



# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022/23



Please read this newsletter. It contains important information activities in school and upcoming events.

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# Message from Deputy Director



Dear students and parents,

It's a bit late in the day, nevertheless I wish you all happy and successful 2023! In this newsletter you will find information about events which have taken place and upcoming events. My thanks to all of those who have contributed.

Kind regards,  
Annette Sloan

## 1. The position of Deputy Director Secondary

The vacancy will be published in the near future with a view to finding someone who will fulfil the role on a structural, long-term basis as of the beginning of next school year.

In the meantime, we have found a highly suitable person to take over the Annette Sloan's role as interim – Ber Leurink. He has already started and there is a hand-over period to give Ber Leurink the chance to get to know staff and the school and to ensure continuity. As previously announced Annette Sloan will leave the ESH by the February holiday at the latest.

## 2. The School Plan 2022-2026



Click [here](#) to see the school plan 2022-2026.

A four-year school plan is an obligatory document for all Dutch Schools. For European Schools it is obligatory to have a long-term strategic plan.

In the spring of 2022 we consulted staff, students on parents. The document was written on the basis of their input, was formally approved by the Participation Council ESH Secondary and by the Chairman of the Executive Board Rijnlands Lyceum. It is long document which conforms to all external demands of such a document. Unfortunately, implementation of the ambitions described in the document had to be put on hold because of the timetable crisis at the beginning of this school year. We are working on the first steps of implementation. One of the most important tasks of the new Deputy Director will be the implementation of this plan.



# Message from Deputy Director



## 3. Preparing for next school year

Together with the timetablers for next year we are now working on the preparation for next school year, which is especially significant because of the timetable crisis at the beginning of this school year. We are confident we have the necessary person power, expertise and checks and balances to ensure that we will have a working timetable for the start of next school year.

## 4. Reorganisation of end school year

The updates to the final weeks of the school year aim to find a solution to the 'missed lessons at the beginning of this school year and to make better educational use of the last weeks of the school year. This update is also prompted by the fact that the final oral examinations take place later than last school year.

**Click here to see the updated year [calendar 2022-2023](#).**

### The key points to note are:

- S5 & S6 exams: 22nd May - 2nd July.

- The final oral examinations run from Monday 26th June to Thursday 6th July

- There is a stand-alone class council on 29th June for failing students only to allow for the appeal process to be completed before the holidays

- The final week of the year (03 - 07 July) will include book collection in the morning and class councils of non-failing students in the afternoon

- The graduation ceremony will take place on Friday 7 July.

## 5. School calendar 2023-2024

Click [here](#) to see the calendar for school year 2023-2024. In this calendar you see the official holiday days school year 2023-2024. The INSET days are not yet included. However, we publish it now to assist those making long term plans for holidays/travel.

## 6. The portacabins

Portacabins with ten classrooms will be installed in the area near the main entrance during the Spring holiday. The preparations will begin shortly before the holiday. They will be fully operational by the May Holiday. With these portacabins we have enough classroom accommodation for the coming years.





# University Updates

## News about Dutch universities / HBO and what students have been doing.

In the past months, S6 and S7 students have oriented themselves on Dutch academic university courses and those at universities of applied sciences (hbo). A challenge, for Dutch and other stream students alike. Entry requirements vary, e.g. for Mathematics and level of Dutch, while some universities offer courses in English only: examples include Biology at Radboud University Nijmegen and Global Project and Change Management at the Zeeland university of applied sciences. Maastricht University's offering seems to appeal to our students.

At [Exact wat je zoekt | Op deze website](#) vind je informatie over alle opleidingen mbo, hbo en wo bachelor binnen bèta en techniek. all science-related courses can be explored.

An overview of upcoming open days is at [Open dagen kalender](#) - Studiekeuze123. For S7 students who still need to apply for a university course, [Belangrijke data](#) - Info&Uitleg - Studiekeuze123 lists important dates and deadlines. For those of you starting their exploration of study options in the Netherlands, the Discov.ai site Study in the Netherlands & Holland Colleges and Universities ([discov.ai](#))





# University Updates

**For students applying to University in the UK, the deadline was January 25th.**

If anyone applies after this date, you should look at specific universities, see: [Explore | UCAS](#).

## **For Irish universities.**

The following dates and fees apply:

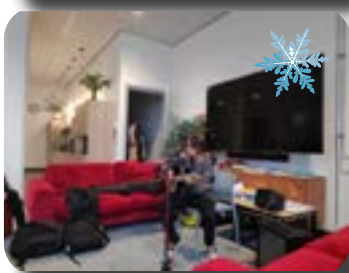
APPLICATION TYPE	FEE	CLOSING DATE
Early online application (discounted)	€30	20 January 2023 at 5pm
Normal online application	€45	1 February 2023 at 5pm
Late online application – restrictions apply.	€60	1 May 2023 at 5pm
Change of Mind – restrictions apply.		1 July 2023 at 5pm
Exceptional online late application	€60	22 July 2023 at 5pm.

See Layout 1 ([cao.ie](#)) and Undergraduate Income Thresholds and Grant [Award Rates](#) Academic Year 2022/23 SUSI

**Registering for French Post Bac Studies - Parcoursup:**  
The platform is open until March the 9th. S7 students are in the process of making their wishes known: [calendrier parcoursup 2023](#).



# Winter Festival at ESH



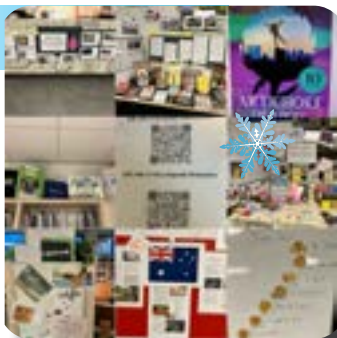
The European School of The Hague's Music Department ushered in the holiday spirit with the first edition of the "Winter Festival", held in the week leading up to Christmas. After a challenging year for the school community, the festival was a much-needed celebration of music and art, bringing students and staff together in a joyful atmosphere. The festival took place in four locations throughout the school, providing a stage for students of all ages to showcase their musical talents. From traditional Christmas songs to original compositions, the performances were a testament to the diversity and musical abilities of the students. The audience was treated to a vibrant display of musical excellence, showcasing a high level of truly inspiring professionalism. The music department is proud of its students and the success of the Winter Festival, which was a celebration of the school's commitment to promoting music and art. This is only the beginning, and the department has exciting plans for the future, including the highly anticipated "Nights of All Talents," an event where the entire school community is invited to share their talents, regardless of discipline. It will be held in the grand theatre of the school. On 22nd June this great event will be held at ESH and it is sure to be a highlight of the year for the European School of The Hague community.





## Promoting Library Collections

January signals the start of a new year and we decided to use the theme of new beginnings in our first display of 2023. Our display "New Year, New You" focused on books that contained information about learning new things, for example, a new skill, a new language or new ways to improve both mentally and physically. Many S6/S7 students are also in the university application process, so career related books were also displayed prominently. In keeping with the "new beginnings" idea, a second book club will start at the end of this month. Our first book club, for younger students, has been very successful with weekly meetings and lots of discussion. Our current book, Artichoke Hearts, is proving popular. In response to interest by older students we will begin a new book club, initially with S4 students but open to everyone. This will happen Thursday mornings at 8am before school lessons start. Our S6 and S7 students have all been busy with tests these last weeks. We, in the library, try to provide practical as well as pastoral care for students. Sometimes this means loaning out pencils, rulers, calculators and set squares, and other time it means chocolate and hugs! We also use our display boards to help motivate students to try their best and to keep going! The library has also been working with our teacher colleagues. Firstly, we welcome the opportunity to display students' work. This month we exhibited Ms. Nouri's S2 French class "Art & Science" work and book boxes from Ms. Calton's English class. We are also working with the English department to set up a reading challenge for S1s and S2s. Furthermore, we hope to facilitate a visit from a French author for the French department! Watch this space! The 27th of January marks International Holocaust Memorial Day. In recognition of this important event, the library displayed some information and real-life stories from that time. One of our students, Olivier H. wrote an interesting piece about Holocaust deniers. We hope that by making these displays we will promote awareness and interest in history.







# ICT and Gifted & Talented



The ICT Department and the Gifted & Talented program of ESH have organized a 3 days Astronaut Camp for 16 students from S3 and S4 at the Euro Space Center, in Belgium. The students, together with the two chaperones Ms Iakovidou and Mr. Arévalo, had the opportunity to participate in different STEM activities related to Space and train like astronauts.



They have watched videos and learned about the history of Space exploration in an interactive way.







# ICT and Gifted & Talented



They have created their own paper rockets and they have launched them. The students have successfully participated in every stage of a space mission: take-off, orbiting, satellite release and return to Earth. They have worked as a team and they have been assigned different roles.

They also experienced the clean room where they made two satellites using different micro-processor and sensors and eventually they exchanged messages using Morse code. They have done experiments related to the gravity and the air and afterwards they have experienced Moon and Mars gravity thanks to virtual reality technology. It has been an amazing and inspiring educational experience that all the participants particularly enjoyed!

In February our S5-S6 students will have the opportunity to join the Satellite Camp experience in the same premises. It's also worth mentioning that the Gifted & Talented program of our school subsidizes these trips to give students the opportunity of developing their full potential. With the success of the Space Camp we are aiming at offering this exciting option students on a regular basis.





# Gifted & Talented Programme @ ESH

The Gifted and Talented programme at our school gives highly intelligent and motivated students the opportunity to broaden their view and accelerate their intellectual and personal development.

To meet the needs of all talented pupils we do not rely on intelligence tests only, but also take observations of our subject teachers and parents as stakeholders into account in the process.

In February we will deliver a screening that has been designed by the University of Nijmegen to assess the intelligence, creativity and motivations of our S1-students and newcomers in higher classes, if parents enlist their children for it. This tool gives us the chance to find hidden talents as not all extremely bright students like to shine or are even struggling with their intelligence.

Once identified the student will receive more challenge in the subjects she/he is interested in to ensure that she/he is able to use the given potential. All teachers have been trained to work with gifted and talented students.

In case that the class work is not demanding enough, one of our G&T coaches will be assigned to help the student explore projects and assure the well-being. At the moment some exciting projects are run by our coaches and teacher colleagues as for example the Space Camp experience and the Satellite trip to Belgium (presented in other article of this newsletter), participation in a biology contest in Italy or our pottery club which is especially popular with all of ESH-community members.

As the input of parents is important to us we organised a feedback and feedforward session in December that was well attended and we are very grateful for parental input. Due to the huge success the G&T parent feedback evening will be organised annually. Last but not least I would like to inform you that we are planning a presentation of the results of our different G&T endeavors in June to celebrate the achievements of the G&T year.

If you have any questions concerning the programme for giftedness in general, please do not hesitate to approach me.

Kind regards,  
Dr Nicole Meiners



## Jonge Stadsdichter 2023

Voor de eerste keer werd op donderdag 26 januari de eerste Jonge Stadsdichter gekozen uit acht finalisten van de middelbare scholenwedstrijd in Den Haag. De stadsdichter krijgt het woord bij belangrijke en actuele gebeurtenissen in de stad. En zo inspireert de jonge dichter jongeren om meer bezig te zijn met taal en zorgt hij voor verbinding.

Afgelopen weken schreven de leerlingen van S3L1 onder begeleiding van een docent poëzie van de Haagse educatieve literaire instelling Huis van Gedichten teksten over hun Den Haag. Een bekende dichter las en becommentarieerde het werk van de leerlingen en deed een voorstel voor een finalist. De feestelijke finale in de Centrale Bibliotheek werd gepresenteerd door programmamaker en schrijver Splinter Chabot. Op geheel eigen wijze droegen de leerlingen hun werk voor, waarna de vakjury bestaande uit Amara van der Elst, Benzokarim en voormalig Dichter des Vaderlands Ester Naomi Perquin de eerste Jonge Stadsdichter Den Haag koos.

gemeente Den Haag, Bibliotheek Den Haag, Literatuurmuseum/Kinderboekenmuseum, Huis van Gedichten. De keus niet gevallen op de inzending van onze leerling Niels V uit S3L1. Maar het is een hele eer en prestatie om door te dringen de finale.

De Jonge Stadsdichter 2023 is mogelijk gemaakt door de gemeente Den Haag, Bibliotheek Den Haag, Literatuurmuseum/Kinderboekenmuseum, Huis van Gedichten. Luister naar de voordracht van zijn inzending.



## Day For Change

S1 Pupils will be participating in the Day For Change Programme during their Ethics lesson, starting 6th of March.

Day for Change believes that sustainable economic development is good for people, animals and the planet is a prerequisite for a fair world. Without poverty. With equal opportunities for all. With these educational activities, pupils learn about global citizenship, sustainable entrepreneurship and their place in the world.

We will hold a fare in school on the 19th of April to promote Day For Change.



# Thimun

After a selection process and a serie of six preparatory workshops, 21 ESH students joined the 55th annual THIMUN Conference representing the delegations of Rwanda and Bahrain from the 23th to the 26th of January!

The Hague International Model United Nations conference is a four day simulation of the United Nations for secondary school students, which takes place at the end of January each year in the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague. THIMUN now attracts over 3,200 students and teachers from around 200 schools located in countries as far apart as Norway, Australia, China and Ecuador. The students themselves originate from more than 100 different countries. THIMUN offers an excellent opportunity to expand, develop and put into practice English language as well as communication, critical thinking, research, resolutions writing, lobbying, debating and public speaking skills.

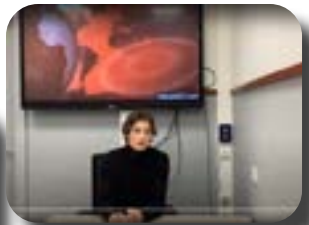
All ESH THIMUNers worked hard before and during the conference and made the best out of this face to face worldwide event!  
Luister naar de voordracht van zijn inzending.





# Fake News S5

On Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 December, the S5 students participated in a workshop about Fake News. Fake news is one of the S5 topics added to the new Ethics syllabus. During the workshop, the students learned more about this topic and then had the opportunity to create their own fake news story.





We are excited to share with you the details of our recent ski trip to Austria. 72 S5 students, 6 teachers, 10 instructors, and one busdriver embarked on an unforgettable journey to Neukirch am Grobvenediger. Despite a late start due to the busdriver's navigation mishap, we arrived at the venue two hours late, but still managed to have lunch and a lesson before the end of the day. The first evening was a relaxed family night filled with board games, and we made sure to end it early so that the students could catch up on some much-needed sleep. Each day, we handed out "the suit of the day". The winners were Katja, Carla, Linus, and Rafael, who received the ultimate award for trying to board without a snowboard resulting in the board going down the mountain without Rafael.

On the second evening, we went to the pool, and on the third evening, we had a "bonte avond" where the students participated in various competitive group games such as a pub quiz, perzik sjoulen, and dropveter zuigen. We are pleased to report that all students met the tight deadlines and there were no hospital visits, which is a great achievement for any school trip.

We hope that the students look back on this experience with fond memories and that they have learned valuable lessons from it. We thank you for your support and trust in us, and we look forward to planning more exciting trips in the future.







# PE Ice-Skating



In the last week before the Christmas break the PE Department organised a Christmas outing for S1-S3 to the Uithof. Ice skating is a proud part of the Dutch culture, so it was a great opportunity for some of the students to get acquainted with a new sport. In addition, it was an excellent activity to let the students grow socially, help and support each other and to strengthen their bonds with the other students and their mentors whilst being in a different environment.



# Reminders 2023



Semester 1 Class Councils: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th & 17th February

S1 & S5 International Youth Day: 7th February

CBO Screening: 10th & 13th

S4 Art Trip: 14th February

ESH Valentine student Party- organised by Student party Committee: 16th February

S5 & S6 L1 Italian Residential Trip to Florence: 20th - 24th February

S5 Ecology Trip Information Evening: 20th February

S6 Cultural Trip Information Evening: 21st February

S4 L2 German Trip Information Evening: 21st February

S4 L2 French Trip Information Evening: 21st February

S4 L2 English Trip Information Evening: 22nd February

Spring holidays: 27th February - 3rd March

PT evening : 7th & 9th March

S4, S6 & S7 B-test: 13th March - 24th March

ESSS: 26th March - 29th March

S5 Ecology Trip: 27th & 28 March and 29th & 30th March

S1, S2 & S3 L3 English Theatre Workshop: 30th March

Mentor training & BHV Training for Staff: March & April

P5S1 Transition taster lesson: 28th March

S7 Quantum Rules: 28th March

S5 radiation Lab: 3rd April

INSET Day: 6th April