



SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



SURVAL NEWS

Spring 2021

Celebrating Sixty Years of Excellence in Girls' Education

www.surval.ch



"Surval has been the jewel in the crown of my 35-year career in education. I wish Ms Dudley all the very best for the next chapter of Surval's exciting story."

Welcome from The Principal

Well, as CEO of Bellevue Education Mark Malley said to me - what a final year! And indeed, what a way to finish my career in education! I have found my sailing background very helpful; when hit by a force 8 gale, you have to change tack and navigate a new course. And that's exactly what we at Surval have done this year!

Our commitment to emboldening our girls with the confidence and resilience to follow their own path in life is as strong as ever; equipping them for a world in which they will have influence and responsibility; role models to their communities and guardians of their environments. This year at Surval, our community has taken revelations in our stride, adapted, adjusted and righted our course. We have flipped challenges into opportunities, potential obstacles into enlightened creativity. A big well done to everyone for making this year all it has been.

Students of 15 nationalities have made up our United Nations of Surval this year, gifting us with an extraordinary cultural hotpot, all living happily together in our Surval home. With the shifting sands of Swiss Authority Covid measures, we have navigated lots of new courses and overcome many challenges with spirit and good humour. Quarantining new starters and returners dictated the reinvention of the Autumn Term's Induction Week; this proved physically, intellectually and socially stimulating, culminating in the Surval International Diversity Day. We've still enjoyed our annual Swiss Tour and Surval Ski Week, snow sports on the infamous Swiss slopes, football training with the local Juventus football academy and determinedly creating ways to support our much-loved charitable causes despite the stipulations of social distancing and travel restrictions. We have loved discovering every corner of Switzerland in our travel plans, enjoying a real Swiss immersion of our multi-lingual and multi-cultural host country, which can risk being overlooked by those keen to see more of our neighbouring nations.

It's also been a year of firsts with the introduction of our innovative Flipped Learning approach which has been a huge success, empowering learners with critical thinking skills and independence, channelling their passions and energies. We have launched Surval Masterclasses, which showcased Fashion Design, Jewellery Making, Masterchef and Debate; and introduced our Inspiring Women Online Conference Series covering an excellent range of topics (see page 19). We have introduced Debate into the school timetable, and it has been a great success with the girls. This year's Ski Week thrilled with snowmobiling, a first for so many, and saw our first night-time torchlit descent. Our first Languages and Cultures Week this term, the brainchild of Mme Hily and Mrs Spigarelli, was a real hit, sharing and learning about each other's country, nationality, food, cultures – a spotlight on who we are and where we are from, radiating the pride we each hold in our states of origin. I've been delighted to see my mantle "It's all about the girls!" has been so relevant and lived out to the max this year, with so much defined by our Surval Education of student-led, student-centric activity!

This term we are also celebrating our DELF exam results which have been outstanding, and the universities and courses across the world featured in our list of Leavers' Destinations are equally impressive. All this ready for the biggest first of all... the launch of Surval at Sixty!

These last 5 years have for me personally been fascinating, broadening my own mind and horizons, gifting me with a much truer global perspective. From our stunning Swiss base and through our precious Surval families, I have gained so much insight into the world's countries and cultures, social, economic and political situations. I have visited Panama, Mexico, Guatemala, Italy, China, Japan, Taiwan, Russia and Ukraine on behalf of the school, and discovered Switzerland with all our new girls on our annual Swiss Tour. I have relearnt French for the first time in nearly 50 years, got back on a pushbike and swum in the Lake, taken up snow shoeing, Nordic skiing and had my first ski lesson at the age of 61!

I have met, worked with and for extraordinary people and been exposed to so many awesome opportunities – UN, WHO, CERN, attending the World Economic Forum with our students in Davos, I have had my own very special Surval Experience which will stay with me and define parts of me for the rest of my life!

Surval has been the jewel in the crown of my 35-year career in education. I wish Ms Dudley all the very best for the next chapter of Surval's exciting story.

Patricia Woodhouse

Mrs Patricia Woodhouse
Principal



Surval's Global End of Year Celebrations

Tuesday 22 June 2021

This year's Prizegiving and Graduation ceremony was hosted at Surval in a beautifully bedecked marquee on our tennis court. Spirits were not dampened by the stormy weather (although this did limit photo opportunities!), and a fabulous day was enjoyed by all, including the few family and friends who attended in person for this occasion. This end of year is particularly special with Mrs Woodhouse retiring this summer, and portents the start of our Surval at Sixty anniversary.

The day celebrated our community's achievements over the last year, with special focus on our Class of 2021 Graduates: Anastasiia (Ukraine), Camila (USA), Katie (Ireland) who were all at Surval for this occasion and Charlotte (England) who joined us remotely from her family home (read their stories on page 10). Commemorating sixty years of Surval, this year's Guest Speakers were Survaliennes 2016-21, who joined us in person and remotely, paying tribute to our school by sharing what, in their eyes, makes Surval special. Highlights of the day's speeches follow.



Our Principal

Mrs Patricia Woodhouse

Here we are for the second year celebrating, thanks to the wonders of technology, the achievements of another extraordinary year, culminating today in Surval's very special and memorable Global Graduation and Prizegiving Ceremony. I am thrilled to welcome and host you from our beautiful school, thank you for the effort you have made to join us from around the globe. It is a pleasure to see you here.

This is a very special day for all our girls, who are at the heart of today's celebrations – thank you girls for sharing your Surval Experience with us! It has been the greatest pleasure to watch you fine young women unfurl your wings, grow in confidence and soar in spirit.

Every girl has created a powerful story to tell of her time here, she has journeyed through her own personal adventure, transforming her tomorrow. Our latest Yearbook and end of year Newsletter present inspiring images and highlights from the Surval Family album we have created together this year, capturing the energy, pace, dedication, hard work, creativity, positivity and discovery we have enjoyed sharing together.

The character of Surval as a community, brimming with joie de vivre and esprit de corps, is to draw strength from new opportunities and challenges, new faces and welcoming back old friends. Fernanda, Nastya, Vivi, joining Liza and Faith here as Survaliennes of the last five years, you are the ideal Guest Speakers on this occasion, as we launch our Sixtieth Year celebrations here at Surval. Ladies, thank you for your unwavering loyalty and support for the School you hold so dear. I am thrilled we continue to grow across the globe a powerful network of former students and their families; you are our best Ambassadors.

So, to you wonderful girls, a few words. You have brought me so much joy and inspiration. You know how to work hard and play hard. I know that you will each go on to do marvellous things. In these complex and turbulent times, you will use your education for the greater good.

Remember you only find new oceans once you've lost sight of the shore. As your journey extends and choices emerge, follow your heart, be bold and take risks, dare to be different, for it is at these junctions you can make decisions which truly transform your future. As the poet Robert Frost wrote in The Road Not Taken,

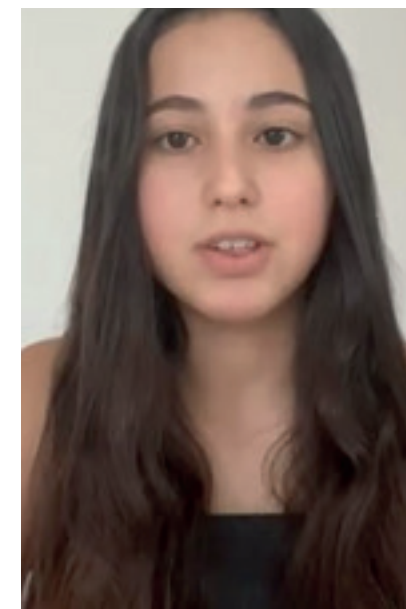
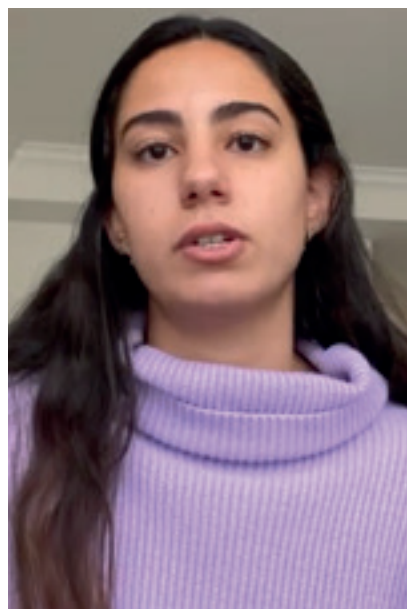
*"Two paths diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference"*

Recalling last night's House Assembly together, where we talked about the journey of Maria in The Sound of Music and the film's ending following the entire family bravely crossing over the Alps from Austria to Switzerland into the unknown....

*"Climb every mountain
Ford every stream
Follow every rainbow
Till you find your dream!"*

As a souvenir of her time at Surval, Mrs Woodhouse was presented with a commissioned painting on behalf of Survaliennes, staff and families past and present, created by our former Art teacher Ms Bilson.





“Survival is so many things beyond just the location, the facilities, or the bright yellow building itself”



Our Guest Speakers

Elizaveta Solovyeva (Student of the Year 2020, Russia)

Elizaveta came to Survival Summer Camp 2015 and returned for IGCSEs and A Levels here, staying on for this year's Swiss Gap Experience programme, achieving outstanding results in her recent French and Italian examinations and is going on to theatre school in Moscow.

“Every single moment here was fabulously special for my young soul... every teacher was much more to me; their support and care created this secure feeling of being understood, helped and directed on the right path. I couldn't even dream of meeting so many friends from all different parts of our planet. I feel huge gratitude to everyone who was or is involved in life at this school. I will remember with great happiness everything that happened here.”

Fernanda Name (Student of the Year 2016, Mexico)

Fernanda came to Survival from Mexico in to Grade 9, 2015-2016. Several generations of Fernanda's family are Survivaliennes and Fernanda's younger sister joins us this Autumn. Fernanda lives with her family in San Diego and is at University of San Diego studying Economics and Finance and plans to go on to a Masters in Economics in Europe.

“Survival changed my life! Survival became a space where I could be who I am without judgement or worry. I was loved and cared for just for being myself. Survival allowed me to meet some of the best people on earth; some have become more like sisters; I have lived through so many adventures with them that I can't settle for just calling them my friends! I will never forget all of the laughs we shared and the delicious food we devoured!”

Anastasiia Kabanova (Student of the Year 2019, Russia)

Anastasiia came to Survival Summer Camp 2016 and returned that Autumn, completing her IGCSEs and A Levels here. Anastasiia is at the University of London, King's College reading Modern Languages with Business Management.

“At Survival, every year was special; every day was like a small life - eventful, joyful, unique... and full of new discoveries! I learned to be brave and be myself, work hard, help others, value friendship, appreciate what I have and be open to new things. To me, Survival is about people... I met my best friend, had the best teachers and made the best memories at Survival. It opened up so many doors and opportunities in my life. Survival is about making your dreams come true, that is what makes this school special.”

Viviana Aguilar Izquierdo (2020, Mexico)

Vivi joined us for one year in Foundation Year, following in the footsteps of her older sister Alexia. Vivi remained in Survival throughout the pandemic, a highly memorable time for all involved. Vivi was awarded the prestigious Highly Commended Student of The Year 2020.

“Survival is a place of magic and possibility. A place where girls are able to grow, learn, bond, and share. Where they are able to discover themselves and their strengths through adventures, experiences, and relationships. But what makes Survival, Survival? Survival is so many things beyond just the location, the facilities, or the bright yellow building itself. Take a look inside, take a look at the people around you; at your new found forever lasting friends, at your proud teachers cheering you on, at your house mothers ready to help you in anything and everything they can, at the staff warmly welcoming and greeting you every day. Take a look at the Survivalienne community: generations of successful women, the teachers, the staff, and of course Mrs Woodhouse.

Survival is special because of the people involved, because of this community. The community that creates a safe and encouraging atmosphere whether it is your friends, your teachers, or anybody else sharing this journey with you. The people ready to help you in any way possible, the people looking out for you, encouraging you to become the best version of yourself. The people with whom you create strong bonds. So, from all the special things about Survival, why do I consider this to be the best one? Because in the future, and I say this from experience, you will find yourself not wanting to come back to the building itself, but to the people who experienced Survival with you. To the friends sitting beside you in this adventure, to the relationships formed, because in the end, they are what mark the difference between a building and a home. They are what turn a building into Survival; a special place of magic and possibility.”

Faith Githae (2021, Botswana)

Faith joined Foundation Year Autumn 2015. She has always played a key role in our Sustainability Society, famously planting the three beautiful cherry blossom trees in Mrs Woodhouse's Chalet garden. Faith graduated last year and has just completed our Swiss Gap programme. She is looking forward to going onto the Cesar Ritz Academy, Le Bouveret, to study Culinary Arts.

“The most special thing that has happened to me in Survival is seeing the friendships made... No matter what kind of past version you were when you flew from another continent, drove up the mountain hill and walked through those wooden doors to when you walk out of those doors again - if you just stopped and thought you'd see Survival is more than just a building; it's the place that we made our memories and moments we shared together as a Survival family. And that is what makes Survival special.”



Our Student of the Year 2021

Anastasiia (Grade 12, Ukraine), who joined us three years ago and graduated this year, was awarded Student of the Year 2021 for her outstanding contribution across the Surval community.

"When I first came here, I was 13 years old. I didn't speak English very well, I didn't know anyone. My first months here were quite challenging, however I wanted to make the best here in Switzerland.

I soon settled in and made friends from around the world. Some of the subjects were quite hard for me, however the teachers always helped me. During my five years in Surval, I have learned French, English, chaired the Charity Committee, I've met lots of kind people, who have become life-long friends, I've travelled, I've been to Iceland and I've been nominated Student of the Year!

Being a Survalienne means a lot to me, because not every girl in the world has a chance to have this type of education. The thing which I liked the most is that we are here as a big family, which is gathered from different countries. Education in Surval is so special because every teacher finds time and works with every girl. This school taught me how to be independent, how to deal with life's ups and downs and how to respect other people and their opinion. My hope for the future is that I will be able to carry on supporting and organising events for different international charities. I would love to lead a company.

I would like to give some advice to girls who are staying here next year. Remember how precious and special your time at Surval is, make the most of it. Appreciate the opportunities which you have here. Go for a walk and take pictures of the wonderful view, because one day, you may understand as I do now, how much we are going to miss this place. Think about what you want to achieve in the future and what you want to do in your life and be sure to do it! From my experience I can say that Surval is life-changing place.



Congratulations to our Class of 2021 Graduates!



Anastasiia (Ukraine)

Anastasiia was awarded Student of the Year 2021. See her speech on page 8.



Charlotte (England)

"I want to thank my parents for giving me the opportunity of such great education and adventures. Thank you for believing and supporting me.



Camila (Mexico)

Camilla plans to take a gap semester and is intending to do voluntary work overseas, inspired by her Surval Experience.



Katie (Ireland)

"One small change can make much bigger changes happen; one small incident can have a big impact on the future. This concept is known as the butterfly effect. A butterfly can flap its wings in Peking, and in Central Park, you get rain instead of sunshine. The point is, there is no way to predict in advance what the outcome will be... And that is what brought us all here together today... we were all lucky enough to make one small decision that brought us here and made us friends for life.

I have learned many things in Surval; most important are the small ones... Take that leap of faith, don't waste your life waiting for the right time! Find happiness in the simplest things and follow your passions that light a fire in your heart. And don't forget to slow down, I was always told high school will pass by without me even noticing, and I never listened. Slow down and enjoy every moment because they will be gone before you know."

Next Steps: University

Au revoir to our 2021 Leavers and those destined for university:

Grade 12

Anastasiia (Ukraine)
City College, London
Foundation in Business and Finance

Charlotte (England)
Cardiff Metropolitan University
Sport, Physical Education and Health

Katie (Ireland)
Queen Mary University of London
Business Management

Swiss Gap

Ana Maria (Dominican Republic)
Tulane University, New Orleans
International Development

Crista (Guatemala)
Parsons School of Design, New York
Fashion Design

Elizaveta (Russia)
The Mikhail Shchepkin Higher Theatre School, Moscow
Performing Arts

Erin (USA)
Georgia State University, USA
Education

Faith (Botswana)
Culinary Arts Academy, Switzerland
Culinary Arts

Fernanda (Spain)
IE University, Madrid
Law & Business Management

Leah (USA)
University of New York
Business Administration and Psychology

Mariana PV (Mexico)
Northeastern University, Boston
Business Management

Mariana Z (Mexico)
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México
Actuary Science

Martina (Switzerland)
Northeastern University, Boston
International Business



Crista



Ana Maria



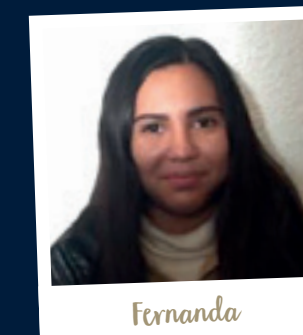
Elizaveta



Erin



Faith



Fernanda



Leah



Mariana PV



Mariana Z



Martina

Survall Life

Academic life

Over the course of the year we have, as a school, enjoyed our collective focus on Flipped Learning and Critical Thinking Skills.

Challenging the girls through debate, discussion, intriguing questions and ensuring that they have the opportunity to prepare for lessons, we have built on some incredible pedagogy and demonstrated an innovative approach that has been flexible to the needs of both online and face-to-face learning.

The girls have risen to the challenge and it has been wonderful to see their engagement as they read more widely, think more clearly and research more deeply. They should be congratulated for their endeavour and hard work to meet the challenges set this year.

We were delighted with the way the girls have pursued their academic studies. Their imagination and curiosity has allowed for so many increased opportunities in the classroom. Their drive saw some outstanding DELF results, combined with a real appreciation of the local culture. Additionally the list of this year's leavers' university destinations shows the impact of a tailored and bespoke learning approach, ensuring our girls are able to achieve all that they want to, progressing on the paths of their choice.

Beyond their studies, Enrichment endeavours have seen girls throwing themselves into art, masterchef quality cookery, Book Club, our Sustainability Garden, Charity Committee activities, photography and chess, ever-expanding students' skills and interests.

Mr Smale, Vice-Principal

House Life

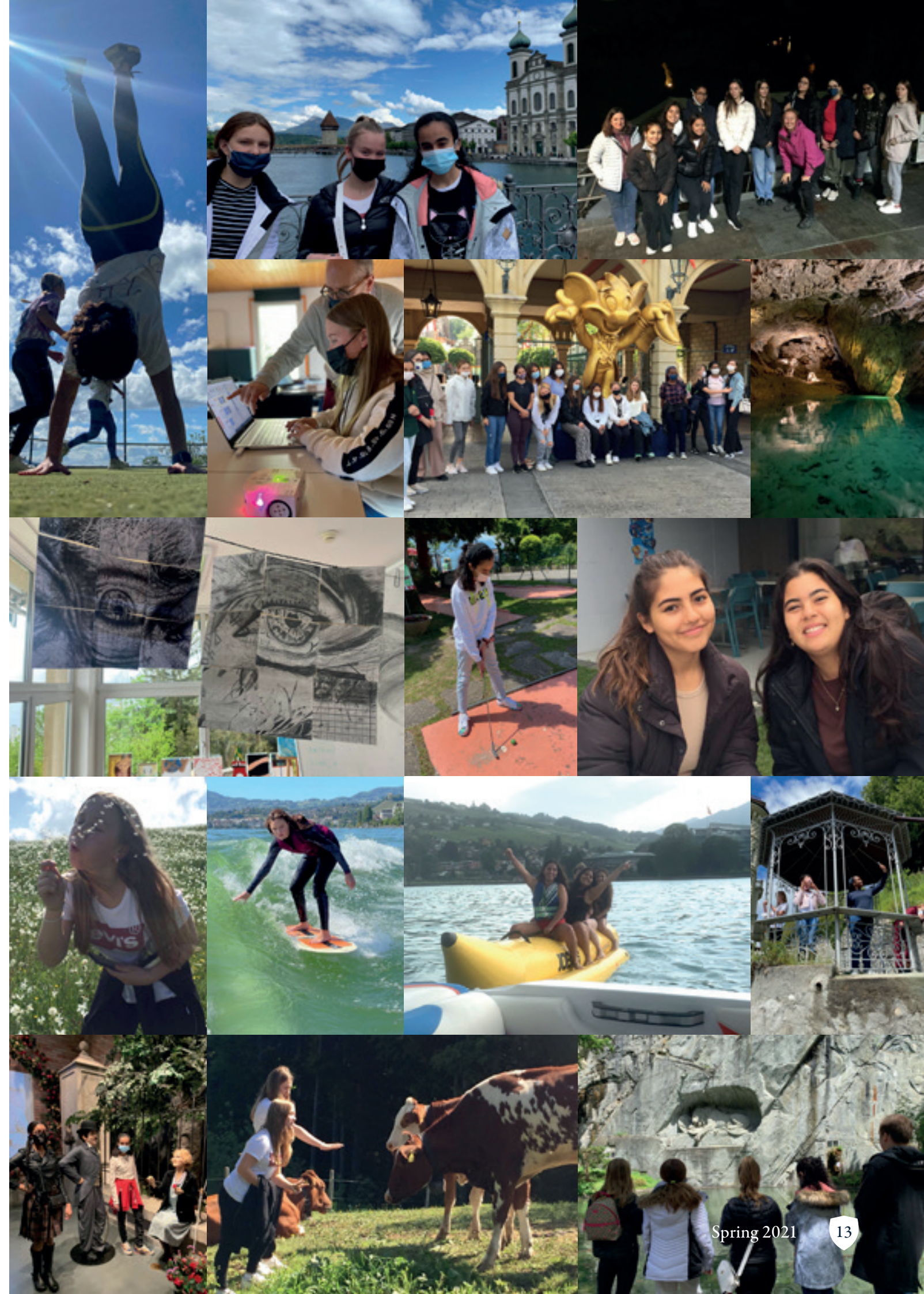
It's been another busy term for evening and weekend activities, House life is certainly never dull!

Baking for the Surval Café, jigsaws, hiking, scootering, photography and soaking up the views and sunshine on our terraces have been popular 'at-home' pass times. We've been bowling, to the trampoline park, the tree-top assault at Aigle, with other highlights being water skiing and bubble football!

Weekends have been well filled with trips exploring Swiss treasures: Chateau de Chillon and Montreux on our doorstep, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, the cheese making factory at Moleson, Rochers de Naye, Vevey, the famous themed Luna Park on the lakeside at Ouchy and the Olympic and Charlie Chaplin Museums and farther afield to Spain, Greece, and - arguably everyone's favourite - the whole school end of year outing to Europa Park in Germany. This trip epitomises Surval - it was a whole team effort; the girls challenged themselves to go on rides and coped with a thunder storm (and we were able to have a trip abroad which fuelled our travel hunger!)

It's been a great term and, with the four seasons so pronounced here in Switzerland, we have enjoyed a fabulous year - not least for all this year's snow! The girls should be congratulated this year on how well they have adapted to the pandemic restrictions. We have been really struck by how determined the girls have been, not allowing the situation to spoil their year - they have made the most of every opportunity. It was not a "normal" school year, yet they continued to grow and challenge themselves in all respects! I want to wish all graduating girls, student and staff leavers which this year of course includes Mrs Woodhouse, all the best for their life after Surval - once a Survalienne, always a Survalienne!

Mrs Wilkinson, Head of Boarding



Sweet success

At Surval, we love a challenge and May's 'Apprentice'-style Confectionary challenge for our Grade 12 Business students was a sweet treat for us all!

Working to a budget, the girls researched the preferred products for their target market, devised a strategy and analysed costs and pricing before creating, marketing and selling their goodies around school.

To complete the challenge, teams presented on this invaluable experience and the team with the highest profit won.



Sports

Surval sports this year included:

Canyoning	Dance	Scootering	Volleyball
Climbing	Football	Snowsports	Watersports
Cycling	Hiking	Tennis	Yoga



"No matter where you are or where you will go, the most important thing to remember is that love and hope will always be with you in life."

Faith (Swiss Gap, Botswana)





Social Enterprise

The Surval community has been characteristically purposeful and resourceful in finding ways to raise awareness and funds for a variety of causes, in the face of the pandemic. With social distancing and travel limitations clipping wings, our physical involvement in off-site projects has been restricted, and our annual Habitat for Humanity humanitarian trip to Africa has sadly not happened. Whilst this has been frustrating and disappointing for our girls, there has been much creative philanthropy within the realms of what has been possible to achieve and our girls should be commended for their efforts and perseverance in their charitable activity.

Highlights of this year's social enterprise endeavours include:

- 🛡 Pyjamas Day for Cartons du Coeur
- 🛡 Volunteering with local charities Cartons du Coeur and L'Étape
- 🛡 Surval Bouge and selling mascots for Téléthon
- 🛡 #HelloYellow for Young Minds
- 🛡 Surval's second annual MACS Day
- 🛡 Selling oranges for Terre des Hommes
- 🛡 Sponsoring Christmas presents for Sapin Solitaire
- 🛡 In aid of Habitat for Humanity:
 - St Valentine's Fundraiser
 - Starbucks Delivery
 - Surval Café
 - Starry Night Gala Dinner

"To the person stepping into this role - you need to go in quite confident. You need to be in charge, take charge - don't be scared to say what you think; don't be afraid to try something new! Ms Spigarelli will always say yes, so just ask and it will happen!"

Charlotte (Grade 12, England)
Charity Committee Chair



Gala Dinner 2021

In April, our Swiss Gap students hosted their "Starry Night" Gala Dinner, the eagerly awaited headline event in our annual Social Enterprise calendar.

The Dinner was in aid of Habitat for Humanity, whose mission is "bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope" through affordable housing projects in developing countries. We were not able to visit and physically contribute to one of their projects this year and so our Charity Committee focused on fundraising activities in school, to help Habitat for Humanity provide handwashing facilities in schools, support mothers' groups with soap making, and the provision of face masks.

The excitement began a few days earlier as shopping for dresses featured in the week's excursions. The day of the dinner itself saw the Swiss Gap students preparing their decorations, dressing the room all afternoon and, with the help of our House staff, making everything starry and magical.

Our Swiss Gap girls led the occasion, with the evening beginning with an apéro and Mariana (Mexico) introducing the Habitat for Humanity project with a presentation, followed by a Thank You speech by Crista (Guatemala). Afterwards, Mariana thanked the chefs and House staff for such a wonderful dinner. Faith (Botswana) ushered everyone into the Library for the fun photo booth, the source of much hilarity with the choice of crowns, speech bubbles and even moustaches making for fabulous photos.

Always a special occasion, our Gala Dinner 2021, and its related fundraising events made a total of CHF 2'000 for HFH. Well done girls!



Global Perspectives

From our panoramic window onto the world at Surval, it is amazing how broad a view we gain by exploring all avenues, pursuing our natural curiosity and inviting others in. Visitors have largely had to join us remotely this year, yet this has not hindered the breadth of expertise and knowledge gain from which we have benefitted.



Highlights of this year have included:

- Surval's Inspiring Women Online Conference Series**
Sarah Saenz Hernandez: Social Enterprise, International Relations & Political Science
Francesca L: Radmila Jovanovic: The Fashion Industry International Affairs & Diplomacy in The Hague
Paulina Correa Gaille: My Journey After Surval
Lucia Saiz: My Journey After Surval
- Masterclasses**
 - Masterchef (monthly)
 - Jewellery
 - Fashion Design
- Debate**
- Model United Nations**
- Sustainability Society**
 - Fast Fashion
 - Protect our Winters
 - Sustainability Garden

“It’s amazing! We have a chef that comes in - we are producing more hotel quality dishes. I have loved cooking, combining the food and components - it’s been like chemistry! My application to the Culinary Art Academy, Switzerland has been inspired by our Masterchef Masterclass”

Faith (Swiss Gap, Botswana)

Surval’s Sustainability Garden

Faith (Swiss Gap, Botswana) has been a leading light with our Sustainability Garden since its introduction three years ago. Faith reports the Garden is doing well, this year is the best she has seen it. “There are all kinds of new plants we did not know we were capable of growing. A lavender plant has appeared! It is not purple yet, not like normal lavendars but an exotic green colour - we didn’t plant it, it just appeared!”

What has Faith learned in her time as a valued Sustainability Gardener? “No matter how small something is, it will grow into something better than you could have ever imagined.”



My Journey After Surval

This term, our Inspiring Women online conference series has focused on the next steps after Surval.

Survalienne Paulina (2016, Mexico) spoke with our students about her work/life balance and approach to juggling motherhood with professional ambition. After Surval, Paulina took a Bachelor degree in Business Administration at Switzerland’s European University in Montreux “Thanks to Surval I had all I needed for university: punctuality, dress code, manners, knowing the international environment.”

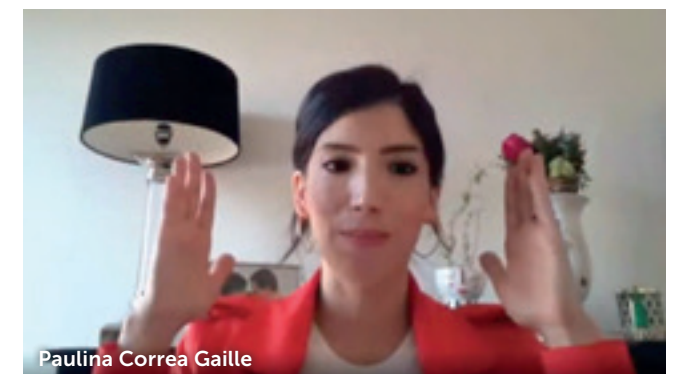
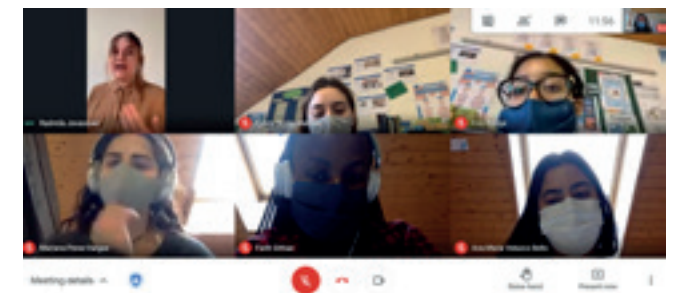
Paulina has now lived in Switzerland for the last 15 years. She met her husband Raphaël in the first year at university and they moved to Geneva in 2010 where the job market was highly competitive, “If you seize today’s opportunities, you will create wonderful things for yourself.” Paulina started working in the Trust sector, moving to Rothchild as a Trust Administrator, where she worked for five years. Now a mother of two, Paulina is focusing on her family, whilst establishing other roles for herself, “It is about choosing your role, in your career, in motherhood, in your student life. Take control of your life!”

Undergraduate Survalienne Lucia (2019, Spain), now studying English and French Law at Exeter University, spoke with girls for Foundation Year up, sharing tips on how to prepare for life after Surval, in particular the path to university.

Lucia delivered an upbeat, insightful talk about life at university and things to consider before applying. Lucia explained what had inspired her and how she ultimately made her choice. Deciding on A Level French and Spanish, Lucia says “languages opened doors for me, they enabled me to meet different people and secure great internships”.

Lucia talked about the importance of Enrichment activities, “They set you apart. Universities are looking not just at your grades but how you can enrich their university”. She recommended girls start thinking now about their future CV and start gaining skills and internships to enhance it.

Mr Smale reflected, “Lucia’s passion for languages was clear throughout and she advised the girls to continue fostering a love for new cultures, new languages and new experiences....an excellent and motivating talk.”



Language & Culture

Our location and our multi-national community ensure there is always an event to celebrate and fascinating places to visit, heightening our cultural awareness and fuelling our love of communicating, expressing, exploring. This year's calendar has been packed with cultural outings and festivities.

Highlights include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| International Diversity Day | St Nicholas Feast | Ramadan |
| Halloween | Lavaux Vineyards | Russian Orthodox Easter |
| Día de los Muertos | Château du Chillon | Languages & Cultures Week |
| Thanksgiving | Olympic Museum, Lausanne | Etiquette |
| Christingle | Chaplin Museum, Vevey | Chalet Soirées |
| Queen Studio Experience, Montreux | Local Chocolate & Cheese Factories | |

“I learnt a lot about etiquette and general knowledge... The most interesting thing I learnt was about culture and different etiquette used in different parts of the world. Learning in a fun and interesting way was very helpful.”

Daniela (FY, Mexico)

Surval’s Languages and Cultures Week 24-28 June 2021

Our first ever Languages and Cultures Week, bursting with pride, discovery and colour, brought our international family even closer together. This was the brainchild of our Modern Language Teachers, Mme Hily and Mrs Spigarelli and was a joy to see these plans become reality; the whole week was a huge success!

The united nations of our Surval community span 23 countries. In celebration of this and to showcase some of the wonders of this year’s diverse, culture-rich Surval, we have all enjoyed delighting in exploring each other’s origins, similarities and differences, and really getting to know and understand where each of us has come from.

Starting with our Flag Parade on Monday morning, we went on to enjoy the most sensational International Fair with each nationality hosting a stand and exhibiting national costume, food, music, images and the ever-important map! Student-led sessions included language lessons introducing Arabic, Hindi, Russian and Spanish; cooking up home country delights; giving talks on native countries, traditions, travel discoveries and, on our sunny terraces and tennis court, the girls split into teams, created their own team shirts, got face painting and threw themselves into the Surval Football World Cup! With themed ‘name the origin of the dish’ lunches each day, the week concluded with an international art workshop and hugely popular international Masterchef Masterclass!

A real win amongst girls and staff alike, Languages and Cultures Week was a fun and thought-provoking reminder of how much cultural depth and wonder resides here at Surval. Mrs Spigarelli commented afterwards,

“The experience was remarkable not only for students but also for staff! We created a largely student-led learning journey that allowed us to connect beyond the walls of the classroom. Girls gained deeper understanding and awareness of the significance of multiculturalism while taking pride in sharing their native language and national traditions, immersing themselves in the week’s activities. For me, the highlight was the language teaching led by the girls: they planned and practised basic expressions through games, songs and presentations, and managed to catch their peers’ interest. It was so special to see how excited students were to attend their next lessons and thanked their “teachers” in the target language after each session!

“Seeing our girls so enthusiastic and happy to share their own cultures with their friends, teachers and staff, was wonderful. We learnt so much from each other. What a glorious week! I am very proud of our girls; we are Surval!”

Mme Hily





Surval's World Cup

As part of our Languages and Cultures Week, the first Surval Football World Cup took place on 25 May with enthusiastic participants and glorious weather!



In mixed-age teams of four, girls chose their country (different to any of the team members), deciding on Croatia, Mexico, The Netherlands, Russia and Spain. After the qualifying rounds, The Netherlands defeated Croatia in the final match. Mariana (Swiss Gap) scored the first 2 goals of the final for Croatia before The Netherlands came into the game thanks to Ana Paula (Grade 11) and Katie (Grade 12) scoring two more goals resulting in a 3-2 win over Croatia.

Organiser Mme Hily commented,

"It was beautiful to see our girls playing against each other, yet together, and having so much fun."

Winner of the Golden Ball Award, Mariana P-V (Swiss Gap, Mexico),

"I had a blast playing with my team... Go Croatia!"

"Languages and Cultures Week was an incredible experience! I enjoyed most the International Fair; I represented Italy and had a variety of options on how to show my culture to the rest of the school. I learned many things from other countries that I did not know before. I found the Week really interesting and well done."

Julia (Grade 11, Italy)

This Year at Surval

Our girls reflect on the year just gone

"Staying at Surval has been such an experience, waking up to the icy mountain breeze, watching the falcons fly from the 5th floor, stepping out of my comfort zone in many things, and building myself up to the person I am today. Surval aids in many aspects of your life, but for me, it was independence."



I remember coming from the sandy desert views to the freshly snowed mountains of the French Alps, such a contrast. I have met people that I will keep in touch with hopefully for the rest of my life, staff that have aided me in any scenario I have been placed in, and an environment that never ceases to amaze me. I have been noticed as an individual thanks to the small classes that help me thrive, and I have been allowed to be me, and that is one of the greatest gifts that I have ever been gifted. Surval is a space for people to grow within themselves; I know I have."

Layla (Grade 11, Seychelles)



Julia

"I have not been here long, but this term was just incredible... The view and the boarding life here are amazing!"

Julia (Grade 11, Italy)



Seeteh

"We went on many trips... my favourites were Europa Park and Ski Week. When I first came I didn't know how to ski but I would probably say that skiing is now my favourite winter sport!"

Seeteh (Grade 10, Saudi Arabia)



Camila

"I made friends from all over the world. I travelled with them and went on the Swiss Tour - my favourite activity was canyoning! I loved Etiquette - learning how to walk in heels; what colours go with our skin tone; wine tasting and self defence!"

Camila (Grade 12, USA)



Aisheeya

"This year at Surval has been great. I have made really strong friendships from all over the world. My highlight of this year was the trip to Europa Park as I love rollercoasters, and also hanging out with my friends and going for trips to Geneva, Montreux and Vevey. My favourite subjects are English, Art, French and Etiquette. My French has improved so much this year. The classes are great and they teach us in a very personalised, interesting way."

Aisheeya (Grade 11, India)



Saba

"I did my first year of A Level in Surval and did well on my exams. My class was like a private class, and that helped me a lot to improve in my lessons. I also found a lot of friends and we were like family to each other. In Surval you can make friends with others, no matter what age you are. We had a lot of good trips around and outside of Switzerland. I hope next year Surval is going to be as good as this year."

Saba (Grade 11, Iran)



Farewell Mrs Woodhouse

Our inspirational Principal Patricia Woodhouse has led the way at Surval since 2016 empowering Surval girls, enlightening Surval families, uniting Survaliennes, strengthening global links and sharing Surval's special story.

Mrs Woodhouse has worked for over 35 years in some of England's leading girls' schools. She is passionately committed to delivering excellent education for girls and enhancing each girl's boarding experience. Surval Montreux is Mrs Woodhouse's third Headship; she is also an experienced School Governor, ISI Team Inspector and a member of the Worshipful Company of Educators.

Mrs Woodhouse is a keen sailor and loyal cat-lover, sharing her chalet with moggies Chippy and Cassie. Prior to teaching, Mrs Woodhouse worked in the commercial sector for Ralph Lauren (London), gaining valuable insight to how success is defined and achieved in careers and life.

Below Survaliennes share how Mrs Woodhouse made their Surval Experience extra special

Lucia (2019, Spain)

Mrs Woodhouse and I got here to Surval at the same time, and I was the lucky one that got to be her first Student of the Year. I remember in my first year, I still had the mentality from my French school where you did not know your headmistress and you did not want to as that meant you were in trouble! I then learned that that was not the case in Surval; Mrs Woodhouse was constantly involved in school life, from assemblies to bed time "goodnights". She showed us that she was more than just our Principal, that she cared for each and every one of us.

I would like to thank you Mrs Woodhouse for everything that you have done, for all the girls that you have taken care of, specially thank you for everything that you have done for me.

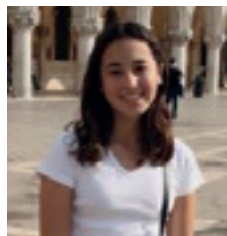
I have many memories with Mrs Woodhouse, but a special one would be when I had my ski accident. I remember arriving at the hospital in a helicopter, scared and thinking I would be on my own. When I got there, she was already waiting for me. She took care of me like my own mother would have, took me to appointments and even drove me around snowy Switzerland in her Mini! She was always there supporting me not only in that situation, but through all my time at Surval. Thank you for everything Mrs Woodhouse. I wish you all my best, I hope Spain will bring you lots of joy and a well-deserved rest!



Viviana (2020, Mexico)

Mrs Woodhouse and I shared a very special year as I was lucky enough to be with her during the beginning of the pandemic. In a time of confusion, stress, change, adaptation, and frustration she was there through it all ready to entertain and cheer us up. Whether it was hosting the famous chalet soirées in her chalet garden or taking us down to Montreux on her grey Mini Cooper, she was there. I specifically recall she would go down to Migros supermarket every Saturday to bring us girls essentials, food, and any other thing we would desire as we were suggested to remain indoors. Around Easter, supermarkets started selling chocolate bunnies wrapped in gold aluminum foil and had a red or green ribbon with a small dangling bell wrapped around their necks. Mrs Woodhouse never failed to bring us each one after her weekly trips. That little detail made our day. We would get so excited and happy not just because of the delicious chocolate but because of the love and care we felt by that little act of kindness.

More than a year later and in a different continent, I still carry with me those bells on a ribbon the bunnies had around their necks as a reminder of her kindness, her caring manners, her attentions, and as a reminder of what I consider to be the heart of Surval.



Anastasiia (2020, Russia)

Mrs Woodhouse helped us in a lot of situations, for which I am grateful to her! Once, I had the opportunity to spend one day with children who had rare genetic diseases. They had a weekend stay organised and I wanted to go with them and help in any way I can. Mrs Woodhouse personally drove me there that day, and in the evening brought me back to school. She helped my aspirations to come true, and it was not the only case she's done it... Thank you Mrs Woodhouse for everything – we wish you every happiness in your retirement and all that will entail!



Elizaveta (2021, Russia)

I met Mrs Woodhouse when she was not yet a Principal and when I was in Foundation Year. She asked me of my plans for the day and how I was doing, as if we knew each other for much longer than literally one minute. This moment first comes into my mind when I think about Mrs Woodhouse and her significant role in my life, in the life of Surval and everyone at Surval.

It is now that I realise that after these five years under the support, care and supervision of Mrs Woodhouse I feel so close and connected to her. It has always been so precious and dear to me to have conversations with her not only concerning my academic path, but also my life... Mrs Woodhouse always made me grasp that everything happens as it should and for a reason, that the most important life principle is respect and understanding of people in relation to each other.

Mrs Woodhouse, thank you for your wisdom, for your experience and for all your words that I will keep in my heart. I have been exceptionally lucky to meet a person like you.



Faith (2021, Botswana)

Throughout my education in my childhood, I've seen heads come and go. But when Mrs Woodhouse came after the previous headmistress, Mrs Penney, she made sure to set a definite record when she came to Surval in my second year and so on until I graduated last year.

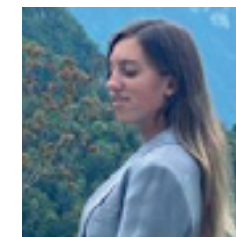
I still remember, she and I walked around the Lake during the pandemic in spring last year, seeing all the flowers and cartoon topiary trees – almost like walking through a secret garden! Mrs Woodhouse, you are the light of the world, the breaking of the iceberg and blooming of roses. You will be truly missed by so many students and staff that have met and known you. And on this tearful goodbye, we wish you all the best for wherever you go next on your journey.

Anastasiia (2021, Ukraine)

Mrs Woodhouse, your words of encouragement and advice helped most of us to be where we are today. We have faced a few exceptional challenges, for example coronavirus, and we survived because we are here as one big community who are always helping each other. We all have happy and difficult times in our lives, because we are humans and it's normal, however you always were there for us. Thank you!

"Mrs Woodhouse, you are the light of the world, the breaking of the iceberg and blooming of roses. You will be truly missed by so many students and staff that have met and known you."

Faith (2021, Botswana)



Looking Forward to 2021-22

Welcome to Ms Dudley MA (Oxon), PGCE

With Mrs Woodhouse retiring this summer, we welcome Ms Nicola Dudley as Surval's new Principal from Autumn Term 2021.

Ms Dudley joins us from Malvern College Hong Kong where she has been Deputy Head, and has been instrumental in this new school's success. Prior to this, she enjoyed teaching and senior leadership roles in independent day and boarding schools in the UK. Ms Dudley holds a First Class degree in Modern Languages from Jesus College, Oxford and is looking forward to coupling her love of European languages with the great outdoor life so celebrated at Surval.



Ms Dudley comments, "I am drawn to the truly holistic and personalised approach to education at Surval Montreux where, within the nurturing, international environment, girls are supported and challenged in equal measure. The natural beauty and multi-lingual environment of Switzerland provide a magnificent backdrop and context to the school's education and enable a very special blend of formal learning and other developmental opportunities. A Surval education clearly has the power to transform girls' lives, providing them with lifelong skills, interests, memories and friendships and setting them up to embrace future opportunities. It will be a privilege to lead Surval through the next stage of its development and play an important part in enabling the girls to grow and flourish in its inspiring and aspirational surroundings."

"I am excited by the potential in Surval to blend the traditional ethos of the school with a modern twist, to ensure that it provides an educational experience, which prepares girls to be internationally competitive in tomorrow's world. I remain committed to the school's identity as an educator of girls with a particular focus on developing ambitious, globally competent young women who are entrepreneurial and adventurous in spirit. We will continue to nurture and challenge each girl's potential through personalised attention, breadth and rigour of learning opportunities and creative approaches to teaching and learning."

School Trips 2021-22



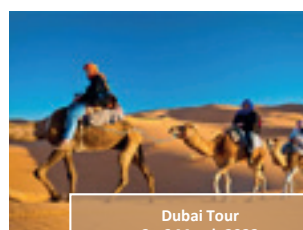
Swiss Tour
16 - 31 October 2021
Autumn Half Term



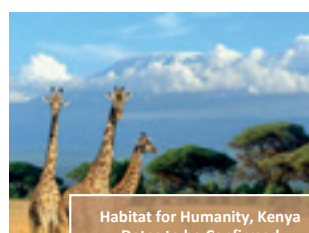
Levi Finnish Lapland Tour
25 - 28 November 2021



Surval Ski Week
29 January - 5 February 2022



Dubai Tour
2 - 6 March 2022



Habitat for Humanity, Kenya
Dates to be Confirmed



Italy & Greece Tour
14 April - 1 May 2022
Easter Holiday



Copenhagen Tour
26 - 30 May 2022

Have Fun, Learn a Language & Make Friends for Life!

Surval Summer Camp promises the ultimate action-packed Swiss holiday experience with language learning, exploration and discovery, exclusively for girls.

Welcoming Campers from ages 8-16, our homely Montreux campus above the shimmering shores of Lac Léman is the perfect activity hub, with water sports on the lake, adventures in the mountains and trips around Switzerland and beyond!

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Celebrating Sixty Years of Surval

We look back on the school's inspirational leaders who preceded Mrs Woodhouse, back to when the Surval Experience began.



1961-1972

Mlle Georgette-F. Andreae

Mlle Georgette-F. Andreae

Founder, Surval Director from 1961 to 1972

On 1 October 1961 Ms Georgette-F. Andreae created the Pensionnat Surval in Leysin, situated above the valley which inspired the name "Sur-Val".

Aiming to create a welcoming home for girls from around the world to be educated artistically, culturally, morally and physically, the study programme included French, culture, history, geography, philosophy, history of the arts, and home economics (cooking, fashion, childcare, hygiene and etiquette). Additional optional courses included languages, sciences, mathematics, shorthand and typing.

The school was moved to Clarens in September 1964. Three years later, due to ill health, Mlle Andreae asked her niece's husband Mr Sidler to help her and in 1972, Mr Sidler took over the directorship of the school.



1972-2010

Mr Fritz Sidler

Mr Fritz Sidler

Surval Director from 1972 to 2010

Mr Sidler became Director of Surval in 1972 and bought the school in 1976. In 1987, he went on to buy an exclusive property, the former Hotel Mont Fleuri. The name of the school became Surval Mont-Fleuri. Mr Sidler undertook important transformations, built on additional rooms and installed a tennis court. In April 1988, the first group of students came to attend classes and live in this spectacular new infrastructure, with an unrestricted view of Lac Léman and the Alps.

Mr Sidler modernised the school facilities, increasing the size of the student body. The school programmes were improved, diversified, and adapted to the modern requirements of young ladies to such an extent that it became a "must" for any young woman seeking success in her professional and private life: the only Boarding school experience for young women.

Mr Sidler was a very dynamic, energetic and omnipresent person. He was a protective and rather authoritative Principal, adored by his students (for a lot of them, their "Swiss Father").

Mr Sidler sadly passed away all too soon in February 2010, losing his long battle with the illness that finally took his life. "The show must go on" he said.

Françoise Furrer
Deputy Manager until 2010



2012-2016

Mrs Penelope Penney



2016-2021

Mrs Patricia Woodhouse

Mrs Penelope Penney

Headmistress of Surval Montreux
2012 to 2016

Mrs Penney led Surval for four exceptional years, transforming the school during her time here and creating a life-changing, innovative and unique educational experience.

Before Surval, Mrs Penney enjoyed a highly successful career as Headmistress of three top schools in England and subsequently offered consultancy for Governors and Headteachers in the UK and across the world.

Through Mrs Penney's outstanding skills, expertise, vast experience and immense strategic leadership, Surval became a leading light among international schools.

Mrs Penney retired in 2016 and passed away peacefully on 31 August 2018. Mrs Woodhouse pays tribute,

"The world has lost a great visionary in the world of education; Mrs Penney was also a wonderful mentor and good friend to me and many Heads around the world. Likewise, there are generations of impressive women who are a testament to her advocacy for girls' education and vision of leadership".



Chalet Les Airelles in Leysin – Surval's First Location



Villa Belle Rives in Clarens – Surval's Second Site



Surval Mont-Fleuri which became today's Surval Montreux

Survaliennes: Surval at Sixty



Survaliennes spanning the six decades of the school’s history share what makes Surval so special.

1960s

Miriam Estela Rodriguez Ardon (1969, Guatemala)

My father helped me choose Surval after seeing an announcement and going there for a visit. My fondest memory is of the time we shared in Crans Montana! My time at Surval taught me confidence in myself, my French and my beautiful friends! The greatest influence at Surval was Mr Sidler. He and Surval taught me I could do everything I chose to do; made my self esteem very high! I am now a real estate woman with two grown up children, both living in Germany: one is a doctor, and the other a risk manager of a big company.

1970s

Christina S Ubing (1978, USA)

My dream was to join Surval with my best friend Kathy Watson after hearing the adventures her sister Tinina experienced here.

Met Mme Sidler were our greatest influence - they became our parents! They were compassionate, strict and above all, friends! Surval was absolutely different from other schools; we learned to respect one another... Together we are stronger!

My time at Surval taught me not only the French language but also about independence and different cultures. Learning to become independent at a young age mapped my future. Since leaving Surval, for over 17 years I held a senior position at a top French Bank. Speaking fluent French, independent and culturally prepared, I managed a successful career at three other European banks as well.

My most cherished ‘souvenir’ of my time at Surval is the lifelong friendships made from around the world which I still have today... so grateful! To others, I would say the Surval experience is like no other! Today, 42 years later, the friendships made are part of me!



Lauren Silverman (1977, USA)

I joined Surval to experience another country and learn French before I went to university at Johns Hopkins back in the United States. I loved exploring Switzerland and spending time in the mountains, and the fact that Surval is truly international. It’s a wonderful school in a beautiful environment.

The lovely professors were my greatest influence. I learnt to respect and understand a multitude of cultures and my time at Surval changed me in that I learned to appreciate my own culture in reflection to others. My Surval experience opened the world to me and taught me to love to travel.

Since leaving Surval, I earned my PhD in Clinical Psychology and am a doctor in NYC.



1980s

Bettina Buffa (1983, Sweden)

My fondest memory of Surval are all the great friends that I have today all around the world. Some of them I lost during the years and would like to find them again!

It was a classical finishing school when I was there and all the teachers at that time were really good, they were the greatest influence on me.

Since leaving Surval, I remained for four more years in Lausanne and studied fashion and art. I moved around a bit: Rome, Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades and came back to Stockholm where I work in fashion; that is my passion.

Surval impacted my future by giving me great friends to visit (still!) when I am travelling!

Pauline Traill-Duncan (1982, Australia)

I chose Surval because it was a well established Swiss International School with many opportunities and had a fantastic language programme. Also because it had a ski programme and organised school holidays, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Surval was different to other schools because we had a fair amount of freedom at Surval to experience the surrounding areas and travel to many other countries. The subjects taught at Surval were different to other schools. Surval offered subjects such as photography, etiquette, and typing which was interesting.

I liked the diversity of the girls as there were many different countries represented. My French was basic when I arrived and fluent by the time I departed. My time at Surval taught me that people from all around the world have many aspirations and goals the same. I had an insight into how other girls lived in their countries and we were able to work together and experience wonderful adventures. I also learnt that I loved to communicate with people in their own language and have a passion for learning from other people and their experiences.

My fondest memory of Surval was skiing down the Andermatt mountain at night with fire flares in our hands and listening to the singing and friendly banter of the Surval girls and villagers. My time at Surval made me more mature and I saw a totally different and diverse life I would not have been exposed to if I had remained at home in Australia. I have a love of travel and learning languages.

Mariana Andrea Buscaglia Fonseca (1986, Argentina)

I wanted to go to Surval believing it was the best finishing school! My fondest memory is skiing in Andermatt. I loved all the great teachers, school staff and my friends! I still keep my cooking cards (in the same orange box!!). Surval introduced me to the French language, I've been living in France for 20 years now!

“After Surval, I never stopped travelling! I graduated with a degree in Public Relations. I got married and raised three beautiful children, and am now living in the South of France with my husband.”



The greatest influence for me at Surval was my best friend Lise Trygstad from Norway and my teacher Madam Thiebordeau. Lise has become a lifelong friend.

Since leaving Surval, I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Languages and Linguistics, Majoring in French and German. I have since taken up Italian. I worked for several years in the Tourism Industry and was the Tourism Marketing Manager for Sydney and then later I relocated to Canberra I worked with the Australian Trade Commission taking trade missions to Europe. I am now retired.

I think my time at Surval set me along the path of wanting to work in Tourism and Trade in Europe and to travel. I believe that going to Surval was one of the best things I have done and look back on my time there fondly. Learning French in a French environment was a great advantage for securing jobs and gave me a competitive advantage of having done something different to most other Australian girls. I would tell families with girls wishing to attend Surval that it was amazing and you should definitely enrol your girls for a once in a lifetime experience.

I would say that Surval is the best experience for young girls! You learn not only languages and art and cooking and so many other skills, but also living on your own, organising your money, learning to make new friends... A great experience!



1990s

Maria Gabriela Quesada de Montero (1990, Costa Rica)

I still remember the day I went with a friend to the Swiss Embassy to gather information about schools in Switzerland; before the internet this was how research was done! I sat with my parents and told them that this was what I wanted to do. We looked over the information I got from the Embassy, which had an important number of schools in different parts of the country, however, for some reason, the Surval Mont-Fleuri booklet caught our attention. I guess you can say it was love at first sight.

I can't imagine my life now without the knowledge, vision and experiences learnt during my amazing year in Switzerland. Every little thing lived there fills my days. The places we visited, the beautiful people I met, most of them remain my close friends to this day, the classes (specially cooking, which my husband and two sons quite appreciate), Etiquette, French and Italian lessons, Photography, Business lessons (that took us one day to the Bourse de Genève, amazing experience!), Skiing Lessons, Tennis, Monaco Grand Prix; it would take me forever to list all of the great things we did that year. Everything marked me in some way or another.

“I guess the young woman I became and what my parents saw through my eyes after that wonderful year, made them decide to send my two sisters to Surval as well and I'm sure they also had a wonderful experience. I have the fondest memories of the school and the people there, teachers and staff...Merci Beaucoup!!”



Ana Laura Quesada Rodriguez (1995, Costa Rica)

The best way for me to remember Surval is how my older sister described it when I was about to start my incredible year. She said to me: "You will have a lot of wonderful memories to treasure your entire life, but in Surval, you will have a lifetime of memories to treasure all in just one year". And I must say that I keep every moment and every memory from all the times in which I've visited this wonderful place in my heart.

Surval represents one of the most amazing times in my life. I made incredible friends that remain close today. Despite living in different countries, we have been to all the important moments in our lives, we have been at each other's weddings, we've been there when our children were born, and we've also been there when life has been tough.

Everything I learnt in Surval has helped me grow in my personal and professional life. There are no words to describe how these lessons change and improve you as an individual. Every experience there is unique and fabulous.

I have a daughter and I can't wait for her to go to Surval, for her to meet new friends, get in touch with new cultures, and for her to enjoy what I am sure will be one of the best years of her life. I will always be grateful to my parents for giving me this amazing opportunity, it was beyond every expectation, and I will always feel blessed that it is part of my life.



Carolina Andrade (de Rangel Moreira) (1997, Brazil)

I chose Surval for the opportunity to share new experiences with girls from different cultures and backgrounds while learning new skills from highly qualified lecturers. All this in a beautiful ambiance.

My fondest memory is the Christmas Dinner with Mr Sidler dressed as Santa Claus and the Spring Ball. The greatest influences on me were Madame Money, Madame Sidler and Madame Leonie.

Surval was different because it did not only offer a fantastic curriculum, but so many extra activities that allowed you to grow in whatever direction you dream to. For me, it was a base to prepare me for life.

My time at Surval taught me to be respectful about all things and people. Understanding that differences are actually something to be cheered and that we all have so much to learn from each other. To be resilient and strong to face all adversities life brings us. To be hardworking, responsible, organised, proactive and know that if I work hard and right all pays off. Surval gave me the confidence to fight for all my dreams and this confidence gave me freedom.



Since leaving Surval, a lot happened while fighting for my freedom. I studied a few different courses, left my country (Brazil), graduated, had a daughter and now I'm the proud mom of a beautiful teenager of 16 years old, working as a senior marketing manager at a software company in The Netherlands.

My Surval experience made me the person I am today. It gave friends for life and memories to be shared with many generations to come.

To families considering joining Surval, I would say think of Surval as not only an educational place where girls will learn and grow into great and qualified students or future professionals, but also as a place where these same girls can grow as human beings learning the importance of respect, differences, honesty, resilience and more. These girls will leave Surval with unique baggage that will give them the tools needed to face life and succeed.

2000s

Eugenia Quesada (2003, Costa Rica)

Since an early age I knew I was going to Surval Mont-Fleuri. After my two older sisters went and told me all their wonderful stories, I could not wait. I planned accordingly, for example, at school I decided not to take French as an elective since I wanted to learn it at Surval, so I chose Economics instead. I could not wait for the friends I would make and the places I would see. My expectations were high, but Surval met them all and surpassed them.

At the school, I made wonderful friends with different nationalities that broaden my world. Friends which I still have today. Friends who I care about. Friends which I still talk and see when we can. We have made a couple of trips together and of course we have seen each other at our weddings. I know we would love to see each other more, and hopefully continue to meet as much as possible.

I also travelled to places I could only imagine. Cities filled with spectacular history and beautiful scenery. Coming from a country which is new in comparison, it is impressive to understand the history from any place. This helped me grow as a person. Surval not only teaches you in the classroom but it also teaches you to grow as an independent person with a rounded view.



“The classes were amazing, so many to choose from. I chose to learn not only French, but also Italian, cooking, photography, etiquette, and many others. I will never forget my teachers who helped me to learn.... Thanks Surval for a wonderful year.”

Nandwadi Kirti (2005, India)

I live in Hong Kong and was working in events and marketing until my family grew two fold. I now take care of two beautiful boys who keep me busy on my toes. My loving husband is an amazing father and we are grateful and lucky to have him in our lives.

My time at Surval brings back fond memories. It was truly a lifetime and learning experience, which I have taken along with me at different stages of my life.



Paulina Correa Gaille (2006, Mexico)

At Surval you create a strong sisterhood, where you learn from each other, share so many different emotions with one another, discover and explore so many things together. These experiences create a lifelong bond like no other. Thanks to Surval, I have friends all over the world that I can turn to.



2010s

Angelica Millan (2012, Venezuela)

I had been to Surval previously in 2006 and thought it would be a good choice to return after high school. I loved meeting so many amazing women from all around the world, some I still keep in touch with. My greatest influence was Madame Wahli; I loved how relatable she was.

Surval is different from other schools because it allows us to grow in many senses, not only intellectually but as people. Surval changed me - I matured in many ways, became more independent. My time at Surval taught me everything happens for a reason!

Since leaving Surval, I have graduated from University of Miami. My Surval experience has impacted on my future especially in terms of the connections that I made. Surval is an amazing experience. It could be difficult in some senses, but after a few years, you look back and feel grateful for what you lived there.





SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

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