



International
School of London
Qatar

ANNUAL REPORT

THE JOURNEY OF 2023/2024



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STRATEGIC GROWTH

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

SEAN AREIAS, ED.D
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear ISL Qatar Community,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I share with you the highlights of our achievements during the 2023-24 academic year. Our journey of continuous growth has been marked by significant accomplishments that have further solidified our commitment to providing high quality and future ready education for all our learners.

Building on the foundation we laid with our reaccreditation last year, we have made remarkable strides in refining and enhancing our strategic vision. Our updated mission, vision, and values, crafted with input from our diverse community, continue to guide us toward a more transformative and unified direction. Our mission, “Empowering learners to lead through compassion, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking,” and vision, “Imagining and designing a better world together,” resonate deeply within our community and drive our collective efforts.

This year, we have successfully revised and launched our 2024-27 Rolling Strategic Plan, a testament to our commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. Our strategic goals focus on enhancing inclusive, personalized, and equitable learning, building meaningful relationships within our community, optimizing the use of spaces and resources, and ensuring effective governance, financial planning, and leadership. As we look toward the future, we are excited about the possibilities that await us. Our commitment to fostering a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and inclusivity remains steadfast. The ongoing implementation of our strategic plan will ensure that we continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for all our learners.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and vibrant students. Your commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in our achievements. Together, we have created a community that is not only strong and resilient but also forward-thinking and compassionate.

Let us continue to imagine, innovate, and create a better world together. Thank you for being an integral part of the ISL Qatar community.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2023-24

1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>DESIGNING LEARNING THAT SUPPORTS AND CHALLENGES EVERY LEARNER</p> <p>We have made significant progress in aligning our written, taught, and assessed curricula both vertically and horizontally. Our efforts have ensured that our curricula are not only comprehensive but also tailored to meet the diverse needs of our learners.</p>	<p>CLASS OF 2024 SHINES</p> <p>Our 2024 graduates continued ISL Qatar’s tradition of achieving excellent individual results on their Grade 12 and IB exams. All our graduates are now embarking on their best-fit pathways including enrolment in high quality university programs.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY BUILDING AND EXTRACURRICULAR LEARNING</p> <p>Our community engagement initiatives have flourished, with increased participation in activities, athletics, and school-wide events. The establishment of sustainable partnerships with external organizations has enriched our educational experiences and expanded our community reach.</p>	<p>INNOVATIVE PRIMARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS</p> <p>The heart of our report will focus on the distinct achievements within our Primary School, Middle School, and High School sections. Each section, led by our dedicated heads, will highlight the unique stories and accomplishments that have defined this academic year.</p>	<p>UPGRADING OF OUR TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>We have undertaken a comprehensive technology and data audit, and we have begun implementing recommendations that have greatly enhanced our technology integration. This includes the development of a Technology Integration Plan and the start of documentation of horizontal and vertical alignment, ensuring that our students are equipped with essential digital skills. Additionally, we have significantly overhauled and upgraded our technology infrastructure over the summer to ensure continuous, efficient learning supported by technology.</p>	<p>PLANNING FOR AN EXCITING FUTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Our governance and leadership structures have been strengthened with the implementation of a long-term financial plan. These initiatives ensure the sustainability and growth of our school, aligning our operations with our strategic goals.◦ Looking ahead to the future we will discuss our ambitious plans for a state-of-the-art facility, a symbol of our unwavering commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

IN HONOUR OF MR. NADIM MAKAREM

CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LONDON GROUP

ISL Qatar Vision
Imagining and
designing a better
world together

“Nadim Makarem was a visionary – a man of few words, high moral values and clear determination. He was an entrepreneur and a philanthropist, succeeding both in business and social work engagements. His lifetime accomplishments depict the traits of true leaders: strategic thinking, business acumen, strong ethics, perseverance, risk-taking, dedication, and the list goes on.

Above all, Nadim Makarem was a family man who gave unconditional love and support to his loved ones and his community. It is no wonder that he was drawn to the world of international education with the purpose of making a difference to the lives of future generations. He was a true inspiration to everyone who knew him and he left a legacy to be proud of and celebrated.”

AMIN MAKAREM
CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ISL GROUP



“The passing of Mr Nadim Makarem is a big loss to the International School of London and all his friends and colleagues at the school. As his long-time friend and colleague, I personally shall miss him dearly. Ever since he and I co-founded the school in 1987, Mr Makarem, as the Managing Director, devoted all his efforts and energies to the development of the school in all respects. Perhaps beyond all that, his personal qualities of kindness, friendliness and concern for teachers, students and parents were exceptional indeed. He would never leave the school grounds every evening until he was sure all students arrived home safely. It was no surprise, therefore, that the government of Qatar invited the school, a few years later, to start a branch in Doha. Nadim Makarem may rest in peace: Many of his dreams have come true.”

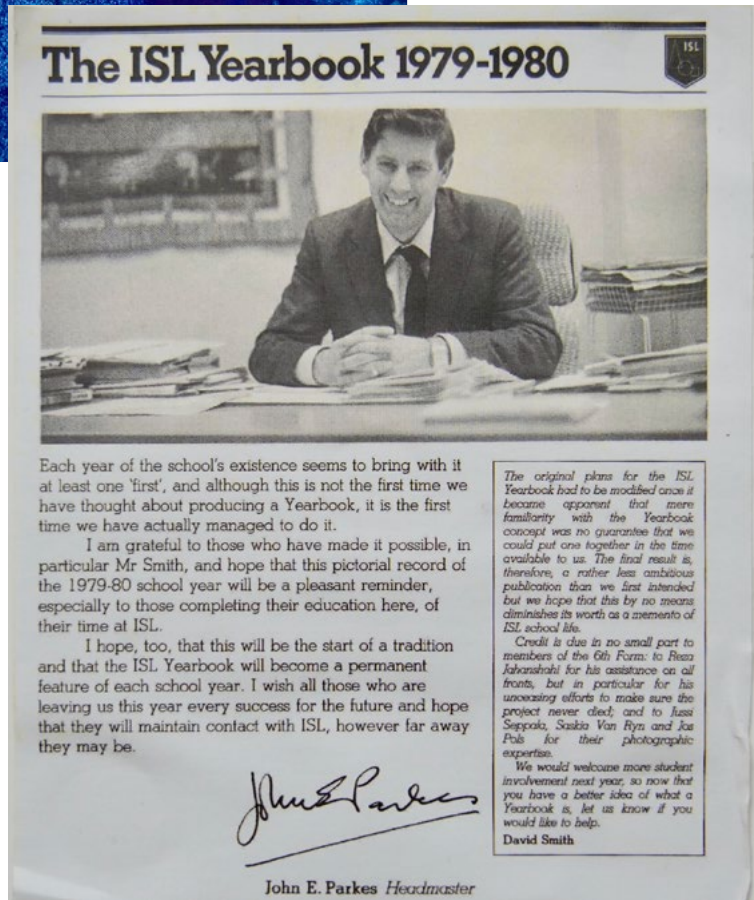
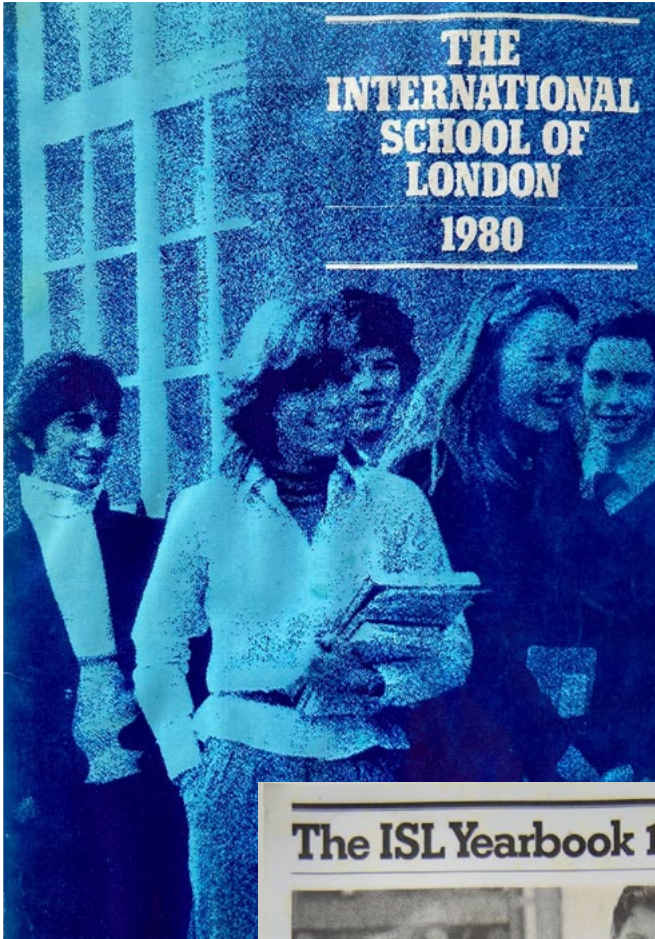
RAOUF GHUSAYNI, PH.D.
CO-FOUNDER AND FORMER HEAD OF ISL

“Mr Nadim Makarem was a real kind-hearted gentleman, with an inspiring view of education that motivated all of us who worked with the ISL Group over the years. He was the heart and soul of ISL Qatar. He subtly made his values and beliefs the bedrock of the mission and vision of the school. His passion for intercultural understanding shone through in commitment for mother tongue languages and in his dedication to an impactful community service programme. His deep understanding of holistic learning was made concrete in his support for the IB programmes across all the ISL schools. His love of children shone through in his personal and professional life and formed the basis of all of his educational ventures and in his family life. In short, he was a visionary, ahead of his time, who won the respect and admiration of all who met him.”

CHRIS CHARLESON
FORMER HEAD OF ISL QATAR

“It was many years ago that I first visited International Community College, as part of my duties as Admissions Officer at ISL. I was passing at the weekend and stopped to see the school from the outside. It happened that there was a family event going on in the house (now the school offices), and Nadim came out and invited me to join them on the spot. It was my introduction to the tradition of hospitality which later became more familiar. When we were looking for a new home for ISL I suggested to our management that this might be a suitable match, and it all came to pass.”

RICHARD PEARCE
FORMER HEAD OF ADMISSIONS AT ISL



“Nadim Makarem was a soft-spoken gentleman with a dedication to education. Over the years, I was always impressed by his determination that the school should succeed, and his acute awareness of what was going on around him. Nadim had a low-key dry sense of humour. He was open to new thinking and to all kinds of people, and a shrewd judge who knew his direction. I think of him prudently leading the causes of ISL and of international education. He had a quiet determination and steadfast dedication to both of these. My personal memories of him are legion, many from them from the founding days of ISL Qatar. Those were difficult and testing times, rewarded by his remarkable achievement. I was impressed then by his devotion to both work and family, and also by his generosity and kindness to myself and my wife. It was through him that we saw much of his home country and the region, and learnt to understand it better. He leaves a proud and lasting legacy to education.”

RICHARD HERMON
FOUNDING HEAD OF ISL QATAR

“Perhaps the most vivid lesson he taught me came with no words. Our favourite private joke was the ‘shoe factory.’ He and I agreed that setting up a run shoe factory was much easier and far more profitable than a school. Every time we faced a big problem, we referred to the shoe factory as a way to say: why do we bother working so hard? The answer was on his face of pure joy during the morning break, which he religiously spent standing close to the door next to the old admissions. It was a short 10 minutes he loved contemplating the children running around. It took me time and courage to stop the urge to resolve an urgent matter and join him in contemplating the collective happiness of the children – this remains with me as a synopsis of why it all makes so much sense. Why a school and not a factory.

I would like to think he respected and liked me just as much as I did him. He always made me feel welcomed and completely comfortable around him, often inflating the importance of my suggestions, which ignited my confidence as a leader. But, it is in his small gestures that he touched me profoundly. Inviting me to stay in his house in Qatar at the start of the project



and treating me like a family member allowed me to experience interacting with a father figure I never had, as I lost my father when I was too young. Two contrasting occasions come to my mind when I recollect these early days in Qatar with Mr. Makarem. One was the afternoon break he and I enjoyed at an isolated Lebanese restaurant by the seashore. There, sipping the Lebanese white coffee, we did not have to talk to one another, but we both thought about the shoe factory joke and laughed without ever exchanging any words. The second was the polite manner in which he would not trust my dishwashing skills. He will return to the kitchen late at night and rewash the dishes I cleaned!

In the master course on leadership I lecture, I have the opportunity to visit several leadership theories and discuss many leadership skills, but somehow none of which reaches the same depth of meaning as a lesson I received from Mr. Makarem in just one sentence immediately after he appointed me for my first role at the leadership level, his words I will never forget. Often, I pass it on to future leaders:

“...as a leader, you will make great decisions, and you will also make big mistakes; in all cases, you will have my 100% support. I will support all your decisions, but I will tell you when you are wrong and support you anyway...”

SERGIO PAWEL
FORMER ACADEMIC CHIEF OF ISL GROUP



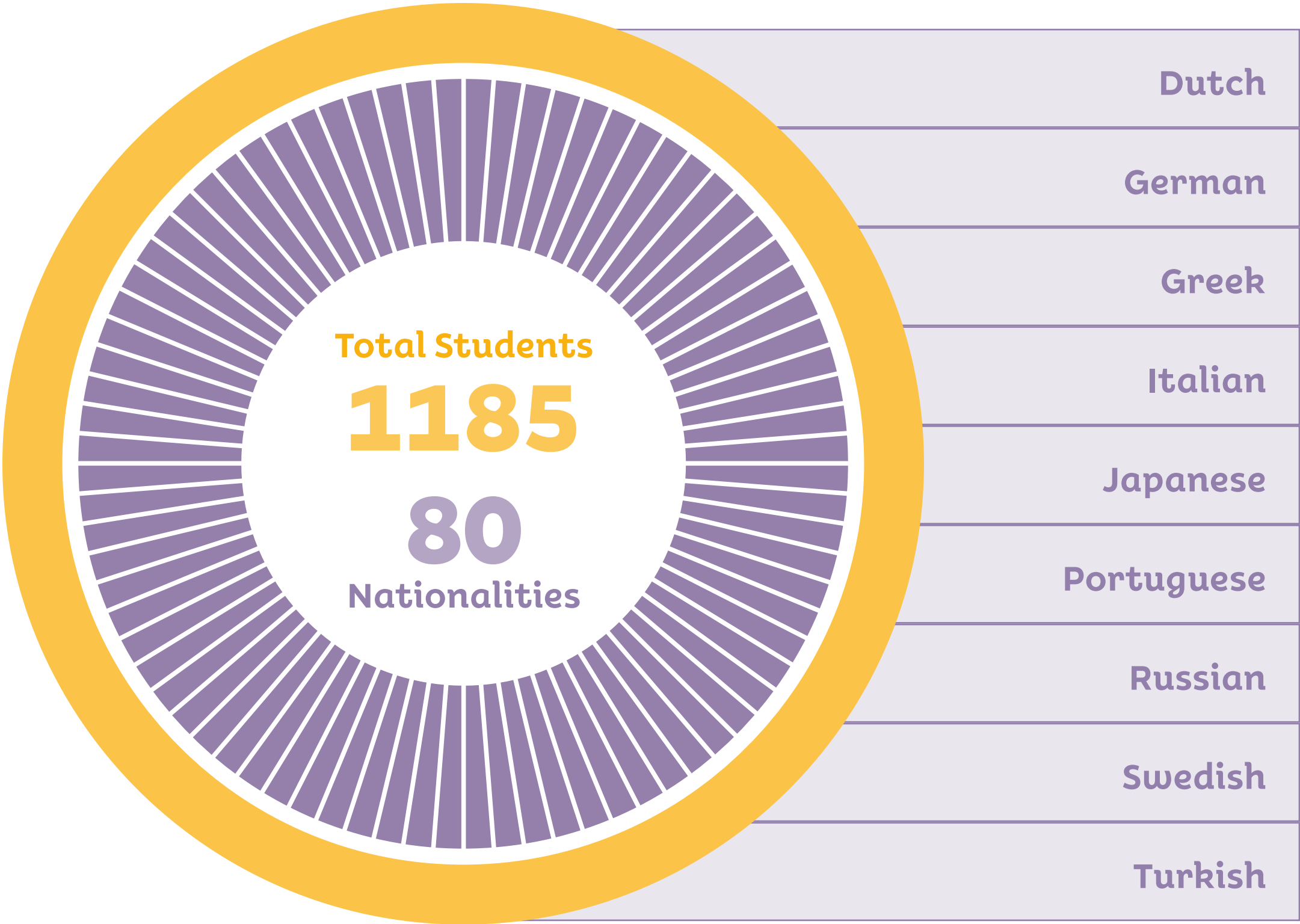
OUR COMMITMENT TO MULTILINGUALISM

DR. SALMA WALY
HEAD OF MULTILINGUALISM

During the 2023-2024 academic year, our primary focus was advancing towards our goal of creating immersive, transformative, and culturally responsive learning experiences for every student. A significant part of our efforts centered on enhancing teacher training and skills development to foster communicative and engaging language learning environments. Our educators made substantial progress in leveraging diverse technology tools, AI advancements, and Microsoft Education Applications to facilitate authentic, hands-on language usage among students. We also strived to integrate our curriculum with cross-disciplinary units from other subjects, promoting transdisciplinary connections. This approach not only enriched students' understanding of various topics but also empowered them to take action in the languages they were learning.

As a cohesive team encompassing Mother Tongue Languages, Language

DIVERSITY AT ISL QATAR 23-24



Strategic Goal 1
ISL Qatar will enhance inclusive, personalized and equitable learning for all.

Objective 1.2
ISL Qatar commits to improving the implementation of inclusive teaching practices, ensuring that all learners have access to learning opportunities, and feel valued and understood as individuals.

Language Acquisition

Arabic
Spanish
French

Acquisition Programs, and Arabic, our goal was full integration into all school activities, making multilingualism a unifying theme. This integration not only bolstered students' sense of identity and belonging but also reinforced our core value of kindness. We celebrated our diverse community through events like the International Food Day, the International Day of Tolerance, Mother Tongue Day, and the beloved International Family Food Fair.

Recognizing the importance of community involvement, we launched Multilingualism World Cafes. These gatherings served as platforms to celebrate achievements, and engage families in discussions about raising multilingual children. Looking ahead, our commitment is to sustain these efforts, aligning with ISL's vision of imagining and designing a better world together.

In summary, the 2023-2024 academic year marked significant strides rooted in enriching learning experiences, fostering cultural responsiveness, and nurturing a strong sense of community and inclusivity at our school.



GRADES BREAKDOWN

Early Years and
Primary Students

671

Middle School
Students

232

High School
Students

282



CLASS OF 2024 ACADEMIC RESULTS

SMITA SHETTY
DP COORDINATOR

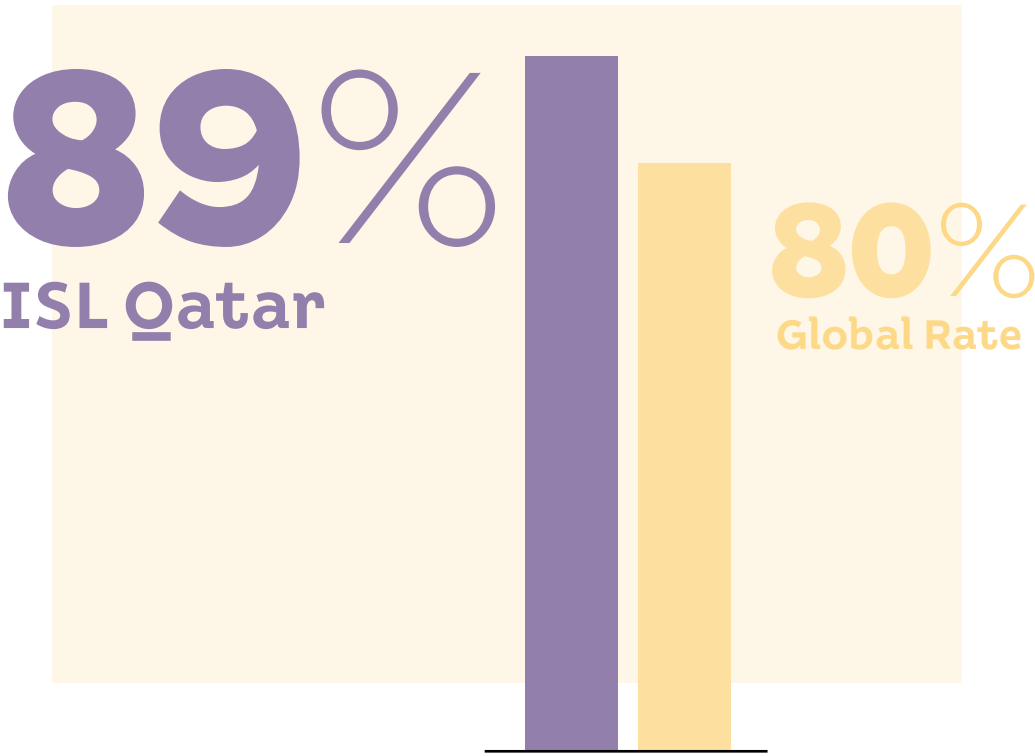
The International School of London (ISL) Qatar proudly announces the remarkable achievements of its students both in the successful completion of the High School Diploma as well as in the May International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) examinations. Demonstrating exceptional dedication and grit, our students have achieved results that reflect their hard work, the support of their families, and the commitment of our educators.

This year, all 65 students of Class of 2024 have successfully completed and met the graduation requirements for the ISL Qatar High School Diploma. A total of 54 students participated in the IB Diploma Programme at ISL Qatar and 9 students completed the IB Course Pathway. Among them, 16 students earned the prestigious bilingual diploma, showcasing the strength and success of ISL Qatar’s Mother Tongue program. This program emphasizes the importance of maintaining and developing students’ native languages alongside their academic studies, enabling them to thrive in a multicultural environment.

As an inclusive school, ISL Qatar provided multiple pathway opportunities for all the 65 graduates, and our graduates earned both a High School Diploma and an IB Programme certification. This past academic year, our graduates enrolled in at least one IB course and a total of 519 IB certificates were earned by the Class of 2024.

54 IBDP CANDIDATES IN THE CLASS OF 2024

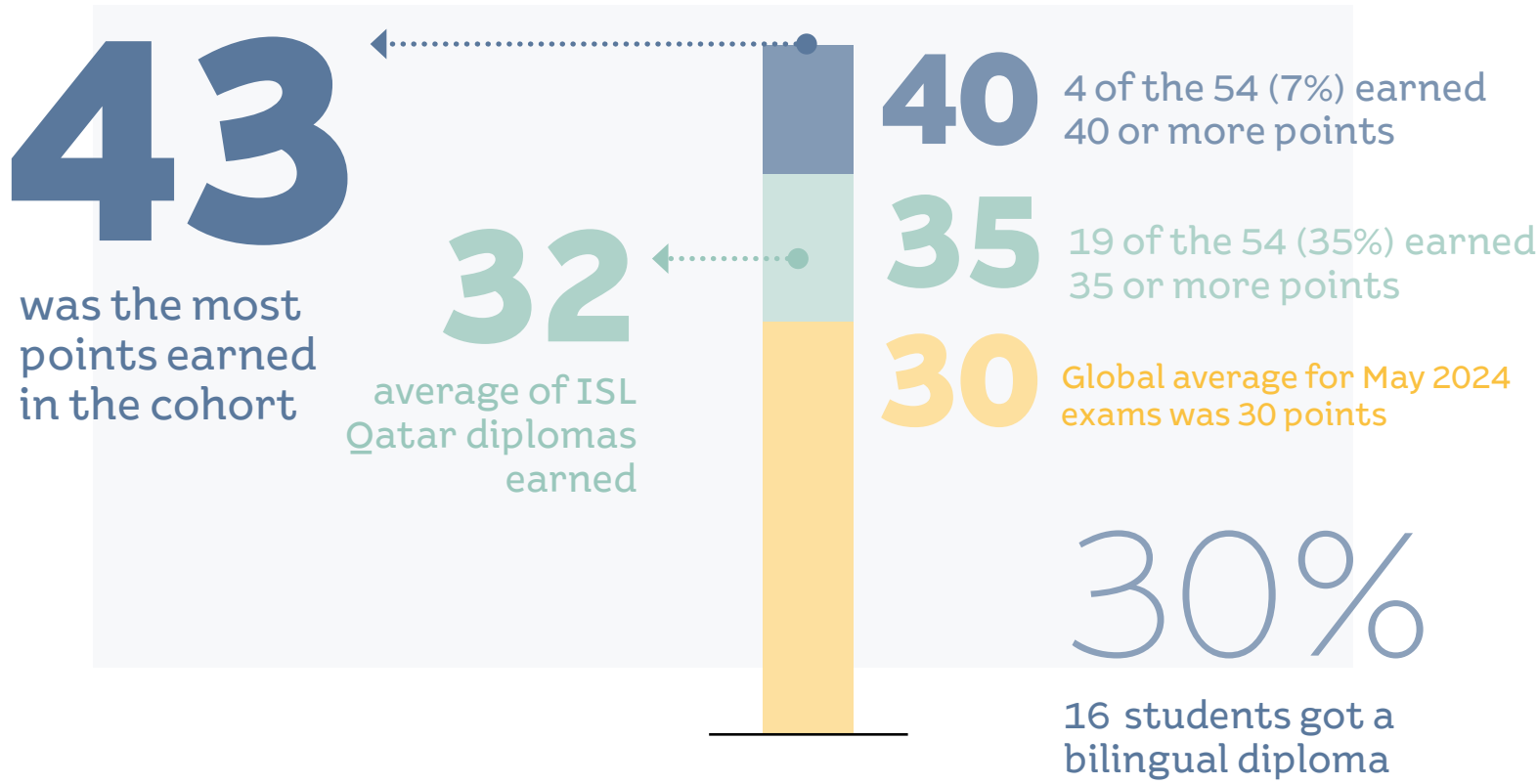
Pass Rate



ISL Qatar is particularly proud of the number of students who achieved high scores in their IB DP examinations. Out of the 54 IB DP candidates, 35 students scored at least 30 points, a commendable achievement indicating a strong understanding of the rigorous IB curriculum. Moreover, 19 students distinguished themselves further by scoring at least 34 points, a testament to their exceptional academic capabilities.

Further highlighting the top performers, 4 students achieved the remarkable milestone of scoring 40 points or more. This exceptional

Scores



accomplishment places them among the top echelons of IB students globally. The highest score achieved by an ISL Qatar student this year was an impressive 43 points, reflecting outstanding academic prowess and dedication.

These results are a testament to the hard work and perseverance of our students, the unwavering support of their families, and the dedication of our faculty. The IB Diploma Programme is one of – if not the most - challenging academic programmes in the world and our students have shown resilience and commitment in their pursuit of excellence.

The ISL Qatar community celebrates these achievements as a reflection of the school community’s commitment to providing a high-quality, inclusive international education that prepares students for success in a globalized world. ISL Qatar encourages and whole heartedly supports student agency throughout a student’s learning journey, whatever pathway they chose to pursue. The results of the Class of 2024 are a source of pride and inspiration, encouraging future cohorts to achieve success.

Goal 1
ISL Qatar will enhance inclusive, personalized and equitable learning for all.

Objective 1.3
ISL Qatar commits to fostering a learning environment that empowers learners to take charge of their education, encouraging autonomy and active engagement within their learning experiences.

FROM STAGE TO CANVAS

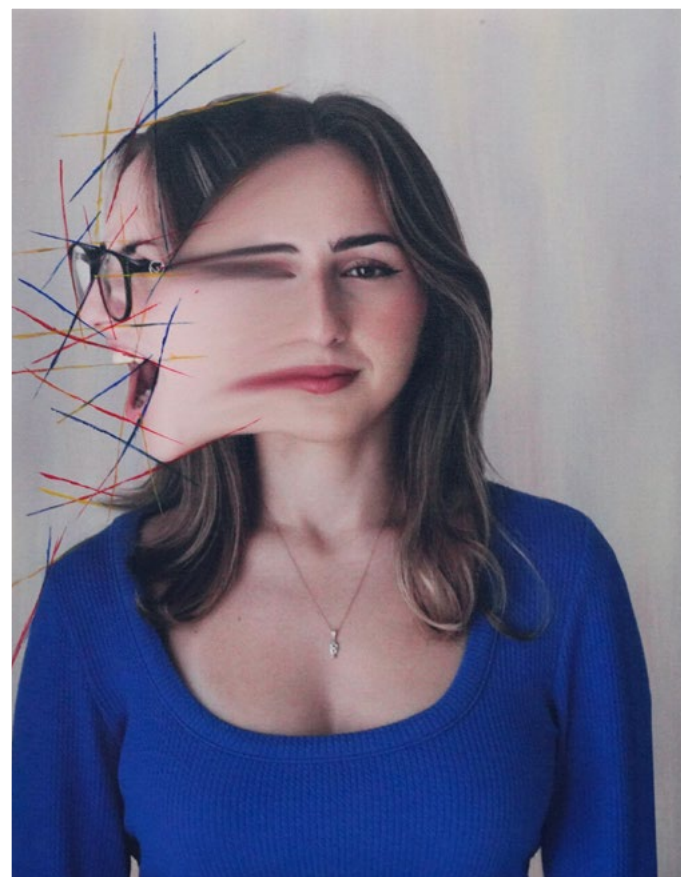
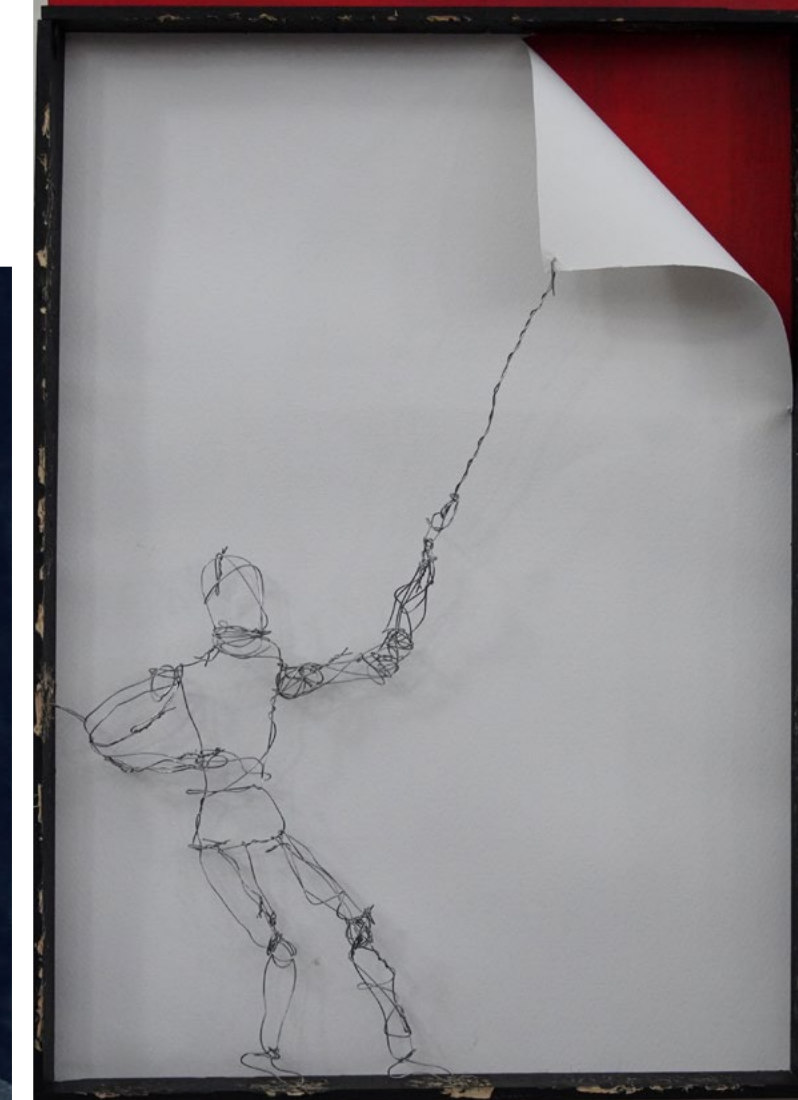
HOW ARTS DRIVE STUDENT SUCCESS

ISL QATAR ARTS DEPARTMENT

In our school, the Arts are more than just subjects—they're integral to our students' development and learning. From Visual Arts to Performing Arts, our programs are designed to ignite creativity and foster critical skills.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, our students developed a range of valuable skills through our Arts programs. Early Years students enhanced their confidence and collaboration skills by engaging in hands-on activities exploring musical instruments and performance techniques. These experiences were showcased in memorable Celebrations of Learning, reflecting their growth in self-expression and teamwork.

In the Primary Years, students deepened their cultural understanding and storytelling techniques through diverse initiatives. For instance, African drumming workshops not only refined their rhythmic abilities but also exposed them to rich musical traditions. The performance of "Eddie the Penguin Saves the Earth" allowed students to practice their acting skills while integrating environmental themes into their learning.



Strategic Goal 2
ISL Qatar will build meaningful relationships to enrich its community.



The Middle Years Programme offered students a better perspective on drama, significantly enriching their understanding of live performance and its educational benefits. Drama, as an art form, fosters critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and teamwork, all of which are crucial for personal and academic development. A key example of this was a field trip to see “The Lightning Thief – Percy Jackson Musical”. This experience provided students with a firsthand view of how literature can be transformed into a compelling live performance, broadening their appreciation for the art form and enhancing their engagement with dramatic narratives.

In High School, students continued their artistic journey through a variety of creative projects across different disciplines. These experiences allowed them to delve deeper into their artistic interests and refine their skills. Their journey reached a significant milestone in the Diploma Programme, where they showcased their



achievements at the Visual Arts Exhibition. This event featured a diverse range of works, from paintings to multimedia pieces, reflecting their development and exploration throughout their studies. Moreover, through initiatives like the Beyond COP28 Visual Arts and Design Exhibition, students gained a deeper understanding of environmental issues and demonstrated their commitment to sustainability through creative solutions.

Throughout the year, our Arts program ensured that students experienced a broad spectrum of artistic expression, contributing to their personal growth and academic success. Ultimately, these initiatives not only enriched our students' educational journeys but also brought our community together. The collaboration between students and teachers created opportunities for shared experiences, strengthening our bonds and leaving lasting memories for all involved.

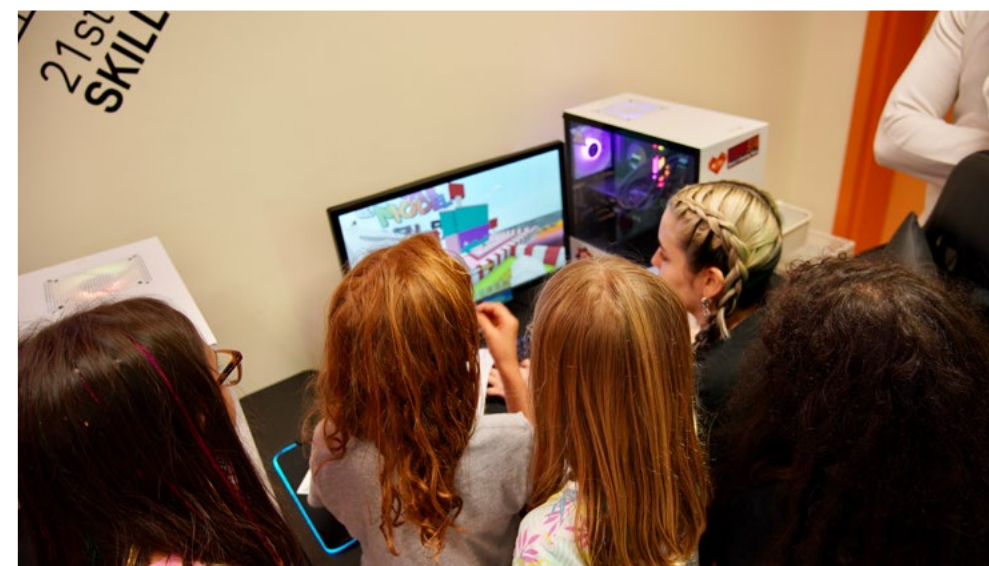


A CHRONICLE OF INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

JORIS DECKERS
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

One of the key initiatives that has transformed the education at ISL Qatar is the integration of modern technology into the curriculum, led by a dedicated team of technology coaches and technical specialists. They have developed new standards and competencies for tech literacy, which deeply align with the school's vision and mission. Tech literacy means that students can use technology effectively and responsibly to communicate, collaborate, create, and solve problems in real world contexts. The new standards and competencies are covered under various themes such as Digital Societies, Computational Thinking, Coding, and Digital Wellbeing. By engaging in meaningful and influential learning and coaching cycles, teachers and staff have improved their skills on how to use technology efficiently and innovatively in their instruction and learning. These cycles have prepared the community for a new era of technology, artificial intelligence and digital wellbeing.

Some of the memorable and engaging projects that the technology team has led or supported include a morning where students met business professionals and demonstrated Minecraft



Strategic Goal 3
ISL Qatar will ensure the optimal use of spaces and resources to support its evolving programmes and the needs of its community.

Objective 3.1
ISL Qatar strives to successfully implement all learning-related tech audit recommendations, accompanied by comprehensive documentation of the alignment between the technology integration plan, assessment and reporting.

Education and the skills it develops and fosters, such as critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. Another example is a 3D programme that is embedded into the curriculum, where students design and print 3D models in various subjects, such as science, design, technology math, and art. Students also have access to coding and robotics through various clubs and curriculum programmes, where they learn how to program and control robots, explore with LEGO Mindstorm, coding with Arduino and experiment with augmented reality to name only a few. These projects illustrate how the team has fostered a learning environment that is engaging, dynamic, creative, and relevant, where students are inspired to explore, create, and lead. The technology coaches have also showcased their curriculum and approaches at various education and technology conferences, such as WISE, demonstrating how game-based learning has supported language learning, and their leadership and innovation in the technology field.



ISL Qatar's excellence and recognition in technology education is evident by the invitation of Joris Deckers, the Director of Technology, to join the Faria Client Advisory Board, an elite group of experts who collaborate with Faria, the company behind OpenApply and other leading educational platforms. Joris Deckers will share his expertise and vision with other influential leaders in the field, as well as learn from the best practices of other schools. This is an opportunity for continuous growth and expertise development at ISL Qatar.

Another major initiative is the introduction of a new Learning Management System, Toddle, which offers many benefits for collaborative planning, program-specific modules, and online tool integration. Toddle supports the school's Tech Literacy Standards and enables data analytics across all departments, enhancing the school's innovation and engagement in technology education.

ACTIVITIES

JOSEPH TOLER
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Throughout the 2023-2024 Academic Year, our students had the opportunity to sign up and participate in a variety of activities throughout 3 seasons. The Primary School was divided into 3 different grade categories that offered a minimum of two activities per day, while the Middle School and High School had activities offered across all of their grades in their respective divisions. Overall, the diversity and availability of activities ensured that our students had opportunities to explore their interests and develop new skills throughout the academic year. Goals for the next academic year include further expansion of the variety and availability of activities offered, a change in the sign-up system, more student-run activities and expansion of the department to help support the initiatives that will be implemented.



KG-G12

Season 1 (8 weeks)

68 Staff Run Activities

4 Outside paid activities

611 Number of Participants per week



Season 2 (13 weeks)

63 Staff Run Activities

4 Outside paid activities

611 Number of Participants per week



Season 3 (7 weeks)

71 Staff Run Activities

4 Outside paid activities

647 Number of Participants per week



Strategic Goal 2
ISL Qatar will build meaningful relationships to enrich its community.

Objective 2.2
ISL Qatar aims to deepen community relations through a diverse range of activities, events, and initiatives that encourage active participation and engagement.

ATHLETICS

JOSEPH TOLER
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

The 2023-2024 Academic Year will always be known as the year our Fox Athletic Program took off! We started the year in hopes of participating in various tournaments for all students throughout the year. Our Fox Spirit ignited so much more than just a few tournaments. During the year, we had over 120 athletes each season, played in at least 20 tournaments, 60 games, and participated in 3 different conferences in the Doha area. Our

athletes demonstrated true grit, integrity, belonging, and kindness and set the standard for years to come. Our program goals include further expansion of teams and the coaching community and the participation in an international travel conference and the implementation of an Athletic Handbook for coaches and students. Further goals include continued development of school spirit through branding, student clubs, and student coaches.



Strategic Goal 2
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Objective 2.2
ISL Qatar aims to deepen community relations through a diverse range of activities, events, and initiatives that encourage active participation and engagement.

G2-G12

Season 1 (8 weeks)

Number of teams

06	02	04
Primary	Middle	High
06	12	02
Tournaments Played	Season Games Played	Student Coaches

Season 2 (13 weeks)

Number of teams

03	07	08
Primary	Middle	High
06	48	05
Tournaments Played	Season Games Played	Student Coaches

Season 3 (7 weeks)

Number of teams

10	05	05
Primary	Middle	High
08	10	04
Tournaments Played	Season Games Played	Student Coaches



WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

JOSEPH TOLER
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

The 2023-2024 Week Without Walls took place in February with our students engaging in developmentally relevant experiential learning opportunities beyond the classroom, in local and global contexts. There were four international trips that traveled to Paris, Vienna, Prague, and Zanzibar with activities ranging from cultural and food explorations,



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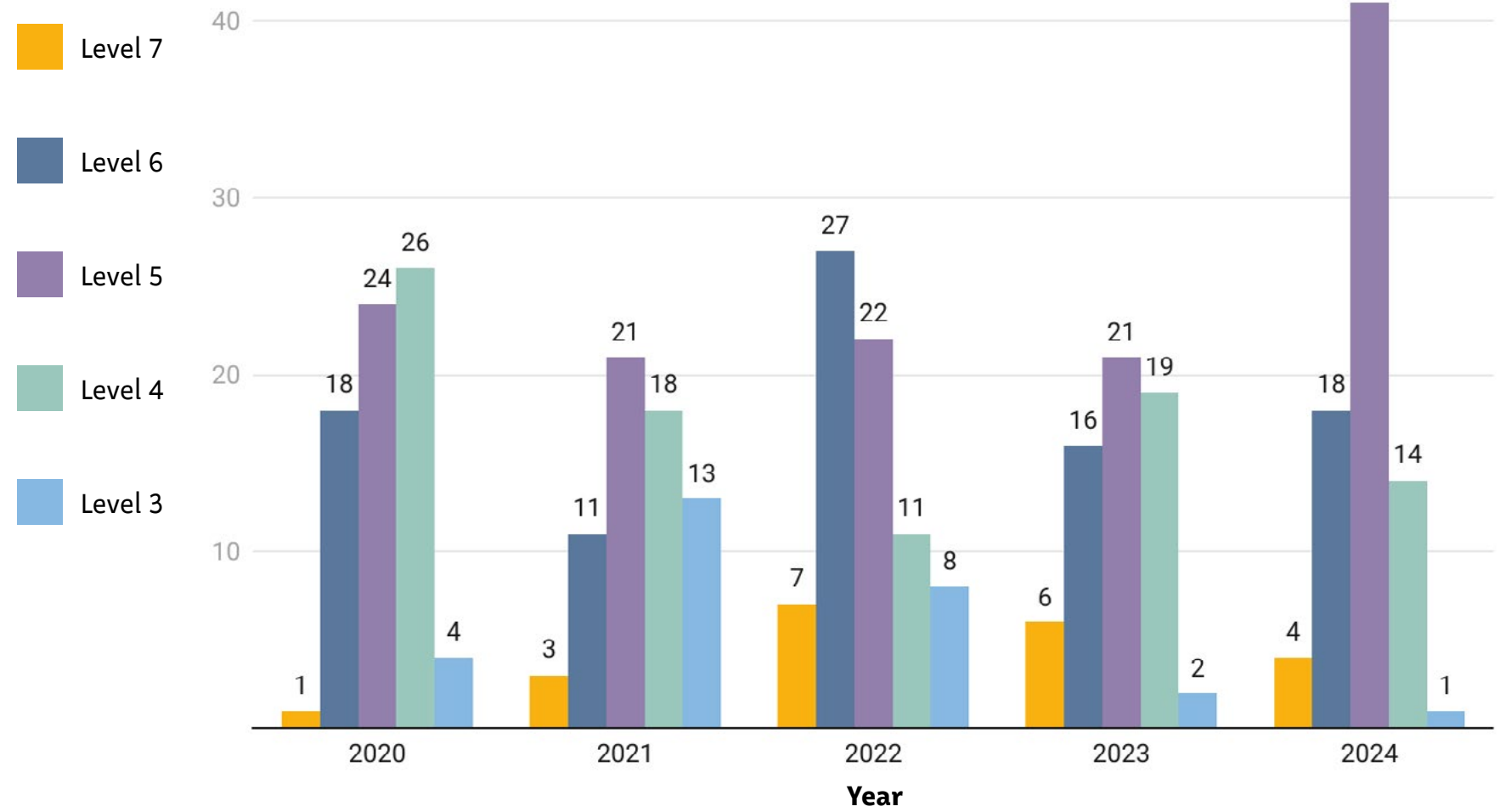
to creating art with different mediums, to community outreach and more. There were also many students that participated in opportunities within Qatar—from overnight camps to painting murals, from museum explorations to designing rollercoasters. Goals for next year include an improved and earlier sign up system, a clearer advertising campaign, and a written guide and handbook for all stakeholders.

CELEBRATING OUR PERSONAL PROJECT RESULTS 2024

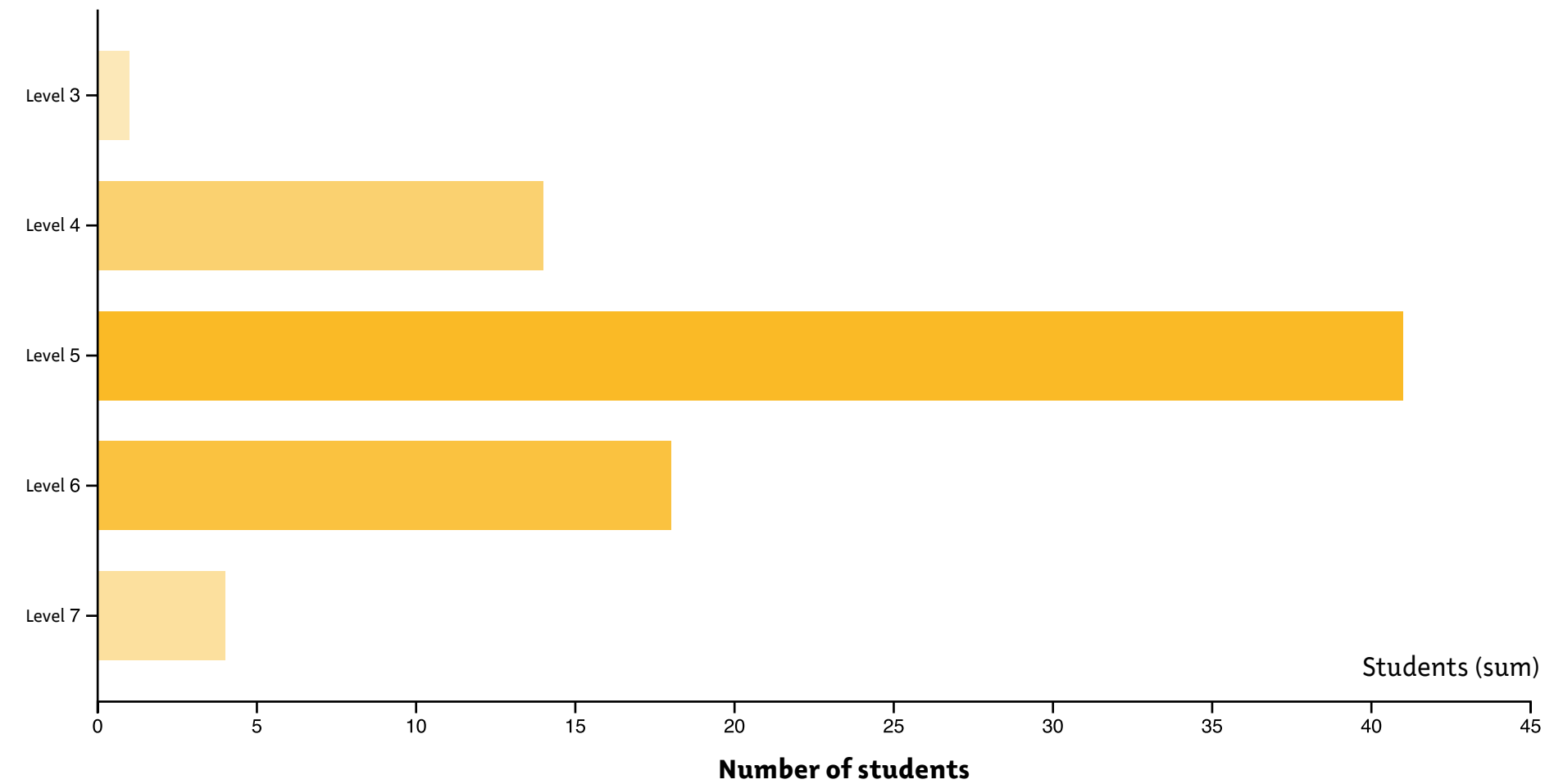
MONEEB MINHAS
MYP COORDINATOR

The MYP Personal Project represents a significant milestone in our students' educational journey, offering an invaluable opportunity for them to explore their passions, develop self-directed learning skills, and produce a meaningful piece of work. This year, we are elated to celebrate an extraordinary achievement: 100% of our Grade 10 students passed the project, showcasing their dedication, creativity, and resilience. This remarkable success is a testament not only to the hard work of our students but also to the unwavering support of our dedicated teachers and staff. We're incredibly proud of each student and look forward to witnessing the bright futures that undoubtedly lie ahead for them.

Comparison of PP results from 2020-2023



Grade distribution for G10 PP Results 2023



81%

students achieved between a level 5-7.

The pass rate of our students is

100%

7/7

The highest grade was a level 7 out of 7, with 4 out of 78 (5%) of students achieving this.

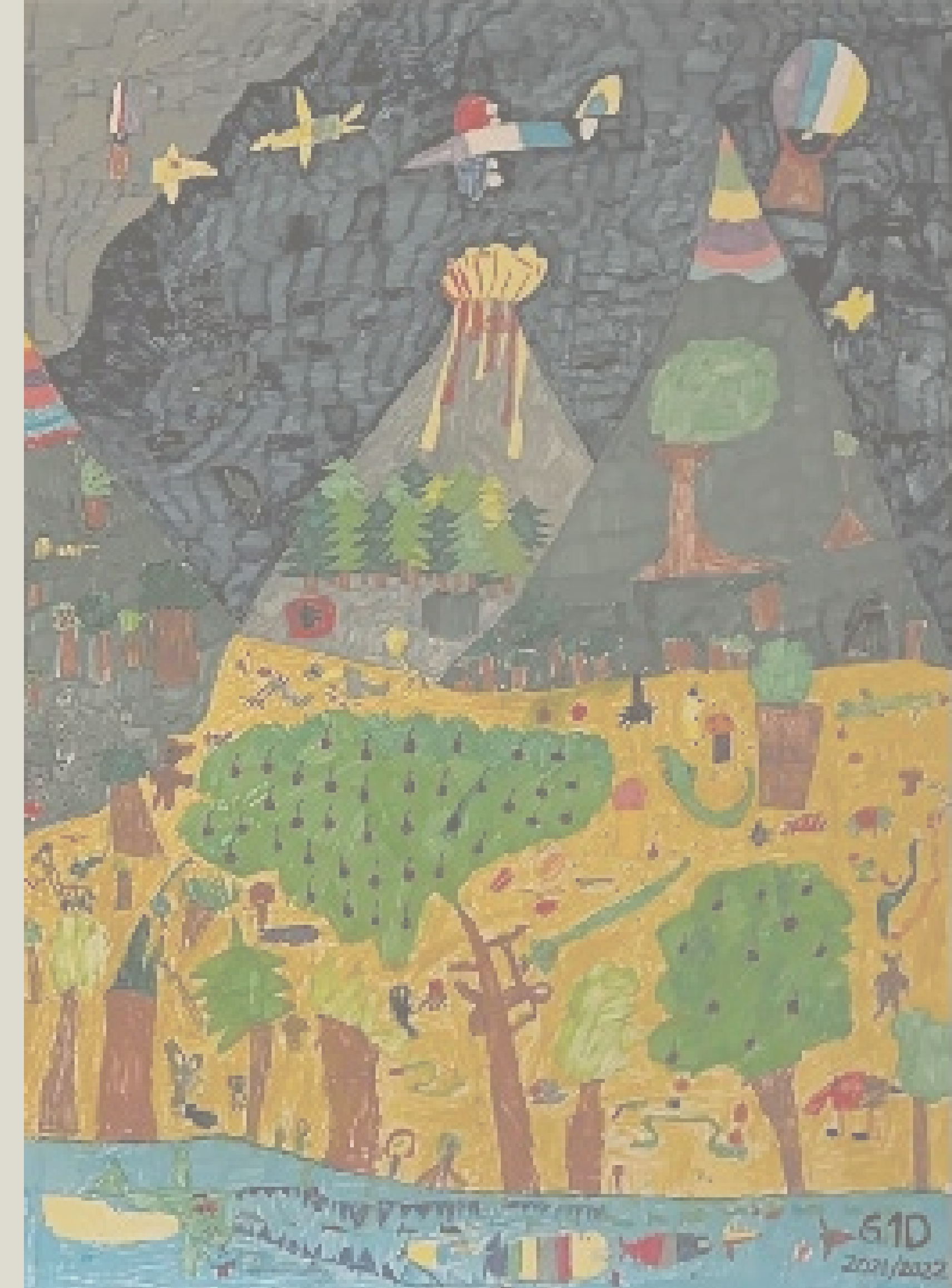
The students of ISL Qatar on average achieved a grade

+1.11

ABOVE THE INTERNATIONAL AVERAGE.

Goal 1
ISL Qatar will enhance inclusive, personalized and equitable learning for all.

Objective 1.3
ISL Qatar commits to fostering a learning environment that empowers learners to take charge of their education, encouraging autonomy and active engagement within their learning experiences.



This is us



International
School of London
Qatar