



SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



Autumn 2022 News

Challenge, Own, Lead



Warm Greetings from Surval Montreux

Another whirlwind term at Surval is drawing to a close. It seems just yesterday that we welcomed girls and their parents filled with a sense of nervous anticipation ready for the new school year and enjoyed our Parents' Welcome Brunch on the terrace of Surval in the August sun. Today, as I write, surrounded by the lights and decorations of the festive period and look across the lake at snow-capped mountains, I reflect back on everything that has passed in between. From their academic studies, student-led assemblies, and Etiquette Club events to weekend excursions and activities, guest speakers, residential trips with the Adventure Weekend, Swiss Tour and weekend in Vienna, Surval girls have had another incredibly busy term.

I wish to start by giving the highest credit to the girls. They have all shown their openness to embracing new opportunities, taken the fascination and enjoyment of living and studying in a multicultural environment in their stride and taken steps to follow their own interests and find their own direction. This looks different for each girl at Surval and they have each faced different highs and lows as they have navigated their boarding and academic life over the past term. It is an absolute pleasure and privilege to be working with and watching the girls as they grow during their time at Surval.

At the start of this academic year, we launched our fresh vision with our focus on three core values underpinning the academic, enrichment and pastoral life of the school: Challenge Yourself, Own Your Voice, Lead Your Journey. It has been rewarding to see these priorities become embedded in our approach to life in and outside the classroom and form the principles on which girls and staff articulate their achievements and the impact of their Surval experiences.

Another exciting development over the past term has been the introduction of individualised sports



pathways, enabling girls to follow a wider range of individual sporting interests. Surval girls are currently following individual pathways in horseriding, swimming, tennis, running and taekwondo, enjoying their sporting passions alongside others out in the wider community. Whilst enabling these girls to continue their individual sports at a high level, their involvement in local clubs and teams also gives them the opportunity to meet people in the community, put their language skills into practice and feel part of a wider community alongside Surval. Our tennis players recently enjoyed their first friendly against another international school. We look forward to further development of these outside links in order to widen the opportunities for Surval students.

Over the last term I and colleagues have travelled to Mexico, Brazil, Monaco, Germany, Israel and Dubai, connecting with established and prospective Survalienne families, agents and partners. Recruitment trips have been disrupted in recent years during the pandemic and it is good to be back on the tour, meeting people face to face and spreading the word about Surval Montreux and everything that a Surval experience brings to girls. Word of mouth is our most powerful recruitment tool and it was a particular pleasure to meet with current parents and to hear the stories which are being recounted to you by your daughters.



With international travel back in full flow, we have also enjoyed welcoming more visitors to the school this term. Surval always leaves an impression on agents, partners and families who comment on its warm, family, supportive atmosphere. Our most powerful ambassadors are undoubtedly our students themselves - this was certainly in evidence when we welcomed a group of ten agents from around the world in November. Our student ambassadors impressed them with their mature, articulate and personable approach.

As part of the Bellevue group of schools, Surval receives regular quality assurance visits from the Head Office team. During their visits, the governance team engages with girls and staff to get insights into the Surval experience from their perspective. There are always aspects we can keep improving and these visits help us keep aiming high and focusing our efforts to provide the very best possible educational experience for Surval students. Bellevue would also like to build parental views into future visits. After our most recent visit at the start of December, it was pleasing to read in the follow up report that 'there is clearly a great deal of care and support for individual girls that is both appreciated and recognised in the boarding house. 'Girls know who to turn to and feel safe and secure [...]

Girls feel they have strong pastoral care with kind staff and teachers whom they feel comfortable with and get the attention they need.' It was also good to read that the focus on providing academic rigour and challenge is being recognised by the girls who have regular opportunities to give feedback to teachers on their experiences at Surval through online surveys, academic mentor meetings and through the Student Council.

My heartfelt thanks go to the incredible team of staff who support the girls in all aspects of their life at Surval - teachers, boarding and house staff and the admin team. Whether in the classroom, in the house, or out on trips, a team of dedicated staff is supporting the girls and ensuring they have a truly exceptional experience.

I wish all our Surval girls and their families a very healthy and happy festive period and look forward to seeing everyone in 2023!

Nicola Dudley
Principal, Surval Montreux

Read our Principal's latest
reflection pieces





CHALLENGE



Adventure Weekend

Our students were encouraged to push their boundaries and challenge themselves. From sailing on Lake Geneva to a hike up to Grammont (at 2,172 meters!), our girls embraced the challenges they were faced with during Adventure Weekend at the start of the term.

To the video!



World Restart a Heart Day

Learning to use a defibrillator and training to do CPR was definitely a highlight of this term. The girls are now confident to use their life saving skills, well done to them!



Thursday morning Run Club

Joined by our Principal, Ms. Nicola Dudley and Mrs. Jess Byrne, Head of Enrichment, the Run Club has seen a committed group of early morning runners team up every week since the start of term. We are thrilled to see so many of our students living the school's ethos and pushing their limits!



YOURSELF



First Ski Day of the season

Ski season has officially started at Surval! The girls were out on December 8th in Zinal for their first ski day of the season. The snow was fresh and the sun was out, everyone had a great time! We're already looking forward to next term and the many ski days that await our students.

Our IELTS champions

Well done to our students who passed their IELTS exams successfully! After working hard in class and during their mentoring sessions, it's great to see our girls happy and proud of their results.



Valeria at the Valencia Marathon

Current Swiss Gap student here at Surval Montreux, Valeria completed her first marathon ever and outdid herself. We are thrilled by her performance and the result of such hard work and dedication in preparing herself for this big event.



It is really important that we provide our students with opportunities to engage in challenges that expand their previous boundaries.

Jess Byrne
Head of Enrichment and Leadership



To the video of
Jess Byrne on Challenge



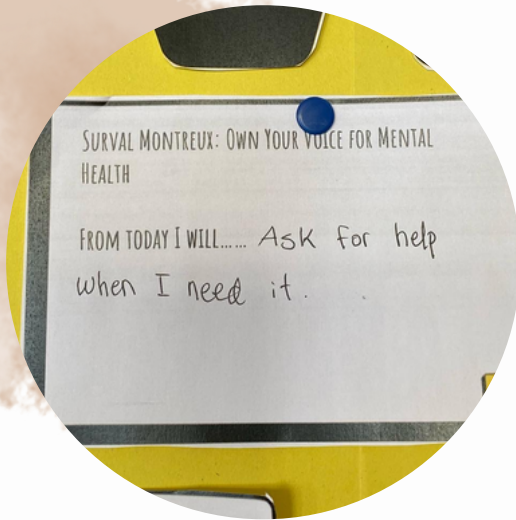


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OWN YOUR



#HelloYellow: educating on mental health

On #HelloYellow, an afternoon full of activities and workshops to raise awareness on mental health was organised. Led by our school nurse, Mrs Bosmans, and our Head of Enrichment and Leadership, Mrs Byrne, the focus was set on identifying situations that create anxiety in our daily lives, voicing these anxieties and finding ways to release the pressure.

New School Uniform

It is fantastic to see the girls wearing the new Surval school uniform with pride. They are all looking very smart! A uniform has been introduced following input from the girls last year and is a great way to strengthen even further Surval's sense of community. It is also helping the girls make the distinction between the home and work environment.



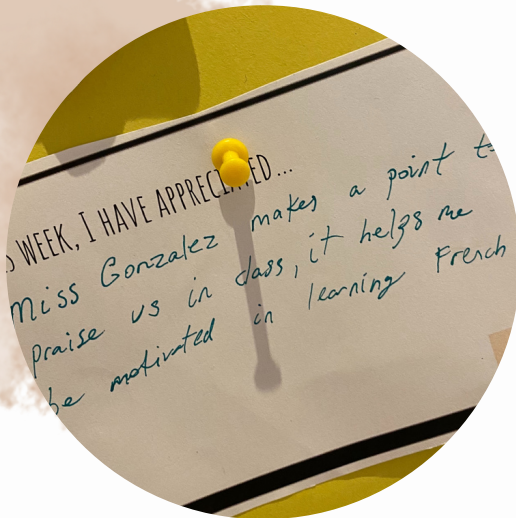
A new space for the girls by the girls

At the beginning of the School Year a space was designated to become a new common room. Our students were asked if they were interested in taking part in the interior design of the room. This project was handed over to the girls and in that process, they have learned to communicate with one another and express their views. It has been good to witness them taking ownership of this space.





VOICE



Celebrating their teachers

Reading through our students' notes on the teachers' appreciation board is truly heart-warming. Our teaching staff is dedicated to supporting our girls in changing the perspective of their journey and equipping them to lead their path. Getting first hand feedback from our girls on what they appreciate in class is a source of motivation to keep working with them and meeting their personal needs.

Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, girls from grades 9, 10 and 11 were asked to find a quote that resonated with them on what fighting for freedom means and read them during this morning's assembly. The exercise was a clear expression of #owningyourvoice as they had to reflect on their experience and perception of conflict, freedom and peace.



Kathryn de Ferrer on owning your voice

#OwnYourVoice is one of the three core values here at Surval Montreux. Kathryn de Ferrer, Head of Pastoral Care and Boarding, talked about what it means in an episode of our Surval Stories. To her, it comes down to two things: owning your behaviour and speaking up for what you truly believe in.

To the video!





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It is particularly important
for young women today
to know what
they stand for.

Kathryn de Ferrer
Head of Pastoral Care and Boarding





LEAD YOUR



Celebrating Academic Excellence

As the girls lead their journey at Surval, we take time to celebrate their achievements over this first term. The teachers are very impressed with their creativity, involvement and dedication. Congratulations to them!

Etiquette Autumn Lunch

Congratulations to the students of the Etiquette Club for running such a wonderful event earlier this term. From setting the tables, to organising the seating plan and coordinating the event, our girls outdid themselves. Staff and students shared a lovely seasonal lunch in our beautifully decorated dining room.



Surval Stories

#Challenge
#Own
#Lead



#InternationalGirlsDay

Earlier this term, our Swiss Gap students discussed ways in which they could help young girls who suffer from injustice during a French Class. Together the girls envisioned a complex project in which each of them, in their future profession, will work towards helping young girls.

To the video!





JOURNEY



The Race 4 Good Challenge

This year, Surval Montreux's students decided to take part in the Arctic Race4Good challenge. This student leadership programme is a fun, fast-paced competition that tackles the world's most pressing problems. Over the past term, two groups of students at Surval have worked hard on various projects to support communities living in the Arctic Circle. We are extremely proud of our girls who have volunteered to be humanitarians in this process creating innovations and challenging themselves to have a real impact on real problems affecting real people.

Leading their future on Career Days

This term, various opportunities were given to our students to hear about and discover pathways to specific careers. From attending the Glion Open Day, to welcoming Professor Hamwee from Hult Business School and international Chef, Charlotte Frölich, the girls were given a chance to discuss career choices and what they would like their future to look like.



St. Nicholas Dinner

Organised by our Etiquette Club, the event brought together students and staff for a special evening. We shared a wonderful dinner and had a lovely time singing Christmas Carols with our Principal, Ms Nicola Dudley, playing the piano. Our girls worked hard to organise the event, decorate the library and dining hall, and host the event paying careful attention to their guests. Congratulations to all of them for running a successful event!



We want our girls to have
a strong view and a strong
idea of what they want to
do with their lives.

Tom Byrne

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment



To the video of
Tom Byrne on Lead







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