



International
School of London
Qatar

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

2023

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2022-2023

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NEW GUIDING STATEMENTS

ISL Qatar's Milestones and Direction



by Sean Areias, Ed.D. | Head of School

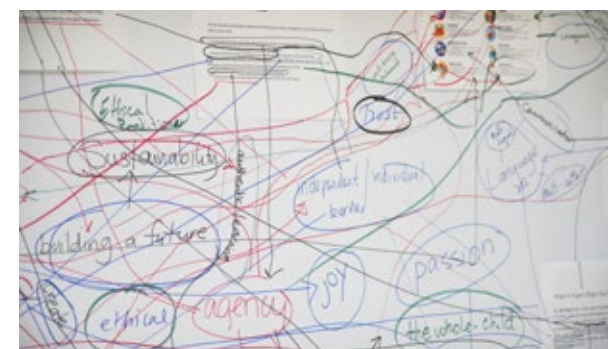
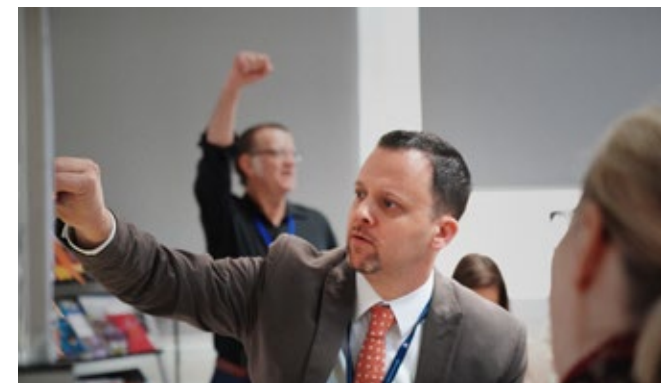
Dear ISL Qatar Community,

I am delighted to share the remarkable achievements and progress that ISL Qatar made during the 2022-23 academic year. In addition to obtaining continued accreditation status with NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) and the IB (International Baccalaureate), we embarked on an exciting journey that resulted in the development of a new mission, vision, and core values. This has laid the foundation for a more transformative and unified direction for our community.

Last October, we formed a mission working group comprised of 10 stakeholders representing the board, leadership, educational and non-educational support staff, students, and parents. In early November, we convened to plan a survey that was subsequently sent to parents, staff, and secondary students in mid-November. The survey results demonstrated that the community supported the current guiding statements but lacked awareness of them

unless specifically pointed out. This lack of awareness was attributed to the lengthy and verbose nature of the statements, as well as the lack of regular communication and reinforcement.

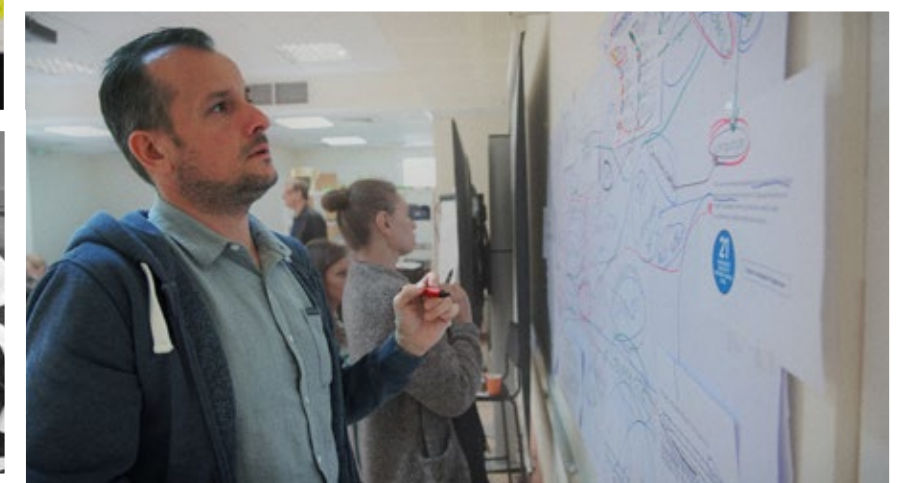
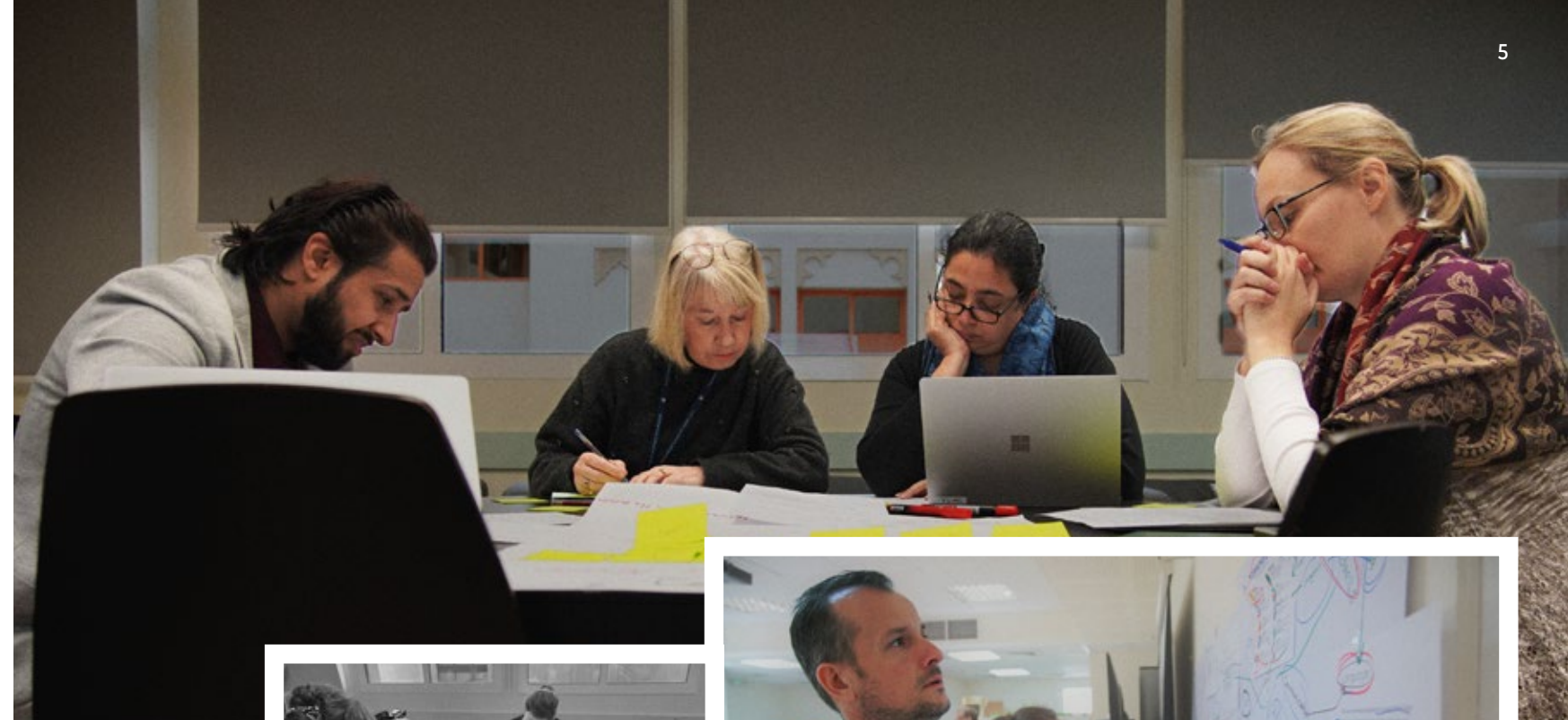
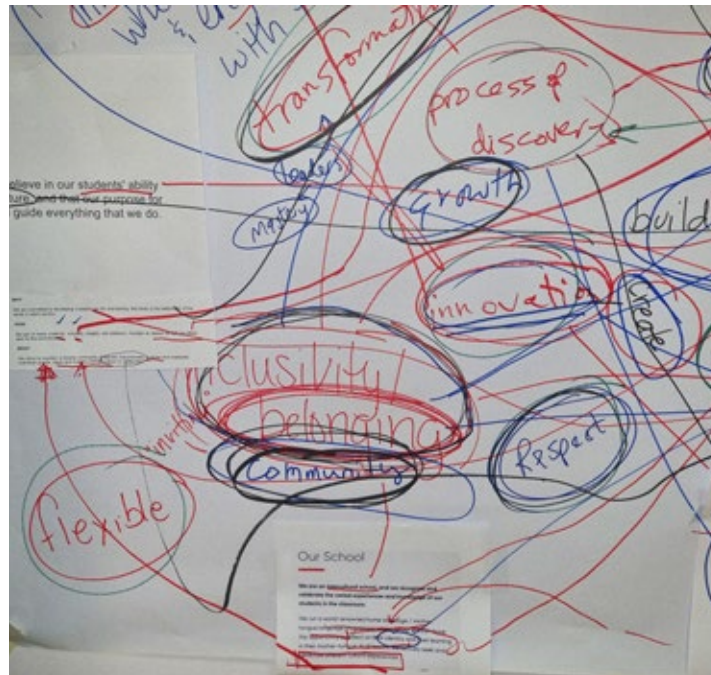
To address this issue, our strategic planning consultant, John Roberts, visited the school in early January and conducted several focus groups with various stakeholders, including leadership, educational staff, non-educational staff, parents, primary students, and secondary students. These sessions involved discussions and documentation of their perceptions of the school's current values and distinguishing characteristics, as well as their aspirations for our school and students. Word clouds containing keywords and concepts were shared from these sessions through follow-up surveys. The community validated these top words and concepts and had the opportunity to share additional suggestions.



In late January, the mission working group met to analyze the data collected from the stakeholder groups and surveys, curated by John Roberts. The group began drafting new values, mission, and vision statements based on this analysis. In February, the mission working group shared working drafts of the new guiding statements with the community and sought further feedback through surveys. Subsequently, representatives from the mission working group, the school leadership team, and the board convened a retreat to finalize the guiding statements and initiate the creation of a strategic plan with specific goals and objectives.

Our new **mission** is, "Empowering learners to lead through compassion, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking." We are dedicated to nurturing students who attain their full potential and possess the skills and mindset to make a positive impact on the world. Our new **vision** is, "Imagining and designing a better world together." We aim to inspire our learning community to work towards a fair and sustainable future.

The guiding principles that will shape our actions are the values of **Belonging, Integrity, Grit, and Kindness**. Belonging emphasizes the sense of being part of a



community where everyone is respected and valued. Integrity guides our actions and decision-making, encouraging honesty, transparency, and a commitment to doing what is right. Grit embodies perseverance, dedication, and determination in the face of challenges. While kindness underpins all aspects of life, emphasizing empathy, understanding, and compassion in our interactions with one another.

During March and early May, strategic goal-focus area teams met to create their goals, objectives, and a three-year action plan. A virtual retreat in late May culminated the process, ensuring the finalization of the plan. The team presented their proposed language for each intention, allowing for comment and critique from the larger strategic plan team. Each smart action goal and objective was also reviewed for further input to ensure agreement. The strategic plan was cross-checked with the recent NEASC/IB accreditation report, and audit reports on technology and experience strategy were also incorporated into the plan.

To ensure the long-term success of ISL Qatar, we have developed a strategic plan with four focus areas. These include:

1. Enhancing inclusive, personalized, and equitable learning.
2. Building meaningful relationships within our community.
3. Optimizing the use of learning spaces and resources.
4. Ensuring effective governance, financial planning, and leadership.

By aligning our actions with these strategic focus areas, we aim to provide the best possible education for our learners, equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and values to thrive in a dynamic world.

Before closing out the 2022-23 school year, we communicated and celebrated the new mission, vision, values, and strategic plan with the ISL Qatar staff and students.

Furthermore, we will launch the 2023-24 school year with our new strategic plan. We will engage the community in unpacking the mission, vision, values, and strategic plan, linking annual goals for leaders and staff with the actionable objectives of the plan. We will provide the community with ongoing progress updates.

This year, we will conduct an audit and planning cycle with Consilience on learning data analytics and an inclusion (learning support and EAL) audit with Education Across Frontiers. These efforts will further inform our strategic plan and ensure its alignment with the needs of our learners.

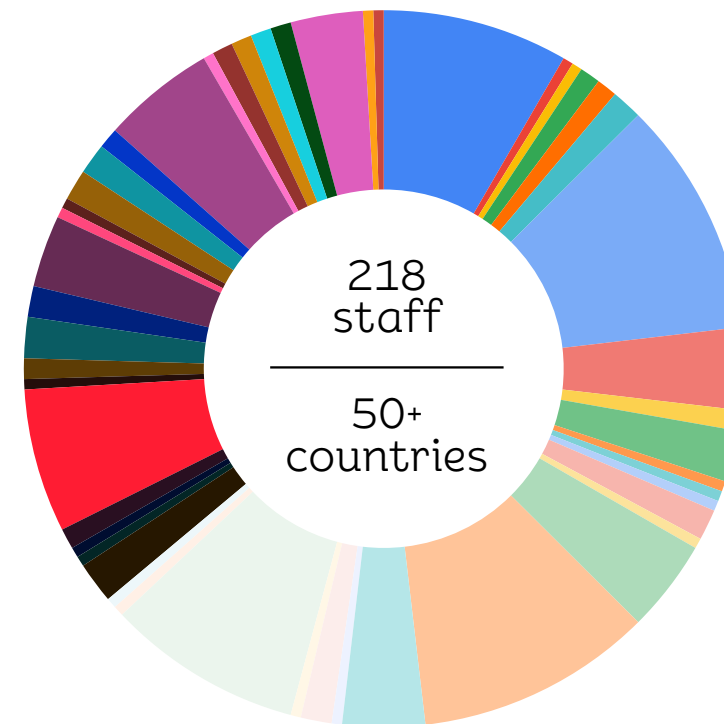
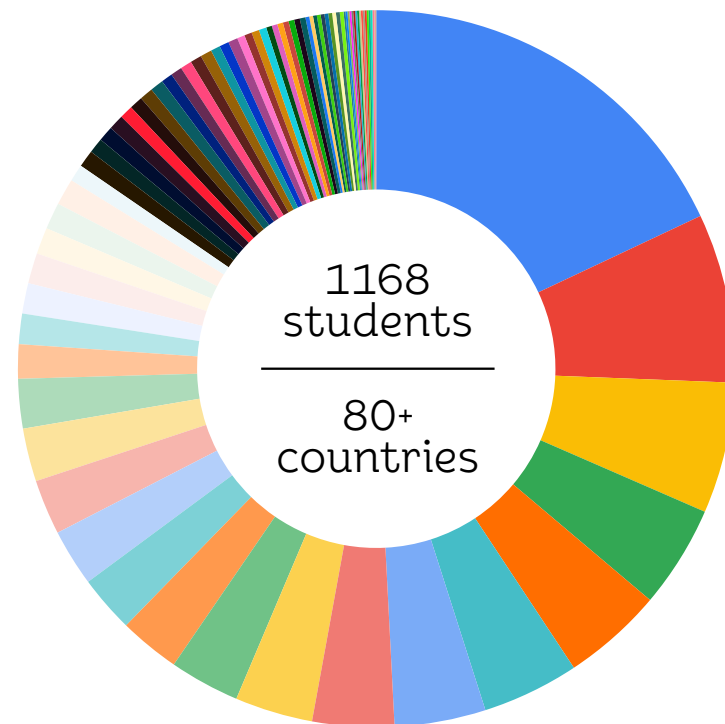
All of these accomplishments have involved the collaboration of hundreds of students, parents, and staff from the ISL Qatar

community. Our community is like a family, working together to achieve collective joy and success. As we look toward the future, we are excited about the possibilities that await us. Let us continue to imagine, innovate, and create a better world together. Thank you for being an integral part of the ISL Qatar community.

DIVERSITY

A Truly Vibrant Community

At ISL Qatar, our community thrives on the wealth of diversity within our student body. Each nationality brings a distinct perspective and values that enhances our shared experience. We believe in nurturing an inclusive environment where cultures and identities intertwine, forming a fabric of understanding and unity. Through this interconnectedness, we not only embrace differences but also harness them as catalysts for growth, preparing our community for a global landscape that cherishes individuality and collaboration. We take immense pride in the 78 student nationalities that contribute immeasurable value to our community. This remarkable blend of backgrounds and cultures creates a learning environment that widens horizons and fosters a genuine appreciation for the world's varied traditions.



Our teaching body thrives on diversity, with 218 academic staff hailing from 48 countries. This rich blend enriches the educational landscape, infusing fresh perspectives, cultures, and identities. Each unique background adds value and depth, enhancing the learning experience with meaningful insights. At ISL Qatar, we celebrate this tapestry of educators, fostering an environment where varied viewpoints shape a dynamic and inclusive educational journey.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Class of 2023 Results



by **Jim Heister** | Head of High-School

We are thrilled to highlight the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2023. 57 graduates (100%) completed the ISL Qatar High School diploma successfully. Different from many schools offering the IB (INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE) diploma, ISL Qatar is an inclusive school offering providing multiple pathways such as the full IB diploma and/or the High School Diploma, ISL Qatar offers an equal opportunity to all students to access the IB programme either as a full diploma or a course student.

This year all our 57 high school graduates enrolled in at least some of the IB course examinations. As a cohort, in total, the graduates received 342 IB certificates for the various courses they studied during the May 2023 examination cycle. 4% of our full IB diploma candidates took the exams with accommodations. 44 dedicated students earned the prestigious IB diploma, symbolizing their commitment to academic excellence and personal growth.

As a multilingual school we offer support for diverse languages. Among our remarkable achievers, 13 students have earned Bilingual Diplomas in 7 different languages. This is a commendable accomplishment that showcases their language proficiency and global outlook. Overall, our bilingual diplomas constitute an impressive 30% of the total diplomas awarded, highlighting the diverse skills within our student body.

Elevating our pride even further, we are excited to announce that the highest score achieved by a student is an impressive 41. This remarkable achievement underlines the dedication and diligence that our students consistently exhibit. Furthermore, an impressive 16% of our students

100%

Passing Extended Essay

44

Diplomas Awarded

30%

Bilingual Diplomas

ISL Qatar's
Pass Rate

85%

World's Pass Rate

79%

% earning
above
World
Average:
45%

have attained scores of at least 36, truly demonstrating their drive for exceptional academic performance. Equally commendable, 32% and 55% of our students have secured scores of 33 or more, and 30 or more, respectively, reflecting the depth and breadth of their knowledge and skills. Adding to our impressive results, the 2023 ISL Qatar Average Subject Score of 5 illustrates our students' consistent excellence across diverse subjects. A full 100% of our students have passed the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge component, a reflection of their critical thinking and research skills. Moreover, our students' dedication has contributed to an 83.33% pass rate of our full IB Diploma candidates, surpassing the 2023 World Average Pass Rate of 79.67%.

It is important to note that our students' achievements extend beyond the classroom. Notably, every one of our students has completed the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) requirements, exemplifying their well-rounded engagement in academic pursuits and extracurricular activities.

Lastly, all our students have started the journey for university except those who have chosen to take a gap year, enroll for military service, language enrichment course or apply late for southern hemisphere universities. As we celebrate our students' exceptional journey through ISL Qatar High School, we acknowledge not only their individual triumphs but also the collaborative efforts of our devoted educators and the unwavering support of the ISL Qatar community. Congratulations to the Class of 2023! Your achievements are a source of immense pride and inspiration for us all.

46/54

Highest Mark Earned

Total Score:
36 and above: 16%
33 and above: 32%
30 and above: 55%

ISL Qatar's Average
Total Score

World Average: 4

5

100%

Completed CAS requirements

ECA AND SPORTS & WELLNESS FAIR



by Robert Nidsjö | Facilities & Activities Development Director

This school year marked the highly anticipated return of our full extra curricular activities programme at ISL Qatar. We pride ourselves in offering a diverse range of activities each term, including sports, creativity, educational pursuits, and performing arts. With an impressive 80 to 90 activities on offer each term, the majority of which are led by our own staff, we also collaborate with external organizations to ensure a well-rounded experience for our students.

One of the highlights of this year has been the opening of four new learning spaces for our students. The long-awaited swimming pool, which was completed three years ago, has finally become fully operational. Our students have been able to benefit from swimming lessons and develop water confidence and swimming skills. This addition has greatly enhanced our physical and health education programme.

Our football field has also undergone a much-needed resurfacing, providing a safe and inviting environment for our students and external groups to engage in various sports, competitions, and activities. The lush



greenery surrounding the field adds to the overall appeal and enjoyment.

We are proud to introduce the forest school garden, which has a charming pond as its focal point. Surrounded by native Qatari greenery, this area serves as a valuable outdoor learning space, particularly for our younger students. As it continues to grow and new plants are added, this garden will provide hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Additionally, we are thrilled to have opened a multi-purpose hall to complement our existing gym. This spacious and well-lit area



will be used for physical education, drama, and hosting various events. It presents our students with wonderful opportunities to develop their skills in different sports and performing arts.

To inaugurate these new facilities, we organized our first Wellness Day on a Saturday in January. The day was filled with activities held in each of the respective spaces. Our swimming provider, H2O, showcased their offerings in the pool, while Pro Sports organized basketball and gymnastics activities. Our very own ISL Qatar e-sports team displayed their exceptional gaming skills. It was a fantastic day for the



whole family, with picnics spread out over the school grounds.

We are thrilled to have expanded our learning spaces and are dedicated to providing our students with a wide range of opportunities to thrive both academically and through extra curricular activities.

MULTILINGUALISM AT ISL QATAR



by Salma Waly, PhD | Head of Multilingualism

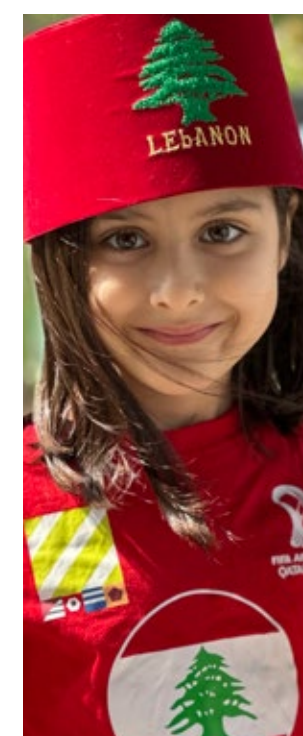
At ISL Qatar, we strive to create transformative linguistic and cultural experiences that connect students to their own cultural heritage while also developing global mindedness and a deep appreciation of diversity. Besides our well-established Arabic department, we currently offer instruction in 12 Multilingualism programs including Spanish, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, French, German, Dutch, Japanese, Russian, and Turkish. We also offer Spanish and French to non-native speakers as part of our Language Acquisition Program.

We deeply believe in the importance of developing proficiency in a child's native language and the positive impact that has on her/his linguistic, social and emotional growth and well-being. We are committed to using research and data-driven practices to inform the quality of our instruction both as a team of Multilingual educators and as a school. Our calendar of events includes activities such as Celebrations of Learning, Global Voices Music Show, and World Multilingualism Day. These events are just examples of our commitment to creating a school culture that promotes mutual respect, tolerance and cross-cultural understanding. At the Multilingual Program at ISL Qatar, we simply build bridges, and prepare leaders of positive change.

WORLD LANGUAGES DAY



GRADE 1 CULTURAL EVENT



GLOBAL VOICES



ISL GOT TALENT



FAN FESTIVAL



SPORT IS BACK!

Champions in the Making



by **Gaida Erlano** | WS Leader of Learning & Physical and Health Education

After a pause dating back to March 2020, September 2022 presented all schools in Qatar a transitional school sports calendar. The high participation rate and success across all ages and gender reflect the enthusiasm, motivation and drive that have always been ingrained within ISL Qatar students. With a reduced format of both QPPSSA and QUESS competitions, ISL Qatar participated in the following tournaments:

- Indoor Athletics
- Football
- Basketball
- Netball
- Swimming

Football

With the Qatar FIFA World Cup, it was no surprise that football, once again, had the highest participation rate. For many of the students, in particular grade 1 to grade 4, the academic year of 2022 - 2023 marked the first time the students were permitted to learn and participate in team-based invasion games. In secondary, the boys picked up where they left off, having teams from U12 to U19s. Whilst in the girls, there were over 45

girls who showed a high level of commitment attending football ECA and competing in U12 to U19 QUESS football competitions.

QUESS Football Tournament results:

- **U14 Girls crowned 2022 - 2023 Champions**
- U12 Boys 3rd
- U12 Girls 4th

QPPSSA Football Tournament results:

- U11 Boys 2nd.
- U11 Girls 2nd.
- U10 Girls 2nd.

U12 Girls: Yara Salha, Salma Abu Yosef, Yasmine Alshibly, Maria Padin, Hanen Berkdar, Jane Al Jamal, Yasmine Ghariani & Sofia Ben Hamadou.



U12 Boys: (from bottom left) Ismail Ksila, Fahad Al Fahad (captain), Karim Bagdadi, Jared Spencer, Pablo Bellocq. (from top left) Riam Kassir, Mohammed Al Naji, Stijn Renkema, Ansh Solanki and Rian Berkdar.



U14 Girls:

Top row, left to right: Ryah Qadan, Layan Al Naji, Tshегоfatso Mogoba, Ella Karlsson, Lara Barkati.

Bottom row, left to right: Lilas Chaaban, Milana EL Khoury, Yasmina Salha, Alexandre Maria Cortes, Haya Bagdadi



Netball

Second to football, netball is one of the premier girls' school sports in Qatar. In the last two academic years, ISL Qatar lost several of its developing and experienced players which resulted in needing to once again increase the growth of the game. Adding to that the effect of the unfavorable PHE changes made in the MYP curriculum, the participation rate in 2022 - 2023 was the lowest it has been since 2017.

To widen the interest in the sport, a selected group of grade 4 and 5 girls attended the QPPSSA Netball Festival where the main aim is to inquire, learn and explore the game in a friendly competition against other schools.

A similar program was implemented with the U14 and U16 girls developing teams.

In terms of competitive success, the U19 Girls Netball team showed a high level of fitness, tenacity and drive to overcome Sherborne Girls in two over-time periods to finish the QUESS netball competition in 3rd place. An outstanding finish when one looks at the training facilities and staffing of ISL Qatar's competitors. Finishing behind both Doha College teams is truly a remarkable achievement.

Swimming

In its inaugural year, swimming became a part of the students' curriculum. Leaning on the expertise of the dedicated swimming

teachers, Ms Fatma and Ms Ana, for the first time in its existence, ISL Qatar formed its (primary) swim team.

Entering a very small team in grade 3 to 5, ISL Qatar students produced results that should make any avid sports person get excited about what's to come in 2023 - 2024.

Basketball

In primary, the U9 - U11 students competed in QPPSSA Basketball tournaments where the U11 Boys finished with a gold medal.

Secondary basketball was an unfortunate casualty of the lack of PHE teachers, teacher-coaches and continued loss of the gym in both curriculum and break times.

September 2023 and beyond....

As ISL Qatar looks towards implementing their strategic planning, the ISQ Qatar community is looking forward to an increased level of participation in all sport tournaments and leagues, increased number of coaches and more training time that will continue to contribute towards the childrens' health, active living, growth and development.

INNOVATION

At ISL Qatar, innovation is not just a buzzword, it's a way of life.



by Helen Jefferey | Head of Middle School

ISL Qatar's commitment to innovation is evident through its diverse range of programs and initiatives. As a leading international school, we foster a culture that encourages our staff and community to think creatively and embrace new ideas without fear of making mistakes. This approach empowers our students to become the change-makers of tomorrow.

One notable initiative is the establishment of a Research Institute, where we collaborate with leading and renowned experts and institutions. Through exciting and developmentally appropriate methods, we teach our middle and high school students research methodologies typically reserved for university graduate students. This unique opportunity allows our students to develop advanced research skills at an early stage, preparing them for future academic pursuits.

The school also provides various platforms to showcase students' innovative projects and solutions. Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, we offer opportunities for students to apply their skills in practical ways. For instance, some of our students have programmed

and designed original, old-fashioned arcade games for sale in a local gaming store. Additionally, other groups of students have recently participated and emerged as winners in STEM engineering contests. Their achievements involved developing prototype products aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals or addressing environment challenges.





Apart from being a full IB continuum school, ISL Qatar has embraced a range of educational programmes and approaches to nurture entrepreneurial thinking and interdisciplinary learning. These program encompass the implementation of readers and writers workshop methods, a Reggio Emilia inspired early childhood programme and a Tech Hub that provides access to cutting-edge technologies that enhance the learning experience. For instance, this year, the Tech Hub has incorporated Minecraft for Education, leveraging this popular platform to facilitate collaborative and immersive learning in various subjects. Our E-Sports initiatives have enabled students to explore the world of competitive gaming while developing teamwork, strategic thinking, and digital literacy skills.

ISL Qatar further amplifies its pursuit of innovation through its 'Week Without Walls' programme. This initiative provides students with an opportunity to venture beyond the confines of the classroom and to explore and learn. By participating in this programme, students are invited to embark on a journey that immerses them in diverse cultures and experiences, fostering within the individual a heightened sense of global awareness and understanding.



Moreover, ISL Qatar places great emphasis on sustainability, a key aspect and central theme of its vision through initiatives like the Eco Club and Garden Classrooms. In addition, the school officially received the prestigious Green Flag Award at the start of the year in recognition of its many environmental actions and ecological accomplishments over the past few years. These initiatives aim to instil within students a deep understanding of environmental responsibility and encourage them to actively contribute as agents of change. The Eco Club, in particular, engages students in promoting environmentally sustainable practices and raises awareness about the significance of protecting our environment with projects such as designing bird-feeders with recycled items, the Forest School garden and the implementation of an annual well-being month. Through these many endeavours, ISL Qatar continues to foster a generation of environmentally conscious individuals committed to preserving and protecting our planet.

YEARBOOK

A Special Collection of memories

The ISL Qatar Yearbook holds a special place as a project close to our hearts. It's a collective effort where staff, students, and teachers come together to create a cherished album of memories. Throughout the academic year, we collaboratively gather and document the most meaningful highlights, capturing the essence of our community's unique bonds. This Yearbook becomes a timeless treasure, reflecting the spirit and diversity of ISL Qatar, and preserving the special moments that define our journey together. It's more than just a book; it's a celebration of the connections we've made and the memories we've shared.

