grow our student numbers for music and theatre arts and to build a programme where more kids are excited about joining the arts as part of their academic experience with us at BIS.”

Heart, help and money for Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, the world changed overnight. Putin's Russia started a war against Ukraine, causing shock, suffering, and displacement. The BIS community responded immediately with a comprehensive help programme.

As of early March, Bavarian International School decided to take in a total of 40 Ukrainian children free of charge at our Primary schools and at the Secondary school, across both BIS campuses – a number that is second to none, not only in Bavaria.

The BIS community showed determined willingness to help and started charity actions and projects throughout the school – student concerts, sticker sales, flea markets, Student Council sales and last but not least the “Runathon for Ukraine”, which alone raised over 20,000 euros in donations. Many BIS parents and teachers took students and families into their homes or donated money. BIS quickly agreed to bundle all donations to Care in Action e.V., as BIS was already familiar with this Ukrainian aid organisation through the engagement of our geography teacher Fred Luzanycia, a native Ukrainian. By the end of the school year, 34,501 euros were collected for Care in Action e.V. – and the commitment continued thereafter...

Impressive commitment of teachers

During this challenging time, the BIS academic team proved again that they are not only excellent teachers, but also caring community members. Dasha Kozlova and Amaryllis Schepens developed an onboarding program for the Ukrainian students with technology lessons, diagnostic tests, get-to-know-each-other activities and online classes in Ukrainian language. They held bi-weekly assemblies so that the Ukrainian



One of many charity projects of the BIS Community: the Runathon for Ukraine.

children could familiarise themselves as quickly as possible with BIS, Munich, local systems (health insurance, public transportation, etc.) and find a home away from home.

“Slowly the students were integrated into regular classrooms where teachers took extra care to help them succeed with limited English skills,” said Dasha Kozlova, a drama and theatre teacher at BIS. She practised an open door policy during every lunch break so that Ukrainian students could talk about their challenges with her. Or, they could hang out with the therapy dog, Jack.

BIS and ORGANIC GARDEN ensured that the cost of lunch was covered for the Ukrainian students, the IT team assisted with digital devices, the Educational Technology team launched special projects, and last but not least, many BIS Leadership members were closely involved in curriculum adjustments.

“The helpfulness of the entire BIS community was overwhelming and the extra efforts of our teachers cannot be overstated. We can be very proud of the BIS help campaign,” said Head of School, Dr. Chrissie Sorenson.

Believe. Inspire. Succeed.

Bavarian International School is a highly vibrant, dynamic and inspiring place, with small and large progress, exciting stories and extraordinary successes happening every day. Trying to find a headline for all the excitement of learning, our slogan fits perfectly: Believe. Inspire. Succeed.



Solving real world problems

A group of BIS students did an exceptional job of showing how they combine all the skills they have learned, such as science, design tech, mathematics and creativity, to solve a real-world problem. Led by Roger Mas Serra, Mohul Shukla and Jamie Baumler BIS's Environmental Engineering Team worked on creating a “Waste Collector & Water Quality Evaluator Boat” as their Middle Years Programme “Service as Action” long term project. The trio describes the initial situation as follows: over four decades, plastic pollution has proved to be detrimental towards our environment and our ecosystems. Its effects are felt drastically as plastic continues to pollute our sources of water. “As the Environmental Engineering Team, we actively sought to mitigate the impacts of plastic pollution in lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers by designing and creating a solution using sustainable technologies,” described Roger, Mohul and Jamie. The outcome was the Trash Obliteration and Analysis Device (TOAD). This device is an unmanned, radio-controlled boat that would not only collect floating plastic waste and other debris, but also gather information regarding the pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen levels of the water using sensors.

BIS Grill & Chill

For the end of school year 2021-22, school management came up with a special event to bring together all families, teachers and staff. It was a time to relax and spend some quality time together after a busy year. At the BIS Grill & Chill in June 2022, around 1,500 attendees enjoyed food, drinks, live music from the band "Fresh Drinks" (including Niki Kalbfell and Carrie Lawler from the BIS team as main singers), sports, games and a big flea market. The effort was worth it as the community came together once again to enjoy the special BIS spirit on the beautiful Haimhausen campus.



Preparing for the real world

BIS Interview Day is one of the valuable components of the BIS university and career counselling programme. Over the course of one morning, Grade 11 students practise job interviews with experienced individuals from the real world of business. Students learn to work on their verbal curriculum vitae, answer questions, boost their confidence and receive practical tips such as preparing for the interviewer, body language, etc. Among those attending the BIS Careers Day in November 2021 were Clarissa Haller, Daniela Fond, Alessandro Reitano (photo), Hugo van Rensburg, Peter Berg, Dr. Jörg Hofmann, Marc Aghili, Dr. Philipp Härle and Dr. Manuel Cubero.



Sustainability Summit 2021

A tradition of many years, the BIS Sustainability Summit brings together all of the school's grade 9 students as part of the Service as Action (SA) and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) aspect of the International Baccalaureate curriculum. The day opens with impassioned speeches from leaders in environmentalism, including the school's own student-led "Green Team". After listening to speeches from experts, students are asked to come up with their own ideas, campaigns and persuasive speeches, and to compete for the favour of a panel of judges at the end of the day.

Dimana Mitova (Organic Garden) spoke about sustainable food culture and how this philosophy shapes the meals BIS students are offered everyday in the cafeteria. Etienne Denk (Fridays for Future Munich) gave a compelling speech about the important difference between knowing about climate change and truly understanding it. Martin Betzold (Green City) took the stage to deliver the final speech. His main call-to-action for the students was to ask inconvenient, and possibly uncomfortable, questions of themselves, of their teachers and of their parents.

"The energy among the students was great. They were buzzing! Lots of 'blue sky' thinking. They came up with some real gems!" said Emma Morris, the BIS teacher who leads this special event.



Special guest from University College London

University College London (UCL) is one of the top 20 universities in the world. In March 2021, Mustaqem Ali, UCL's Senior Liaison & Recruitment Officer, visited BIS to give more than 40 students in grades 9-12 an excellent overview of UCL's academic programs and student life. With over 67,000 applications chasing just over 4,000 first year undergraduate places, UCL is one of the most competitive universities in Europe. Currently, BIS graduates at UCL are studying English, Bioprocessing of New Medicines, Physics, Chemistry with Management Studies and Medical Sciences.

"Our students' applications to UCL and other competitive universities have been so successful as they have taken every opportunity to strengthen their personal as well as academic profiles," said Mrs Jean Moorhouse, Dean of Students at BIS. "By undertaking extra reading and research and engaging in online courses, taster classes, Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) activities and internships related to their subjects of choice, they have a breadth of understanding which helps them to stand out from other candidates."

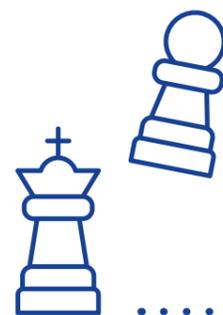


BIS on the Disney Channel

Beni Weber, famous host and TV presenter of the “Beni Challenge” on the Disney Channel, visited our Haimhausen Campus to produce a TV story. In this challenge, Beni had to try for first place in various competitions – including a chess match against BIS student Alexander Heelan. As a setting, we were fortunate to use the unique classroom of our humanities teacher, David Heath. In the end, of course, Beni had no chance, because 14-year-old Alex won the Westchester Championships four times in a row in his home near New York in his younger years. At the Munich Open, the American chess talent finished second in his age group. His greatest experience so far was a chess game versus multiple world



champion Magnus Carlsen. “It was scary, considering it was a room full of adults and I was on a raised platform playing against him. It was a lot of fun though. Out of 20 tables, I was the last 8th to get checkmated,” said Alex. What he learns from the game is to take his time to make decisions and to always think more than one step ahead.



Diversity rocks

Thanks to our students, BIS is always progressing. The BIS Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student-led group representing the LGBTQ+ community. In the school year 2021-22 they decided to take more of an active role in raising awareness and proposing solutions to issues they felt BIS could better address. One action was to present at a Secondary School staff meeting. They also created an internal website which is a comprehensive resource for BIS staff and students. The aim was to provide information students felt had been missing, helping to break down stigmas and support inclusion.

“If it isn’t discussed, people don’t have the terminology or ability to find out more. Hence, the website,” said one grade 12 student, who co-created the new platform.

The GSA recently shifted its focus towards activism within the school community, aiming to support better understanding of LGBTQ+ relevant topics. In the past, the group was more private and focused on supporting its members. But after the Covid pandemic, and with the encouragement of BIS counsellors, students decided to speak up about issues they felt needed to be addressed.



Secondary School production: “A Christmas Carol”



In December, 12 BIS students from grades 10–12 performed the well-known story of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” in an extraordinary way. The traditional tale was adapted by Neil Bartlett and performed as a “promenade performance.” The young actors guided the audience from the auditorium to other places on the Haimhausen Campus: the garden of the Early Childhood Centre, the atrium of the Primary School and the cafeteria, as they were invited to join Scrooge in revisiting his past, and look at what his future might hold. The main characters Julia K. as Scrooge, Lara M. and Lila C. as well as Megan F., Linda K., Max L., Deniz N., Ines O., Daniel P., Sophia S., Amelia T. and Sama Y. received well-deserved applause from parents, teachers and staff. The teaching team included: Isabel Moraes as director, and Connie Panagakis and Holly Mitchell as assistant directors.



Arts in the schloss

On 30 March 2022, BIS hosted its Visual Art Exhibition in the Schloss Haimhausen, welcoming guests to view artworks by 13 students, as part of their grade 12 fine arts assessment of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP). The student group prepared creative works in the genres of painting, mixed media, photography, film, installation, sculpture, and fashion.

“The visual art students in this year 2022 are particularly sensitive to the world around them, I feel, as the world in which they live is in particularly turbulent times,” said Sarah Proudler, Visual Arts Teacher at BIS. “The effect of Covid on everyday life, world conflict, crisis and pressures of society make their voices more touching than ever.”

While guests walked around the Haimhausen Schloss to view the works, the students presented their personal viewpoints on issues which are important to them individually, such as care of the environment, social pressures and body image, cultural diversity and world strife.



Connecting through parent volunteers

One of the strongest first impressions for students and families at BIS is the embrace of the community.

The Parent Community Council (PCC) is a key part of the BIS ecosystem and is made up of volunteer parents and family members. Their mission is to enrich the overall educational and cultural experiences for all families at BIS, encourage mutual support, and build community across both campuses.

The PCC continued to strengthen our school in 2021-22 by facilitating communication between the school and the parents, organising clubs and social events, and supporting school initiatives.

As soon as a student joins BIS, the PCC is there to create a home away from home, connecting the family with the wider community through Grade Level Representatives, Language Area Representatives, and other PCC volunteers.



Model United Nations

Attending the Model United Nations of Munich is a signature programme at BIS. This experience is a highlight for our students, who learn so much from reflecting on global issues and preparing advocacy for meaningful change, together with other students from the region.

BIS students from grades 10, 11 and 12 joined the 18th annual session of this conference in Munich.

"BIS had excellent participation at the Model United Nations 2021 conference," said Diego Jaque Pino, Humanities and Theory of Knowledge Teacher at BIS.

"Our students showed a tremendous amount of leadership, ability to collaborate, articulate ideas while speaking publicly and debating. They showed a strong ability to adapt to changing scenarios provided in the conference. Our students demonstrated that they are highly committed, passionate, professional and collaborative, with a keen ability to inspire others and succeed."

Impressive award win by Kiki

"If I put my heart and soul into a project, I can be very successful." This is what BIS student Kiki Tifase (13) thought of winning an international essay competition. Among thousands of participants worldwide, the eighth-grader impressed the jury and was one of only ten students to receive this award. The prize was a 100% scholarship to a medical summer school in Oxford or Cambridge. Other BIS students were also rewarded for their excellent contributions with a 50% scholarship: Axel van den Ancker (Grade 11), Gioia Sommerburg (Grade 10), Grace van den Ancker (Grade 8) and Zoe C. (Grade 8).

Among the eight topics available, Kiki chose, "Should all vaccines be mandatory?" from the field of medicine. "Throughout my studying process, I was able to learn about not only scientific information but also social, ethical and economic facts that highly changed my views on the topic of vaccinations and their necessity in today's world", said Kiki (Nigeria / USA).

Clara's chance for Cambridge

In her graduation year 2022, Clara de la Fuente Carmona achieved what many students around the globe dream of: an offer to study at the University of Cambridge. "With a little ambition and hard work you can achieve anything," said the 17 year old Spaniard. Academic results were important in the application for this top university, but Clara was certain that her personal statement and final interview played a particularly crucial role. Clara was also able to show her broad range of interests: she led a reading group, played volleyball and the guitar, and developed an interest in programming and Artificial Intelligence (AI). "BIS has provided me with the motivation and perseverance necessary to apply and be successful, so it holds a special place in my heart."



Back on track

After a two-year break from sports, due to Corona, BIS was privileged to host the European Sports Conference (ESC) in varsity track and field. Nearly 80 students from four international schools competed in 15 events for glory, honour and medals. BIS took first place with 230.5 points, ahead of the International School of Zug and Luzern (ISZL) with 207.5 points, The American School of Switzerland (TASIS) with 115 points and the American School of Milan (ASM) with 65 points. The best female athlete was awarded to Holly L. of TASIS, while the boys' honour went to Giorgio Lombardi of BIS, grade 11. "Through Corona, some students had the last big event of this kind when they were in Grade 6 - now they are in Grade 9, so it was very emotional for many," said Phil Drake, BIS Athletics Director. Track & field is part of the After School Activities programme at BIS - approximately 60 students train three times a week and participate in three to four competitions per season.

Coach for the fastest sport on two feet

Margaret “Maggi” Buckley is not only a well-liked and highly-engaged physical education teacher at BIS City Campus. Her second passion is the sport of lacrosse. The American is the assistant coach for the national lacrosse team of Scotland. In summer 2022, her team participated in the Women’s Lacrosse World Cup in Towson, Maryland, USA. “That was a special moment for me because I grew up two hours away from Towson,” said Maggi. In the end, Scotland finished in tenth place out of 30 nations, with the USA winning the title in the final against Canada.

The oldest organised sport in North America and the “fastest sport on two feet” runs in Maggi Buckley’s family. Her grandfather and also her four siblings played lacrosse. She herself started at age six and later received a lacrosse scholarship at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. At university, she was captain, conference champion and most valuable player in 2017. When Maggi came to Germany in 2020, she started as head coach for the Rot-Weiss Munich Lacrosse Club. Two years later, the team won the silver medal at the German championships.



Personal Project Grade 10

In 2021-22, changes were made to the Personal Project requirements for grade 10 students. But the essential core was the same: students chose any topic of personal interest and developed a product around it. Projects ranged from novels, to websites, to apps, to a cookbook for cats, a skateboard, to a cookbook for cats, dresses, and a programmed robot hand.

“My favourite part of the project is the exhibition as it is always a pleasure to see the variety, creativity, and originality our students display when presenting their products,” said Sandra Evans, Pastoral Leader Grade 10. “It is the first time throughout the Middle Years Programme that students complete such a big project over a period of half a year, dealing with the planning, creation, and reflection of their learning and product, meeting various deadlines, and applying skills such as self-management, research, and thinking. The Personal Project offers students an opportunity to grow and to apply and develop skills for their future studies and life. Our grade 10 students did exceptionally well given the disruptions the pandemic caused and, nevertheless, achieved the best results in their reports.”



Trick or treat!

Spooky Day at BIS City Campus was once again a special experience. Dressed up from head to toe, the students from more than 30 nations enjoyed a spooky reading lesson, exciting games, music and tasks to collect sweets. Through the outstanding commitment and detailed work of the Parent Community Council (PCC), the entire City Campus was transformed into a wonderful Halloween world. An unforgettable day!



The biggest learning journey

The PYP Grade 5 Exhibition is the culmination of the Primary Years Programme (PYP). After identifying their own interest areas, students use and apply the skills learnt throughout their primary years: researching, connecting with experts and taking meaningful action, before sharing their learning.

On the evening of the PYP Exhibition, the students successfully and clearly articulated their learning journeys and reflections along

with the thinking that was incorporated in their artistic representations. The PYP Exhibition enabled students to further their skills as self-directed learners and become increasingly self aware, which will undoubtedly benefit them in the future. “I learned through this process to manage myself better. I also learned to plan my project, what materials I need, the time I need to complete it and to ask people for help when needed,” said a BIS student.

Teamwork, passion and self-confidence

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, BIS City Campus children were once again able to perform together on stage at the campus in Schwabing. Tears of joy and thunderous applause followed the extraordinary success of 22 children from grades 3-5 who had performed "Snow White," with much help from a team of dedicated teachers and parents.

"It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic the children were about what they were doing and how they brought their creative ideas to the table in creating the play. Shy children became more self-confident, some children discovered hidden talents in themselves, and some children developed a new passion for acting. In any case, the children learned to work as part of a large team," says Birgit

Little Picassos

In October, Primary School Haimhausen students and teachers spent a day investigating and creating art. Students experimented with graffiti, aboriginal dot painting, and origami, and learned about famous artists.

"A day like today gives us the chance to expand students' minds on the topics of what art is and what culture is, and how art can be so different depending on the person creating it," said Elizabeth Stroehlein, a BIS English as Additional Language Teacher for over 18 years.



Hauke-Swain, German teacher and theatre director at BIS, who directed the production together with Katherine Disney (music) and Alex Dos Santos (assistant director).

Parents painted parts of the set, took care of props, sewed costumes, helped with makeup, hair and a quick change of clothes during the performance. "The parents' help was super helpful and important. It shows that we have a strong community at City Campus, of which we are very proud," said Mrs. Hauke-Swain.



The floor is lava!

In 2022, a four or five year old child will have spent nearly half their life under Covid restrictions. Closed playgrounds, distance learning, and reduced contact with friends may have led to delays in development. That's why Primary Haimhausen Physical Education put together a gymnastics unit for Early Years students to assess their balance, coordination, core body strength, and basic gymnastic movements. The aim was to assess and then further develop these abilities.

With each area and apparatus set up to provide some form of assessment, the teacher is able to recognize and record any challenges children face with balance and coordination, core strength, and vestibular development. From calling it "Ninja Warrior" to "The Floor is Lava", the children were highly engaged in the activity.



There is no planet B!



Over 25 Primary School students in Haimhausen are involved in the Eco-Agents After School Activity (ASA) programme, organised and led by Andi Pichler, a Teaching Assistant and BIS Sustainability Development Officer.

"At BIS in Haimhausen we have the best conditions because the forest, meadows and the Amper River offer countless opportunities for experiential learning. This gives BIS a truly unique selling point," said Mr. Pichler.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the youngest children forms the basis for the

projects of the numerous Green Teams that continue in the Secondary School. In school year 2021-22, the Primary Haimhausen Eco-Agent team organised a special assembly entirely by themselves. With an interactive and educational approach, the team raised awareness of the littering issue at BIS.

As a follow up to an Eco-Agents proposal, every Friday the whole Primary School cleaned up the campus in a "Rubbish-Raid". Maintaining the school garden is an ongoing focus, with the aim of growing organic vegetables for the cafeteria and for students to take home. "Despite the very dry summer, we were able to harvest the first fruits from the trees planted and had a particularly good harvest of potatoes and pumpkins," said Mr. Pichler.

The Eco-Agents also secured a wooden shed for their tools. During primary art day, some Eco-Agents created colourful paintings to decorate the new Eco-Agents "home base."

Finally, together with some secondary students, some vigorous digging took place to create a pond to promote biodiversity on campus. This project made substantial progress.



Hour of Code

To recognize Computer Science Education Week in December, our Primary School and Secondary School in Haimhausen took part in the global grassroots campaign, "Hour of Code." Together with 400 partners, in over 180 countries and 200,000 educators worldwide, our BIS students took part in one-hour coding

activities, guided by BIS Educational Technology Integration Specialists, Kim House and Ruth Buckley. Hour of Code is meant to demystify what it means to code, to show students that anyone can learn the foundations of coding, and to encourage broader participation in the field of computer science.

The Hour of Code for Grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 was led by the Tech Gurus team, a group of 25 students from Grade 6 - 9 who are ambassadors for all things 'tech' at BIS.

"We feel it is important to create dialogue and understanding around what coding actually is, how it's used and how easy it is. As it will be popping up this year for the first time in the Grade 6 and 8 curriculum, providing events that give opportunities to try it can help build early confidence and interest," said Ms. Buckley.



An exceptional learning event: The BIS Careers Day with top-class speakers.



Keynote speaker: Wolfgang Rodler, Munich's IBM boss.

Inspiring global citizens

The 11th BIS Careers Day attracted 16 top-class personalities from a wide variety of industries to give students an authentic insight into professions, career paths and future trends. 180 BIS students in grades 10 and 11 experienced this special morning at Haimhausen Campus.

BIS Careers Day 2022 featured speakers from Microsoft, Facebook, SAP, Airbus, Texas Instruments, Linde, The LEGO® Group, Klinikum Dritter Orden, German Aerospace Center, Motel a Miio etc. BIS also welcomed U.S. Consul General Timothy E. Liston as a guest of honor.

BIS Careers Day is a tradition and highlight of the extensive university and career counseling program of BIS. The students learned about a wide range of perspectives, first hand, and had plenty of time for questions after the presentations - initial internships were also arranged.

"I really enjoyed attending all the different panels, even if it was something I would

probably never pursue in my own career. It's important to think about different perspectives, get new ideas and broaden your interest," said Alexandra from grade 10.

Skill-set for the future

Kristian Imhof from LEGO emphasized that playing and learning should be the same thing. And he drew analogies between the skill-sets that LEGO is trying to develop and that are part of the integral DNA of an international school: problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. The BIS "Careers Day offers an unfiltered insight into the work of business, science and politics, and thus is an exciting inspiration for future career choices," said Imhof.

The speakers

Dr. Claudia Brunner German Institute for Preventive Medicine / **Dr. Franz Edler von Koch** Clinical Center Dritter Orden / **Prof. Dr. Anna Svea Fischer** Munich University of Applied Sciences / **Christian Hauke** Facebook (Meta) / **Bridget Hooser** NXP Semiconductors / **Kristian Imhof** The LEGO® Group / **Elizabeth Jansen-Hubis** Texas Instruments / **Timothy E. Liston** U.S. Consul General Munich / **Dr. Mattia Marconcini** German Aerospace Center (DLR) / **Raúl Alonso Sánchez** AIRBUS / **Rebekka Sperger** SAP Labs Munich / **Ina Tenz** ABC Communication / **Anna von Hellberg & Laura Castien** Motel a Miio / **Dr. Joachim von Schéele** LINDE / **Alexander von Woikowsky** Media & Entertainment

How to educate for tomorrow

The BIS City Talk is a recurring event aimed at bringing together the BIS community with leaders in various fields to discuss education. "Educating for tomorrow: values + life skills = changemakers" was the title of the May 2022 event.

On an inspiring evening at City Campus, a stage full of speakers and more than 100 guests agreed: values and life skills are decisive factors in education. This is the only way to prepare children for an unknown, rapidly changing future.

Moderated by Nina Eichinger, Wolfgang Rodler (IBM), Livia von Mitschke-Collande (Google), Dr. Andrea Taubenböck (Stiftung

Wertebündnis Bayern), Milutin Delic (Viiv Healthcare) and BIS Head of School Dr. Chrissie Sorensen discussed "Educating for tomorrow". In his keynote on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Wolfgang Rodler made it clear that AI is not there to replace people, but to make lives easier. "It's not about man versus machine, but man with machine." To avoid a scenario like in the movie "Terminator," diversity and inclusion as well as values and soft skills play an essential role in the development of AI.

Milutin Delic also emphasized the moral compass as a critical factor. "Schools need to equip children with skills and self-confidence to learn how to deal with a unknown future," Delic said. According to Livia Mitschke-Collande, diversity is a key driver - not only in society, but in businesses and in the advancement of technology to AI. In her statements, Dr. Andrea Taubenböck emphasized empathic lifeskills, taking other perspectives and listening to different opinions.

After a two-year Corona break, the 4th BIS City Talk in total was a great success. "On the one hand, we show that we are a frontrunner for the education of the future. On the other hand, we open our school to show it to many interested families," said Dr. Chrissie Sorensen.

A big thank you goes to all the speakers, the moderator Nina Eichinger and the supporters ORGANIC GARDEN, Gerolsteiner, Young Poets (wines) and Expat in the City.

Inspiring event for existing and future BIS parents, teachers and guests: the BIS City Talk in Schwabing.





“Making a difference in the world”

Since the school year 2021–22, Isabella is the first awardee of the first scholarship in the more than 30-year history of the Bavarian International School (BIS). The German–American, now 15 years old, was chosen to receive the full scholarship for grades 9–12, which was donated by DEUTSCHE FINANCE GROUP, a globally operating investment company headquartered in Munich. In this interview, Isabella tells us in her own words why the scholarship is a real life changer and why Gandhi’s wisdom “Be the change you wish to see in the world” fits perfectly with her philosophy of life.

Dear Isabella, after strict performance criteria and a final interview, you were selected for the first scholarship of BIS. What does this mean to you?

“I was given a chance, a chance to achieve something great, and I want to use it to help people and make a difference in the world. Four years at BIS will teach me a lot, prepare me for opportunities that lie ahead, and teach me skills I will need in the world. I would like to thank DEUTSCHE FINANCE GROUP for establishing a scholarship that has given me the chance for a life I could never have dreamed of.”

What has changed for you since then?

“When thinking about what changed for me as a person and a student the first things that come to mind is the way that I learn and the new outlook I gained on the world, plus I am so much happier. My perspective expanded and the way I go about my life as a student at BIS has evolved into a progressive and learning mindset.

BIS has helped me to think more openly, look at different perspectives and analyze all sides. Through this I have learned new skills such as collaboration and critical thinking, and I have found new ways to go about my life and to be a better student and person.”

How was your start at BIS?

“The first time I entered the building, I got a sense of belonging from teachers and peers. In the months that I have been at BIS, I learned about the “BIS way” – for example not just working on projects but also reflecting on outcomes and how to improve. I formed friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I immediately felt at home, and have never felt more like a part of something than I do now. I will cherish the time here forever.”

Are there any particular areas in which you were able to develop your interests or passions, which might not have been possible at other schools?

“Doing after school activities is something I am passionate about, e.g running or working out. The programme ‘Service as Action’ is something I’ve never seen in any other school and I think it’s great, such as Kids Club (babysitting staff children) or Knitting Club (knitting blankets for people experiencing homelessness). Making the world better and helping others is something that is important to me and these are things that BIS encourages. Working on my 10th grade personal project and developing my product (A model of a future city in the field of “Design & Economics”), is a step that will teach me a lot about what I would like to do in life after BIS.”

Funded by:



DEUTSCHE FINANCE GROUP

What impresses you most about BIS?

“Each and every teacher enjoys teaching us, and is ambitious about bringing honorable and outstanding kids into a world where they

will make great contributions. The support the school provides is astonishing.”

Do you already have an idea of what you would like to do in your future career?

“Having a passion for learning new things every day and appreciating a variety of disciplines, I could easily see myself pursuing a career in the humanities or science. I want to go to college in the US or Germany, and with the help of BIS I started to research college options. I’m aware that the decision to stay in Germany or move to the US is a significant one. The culture, courses offered and cost are different and I must take that into account when making my decision.”

Thanks so much, Isabella and all the best for your path at BIS!





PR coup: When success stories from BIS are also publicized on external channels (as with BIS student Alex and TV host Beni from the Disney channel).

Telling stories and building relationships

“Marketing” is a word that Marko Mäde, Head of Communications & Public Affairs at BIS, doesn’t like at all. “The term suggests that we have a large budget for paid advertising campaigns. The opposite is the case. Instead, we serve up results through storytelling, creativity, teamwork and relationships.”

Since 2019, the 49-year-old Munich resident by choice has been building up the new communications department, which includes branding, PR & media relations, online, social media, corporate publishing, events, fundraising and, last but not least, admissions. “All of these tasks have one big headline: to support the stability and

future development of BIS. After all, strategic communication gains new students and cultivated relationships pay off in fundraising,” says Marko Mäde.

Right at the start of the 2021-22 school year, the communications team had a major project on its agenda: the 30th anniversary of BIS. On 4 September 2021, more than 2,000 members of the BIS community celebrated a lively, joyful anniversary on the Haimhausen campus under the motto “Diversity Rocks”. The event was primarily intended to have an internal impact and – in the midst of difficult Corona times – to strengthen the bond within the community once again. With several guests of honor

from business and politics, the anniversary magazine, PR and media work, stories on social media and a documentary film, “Diversity Rocks” was also used to further promote the Bavarian International School and strengthen its reputation externally. The team achieved the same effects with our BIS City Talk (page 45), the BIS Careers Day (page 44) and the BIS Grill & Chill (page 34).

Content is king

To raise the visibility of the Bavarian International School in the increasingly competitive private school market and in times of crisis (Corona, war, economic crisis), the team relies on storytelling on a wide variety of channels, online campaigns, local media and international platform collaborations, but also classic measures such as Open Days. “Great students, teachers and projects are simply the best ambassadors,” says the team leader, Mr. Mäde.

One highlight from school year 2021-22 was the production of a new film about the magic of the City Campus under the project management of Nicolette “Niki” Kalbfell. Combined with a wide range of other measures, including close teamwork with Admissions (Petra Douglas for City Campus, Zina Tenic for Primary School Haimhausen, Allegra Peruzzi for Secondary School Haimhausen) and strong recommendations, the campaign to raise enrollment should lead to an increase in the number of students at BIS City Campus from 220 to almost 300 in the next school year.

The anniversary year also marked the launch of BIS’s fundraising campaign, primarily to raise funds for the planned Creativity & Innovation Centre (CIC). The 2021-22 school year also saw the launch of the first scholarship program in BIS history (read more on pages 46/47). In the 2022-23 school year, a BIS community member made a firm commitment to fully fund a second scholarship for grades 9-12 beginning in 2023-24!

As emphasized at the outset, the magic formula for the team’s success is not high-budget marketing but storytelling, cross-media communication, and great



Communication and fundraising are closely linked: Marko Mäde (second from right) talking to a BIS parent.

customer service from the admission’s colleagues. It seems this magic formula is getting noticed: the BIS Head of Communications was invited to London in 2022 to speak about “How storytelling attracts new students” at a high-calibre admissions conference at the International School in London. “The communications team at BIS have a masterful ability to engage and connect with families and other stakeholders through nuanced storytelling. Powerful branding, empathy and alignment of ethos and philosophy are thoughtfully woven into the fabric of each conversation. Their understanding of human connection, emotion and aspiration helps place BIS in a unique position to recruit and inspire global citizens and future game-changers,” said MacKenzie Murray, Senior Vice President of the hosting Faria Education Group, about her perception of BIS. Content is still king, but relationships are queen...



Scan to visit our merchandising shop.

More than 80 BIS-branded products are available in the BIS merchandising store - hoodies, shirts, caps, mugs, bags, water bottles and many more. With every order, a small margin goes to the Friends of BIS e.V. fundraising association.

Building the future of learning



From vision to reality: the Creativity & Innovation Centre (CIC).

The vision is moving closer to becoming reality. Despite difficult circumstances, BIS is well on the way to realize the planned Creativity & Innovation Centre (CIC) at the Haimhausen Campus. However, donations from the community are still absolutely necessary!

For all new BIS parents and other interested readers, here are the most important facts again: the Creativity & Innovation Centre (CIC) is BIS's most important project for the future. This is a new building on three floors with over 6,000 square meters for more than 750 students, teachers and guests, which will replace the old sports hall. The new heart of the Haimhausen Campus will then beat between the Primary School and the new sports hall. Modern, open and interdisciplinary learning spaces will enable the learning of the future with a focus on

“STEAM” (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts including Visual and Performing Arts, Maths). Science Labs, design tech, information technology spaces, creative areas, flexible classrooms and open learning spaces define the special character of the CIC.

A must have for the future

Due to architectural adjustments in the CIC, the total budget of the planned 25 million euros can be maintained. The schedule also remains the same: Detailed planning and construction preparation in 2023, start of construction in early summer 2024, completion in late summer 2026. For bank financing, BIS must provide 10% of the costs as equity. “The CIC is not a fancy nice to have, but an absolute must for BIS. The new times require new learning and for that the environment has to be right. If we want to continue to be the school of the future and provide the best education for our children, we have to constantly develop. That’s what we did in the past and that’s also our



Our school is listed as a charity partner on Amazon Smile. Just log in at <https://smile.amazon.de/>, click once on the non-profit Bavarian International School gAG and 0.5% of each purchase amount will benefit BIS – at no extra cost to you!

commitment to future generations,” says Marco Dahl, Business Director and Executive Board of BIS. Important side effects are that necessary new space will be created and temporary containers will be eliminated.

From vision to reality

But where does BIS currently stand when 10% of the total sum, in other words approximately 2.5 million euros, must be available as equity capital? Despite difficult circumstances with the Corona pandemic, war in Ukraine and economic crisis, the fundraising and finance team at BIS was successful. In addition to the two significant full scholarships, more than 400,000 euros in cash donations were collected, which are managed by the Friends of BIS e.V. fundraising association. At the last fundraising evening in November 2022 at Steelcase in Munich, our campaign reached the first six-figure donation for the CIC from a BIS community member of the City Campus. A further 440,000 euros from unanticipated subsidies and financial reserves mean that BIS can now start the next phase of detailed planning.

However, more donations are needed for the road ahead. “The lower we make the financing costs, the less we burden the future BIS generations and the better the budgets will be set up for the coming school years,” says Marco Dahl. In addition, most of the state of the art classroom furniture, lab and special tech equipment, robots, stage lighting and sound, etc., must be funded through donations. “We continue to rely on the power of our community to help shape the future of BIS, as generations of other parents have done before.”

Donations to our non-profit Friends of BIS e.V. are tax-deductible, and each donor automatically receives a donation receipt. American citizens receive tax benefits through our 501(c)3 status when making a donation. The easiest way to donate is via traditional bank transfer (see info box on the right side).

Nevertheless, once the necessary funding for the CIC has been achieved, BIS's fundraising efforts do not end there. In general, the school would like to establish a culture



Make your contribution for the future of learning at BIS.

Our donation bank account:
Friends of BIS e.V.
DE59 7005 1540 0280 7518 84
BYLADEMIDAH



Or use the enclosed card to donate.



The new heart of the Haimhausen Campus and a milestone in the school's development: the planned CIC in place of the old sports hall.

of giving in order to build a third pillar of funding alongside tuition fees and state subsidies, including the BIS Sustainability Fund (Annual Fund) and the Financial Assistance Program. Always keeping an eye on the future and continuing to develop should be part of the nature of an excellent school...

You can read more about the CIC on our website.

* This report is not focused solely on the 2021–22 school year, but reflects the current status.

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