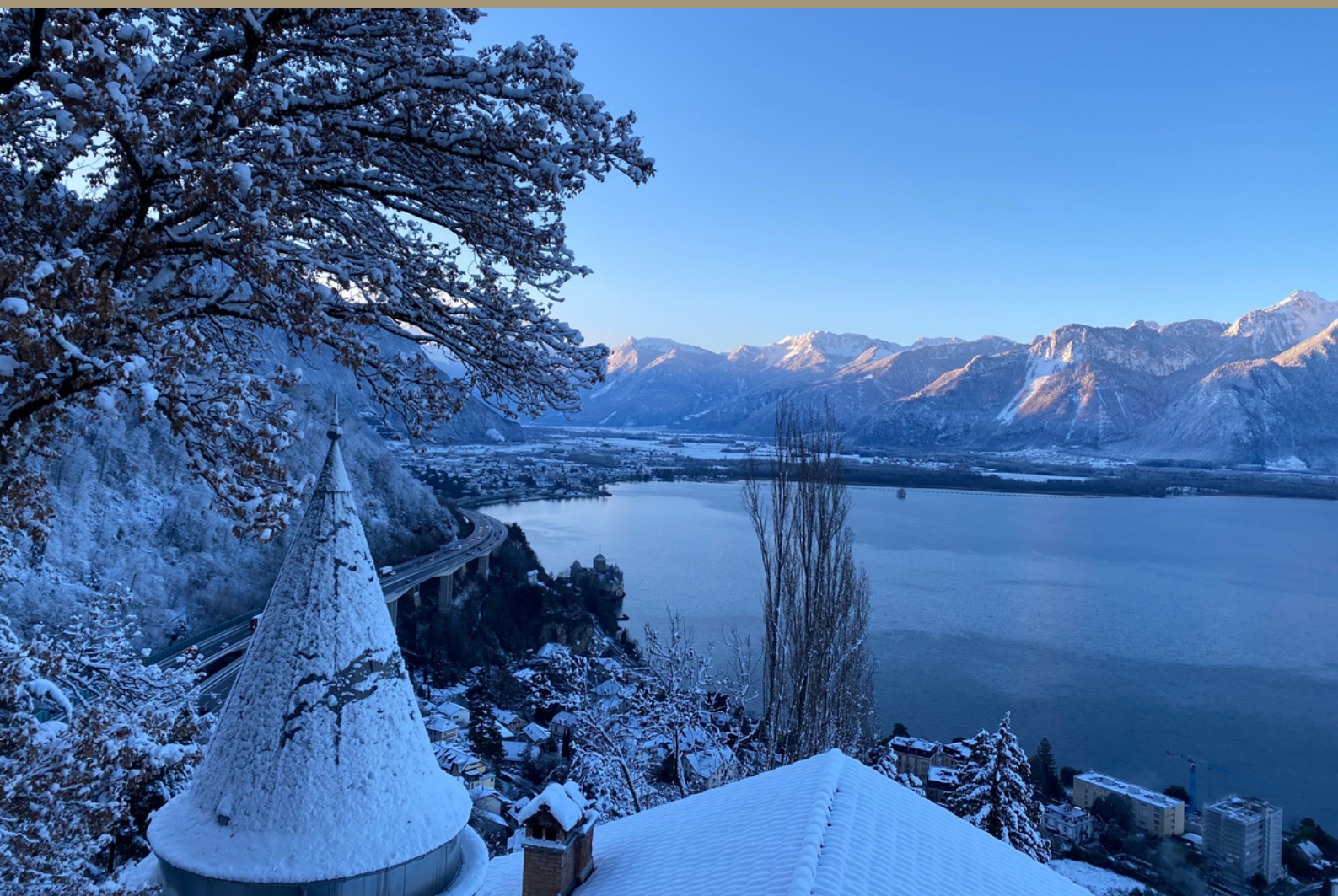




SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



Winter 2023 News

Challenge, Own, Lead



Warm Greetings from Surval Montreux

Another term has simply flown by at Surval Montreux! Fun on the slopes is always a highlight of the Winter Term and this year has been no exception. From weekly skiing and snowboarding, to ski week and optional ski weekends, every girl has challenged herself and progressed her skills. Snow conditions have not always been kind to us with an exceptionally warm season leading to limited fresh snow in lower resorts, but the girls have, nevertheless, made the most of the season.

In the classroom, students have remained committed to their studies. This term there has been a focus on promoting ownership in their learning whether it be in taking responsibility for themselves, developing independent study habits or owning their voice in the classroom with a particular focus on effective questioning and feedback.

The power of reflection has been a theme of my recent blog, highlighting the girls' reflections in their Surval Award portfolio. Their individual online portfolios include their academic learning and enrichment experiences, articulating their learning and personal development and evidencing the value added of a Surval education.

In January, we embarked on a new partnership with The Millie Group, an international team of guidance counsellors who support international schools remotely with their careers and university guidance programmes. So far we have been very impressed with their support and input and girls have engaged positively with their online careers fair, bespoke university application information sessions and 1:1 careers guidance interviews. This has been coupled with a variety of external visits and masterclasses. Business students have attended masterclasses at Nestle and Hotel Institute Montreux whilst History students joined a debate at the Geneva School of International Diplomacy. Our

goal is to open girls' eyes to the wealth of possibilities so that they lead their future pathways from an informed perspective.

This newsletter brings to you highlights of Winter Term 2023 at Surval Montreux, underpinned by our core values Challenge, Own and Lead. I have also taken this as an opportune moment to reflect progress with initiatives introduced at the start of this year and our next steps, taking into account feedback from recent student and parent surveys.

As I write at the end of a busy Winter Term, blossom is appearing on the trees and Spring is definitely in the air. Each term at Surval has a different character, in tune with the seasons, and I look forward to the return of the girls for the Spring Term and everything that the warmer season will bring.

In the meantime, I wish you and your families all a very happy Spring Break!

With very best wishes

Nicola Dudley
Principal, Surval Montreux

Read our Principal's latest
reflection pieces



Our final week this Winter Term was marked by...



Our Celebration Assembly

Our Celebration Assembly highlighted the great work of our students this term with each teacher choosing some exceptional work done by the girls in their classrooms. It was also an opportunity for the girls to celebrate and thank their teachers and staff at Surval for the things they have enjoyed most over this Winter Term.

Our Easter Lunch

The termly lunches organised by our Etiquette Club are always much appreciated by students and staff. They allow the whole school to share a sociable moment together and represent a true challenge for our students who organise and design the event in their Club.



Our final day on the slopes

With the end of the Winter Term comes the end of the ski season here at Surval. Our students enjoyed one last day on the slopes during their final week in school.

We would like to thank our partners, the Ecole Suisse de Ski in Montreux, for instructing our students this season and making them feel safe and confident on the slopes.



CHALLENGE



#InternationalFrenchDay

We celebrated the "Journée Internationale de la Francophonie" with a day packed with fun challenges for the girls to learn about the cultures of different French-speaking countries. Our intermediate level French students translated the recipes of "Oranges à la marocaine" and "Rochers Coco" before learning to make them in their culinary arts class.

The Vietnam War photography project

Grade 10 students have been learning about the Vietnam War this term. They studied the role the press and photography played in the depiction of the conflict around the World. The Vietnam War Photography Project they were assigned with challenged them to research different subjects and learn to find qualitative and trustworthy sources.



Exploring relationships in Art

Inspired by the artist Peony Yip who explores the relationship between human, animal and nature, our students built similarities between dogs and their owners while playing with facial expressions.



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We skied in...

*Villars – Gryon – Rochers de Naye – Anzère
Zermatt – Loèche-les-Bains – Saas Fee – Zinal
Grimentz – Glacier 3000 – Leysin – Les Diablerets*



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Surval's *Mission Statement*

A Surval education empowers girls to embrace challenge, take ownership of future pathways and lead dialogue for positive change.

A Surval graduate leaves school with the academic credentials, breadth of interests and open attitude to set her on a pathway to success with entrepreneurial and creative flair. She can walk into any room with self-assurance, presence and cultural awareness.

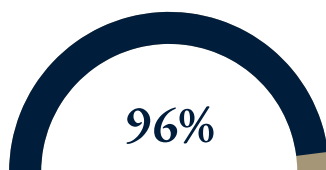


School strategic development

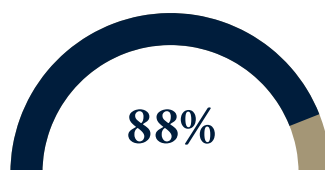
The end of a term is always a time to reflect and look back. The power of reflection has been a theme of my recent [blogs](#) to ensure we learn from experiences and seek to always do better. This is no less relevant for us as a school and we - myself and colleagues - regularly take stock of feedback we receive to review and tweak our provision, whilst keeping our current priorities in focus.

Thank you to all students and staff who have completed surveys this term. These have provided a snapshot into current views. Regular feedback is also sought from students through our Teaching and Learning surveys, Enrichment surveys which feed into planning termly activities and trips, and regular discussions with students, not least through Student Council and 1:1s.

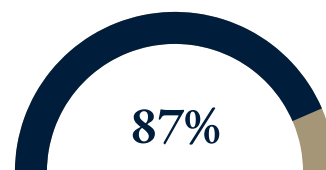
This time last year I highlighted two key areas for focus in response to lower student and parent satisfaction levels in our annual surveys: Firstly, a focus on academic standards and curriculum provision to ensure girls coming from different school backgrounds continue to make strong progress during their time at Surval regardless of entry point. Secondly - student wellbeing and healthy lifestyle. I am pleased to see that in each of these areas, there is a marked increase in satisfaction levels across the surveys.



I feel that my teachers really care about me and want me to do well



I feel well supported and looked after at Surval



In my classes, I learn about cultures different to my own

Overview

Changes and new initiatives always need to be carefully paced to ensure they are part of a planned strategy and have time to become embedded, and to be reviewed and tweaked as we go. As we take the feedback from the recent surveys into account, and bring focus to our plan for future priorities and next steps, it is helpful to look back at initiatives introduced in August 2022:

Leadership, Vision & Values

- Introduce the new Senior Leadership Team to drive each key area of the school (Teaching & Learning, Pastoral & Wellbeing, Enrichment) and ensure rigour and responsiveness in all areas;
- Launch and embed a fresh set of Surval values which underpin all Surval programmes and articulate our ambition for every member of the Surval community: Challenge, Own, Lead (COL);
- Introduce a Surval uniform to bring a sense of pride and belonging and to help bring a distinction in mindset and dress between the school day and 'home time';
- Launch the Surval Award to evidence and capture the learning from a Surval education in its widest sense and evidence development of skills, values and character; (image of Surval Award)





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School strategic development

Survey Results

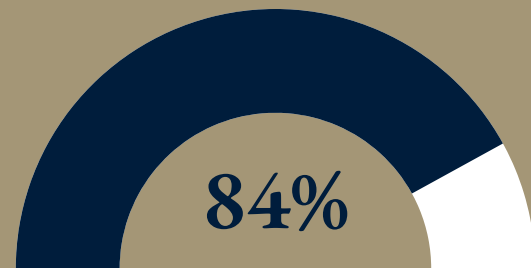
Academic

- Increase academic rigour through a focus on appropriate challenge and data tracking;
- Introduce online student-parent-teacher consultations each term to discuss student progress;
- Introduce 20Q, an online feedback tool enabling teachers to seek regular feedback from students on their learning experience and make adjustments accordingly.

Pastoral

- Appoint a full-time School Nurse to support medical and pastoral needs;
- Introduce a system of academic mentors to assist with target setting and ensure each student feels heard and supported;
- Develop a new Anti-Bullying Policy with input from Student Council;
- Develop a new Student Common Room with input from Student Council.

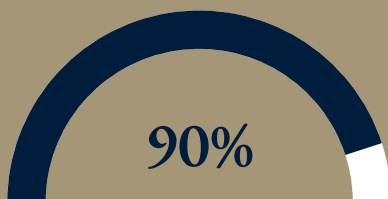
Parents' Survey Results Highlights



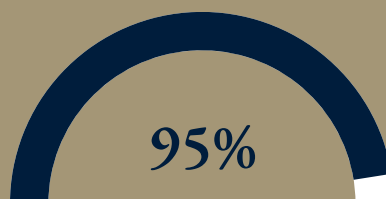
are most likely and likely to
recommend Surval Montreux

“It has been an amazing experience for our daughter, learning, having fun and making new friends in a safe environment.”

Survey Results Highlights: Pastoral and Safeguarding



School's pastoral care fully supports students' physical and mental health



The school is secure and welcoming and looks after my daughter effectively

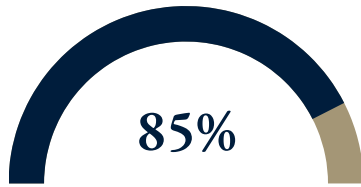


My daughter enjoys being at school and learns in a safe environment

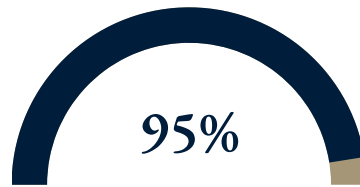
Thank you to all parents who took the time to share their views in our annual parent survey. Your views are invaluable to us, and will be used to guide the school's strategic development.

“Surval has helped my daughter grow and mature. She has built her independence and learned life skills.”

Survey Results Highlights: Teaching and Learning



My daughter's particular individual educational needs are met effectively

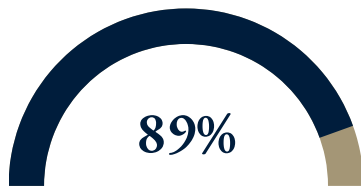


My daughter enjoys learning

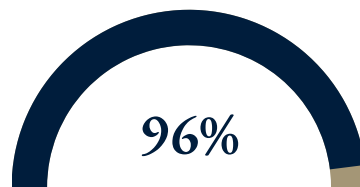


The school provides a suitable range of extracurricular activities

Survey Results Highlights: Boarding Life, Skills, Values and Character



The school encourages my daughter to adopt a healthy lifestyle

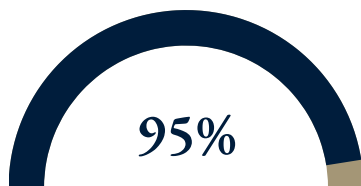


The boarding experience supports my child's personal development



The school helps my daughter to be confident and independent

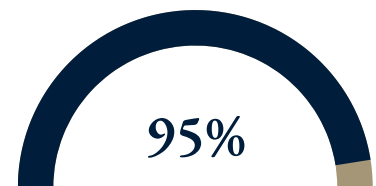
Survey Results Highlights: Communications and Leadership



The school responds promptly and effectively to my concerns or complaints



The school's Mission includes attention to the development of global understanding and respect for diversity



The actions of the school's leadership are aligned with the school's Mission and Values

In the recent surveys, there were two areas identified which we have quickly responded to:

- Catering: We fully recognise the importance of girls enjoying quality, nutritious meals to support their wellbeing and engagement with all aspects of school life. In our last assembly, students showed their appreciation for the efforts that had been made by our catering team.
- University & Careers guidance: Our new partnership with The Millie Group, an international company of guidance counsellors working with leading international schools, including 1:1 guidance packages leading to roadmaps for university applications and beyond has already received positive feedback from the girls.

Additional action points from the surveys which will be built into future priorities:

- Ongoing focus on Student Voice to ensure students consistently feel their views are listened to;
- Wider range of languages in addition to French;
- Planned programme of international language and cultural days to celebrate richness of cultures and languages within the school whilst promoting the use of English as the language of inclusion for all students;
- Ongoing focus on communication to ensure parents are fully informed regarding school policies, procedures and progress in academic, enrichment and pastoral domains and key strategic priorities.



OWN



The power of conversation in English Literature

Our Grade 10 students have been studying “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celest Ng. In their most recent English Literature unit, they were encouraged by their teacher, Mrs Kruse, to own their voice and unpack the “grey areas” of the book. It has been interesting hearing them engage critically with the story and learn to build their arguments.

A la découverte d'Annecy

How fun was our visit to beautiful and sunny Annecy in neighbouring France! The girls were challenged to practice their French asking directions to people in the streets, visiting the Tourist Office to request information on local cultural experiences, and ordering some delicacies in a café.



World Poetry Day

On 21 March, we celebrated World Poetry Day at Surval. Students were invited to take part in a poetry competition. We were very happy to receive submissions from our inspired students. During our final assembly, the top 3 poems were read by their authors to a captivated audience.



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Have a look at our Ski Week video!





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School strategic development

Surval's Programmes

Surval provides an incredible breadth of opportunities and flexibility of programmes, but at times, we are posed questions around our identity as a High School or a Gap experience programme. In answer to this, we seek to do both very well to ensure students gain the best of both - the exceptional rich experience year on year which might be typically associated with a Gap Year programme, alongside strength and rigour of academic and personal progression characteristic of an all-through High School.

The Surval Curriculum

Through recent developments and timetable restructuring planned for August 2023, our aim is to ensure the timetables of our returning students and short-term students are always optimised so that rigour, balance and progression towards clear outcomes are ensured for all. The High School timetable integrates the required number of hours for academic curriculum courses with the Surval COL curriculum to ensure students maximise the value added of their Surval experience and develop balanced skills, interests and attitudes for life, alongside achieving strong academic credentials.

As a small school, we inevitably have some limitations to the choice of subjects and activities on offer. In choosing our subject options, we seek to work to our strengths, keep future pathways open for the girls and provide a programme which is unique to Surval and makes the most of our environment in Switzerland and our school's heritage.

The Curriculum at Surval

	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Academic	<div>Springboard to High School</div> <div>English, Maths, French, Science, Global Perspectives</div>	<div>High School I</div> <div>English, Maths, French, Science, History</div>	<div>High School II</div> <div>English, Maths, French, Science, History</div> <div>1 year IGCSE courses available on demand</div>	<div>High School III & IV with Advanced Placements</div> <div>English, Maths, French, Science, Business, History</div> <div>APs in: English, History, Art History, French, Maths</div> <div>A Levels</div> <div>Options: English, History, French, Art, Maths</div>	
COL	<div>The Surval COL programme</div> <div>Language Enrichment, The Arts, Sports</div> <div>Global Etiquette & Communications, University & Careers Masterclasses, Life Skills, Service</div>				



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School strategic development

Surval's Programmes

The Surval COL (Challenge, Own, Lead) curriculum

We have drawn together all the distinctive elements of our curriculum which lie beyond the focused academic courses, to create our unique Surval COL curriculum. This features a range of non-academic electives where students have an element of choice to pursue their interests, whilst keeping a balance across physical, creative, linguistic and cultural domains. As we look ahead to 2023-24, we are seeking to enhance what is already in place to provide greater choice to students. COL Electives from August 2023:

The Arts

Culinary Arts, Fine Art, Photography, Fashion Design, Ceramics, Music, History of Art, Performing Arts (options vary by term and are confirmed according to interest)

Language Enrichment

Additional French conversation, Beginner Italian, Beginner Spanish, home language tuition

Sports

Autumn and Spring Terms: Tennis, Hiking, Cycling, Running, Horse riding, Sailing, Golf (options vary according to interest)

Winter Term: Skiing or Snowboarding

Surval Core

Global Etiquette and Communications for Personal and Professional Success, Careers & University Masterclasses, Life Skills, Service

Passion Project

Putting Challenge, Own, Lead into practice. Identifying a particular interest to research and explore further, guided by a Surval mentor. This may link with a future study/career interest, relate to language studies, involve cultural exploration or a creative project, or lead to a social enterprise initiative. It is about students taking the lead in enhancing their portfolio and exploring an interest individual to them. For older students this time may be used for independent travel.

NEW!

French Language and Culture programme

We are excited to be launching a new French Language and Culture programme for 12-18 year olds from August 2023 as an alternative to our High School programme. This draws on and extends our existing Swiss Gap and Winter Camp programmes, with an increased focus on an immersive French Language and Culture experience to optimise progression in French. This programme is open to students looking for an international experience in Switzerland for 1, 2 or 3 terms. With an intensive focus on French language development in the mornings and integration into the COL programme alongside High School students in the afternoon, it will appeal to those students looking to make the most of everything that our beautiful location in French-speaking Switzerland can offer.

Découvrez le programme!





LEAD



Learning about Luxury Brand Management

Our Business students visited the Hotel Institute of Montreux campus this term. After taking part in a two hour Luxury Brand Management workshop, they were paired with students from their own (or neighboring) countries allowing them to get an insider's view of HIM and gain a better understanding of the academics on offer in the school as well as information about the coveted internship program through HIM.

Charity work

Our Charity Club launched a number of projects liaising with different charities over this term. From raising over 500

Swiss Francs to donate to the victims of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, to making personalised

Easter cards and buying lego for Ukrainian children in

Montreux at the Evam Domaine Foyer, and working alongside Cartons du Coeur to hand out essential food and toiletries to families in need.



Geneva Institute of Diplomacy

Surval students recently visited the Geneva School of Diplomacy to explore careers in diplomacy, meeting with the school's founder and director Mr. Colum Murphy. Students were also able to attend a panel discussion about the conflict in Ukraine with GSD's professors, connecting to topics they've been learning about in Regional Studies and AP World History this term.



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Challenge, Own, Lead