

# THE BIS POST

## OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## WHAT A BEGINNING!

The year has kicked off in full swing!

From our cheerful Back-to-School Party and busy Photo Days to exciting field trips and experiments buzzing in the new Science Labs, it's been non-stop energy across the campus.

We even welcomed the Eco-School jury for their visit and hosted a successful University Fair that inspired our older students.

And now... it's all eyes on Halloween!  
The learning and fun never really stops at BIS.

The BIS Team

## IN THIS ISSUE

- A WORD FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL
- PYP NEWS
- ECO SCHOOL NEWS
- BOOK WEEK
- CAREER WEEK
- DAY CARE
- CELLO & GUITAR LESSONS
- FEN NEWS
- SPANISH WALK IN BRUSSELS



OCTOBER  
2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER

Mark your calendars

- 21 OCT - Coffee Morning: “Honoring Cultural Roots at School & Home”
- 21 OCT - 🇺🇳 United Nations Day
- 22 OCT - 🎃 Halloween
- 24 OCT - Last day of school
- 27 - 31 OCT - Autumn Break



## UPCOMING EVENTS NOVEMBER

- 03 - 07 NOV - BOOK WEEK
- 10 - 11 NOV - No School
- NOVEMBER - Career Month
- 24 NOV - Coffee Morning: “Curiosity as a Family Habit”

[www.bischool.com](http://www.bischool.com)

## A WORD FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

As we begin this new academic year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all members of our Bogaerts community—students, parents, and staff, both returning and new. The start of each year brings fresh energy, renewed purpose, and opportunities to learn and grow together.

This year is especially significant for us as we continue our journey through the combined NEASC–IB Collaborative Learning Protocol (CLP) evaluation. In the course of the next five months, we will be working in teams to reflect deeply on our practices, celebrate our strengths, and identify meaningful next steps that will further enhance the quality of learning and teaching. Students and parents will also be included in these reflection committees.

A second key area of focus is our close collaboration with the Family Engagement Network (FEN). Together, we have designed a joint yearly plan under the theme “Together as One.” Each month, families and students will have the opportunity to take part in engaging activities that connect learning, wellbeing, and community spirit. Among these will be the upcoming Career Month in November, during which professionals from within and beyond our parent community will share insights into their study areas and career paths. Please reach out to [fen@bischool.com](mailto:fen@bischool.com) if you are willing to share your academic and professional journey with our students.

Finally, we have launched an all-staff professional learning initiative on the ethical principles and risks associated with Artificial Intelligence tools. This training is provided by Eblana Learning, experts in AI curriculum, ethics, policy and professional development for schools. We aim to establish a comprehensive approach to AI at BIS, including workshops for students on the ethical and responsible use of AI, and the development of related policies aligned with both our values and the evolving European regulations. In particular, we are paying close attention to the European AI act, which is shaping new standards for transparency, accountability, safety, privacy and sustainability in the use of AI tools.

As we move forward, I am confident that this spirit of reflection, collaboration, and innovation will continue to strengthen our community and the learning experiences we offer.



**Sophia Kritsineli**  
Head of School

OCTOBER  
2025

# BACK TO SCHOOL PHOTOS



## A WORD FROM OUR HEAD OF PYP

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

We are already in October, and our students have been growing beautifully, developing their skills, making new friends, and, for some, beginning to acquire new languages (for those who do not yet speak English, French, or both!).

This year, we have introduced two pilot programmes within the PYP curriculum, focusing on IT skills for the upper primary students (PYP 4 and PYP 5), and on the PSHE aspects of the students' development.

Although there will be an upcoming information session in November about the IT content in our curriculum, I can already share that the students have embraced this programme enthusiastically. They are making the most of the learning opportunities, enjoying their exploration of technology, and showing great curiosity for more.

In PSHE, which stands for Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, students have the chance to reflect on important aspects of their lives, such as their personal identity and what makes each of us special and unique. Building their self-esteem and reinforcing the importance of respecting their own backgrounds as well as others' brings them a step closer to international mindedness, one of the core foundations of the IB mission and vision.

A big thank you goes to all our teachers for their incredible work and dedication to our students. Their efforts ensure that every child is included in the learning process, that their voices are heard, and that they are inspired to take agency in their own learning.

Thanks to the principles of the IB, the PYP programme continues to provide opportunities for both academic and personal growth, bringing students' talents to the forefront, connecting learning to the real world, and creating a lasting impact.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you, our parents, and guardians, for your ongoing commitment and support. Without your partnership, our work would be only half complete, as reinforcement at home is essential to each student's development.

Let's continue on this path together and never stop growing!

All the best,



**Vasilis Iosifidis**  
Head & Coordinator of PYP

OCTOBER  
2025

# PHOTO DAY

Don't miss the 20% Earlybird Discount!!  
Until the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025



We know that many families have busy lives so we thought you might appreciate a gentle

# REMINDER

Don't forget to order your school photographs and do try to get your order in before the earlybird deadline\* so that you qualify for the

## 20% EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT



\*Your earlybird deadline date is printed on your viewing instructions

Any queries please email [customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net](mailto:customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net)

0800 021 7626  
+44 1763 878065

[www.pret-a-portrait.net](http://www.pret-a-portrait.net)

**pret-a-portrait**



## ECO SCHOOL NEWS

Hello from the Eco-School Committee!

This year has impressed me with early initiative, collaboration and tangible actions. After a year of planning, organising and paperwork, the eco-school community is again ready to thrive and bring a miscellany of new and exciting actions.

Our MYP students already had the chance to pick apples grown in the orchard of the school grounds, gifting us sweet apple juice ready to be sold for our community. The eco-school vegetable garden (often nicknamed the potager) has grown its first salads, and its courgettes have bloomed their first flowers. Our school also hosted the eco-school jury visit, allowing us to demonstrate our school's and students' progress to Bruxelles Environnement, and assess our successes, failures, and our next steps to sustainability.

A new year also means new changes: our eco-school is now being supervised by the Environmental Systems and Societies teacher, Liz Springer, allowing us to work closer and more efficiently with teachers and staff. The eco-school has also launched an Instagram page, @ecoschool\_bis, to share progress with parents and students alike. Our new goals and actions encompass an acute focus on recycling, more active actions made by students for students, and the growth of our potager.

Finally, this year embodies change through my transmission of the Presidency to our future new President, Viktoria Hinic. After four years in the eco-school, I am proud to say that the students in this year's committee are dedicated and autonomous: they bring their own ideas to the table and show increasing collaboration, dedication, and curiosity. I want to thank them all for their initiative, their ideas and for always asking me more questions. I hope the eco school can continue to grow at BIS as I leave it in trusted and motivated hands.

Marie Ratier DP2



**Marie Ratier**  
DP2 Student  
Eco-School President

# ECO SCHOOL NEWS



OCTOBER  
2025

# BOOK WEEK 03 - 07 NOV



Get ready to celebrate the joy of reading during our annual Book Week, filled with creative activities for every age group.

## Monday – Spot the Book Characters (MYP)

Ten famous book characters will be hiding around the MYP corridors and classrooms. Find them, return them to the box at reception, fill in the form, and claim your prize!

## Tuesday – Bookmark Competition (PYP)

Our young readers will design their own bookmarks. Remember to write your name and class on the back before submitting them at the end of the day. Prizes await the top three creations!

## Wednesday – Bring a Book, Take a Book (All Students)

Share the stories you've loved and discover new ones. Bring a book from home to exchange during our book fair. Books in all languages are welcome as we celebrate our multilingual community.

## Thursday – Stop, Drop & Read! (Whole School)

At a surprise moment, the entire school will pause to read – students and staff alike. Whether it's a novel, a poem, or a magazine, we'll all share a few quiet minutes to enjoy the power of reading together.

## Friday – Book Character Dress Up (PYP)

To wrap up the week, PYP students are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters. Let's bring our favourite stories to life!

**A week to celebrate imagination, storytelling, and the joy of getting lost in a good book.**

OCTOBER  
2025

## EXPLORING SCIENCE IN OUR BRAND-NEW LABS

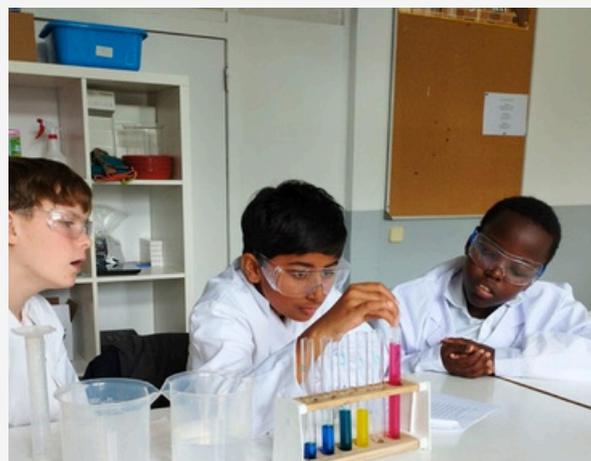
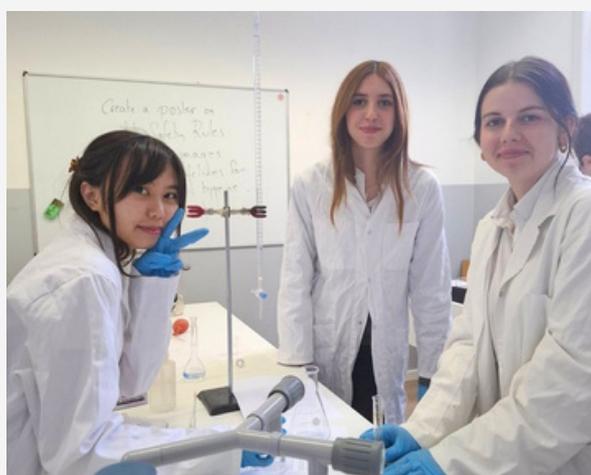
This term, curiosity has been bubbling (quite literally) in our two brand-new Science Labs.

One is fully equipped for Chemistry, the other for Biology and Environmental Systems & Societies (ESS), giving our students hands-on spaces to explore, question, and experiment.

Our Chemistry lab has been alive with colour and reaction. DP2 Chemistry students have been sharpening their lab skills, from preparing standardised solutions and running accurate titrations, to using software for graphing and analysing errors. They're not just learning techniques, they're building precision and critical thinking.

Meanwhile, in the Biology and ESS lab, students have been studying ecosystems through soil and water testing, exploring cell structures under new high-resolution microscopes, and running enzyme experiments to understand how living systems work. DP ESS students have also been monitoring local biodiversity and discussing sustainability in action, from pollution to climate impact.

Both labs are quickly becoming favourite destinations on campus, where science comes alive beyond textbooks. These spaces invite our learners to think like scientists, to question, test, and discover the world around them.



## MORNING AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AT BIS



At Bogaerts International School, we understand that mornings can be hectic and afternoons can stretch long for busy families. That's why we're pleased to offer both Early Morning Care and After-School Care, flexible options that keep our students safe, happy, and well looked after beyond classroom hours.

Our Early Morning Care (Garderie) opens before the school day begins, welcoming registered students who need to arrive early. It's a calm and friendly space where children can ease into the day through quiet play or reading before classes start.

A gentle reminder to all families that students should not arrive before 8:05 a.m. unless they are enrolled in the Garderie. Any students arriving earlier will be accompanied to the Garderie, and families will be invoiced accordingly. This ensures that every child on campus is properly supervised and safe at all times.

For afternoons, our After-School Care runs every day until 18:00, providing a relaxed environment where students can unwind, play, or join creative activities with friends after a full day of learning.

These services are designed to support your family's routine and give parents peace of mind, knowing their children are cared for in a nurturing school environment, from the first smile of the morning to the last wave goodbye. If you'd like to enroll your child in this service, please contact [anne-marie@bischool.com](mailto:anne-marie@bischool.com)

## CAREER MONTH AT BIS: SHAPING FUTURES, ONE STEP AT A TIME



November at Bogaerts International School is all about exploring futures and helping our students reflect on who they are and who they aspire to become. This year's **Career Month** invites students to discover their strengths, explore opportunities, and begin building a vision for their future pathways.

The month begins with **“Who Am I?”** — a week of self-discovery for our MYP4, MYP5 and DP1, students through Unifrog testing. These assessments help students identify their interests, values, and skills, setting the foundation for informed and meaningful choices ahead.

In the second week, our community will welcome two inspiring **keynote speakers** on campus, followed by a series of online talks during advisory sessions throughout the month. These professionals will share real-world insights and stories from diverse fields, sparking curiosity and reflection among our students.

The third week brings a special connection to our own alumni, who will join online to lead a discussion titled **“What I Wish I Knew Before Starting University.”** Their experiences and advice bridge the gap between school and higher education, offering honest perspectives that help current students prepare for what lies ahead.

We'll close the month creatively with students designing **vision boards** that map out their dream career pathways — a visual manifestation of their ambitions and goals. Each student will present their board to peers, celebrating individuality and possibility.

Career Month at BIS is not just about choosing a profession. It's about self-awareness, growth, and imagining the life each student wants to create — one thoughtful step at a time.

# OUR BIGGEST UNIVERSITY FAIR YET!

What a fantastic success!

We proudly hosted our largest University Fair to date, welcoming SRT Fairs and 24 universities from around the world to our campus. More than 300 students from international schools across Belgium joined us for this inspiring event, creating a lively atmosphere of curiosity and ambition.

From Europe to North America and beyond, university representatives engaged with students, answering questions and offering insights into diverse academic paths, admissions processes, and campus life.

A true celebration of learning and aspiration. We hope the experience has sparked inspiration in every student as they begin to shape their own journeys toward higher education and beyond.



# FEN NEWS - TOGETHER IN IDENTITY

Dear Families,

October is a month of celebrating who we are — as individuals, as families, and as a diverse international community. This month's theme, Together in Identity, invites us to honour our cultural roots while embracing the shared values that unite us here at school.

## What's Happening This Month

🎃 Coffee Morning – “Honouring Cultural Roots at School & Home”

October 21, 8:30-10:00- school canteen

Join us for a warm conversation about how families can keep their cultural identity alive while helping children feel part of our international community.

🎃 Halloween Celebration

October 22- School

A Day of fun for our students with games, costumes, and laughter for our students.

🎃 United Nations Day & Student Celebration Day

October 21- School

Students are invited to wear one accessory that represents their country. It's a chance for our children to share a piece of their identity and learn from each other's traditions.

## Theme of the Month: Together in Identity

Helping children grow up in an international setting means balancing their cultural roots with the values of a global community. Here are some ways parents can support this journey:

- Encourage your child to talk about their traditions and share them with friends.
- Celebrate special holidays at home while also engaging with school-wide events.
- Remind your child that identity can be both unique and shared.
- Participate in school events — children feel proud when families join in.

## Quick Tips & Resources

- 📖 [Book: Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds](#) by David C. Pollock & Ruth Van Reken – A classic guide on identity and belonging for children in international communities.

## How to Get Involved

- Join us at the Coffee Morning and share your ideas.
- Sign up as a volunteer for Halloween in our FEN- Volunteers group in our WhatsApp community. (more information there)

✨ “Identity is like a tree: strong roots give stability, open branches allow growth.” ✨

With appreciation,  
The FEN

**PHOTOS**



# NEW EXTRACURRICULAR CELLO & GUITAR LESSONS ON CAMPUS

We're excited to introduce a new Cello and Guitar extracurricular activity every Monday on campus, and to welcome Garry, our new music instructor.



## GARY HUNT - CELLIST

Irish Cello Professor with many years of experience teaching beginners to professionals. Studied under the great cellists and musicians of the world; Julian Lloyd Webber, Jian Wang, Castalian Quartet, Morten Zeuthen & Lionel Handy. A three-time conservatoire graduate. Specialized teaching with kids from 6-18. Teaching in English. Young Musician of the Year UK (Runner Up) 2017

### Why the Cello

- Builds confidence and discipline.
- Develops focus, patience and creativity.
- Better chance at university places



### Contact

Email: GARYHUNT01@GMAIL.COM  
Phone: +39 351 319 8527  
Monthly payments  
Group lessons of 2  
Maximum 8 spaces. (First come, first serve)  
Instrument rental information and help

### Teaching

Focus of Kodaly and Suzuki methods, especially focused on kids.  
Emphasis on singing, rhythm, fun learning and listening!  
30-minute lessons  
€40 per student

PHOTOS



OCTOBER  
2025

**PHOTOS**



OCTOBER  
2025

# SPANISH TOUR AROUND ICONIC SITES IN BRUSSELS

Argia, Rebekka and Jaime  
15/10/2025



On the 30th of September with the Spanish classes of MYP5 and DP1 accompanied by Ms Ana, Ms Hinojal and Ms Eva, we went on a tour around the center of Brussels to learn and explore the historical parts of the Spanish culture mixed with the Belgian culture. We started by looking at the Place du Sablon that Rebekka presented. We learned that during the Spanish civil war, with the church of Place du Sablon the Belgian catholic associations adopted Spanish children that escaped from the war. We then went our way from el Cuartel del principe Alberto to the Palais Royal and Parc Royal.

Before lunchtime, Jaime presented Don Quijote y Sancho Panza statue. These two characters come from a Spanish novel written by Miguel de Cervantes. This novel is one of the most known novels in Spanish literature. The statues were a gift from Madrid to Brussels, inaugurated in May 1989 next to the square to commemorate the Spanish presidency of the European Economic Community that year.

During lunch time, we went to the arepas factory in Mont des Arts, to eat these tequeños and arepas which are traditional Venezuelan food. After lunch we went to the grand-place, and after to Hotel Amigo, this hotel used to be a prison in 1522 and soon after they turned it into a five star hotel.

In conclusion this was a very educational and entertaining trip, and we learned better exploring, looking than reading it and memorizing it, this trip was also a way to get to know more students from different grades. We all enjoyed this trip and are looking forward to having more educational trips like this one.

Argia: “ lo pasamos genial, aprendimos mucho y comimos estupendamente “

Rebekka: “Aprendí mucho sobre la historia española ”

Jaime: “Hubo muy buena compañía”

**21st October 2025**

# UN DAY CELEBRATION



*Join us as we celebrate our shared world  
and diverse identities!*

*Students are invited to **wear or bring** an accessory from their home country: a hat, scarf, flag, or any cultural touch that represents you.*

*Let's fill the day with color, pride, and unity!*

*Don't miss the **Model United Nations** (MUN) demonstration, where students will showcase their activities and global discussions.*

**Students wear the school uniform**