

WAGAS LINE

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ISV | THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF VIETNAM



 Cambridge Assessment
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Welcome to 2021

The first three months of 2021 passed by in such a hurry. Students and teachers of ISV successfully finished their first semester of the 2020 - 2021 academic year, and so far we have been doing a wonderful job in conquering the rest of 2021 as well.

After the winter break, students returned to school with great enthusiasm. Classes proceeded for a few weeks before we entered the Tet holiday break, which brought lovely bonding times to each family. Due to the pandemic, a lot of students and teachers couldn't go back to their hometown, but we hope you still were pleased by a short break in Vietnam and enjoyed Vietnamese New Year culture.

After the outbreak of the pandemic in Hanoi was over, classes were started again with interesting lessons to learn. Despite not having many activities and events, school life at ISV still remained lively. Each class was filled with creative projects for students to do, which will be described carefully below in the 'Class Highlights' session. Outside classes, students spent time working and learning to improve themselves, including taking part in competitions and gaining many prizes. Take a look at the 'Student Life' session to learn more about their active time at ISV!

Parents of ISV students also tried to be involved in more activities at schools. Online zoom meetings were opened for those who couldn't be at school directly, receiving a great number of participants. The PYP workshop and PTA Chat Session were held where tons of useful knowledge was shared between parents.

As the end of our school year is coming near, the Grade 12 students are doing their absolute best to prepare for the university entrance processes. We wish you all the best of luck, as well as all other students of ISV in their journey of finding success.

Admission Updates

In the first few months of 2021, ISV welcomed 6 new students from Vietnam, Korea and China. We wish you the best times and experiences at ISV.

Scholar's stories

"I was extremely ecstatic when I got the result of an 85% scholarship. Although this is not an extremely high result for many students, for me, it is a worthy reward for my effort that I spent all the time." - Hung had shared when being asked about his newest scholarship at ISV.

Despite being young, Hung has amazed us with his ambition and determination. Before joining ISV, Hung studied in public schools for seven years with the dream of getting into prestigious universities around the world. As he grew older, Hung realised that he was not in line with the direction and curriculum of public schools, and the current road he was taking couldn't help him achieve his dream. That was when he came to know ISV, and noticed that this was a wonderful environment for students to adapt to international programs early.

Being the fearless young man he was, Hung immediately persuaded his family to allow him to take a trial at ISV for two-weeks after finding out about the school. He successfully secured a place at ISV and started studying with G8S, but his dream didn't stop there. After six-months of studying at ISV, he decided to join the early Early Offer - Scholarship Program for the two-year Cambridge IGCSE Program as a way to challenge himself and found opportunities to alleviate his parents' financial burden.

Talking about his enthusiasm for ISV, Hung gave brilliant explanations: "First, at ISV, we are provided with an ethnically diverse learning community that will help us access many cultures early for further study and intensive work in future. Second, we are given the opportunity to sharpen our math and language skills while also being exposed to the arts and sports aspects. Last but not least, teachers rate us based on their efforts and progress instead of comparing us with other students."

"Through this, I would like to thank myself for bravely challenging myself and my parents for always believing in my decisions, as well as the teachers and friends for always lending me a helping hand in time of need helping when I need it and thank the school management for giving me the opportunity to develop myself in the best environment," Hung said.

We believe that with his ambitious mind, Hung will have no trouble on his journey to success.



Anh Thuy **DUONG**
ISV's inspiring Scholar

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Mass exam

Another mass exam was held on **April 18th, 2021** at ISV, with the participants of more than

70 students

from different schools in Hanoi.

The exam was for students who wish to join Secondary classes at ISV with a scholarship.



Grade 2 Math class

Since the beginning of the year, we have explored fractions, place value, perfecting our skip-counting skills from any number to 9,999, finding patterns in numbers, shapes, and measurement.

Even though a global pandemic hit us, again, we have continued to exemplify what it means to be communicators, thinkers, open-minded, principled, and inquires outside the classroom. We continued our exploration into the four operations. Learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide multi-digit numbers to find fractions in groups and in our daily lives. We will continue our investigation into “[How] understanding numbers can help us work mathematically” as the year finishes up.



Class highlights



Growing a Community Mindset!

Each recess, we are very lucky to have the opportunity of using the playground equipment, which includes toys and other resources, to help us play together and have fun. Along with the play opportunities and resources, come responsibilities to clear and clean our ‘fun space’ at the end of our recess/playtimes.

This week, Min Seung showed that he understood these responsibilities and how to work to build ‘community’. At the end of recess and at the sound of the final bell, Min Seung rushed around the playground to pick up all the hoops and bouncy balls that the younger students had left behind.

As he was showing excellent ‘community practice’ he also reminded the younger students to take better care of the school’s toys and to clear up after themselves. Thank you, Min Seung!



One of the most anticipated events for ISV Students has been a success with much excitement and eagerness from our beloved students. From 18th to 24th of April, 'Book Week' was successfully held at ISV.

While the main goal of the Book Week event is to encourage students to read, there were also many exciting activities for them to participate in such as Bookmark Design Contest, Book Character Parade, Author Zoom Visit, etc. These meaningful engagements not only help nourish the reading habit in students but also a chance for students to entertain themselves besides studying.

Interestingly, there is an activity where students have to stop what they were doing and read randomly at any time on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Every student excitedly takes part in this surprise 10-minute activity. Last but not least, Niall de Burca also made a really special impression on the students with his charismatic personality and was welcome by all students.

Book Week

Unit of Inquiry: Sharing the Planet and Science

As we returned back from our short stint on the COVID sprung Zoom sessions, we continued our exploration of the Solar System including, but not limited to, the planets (Terrestrial and Jovian), their natural satellites, and other celestial bodies. We explored the orbital periods of all the terrestrial planets around the Sun, the many relationships between our Sun, Earth and Moon, as well as how magnets and magnetism is an integral part of our planet and supports how it works.

As the year finishes up, we will further enrich our minds before tackling our next challenge, Grade 3 with two additional UOIs.



History is not boring at all!

Many students may think that history is tiring, but Mr David Croft makes the subject so much funnier! He always makes his history classes interesting and active with his many activities.

The Grade 9 students had made a very colourful and beautiful history timeline on the stairwell between the second and third floor. Important history milestones from 1917 to 1939 were presented on the wall with brief descriptions of each event.

The Grade 10 IGCSE students had a very informative debate about what society lost and won under the Stalin government system. Students showed their cooperative spirit, careful research and respect for knowledge through their intense debate session.

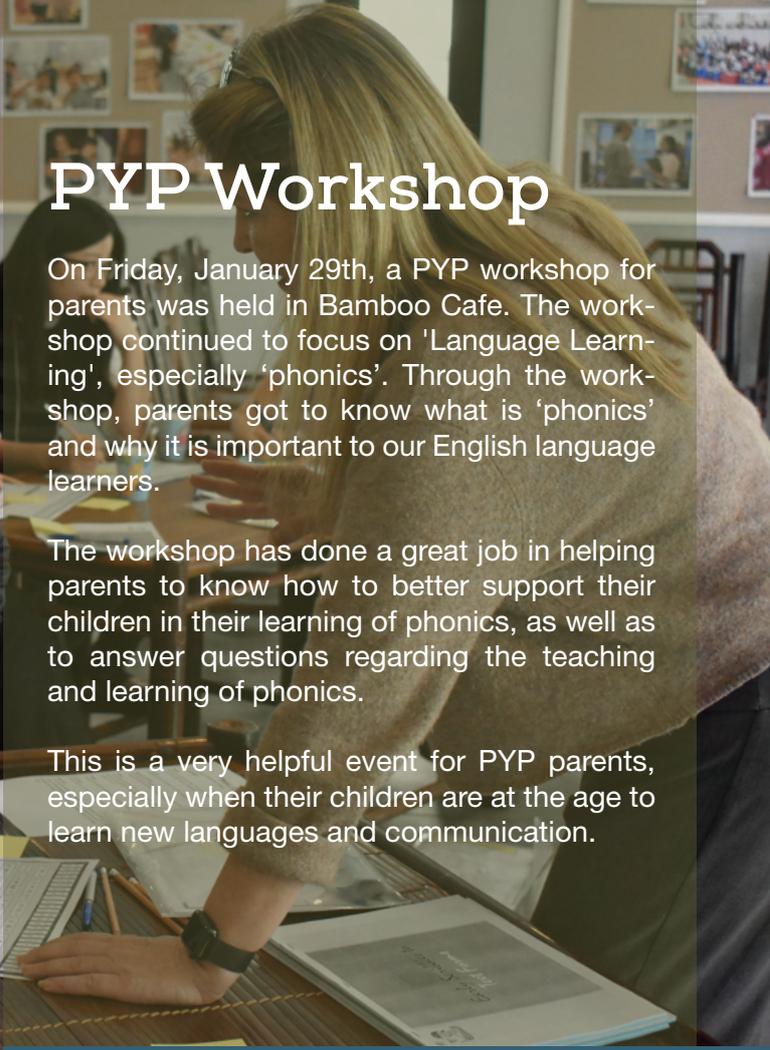


PYP Workshop

On Friday, January 29th, a PYP workshop for parents was held in Bamboo Cafe. The workshop continued to focus on 'Language Learning', especially 'phonics'. Through the workshop, parents got to know what is 'phonics' and why it is important to our English language learners.

The workshop has done a great job in helping parents to know how to better support their children in their learning of phonics, as well as to answer questions regarding the teaching and learning of phonics.

This is a very helpful event for PYP parents, especially when their children are at the age to learn new languages and communication.



PTA News



PTA - Psychology Chat Session

The first Psychology Chat Session was held at the Bamboo Ccafé on January 29th, 2021. This is where parents learn more about the effects of, and support for, teenage children related to electronic devices, their use and management. The talk was led by a certified Psychologist who is familiar with children's resilience and other aspects of society and influences.

Parents who couldn't attend directly had joined the chat session via zoom connection, as the Zzoom meeting details were provided from before. The 40-minute session provided parents with much necessary information as well as helped them to learn more about technical knowledge.



ISV symphony

by Mr Daniel Hewitt

Foundation

The ISV Symphony Orchestra has been a long-held dream, and part of the vision for ISV for quite some time now. The school's founders are highly appreciative of the benefits a strong education in Music can bring to young lives, and have always nurtured musical development in their own children (2 of whom are ISV alumni and studying in England). The owners have also been inspired by the heritage of excellence within the established orchestras of the top boarding schools of England (most notably Harrow), and wished for this to be reflected in our own school culture.

Development

We were tasked with the establishing of an orchestra to represent ISV as an excellent school at which to study Music. This was to be done via academic lessons and courses, but also through extra-curricular activities on Saturday Mornings.

We have been fortunate enough to establish a strong relationship with external provider Intro Art, who have provided us with experts to lead and develop the symphony orchestra. Intro Art is headed by Mr Cuong Tuan La, and our teachers Mr Long (Conductor) and Mr Hai (Arranger) are providing the students with music and the guidance they need to develop their sound. Other guest teachers include Miss Tran Hong Nhung (Cello) Miss My Do (Violin) and Miss My Thao Do (Violin).

Our experienced music students were invited to audition in November of 2020 and successful candidates began rehearsal a week later. The group is now building toward its premier performance at the end of year concert in June 2021.



In addition to training our experienced musicians we are nurturing our Grade 6 and 7 students in skills on string instruments through the academic Music program. It is our aim to discover and nurture new talents and future symphony players through this exposure. This aspect of the program is also being led by the teachers of Intro Art.

The teachers of Intro Art are also available to take private lessons on almost any instrument. These lessons can be done at your convenience either in school or in your own home. Please contact the school for more information on this.

Future

Through careful development and high quality teaching the ISV symphony will become a great school institution, a reason to come and study at ISV. And now it is established, the ISV Symphony Orchestra looks forward to performing for you at events on and off campus, and in prestigious venues locally, nationally and internationally. Let's Dream Big, who knows what can be!



Student Life



On March 18th, ISV was delighted to welcome the new prefects of the Secondary grades. They are excellent individuals who have passed the interviews with impressive results. Together, they will take over the duties of prefects, since Grade 12 Senior Prefects are preparing to leave their role as they focus on their IBDP examination preparation.

SEC Prefects

Our new SEC Prefects are: Binh MAI (G11), Lam Tung HA (G11), Hien Minh DO (G9), Chau Bao PHAM (G9) and Son Minh Duc NGUYEN (G9).

We thank you for your dedication to ISV and wish you all the best with your awaiting journey ahead.



SEC Student Councils

On Monday (25th), Wednesday (27th) and Friday (29th) January, the Secondary Student Council sold self-made hot chocolate at the cafeteria during lunch hours. The profit would be used to help the Student Council with upcoming activities. The hot chocolate also came with delicious and squishy marshmallows as well.

Arts life

Marvelous art masterpieces have been displayed in the corridors, glass doors, stairwells and walls between classrooms. They are created by various classes, from young ones such as PreK, K2, G1 to G5, to older students like G9 and G11. Not only there are culturally themed paintings and drawings of flowers and trees, but there are also clay pots made by G3 students. These art products surely made our school brighter and more colourful.





DP Music Concert

The DP Music concert had taken place in the foyer with the participation of Secondary students from different classes. Various performances were delivered, from piano, singing to guitar. This was a required work for their IBDP programme, so the students all did their best to deliver the most wonderful performances.

Each concert was watched by Secondary students, who paid great attention to their friends' talent and gave optimistic feedback. Mr. Daniel Hewitt, our Head of Music, has done an amazing job in training and helping the students with their musical talents.

The Second Photo Day

ISV held another Photo Day for new students and staff - who, unfortunately, couldn't join us on the first one! This is an annual event of ISV, which is a great opportunity for students to create beautiful memories with their friends and teachers. With this, we welcome you to the ISV community and wish you a wonderful time here.

Aside from the new students, we had great group pictures of the prefect teams, student councils (PYP and SEC), the talented sport teams and more. Our Grade 12 students also had their photos taken with graduation gowns, marking a huge milestone in their life when they became seniors and ready for a new journey ahead!





Hanoi Round of the World Scholar's Cup

Eight ISV students participated in the Hanoi Round of the World Scholar's Cup on March 20-21 at the Dewey Schools which was attended by hundreds of students from some fifty schools all over and around Hanoi. Three formed an all-ISV team: Chau Bao NGUYEN, Quynh Anh Thi LE, and Nhi Yen Pham NGUYEN, who participated in the Senior division. The other five joined forces with students from other schools: Bach PHAM, An Hai Hoang NGUYEN, Anh Ha VU in the Junior division; Anh Duc KIEU and Quang Nhat DAO in the Senior division.

All of our students came home with many, many hard-earned silver and gold medals, and here are the trophy highlights:

Anh Ha: Team bowl - 10th place, top debate team - 1st place, team writing - 1st place, champion team - 4th place, champion scholar - 3rd place

Anh Duc: Team bowl - 1st place, top challenge team - 2nd place, champion team - 2nd place

Quynh Anh Thi, Chau Bao, Nhi Yen Nguyen: Top debate team - 3rd place,

Gold medals of note: Anh Ha was the writing champion of the junior division, and Nhi Yen Pham was the top scorer of the Social Studies challenge in the senior division.



We are proud of all of the achievements and would like to congratulate all of our scholars for qualifying for the global round!



ISV Class of 2021 CAS Projects

CAS is one of the three core subjects within the International Baccalaureate Diploma. It stands for Creativity, Activity, and Service. Like many of the core subjects, this subject creates a condition for students to keep a balanced lifestyle in order to prepare them for their adulthood. Students must take part in activities that make sure they stay physically active, maintain creativity and help improve communities around them. Students work towards meeting seven specific Learning Outcomes and create reflections based on their experiences/projects to give them a habit of looking back at their pros and cons to perform better and learn new lessons next time around.

Creativity
Activity
Service

Class of 2021 Key Figures:

- 19 Collaborative Projects
- 254 Individual Experiences
- 856 reflections and pieces of evidence
- 10,280 hours of CAS over 18 months



Highly Recognizable Projects

TEDx ISV

Grade 12 students organized TEDx events for students from within and outside of our school to step up on the stage and show their thoughts. It was a hectic journey considering that they had to start everything from scratch, face the challenges of the intensified IB curriculum and overcome their personal barrier to train speakers and communicate with different internal and external stakeholders. There were three external speakers and four external speakers during the day of the talk, all of whom had the time of their lives on the stage.



Due to the past situation of COVID 19 and the horrifying social-distance, our conference was unfortunately postponed. However, on the bright side, this has given us - the Organizing Committee - plenty of time to refine to its finest detail and return than ever. With 3 days of heated debate, ISVMUN II not only serves as a dynamic platform for fellow students from the Hanoian international community to showcase their knowledge and express their interests in both regional and global affairs but also promises wonderful chances to branch out as talented individuals.



The ISV yearbook team is a great place for students who are interested in designing, writing, and photographing; not to mention, those who wish to leave a legacy behind. Students do not necessarily need to have the above skills in order to join, this is because this experience is also an ECA which instructs and organizes training days for them to develop these abilities. And afterwards, students come together and use these skills to design a yearbook to be printed and given to the entire school at the end of the year.

Student's Reflection:

”

This is a very demanding experience/project as you constantly have to work on putting together and improving the yearbook whether through writing, or designing, etc. However, it is a great co-working space where students can come and meet fellow students or teachers that they never had the chance to talk to before and especially here, they can learn a lot from one another.

”

Social and Cultural Topics

King Hung Day

Hung Vuong, (flourished c. 2879 BC), legendary founder of the first Vietnamese state - Van Lang (the Land of the Tattooed Men) - probably located north of what is now Hanoi.

According to the Hung kings narrative, the eighteen Hung kings belonged to the Hong Bang dynasty (c. 2879-258 BCE) that ruled over the northern part of modern Vietnam in antiquity. Their progenitors were Lac Long Quan and his consort Fairy Au Co who produced a sac containing one hundred eggs from which one hundred sons emerged. Lac Long Quan preferred to live in the sea, and Fairy Au Co preferred the mountains. The two separated with half of the sons following each parent. The most illustrious of the sons became the first Hung king who ruled Van Lang, the realm of all the descendants of Dragon and Fairy Au Co who became the Vietnamese people, from his capital in modern Phu Tho province of Vietnam.

Some of the ancient texts describe Hung Vuong's domain as stretching southward from Dong Dinh to present-day central Vietnam; others indicate that his sovereignty may have centred only around the present site of Hue. According to the written records, Hung Vuong, whose name means Strong Leader, or Strong Elder, was the son of the mythical Lac Long Quan. He divided his kingdom into administrative districts and assigned civil servants and military officers to govern them.

What people do on the Death Anniversary of the Hung Kings?

Every year is the same—people from all corners of the country and even oversea gather at Hung King Temple, Phu Tho to participate in solemn ceremonies. The first one among them is a procession of great spectacularity. From the 9th day's afternoon, the village in charge of operating the procession gathers at the foot of Nghia Linh Mountain, preparing the palanquin and oblations including foods, flowers, and incense sticks. In the early morning of the 10th day, together with beautiful young boys and girls in beautiful holiday clothes carrying colorful offerings, flags and flowers, delegates head towards the mountain to offer wreaths from leaders of the nation, representatives of Phu Tho province as well as other provinces and cities. Specially, in even years, this activity is led by honored soldiers from Vietnam's People Army. After that is the incense offering ritual carried out at the Upper Temple of Hung King Temple. In the years when the festival is organized by Phu Tho province, the opening speech is read by the Chairman of the province; meanwhile, in the years when the festival is held nationally, it is operated by a representative from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism or one of the country's head of state. For example, in the year of 2012, National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung is the one who conducted this rite.

Overall, Death anniversary of the Hung Kings is a valuable opportunity for Vietnamese at home and abroad to strengthen the country's long lasting tradition of gratitude, patriotism as well as enhance national solidarity.



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