



YEAR IN REVIEW

Excellence in Education

www.oslointernationalschool.no



2023-24

Messages from our Board Chair ...

Paul Jenkins

Dear OIS Community,

As we conclude a remarkable year at Oslo International School, I am delighted to present this Year in Review for 2023-24. This year holds special significance as we celebrate our 60th anniversary—a milestone that reflects our longstanding tradition of excellence rooted in innovation.

This celebration provides us the chance to recognise the exceptional achievements of OIS students, fostered and led by an exemplary staff. The key to a successful school lies in a dedicated staff, hard-working students, and supportive families.

The successes in this report are a testament to the skills and intellectual inquisitiveness within our school. Nonetheless, we must always remember our story goes well beyond these accomplishments. The daily demonstrations of compassion, collaboration, perseverance, and commitment to internationalism within our classrooms and hallways are what truly define us.

As a British national residing in Norway, I have seen how international families greatly value the chance to engage with multiple cultures. This global interconnectedness, which is increasingly vital in all our lives, was a key factor for many families when choosing to enroll their children at OIS. The school not only immerses students in a globally-focused environment but also prepares them for incredible opportunities with its academic rigour. Families appreciate how OIS combines international-mindedness with a commitment to high educational standards.

In my third year serving on the board and my second as its chair, I have witnessed the resilience and cohesion of our school community firsthand.



The commitment of our staff, the passion of our students, and the steadfast support from our families foster a vibrant environment conducive to success. This year, we have further strengthened our solid foundation, guaranteeing that OIS continues to be a place where students thrive both academically and personally. And of course we have run a global search process that led to the appointment of Thale Herbertson as our incoming head of school. Thale has spent the last 4 months spending real time with us to ensure she hits the ground running in the new school year. We are truly excited to see how she will lead us forward. At the same time we thank Paul Sanders for everything he has done in his tenure as our head. Thanks to his efforts we are in a much stronger position. We wish him well as he moves back to the US.

I hope you enjoy this "Year in Review" as much as I do. Thank you to everyone who has been an integral part of our journey this past year.

Sincerely,
Paul Jenkins
Chair, Board of Trustees

... and our Head of School

Paul Sanders

It's just amazing to think of all the chance events that had to conspire across the globe to bring our vibrant community together here in Norway for the 2023-2024 school year.

Each student's experience, each family's decision, and each teacher's dedication have combined to make Oslo International School a special place. It's incredible to think about all that has brought us together, but together we are, and this has been a great school year.

This Year in Review attempts the impossible: to capture the essence of a school year filled with growth, challenges, community connections, and lessons learned from failures and successes alike. It showcases the remarkable achievements of our students, the result of a community that thrives on respect, care, innovation, and collaboration.

OIS is powered by its values. Our teachers care deeply about the students, fostering an environment where every individual is valued and supported. This culture of care extends beyond the classroom, permeating every aspect of school life. The spirit of collaboration, equally vital, drives us forward. Through shared ideas, mutual support, and teamwork, we achieve remarkable successes and learn from each other.



The magic of the everyday at OIS is hard to capture in a document, but this collection of accomplishments is certainly a step in that direction. As you turn its pages, you will see individual growth, shared successes, and our collective development as a school.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,
Paul Sanders
Head of School

Academic Excellence

This year, our students demonstrated an exceptional commitment to intellectual growth. Their enthusiasm for academic competitions reached new heights, with a record number of participants from across the school choosing to set themselves new challenges.

Science & Maths

Several students made it through to the finals of national science and mathematics competitions.

- An IB1 student claimed top prize in Norway's Astrophysics Olympiad Final, and has been invited to participate in the international final in Brazil later this year.
- Of an initial 1,169 competitors from over 100 Norwegian schools, four Upper Secondary students advanced to Round 2 of the Biology Olympiad. One student secured top position in the national semi-final, and progressed to the final held at the University of Oslo.
- More than 1,000 students from 101 Norwegian schools participated in the Chemistry Olympiad. Seven students from OIS progressed to the second round, with one student reaching the Norwegian final.



- Thirty nine students took part in the national ABEL mathematics competition, along with more than 3,000 students from across Norway. Six OIS students qualified for the second round, with one advancing to the final round and securing 12th place in the country.
- A record number of students from Year 7 through Pre-IB took part in the ISMTF Middle School Competition. Top ten positions were achieved by OIS in both the individual and team competitions.
- In the Kangaroo Maths Competition, our students delivered exceptional results, with several from Primary and Lower Secondary placing in the top ten of their year levels nationwide.
- A team of Year 6 students attended the international Maths Quest competition in Barcelona, narrowly missing a place in the top ten.

Culture & Language

- In the 2024 Spanish Festival, Year 10 students achieved a podium finish among 21 groups from schools across Norway. Representatives from the Spanish and Latin American embassies recognised our team's winning video (promoting UN Sustainable Development Goal 8) at a dedicated OIS awards ceremony.
- Finalists from Upper Secondary in the 2023 International Language Competition in Kristiansand immersed themselves in the lively realm of French-language songs through an online workshop hosted by France Kulturhus.

Model United Nations (MUN)

- The Scandinavian Model United Nations Conference saw its largest turnout yet, with over 160 delegates gathering for a dynamic two-day event in Stavanger. Nine OIS students from Year 9 to IB1 passionately addressed global security issues, including nuclear disarmament, modern slavery eradication, the Ethiopian crisis, and drug trafficking.
- Earlier in the year, students also participated in an online global MUN conference in Dubai.



Stellar Results

Our outstanding results in tests and exams highlight our culture of academic excellence. This year, our students have surpassed expectations, demonstrating their dedication, hard work, and passion for learning.

International Schools Assessment (ISA)

The ISA is an internationally benchmarked assessment for primary and middle school students (grades 3-10) at schools with an international focus. Students assessed included Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

In 2024, OIS outperformed schools in almost all comparisons worldwide, including in mathematical literacy and reading.



National Tests

Several mother tongue students took part in the *Nasjonalprøven*, compulsory tests in Norwegian schools that assess student achievement in reading, arithmetic, and English.

Alongside 57,000 students nationwide, our Year 5, 8, and 9 students achieved commendable results.

PRIMARY*

Of the three proficiency levels, 3 being the highest, our scores are as follows:

Year 5

- English: 60% achieved the highest level (3) compared to 25% nationwide
- Numeracy: 80% achieved at least a level 2, compared to 73% nationwide

SECONDARY

Of the five proficiency levels, 5 being the highest, our scores are as follows:

Year 8

- English: 57% were in the top level (5) compared to a national average of 10%
- Numeracy: 43% were in the top level (5) compared to a national average of 9%
- Norwegian: 50% were in the top level (5) compared to a national average of 8%

Year 9

- Numeracy: 47% were in the top level (5) compared to a national average of 21%
- Norwegian: 32% were in the top level (5) compared to a national average of 21%

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme Results 2023

The IB Diploma Programme is recognised as one of the most rigorous high school curriculums in the world. We are immensely proud of our students' dedication and achievements.

- OIS achieved a 100% pass rate compared to the worldwide pass rate of 79%.
- An impressive mean score of 36.0 (out of a possible 45) was achieved, 5.8 points higher than the worldwide average of 30.2.
- 18% of our students secured 40 points or more (top 14% of diploma candidates worldwide). Our highest score was 44 out of 45 points.
- 26% of our students were awarded Bilingual Diplomas (English and Norwegian).



Community Engagement

We take immense pride in fostering a spirit of togetherness at our school. Community engagement manifests in various ways, and it's rare for a week to pass without something to celebrate.

Cultural Celebration

- This year's UN Day was a vibrant celebration featuring cultural workshops and a whole-school assembly, with the Spanish Ambassador to Norway serving as keynote speaker. The event included bagpipes, speeches, performances, and the traditional flag parade.
- Norway's Constitution Day celebrations were a wonderful demonstration of our commitment to inclusivity, peace, and unity. This year's event was made even more memorable with the addition of the local youth marching band.

Artistic Expression

- Upper Secondary hosted a beautiful IB2 art vernissage, showcasing the talent and creativity of our students through their personal trajectories.
- This year's school play, "Back in the Day," was a vibrant roller disco set in the 80s that entertained with colorful costumes, and catchy tunes.

Pep Rallies

- Two pep rallies featuring games, team recognitions, and plenty of enthusiastic cheers demonstrated that OIS team camaraderie is alive and kicking!



Meet Melgo!

- Making a memorable debut earlier this year, Melgo the Moose arrived to energise our group gatherings. Our community has wholeheartedly embraced this furry friend as a symbol of OIS school spirit.

Books & Minds

- As our reading programme continues to evolve, several visiting authors came through our doors, including Omar Mohamed who shared his personal journey through his award-winning book, "When Stars are Scattered."
- The Parent Association organised a successful Book Fair with participation from students from Pre-School through to Year 10.
- Y8 Books Alive exhibition breathed life into the pages of historical fiction through period costumes, interesting stories and detailed displays.
- OIS hosted our first ever TEDx event on "The Butterfly Effect". Led by two IB2 students, the event was open to the community and featured a diverse line-up of speakers who engaged and inspired.



Global Citizenship

Throughout the year, we offer our students unforgettable adventures and cultural experiences that foster personal growth, teamwork, resilience, and community service. Often student-led, these initiatives highlight our commitment to global citizenship and community building. Here are a few of this year's standout moments.

Exploration & Personal Growth

- Pre-schoolers immersed themselves in their surroundings, taking part in nature walks, creating butterfly feeders, and planning floral arrangements to adorn our school entrances.
- Primary "adopted" a 100-metre section of Akers River in Oslo, collaborating with a local non-profit organisation involved in its upkeep. Students also visited many interesting sites including farms, museums, and even the parliament building.
- Year 7 explored and created a Recycling Action Plan for OIS, and built connections with their younger peers in Lower Primary through play and buddy reading.
- Year 8 engaged in the Mycelium Project, creating their own climate change activities to be shared with students around the world.
- Year 9 created their own ocean start-ups, gaining insights from forward looking organisations like Katapult Ocean and Ocean Watch.
- Year 10 continued their partnership with the Norwegian refugee Council, exploring both current events and solutions to 100 million people in need.
- Pre-IB explored human rights and cultural understanding with the Inter-African Committee in Oslo.
- IB1 students exemplified the collaborative spirit and core values of CAS (Creativity, Activity, and Service) through their bricks-and-mortar work in the construction of a classroom in Mozambique. This year's experience was further enhanced through sports equipment donations to our host school by OIS community members.



Fundraising

- A series of fundraising events were organised to support our three charities, Bobole, Clean Coast Anglers and Doctors without Borders. Highlights included spirited football and dodgeball games between staff and students, bake sales, and chores for change.





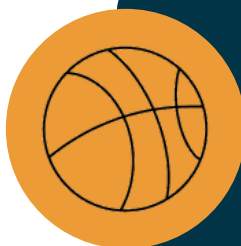
Sports

Sports continued to play a crucial role in promoting physical health, teamwork, and personal growth among our students. In addition to numerous friendly matches and in-house games, we participated in competitive leagues. Below, a few team sport highlights.



FOOTBALL

Our Junior Football teams proudly brought home trophies after earning podium positions at the Nordic Sports League (NSL) Football Tournament in Helsinki. Our Senior teams also returned triumphant from the NSL in Copenhagen, with the Boys team clinching first place and the Girls team achieving second place.



BASKETBALL

In basketball, our Junior and Senior NSL teams traveled to Stockholm and Stavanger, respectively. Our Junior teams delivered spirited performances, showcasing true teamwork, while our Senior teams secured a solid second place.



CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

Our runners excelled at the Norwegian International Schools League (NISL) cross-country events. Both Primary and Secondary teams competed on home turf and at Asker International School, securing numerous victories and winning many medals.



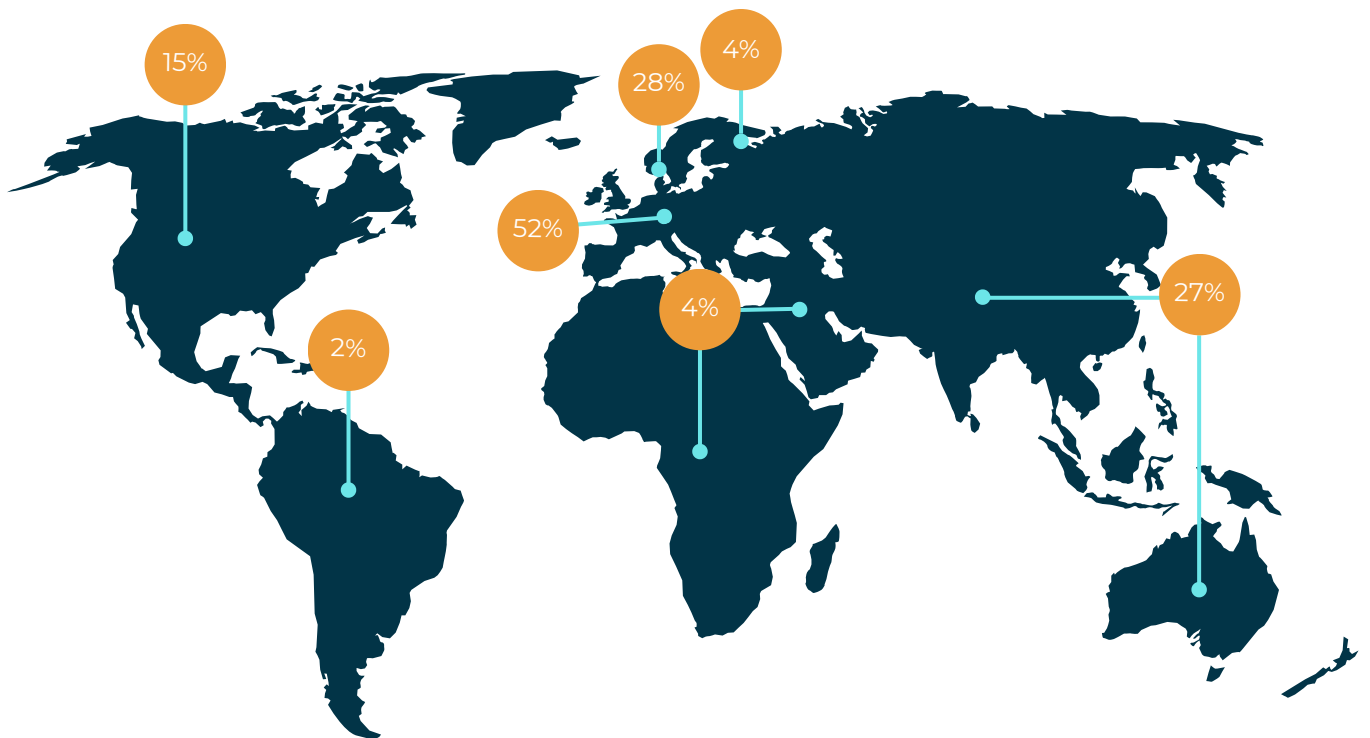
BADMINTON

Our badminton teams competed in their third NSL Badminton Tournament. Our senior team travelled to Lithuania to play, while the junior tournament was hosted on our home turf.



Demographics

Our student demographics highlight the diversity and international nature of our community, with representation from all corners of the globe. We take pride in our inclusive environment, where students from many cultural backgrounds come together to learn and grow.



Norway: 28%
Other Nordic: 4%
Europe (includes Norway): 52%
North America: 15%

South America: 2%
Africa & Middle East: 4%
Asia & Oceania: 27%
9% of student body holds more than 1 passport/citizenship

600
STUDENTS

282
PRE-SCHOOL
& PRIMARY

187
LOWER
SECONDARY

131
UPPER
SECONDARY

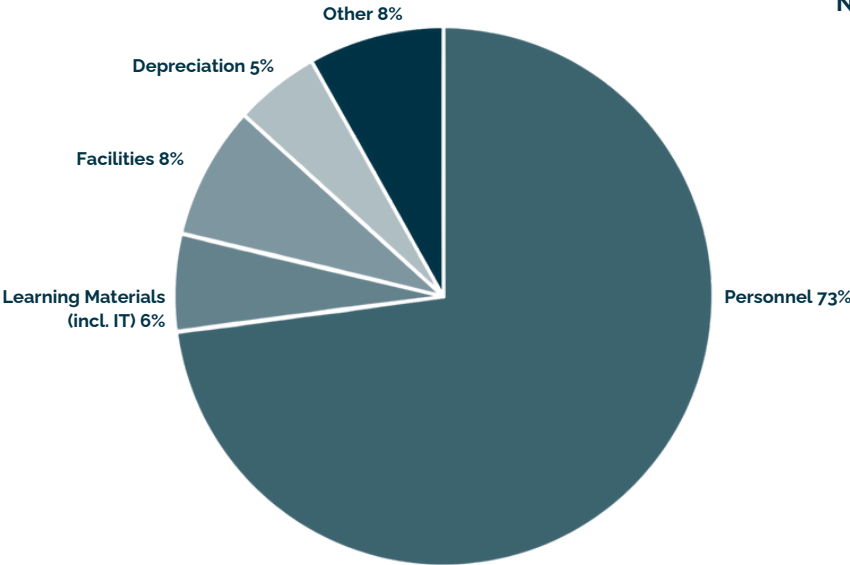
Financials

OIS is a non-profit organisation, where our income goes towards enhancing the student experience and supporting long-term benefits to the school. OIS receives no governmental funding, and revenue is primarily generated through tuition fees.

The charts below detail cost allocations during the fiscal year 2023, and investments made during 2023 and the first half of 2024.

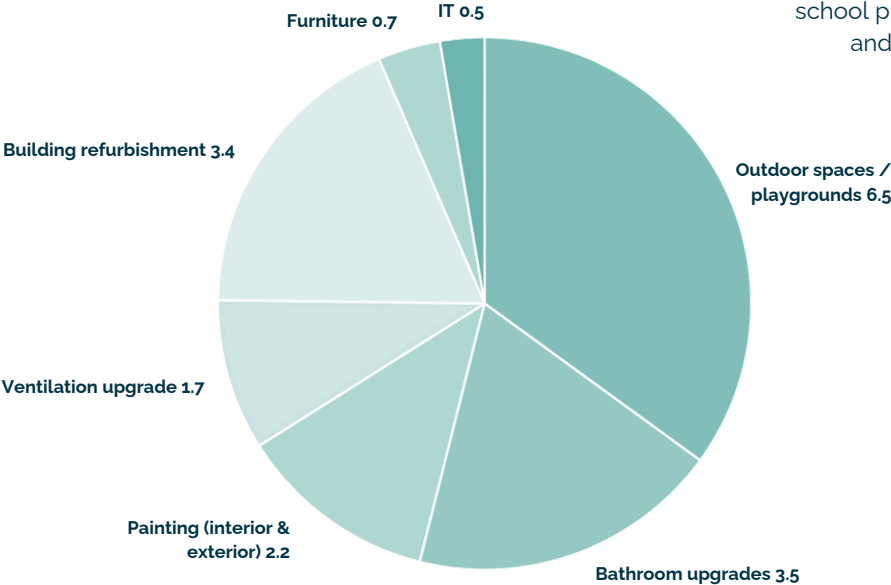
Cost Allocation %

Revenue: 148.8 MNOK
Total Expenses: 143.6 MNOK
Net Result: 5.2 MNOK



Investments MNOK

Total Investments: 18.5 Million NOK
Based on community feedback, the school prioritised playground and bathroom upgrades



University Admissions

Our graduates go on to study at exceptional institutions all over the world. Below is a list of offers for the Classes of 2022 and 2023. University offers for our current graduating class are published in the autumn after students receive their IB exam results.

AUSTRALIA

University of Melbourne*
University of NSW
University of Sydney

BRAZIL

Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná

CANADA

McGill University*
Concordia University
Queen's University
University of Toronto*
University of British Columbia

CROATIA

Rochester Institute of Technology*

DENMARK

Copenhagen Business School

ITALY

Bocconi University
Luiss University
NABA (New Academy of Fine Arts)*

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam Uni of Applied Sciences*
Eindhoven University**
Delft University*
Groningen University*
Leiden University**
Maastricht University
Twente University
Tilburg University*

NEW ZEALAND

University of Auckland
University of Waikato

NORWAY

BI Norwegian Business School***
Norges Handelshøyskole (NHH)**
University of Oslo**
Norwegian Technology & Engineering University (NTNU)*****
University of Bergen

SPAIN

EADA Business School*
IE University**
La Roche University for Hospitality
Marbella Design Academy
University of Science & Technology Barcelona*

SWEDEN

Lund University**
KTH Royal Institute of Technology*
Stockholm University

UK

Bath Spa University
Birmingham City University
Brighton & Sussex Medical School
Cardiff University
City, University of London
Heriot Watt University**
Hull University
Hult University
Keele University
King's College London
Kingston University
Imperial College London**
London School of Economics
Manchester Metropolitan*
Newcastle University
Queen Mary University, London
Robert Gordon University
Royal Holloway University
Strathclyde University
University College London**
University of Aberdeen
University of Bath*****
University of Birmingham
University of Brighton***
University of Buckingham*
University of Cambridge*
University of Cardiff
University of Chester
University of Bristol
University of Dundee
University of Durham
University of East Anglia

University of Edinburgh****

University of Essex
University of Exeter**
University of Glasgow
University of Lancaster
University of Leeds*
University of Loughborough**
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford**
University of Portsmouth
University of Sheffield**
University of Southampton
University of Stirling*
University of St Andrews****
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of Warwick
University of West of England
University of Westminster
York St John University
York University

USA

Albright College
Bentley College*
Boston University*
Carthage College
DePaul University, Chicago
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Florida Institute of Technology
Georgia Institute of Technology
Johns Hopkins University*
Ithaca College
Parsons New School of Design*
St Lawrence University
SUNY at Purchase College
Towson University
University of Illinois Urbana
University of Massachusetts
University of Michigan Ann Arbor
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Texas*
University of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University*
Virginia Tech

AN ASTERISK (*) DENOTES THE INSTITUTIONS WHERE OUR 2022 AND 2023 GRADUATES MATRICULATED

In the 2023-2024 academic year, OIS firmly established itself as a key destination for university visits. The highlight was our inaugural Nordic Uni Tour, spearheaded and organised by our school. This event attracted 75 universities from around the globe and involved seven host schools from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland.