



SURVAL MONTREUX  
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

50<sup>th</sup>  
1961  
2021

# SURVAL NEWS

*April 2022*





# Message from the Principal

Dear All,  
Spring is definitely in the air. The temperature is rising, buds are on the trees and starting to blossom, the days are already much longer, and the snow on the slopes is becoming patchy.



As I reflect back on the Winter Term, I appreciate why it is such a highlight of the Surval experience from start to finish! This newsletter will give you a feel of the range of enriching, challenging and inspiring activities and initiatives in which girls have been engaged this term. We have been incredibly fortunate to have enjoyed many glorious blue sky days on the slopes and each and every girl has developed her skills and grown in confidence on skis. The impact on the girls' wellbeing of at least half a day, often a lot more, engaged in healthy physical activity and personal challenge is tangible. I look forward to this continuing into the Spring Term when skiing will be replaced with a programme of outdoor activities more suited to the summer weather - watersports, cycling, climbing and hiking.



Anzère, many mentioned those moments which they found harder: the day of bad weather when visibility was very poor and disorientating, or night skiing. Resilience is such a vital trait for future success in a fast-changing world where flexibility and adaptability will be required.

Amongst the 58 girls in the House this term, over 17 nationalities have been represented. We celebrated this diversity during our Languages and Culture focus in February. Encouraging girls to appreciate and show sensitivity and openness, another Surval value, to cultural differences and different global perspectives is part of an international education and sets girls up to enter an increasingly global society and workplace. In our small global community girls learn to respect each other's different perspectives and support each other as they face up to different challenges impacting on their home countries. The experience



We have been joined this term by new girls at almost every grade, alongside Winter Campers. However short or long a period the Winter Campers joined us for, they have embraced the full experience, progressed their English or French language and ski skills and slotted quickly into the social life of the house. It is always sad to say goodbye to girls but I know thoughts of returning to Surval longer term are on at least a few of their minds.

At Surval we talk a lot about our value of Courage. During the Winter Term the girls have undoubtedly demonstrated courage on the slopes and taken pride in themselves when they have pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and tested their resilience. When asked about their highlights of ski week in



at Surval will be instilling in girls an international mindset that they may not even become aware of until later in life. Surval's global etiquette programme supports this global competence, building awareness of how situations, dress codes, dining courtesy and communication styles can differ between contexts.

Inspiring Women was our focus in March. As an all-girls school we naturally promote female voice and empowerment and instil a mindset of openness to opportunity and a confidence in girls to own their voice. Through a range of curricular and wider activities over the course of the month we have celebrated and drawn inspiration from female role models - past and present. Looking to inspiring role models can undoubtedly be a source of energy and strength to girls as they each carve their own pathway and establish what is important to them.

As part of our Inspiring Women's month, and as a fitting tribute to Surval's 60th anniversary, we have been delighted to welcome Survaliennes, albeit virtually, to talk to the girls as part of an Inspiring Women Guest Speaker Series. They talked passionately about their career and personal pathways and



how their Surval experience has had a lasting impact on their life journey. I challenged the girls to think ahead to what they might say to future Surval students in years to come. As we say, 'Once a Survalienne, always a Survalienne!' We are very grateful for the ongoing support and loyalty of our Survalienne network and during my trips to Russia and Mexico this term, it has been a pleasure to meet Survaliennes.

I hope that we have now weathered the worst of the pandemic which certainly disrupted routine for some during the first few weeks of this term. This has been an incredibly difficult period for schools, businesses and families around the world, and I send my sincere thanks to all parents, staff and all Surval partners for your continued support during this period of such uncertainty. With the lifting of almost all restrictions during the course of this term, we have been able to return to events enjoyed pre-COVID, including whole school social events. As we approach the end of term, we are gearing up for our final highlight with our annual Fundraising Gala dinner organised by our Swiss Gap students. 'The Road to Olympus' themed dinner promises to be a special evening and will raise money for the students' chosen charity in support of Ukrainian refugees.

*I wish you and your families a wonderful Spring Break,*

*Nicola Ardley.*





# School development plan

In January I had pleasure in sharing Surval 2025 with all parents, which outlined my 5 key commitments for the school's development in the coming years, namely:

- Inspiring and empowering young women for future success and influence
- Setting girls up for future success and high achievement through flexible and tailored academic pathways
- Developing strong global competence for success in a global workplace
- Creating powerful stories through adventure and challenge
- Optimising the Surval experience through the environment

The document outlines what these commitments will look like in practice and initiatives are in development to drive these commitments. Please do access the document to read more.

As I complete my first year in Surval I continue to keep all aspects of Surval's programmes under review, from our academic and pastoral programmes, to our clubs, activities and residential trips. I am committed to ensuring that all aspects of Surval's provision are of the highest quality, meet the girls' needs, provide a breadth of experience and are relevant for today's world. Surval Montreux is a unique school and has the potential to be truly exceptional in all regards.

## Changes Implemented This Year

My priorities have been informed by observations and discussions with all members of the Surval community, but most importantly with the girls. Students are invited to provide feedback to staff at any time, alongside regular scheduled opportunities for feedback and ideas, for instance through Student Voice and through termly Principal:Student 1:1 check ins. Key developments which have been implemented since August 2021 include:

- The school day schedule has been revised leading to greater flow and focus in learning and balance to support academic progress and wellbeing;
- A selection of Advanced Placement courses has been introduced to add academic challenge;
- A Student Code of Conduct has been introduced, supported by a system of rewards and consequences, to ensure a shared understanding of and respect for expectations;
- The fitness room has been moved into a larger space and the equipment enhanced;
- A professional drop-in counselling service is being introduced from April;
- A new programme of adventure sport activities is planned for the Spring Term with options in watersports, cycling, climbing and hiking;
- Online student-parent-teacher consultations have been introduced to enhance home-school communication and understanding of student progress;
- The fifth floor teaching corridor has been refurbished leading to a brighter study environment;
- The student kitchen for Culinary Arts has been refurbished.

## New School Leadership Appointments for 2022-2023

As we look ahead to 2022-23, new Leadership appointments have been made for August 2022: Head of Learning, Teaching and Assessment and Head of Enrichment and Leadership. These new Leadership positions will drive developments in these two key areas and ensure strong academic standards are matched by a broad, high quality, engaging extra-curricular programme and the explicit promotion of personal and leadership development. The recruitment of a new Head of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing to lead boarding, pastoral care and wellbeing across the school is currently underway.

## Parent Survey Results

As part of this ongoing process of review, I am very grateful to all parents who recently completed our Parents' Survey. Feedback is always incredibly

helpful in informing our development planning. It was good to have the strengths of Surval endorsed through the results and we have picked out a selection of some of the highest scores, which have been highlighted in the infographic you will find on the next page.

## Areas of Further Development Currently Under Review

There were a few areas where our satisfaction level is lower and we will look at these areas with particular focus. Our lowest satisfaction levels of 78% were in the range of extra-curricular activities, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, and boarding accommodation, together with a number of comments pointing to a lack of academic rigour. I hope the developments already underway, as highlighted above, alongside a number of new leadership appointments, will go a long way to driving improvements around these areas of concern.

## Academic Standards and Curriculum Provision

On the academic side, we are looking critically at how we make sure that our standards and curriculum provision ensure girls coming from different school backgrounds continue to make strong progress during their time at Surval regardless of their entry point. Enrichment is a core part of the Surval experience and we are reviewing the enrichment provision to ensure it meets the needs and interests of the girls in order to inspire high levels of motivation, whilst challenging them to step out of their comfort zone with activities they may not have tried. With regards to boarding accommodation, we are continuing our programme of refurbishment and enhancement of the facilities in place and will be looking at the feasibility of a comprehensive upgrade of residential accommodation over the coming years.

## Students' Wellbeing and Healthy Lifestyle

With wellbeing and the students' welfare our primary concern at all times, we continually strive to improve in this area. I am pleased to announce that we will have a drop-in counselling service available in the school from April. This will be available one evening a week on a trial basis and we will keep this under review as it becomes established. Whilst the girls are encouraged to speak to any member of Surval staff they feel comfortable with, I recognise the importance of girls having an independent listener to turn to who is separate to the school staff. In addition, a School Nurse has been appointed for August which will enhance the medical arrangements provided by the school.

We also look forward to our planned focus on Healthy Lifestyle and Wellbeing in our themed focus next term with 'Mindful May'. This will provide the opportunity to involve girls in a range of activities and discussions to inspire a commitment to a healthy, balanced lifestyle, adopt a healthy approach to technology (this will complement a review of our policy on access to devices), and develop an understanding of the importance of healthy sleep patterns and balanced nutrition. Following the success of the ski session, we are looking forward to offering a wider range of outdoor activities next term to profit from our beautiful environment and fresh air. We will continually strive to make improvements in promoting Health and Wellbeing across the school.

I look forward to continuing to keep parents informed of current and planned developments in the school.

*Nicola Ardley.*  
Principal



SURVAL MONTREUX  
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

## Parent Survey Results 2022

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 development plan.

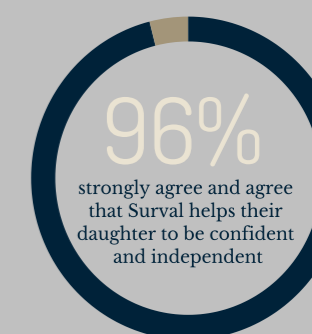
## Highlights: Teaching, Learning, Boarding and Pastoral



## Communication and Leadership



## Skills, Values & Character



“ There is a lot of unity between the girls, they feel at home ”

“ One of Surval's key strengths is the personalized dedication that is given to each girl in the school ”

“ A big thank you to Team Surval for doing a brilliant job! ”

During the month of February, as part of Surval's Languages and Culture month, we celebrated the Lunar New Year and the Chinese Year of the Tiger. Girls decorated the library and set up themed stations, while older students organized fun activities including Chinese calligraphy, dumpling-making and Chinese zodiac signs.

As a special focus, we celebrated Surval's long-standing tradition of French language learning with a "francophonie" assembly led by one of our bilingual students, followed by French Day across the school, whereby everyone was encouraged to interact and communicate solely in French throughout the day. As a



final treat, our chef concocted a delicious French lunch, highly appreciated by everyone!

Our Languages and Culture month celebrations culminated in the traditional Surval Flag Parade during the last week of February. Our students Seeteh, Katya and Kanna led special assemblies to teach their peers the basics of the Arabic, Russian and Japanese alphabets, alongside some everyday expressions that always come in useful! Last but not least, our diverse student body comprising over 15 different nationalities celebrated its international-mindedness with a fun culture show and country presentations spanning the Caribbean, Ireland and Mexico.



### LE PREMIER JOUR

Le premier jour nous sommes allées à l'école de langues pour étudier le français et après nous avons visité la parfumerie dans le village d'Eze. On a découvert comment le parfum est fait, on a essayé beaucoup de parfums différents et découvert les fleurs et leur origine

A la fin de notre excursion nous avons eu la chance d'acheter du parfum et de l'eau de parfum. Après, nous avons mangé au restaurant et nous nous sommes promenées dans un château! C'était très beau et la vue était magnifique.

### Le deuxième jour

Le deuxième jour nous sommes retournées à l'école de langues, et après le cours nous sommes allées visiter le musée océanographique de Monaco qui était très intéressant. On a vu beaucoup de poissons différents, des coraux, des méduses, et beaucoup d'animaux marins différents. Nous avons aussi visité le Palais de Monaco sur le Rocher et la cathédrale où sont enterrés les membres de la famille princière monégasque. Nous avons aussi visité le jardin à côté de cathédrale qui était vraiment incroyable! Le jardin était très beau et nous pouvions sentir le printemps. C'était une merveilleuse journée et nous l'avons toutes beaucoup aimée!

### Le troisième jour

Le troisième jour nous sommes allées à Nice et à mon avis c'était le meilleur jour du voyage! J'ai beaucoup aimé cette ville. Il faisait très beau, cependant, il y avait un peu de vent, mais rien ne pouvait gâcher cette journée pour moi! Quand nous sommes arrivées, nous avons premièrement visité la vieille ville de Nice, et le marché aux fleurs sur le Cours Saleya. On pouvait aussi acheter du savon, des fraises et bien d'autres choses mignonnes! J'ai acheté des fleurs pour mon anniversaire et le bouquet était vraiment joli.

Après nous avons marché sur la fameuse Promenade des Anglais et nous avons vu des touristes qui se baignaient! Ensuite, nous sommes montées sur la Colline du Château. La vue était incroyable et j'ai pris beaucoup de photos! J'ai même mis une des photos en fond d'écran sur mon téléphone. Après, nous avons eu du temps libre et nous sommes allées manger la meilleure glace d'Europe chez Fenocchio! J'ai pris une boule de glace à la cannelle, une boule confiture de lait, et une au chocolat. Après la glace, nous avons fêté mon anniversaire et j'étais vraiment surprise et contente! J'ai mangé des macarons et des gâteaux délicieux! Après nous sommes retournées à Monaco et nous avons dîné avec nos familles respectives!

## LE VOYAGE À MONACO

Katya (Grade 11, Russia)

Watch Katya's student testimonial in Russian!



Languages Assembly Scan Now!



Watch our Languages & Culture Show!



Watch Montserrat's Video: Mon Voyage à New York!



Konnichiwa from Kanna!



Notre voyage à Monaco a été une des expériences les plus gratifiantes et spéciales que j'ai eu la chance de vivre. Quatre jours d'immersion monégasque et française que je n'oublierai jamais – la nourriture, les paysages, les gens...

Nous sommes arrivées à Monaco un mercredi soir et nous sommes allées directement chez Madame et Monsieur Gamba. Madame Gamba nous attendait déjà quand mes amies et moi sommes sorties de la voiture. On a dit "au revoir" à Madame Hily, qui nous a déposées, et on est entrées dans l'appartement qui allait être notre maison pour les quatre prochains jours. Madame Gamba nous a montré l'appartement et nous a laissé pour nous installer. Dès le premier moment, elle a été très gentille et attentive. Ce soir-là, nous sommes sorties pour faire un magnifique tour nocturne de la ville, et on a fini la journée chez Steak 'n Shake, pour manger de très bons burgers!

Le jeudi, nos réveils ont sonné tôt car on avait cours de français à 9 heures. Madame Gamba a préparé le petit-déjeuner pour nous et on a discuté un peu pendant qu'on mangeait. On a pris le bus et quelques minutes après, nous sommes arrivées à notre école monégasque. Notre cours a duré 3 heures; je l'ai trouvé intéressant et utile. A midi, Madame Hily et Madame Spigarelli



la France et l'Italie. Un peu plus tard, on a rencontré Madame Hily et Madame Spigarelli pour visiter Le Rocher. La montée a été un peu fatigante, mais ça valait le coup! Le Palais Princier était magnifique et on a visité la cathédrale aussi. Ensuite, mon moment préféré de la journée : le musée océanographique. Il y avait toutes sortes d'animaux marins. On a toutes passé un très bon après-midi. On a marché pour retourner chez Madame et Monsieur Gamba pour dîner, c'était du poisson et des chocolats pour le dessert.

Le samedi, il n'y avait pas cours, donc nous avons pris le train de Monaco à Nice. La journée était venteuse, mais ça ne nous a pas empêché de passer un super moment! Nous sommes arrivées à la gare et on a marché

dans les rues de la ville. Notre premier arrêt : le Cours Saleya. C'était énorme. On a mangé de délicieuses fraises, on a vu toutes sortes de fleurs, et l'ambiance était simplement agréable. Après, nous avons flâné sur la Promenade des Anglais, visité la colline du Château et le Vieux Nice. Pendant notre temps libre, nous avons beaucoup marché et on a fait du shopping. Après le déjeuner, pour le dessert, on a goûté les délicieuses glaces de chez Fenocchio dans la vieille ville. Le soir, on a pris le train pour retourner à Monaco dans nos familles monégasques. Madame et Monsieur Gamba nous ont emmenées dans un restaurant italien pour manger des pizzas! C'était l'occasion parfaite pour pratiquer notre conversation en français.

Le dimanche, c'était le moment de retourner à Surval. Mes amies et moi avons fini nos valises et on a dit "au revoir" à Madame et Monsieur Gamba. On les a remerciés pour leur hospitalité et leur gentillesse.

Je suis très reconnaissante pour cette expérience. J'ai plus confiance en mon français maintenant. J'ai beaucoup profité et j'ai des souvenirs qui resteront gravés pour le reste de ma vie!

Montserrat (Swiss Gap, Mexico)



sont venues nous chercher pour aller déjeuner. On a pris un taxi jusqu'à Èze, un beau village, petit mais plein de vie. Il faisait tellement beau! Là, on a visité la parfumerie Fragonard et le jardin botanique d'Èze. C'était vraiment unique, avec une belle vue sur la mer Méditerranée. De retour à Monaco, on a eu un peu de temps libre et mes amies et moi avons regardé le plus beau coucher de soleil à Monte Carlo. De retour à la maison, on a dîné avec Madame et Monsieur Gamba - une spécialité française que Madame Gamba a préparée, et on a chanté en français aussi! C'était une soirée amusante.

Le vendredi, notre matinée a ressemblé à la précédente. On a pris le petit déjeuner que Madame Gamba nous avait préparé et on est allées en cours pendant 3 heures très productives. Après l'école, on a décidé de manger des pâtes dans un restaurant italien. Il faut dire que Monaco est une principauté nichée entre

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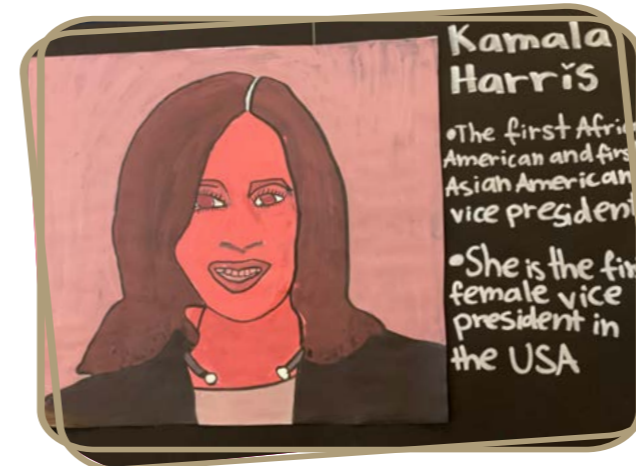
Women of the Year Assembly



Watch Judith Muller's presentation!



TED Talks Educate Girls Assembly



# Winter Sports, Ski Week and Winter Camp



ski race and Katya won first place with the fastest time. In the

Ski week in Anzère was an amazing experience. From the beginning of the trip, I made lots of new friends. I loved skiing in Anzère, especially on the days when there was fresh powder on the slopes. There were opportunities to get involved in sledging, ice skating, ice hockey, free skiing and jumps. On Thursday, we went night skiing which I loved even though I was scared and there were a lot of people on the slopes. On Friday there was a slalom

evening, groups were able to go into warm igloos outside the hotel for delicious snacks and drinks. Saturday was the last ski day. The slopes were amazing for the final day. In the afternoon we had prize-giving and then in the evening, we had a karaoke night which was so much fun. The ski week exceeded my expectations, and I was sad when we left.

My Surval Winter Camp experience will be one I will never forget. I have made friends for life and it will be hard to say goodbye. Since day one when I arrived, I felt so included and the girls here now feel like family. My French speaking skills have improved massively thanks to the intensive French classes we had during the week. On Tuesdays, Surval Swiss Gap students and Winter Campers go skiing. These were my favourite days of the week because only two other girls were skiing with me. I loved skiing off-piste. I learnt many tips in Culinary Arts that I didn't know before and I loved cooking a different variety of foods every

Wednesday. During the Friday excursions, I visited Martigny, Gruyère, Berne, Lausanne, the Cailler Chocolate Factory and Fribourg. I definitely felt enriched by my immersion in Swiss culture! I also went on the Leukerbad trip for a weekend and that was the best ski experience I've ever had. The slopes were the best ones I have ever skied on and I could have skied for days. At weekends I went out for a bite to eat with friends and plenty of shopping in Montreux, Lausanne and Geneva. One of the things that made me in awe of Surval Montreux is the view. It is the most incredible view overlooking Lac Léman and the French Alps, and the sunsets are just incredible. Surval will always be in the back of my mind when I leave: all the nice memories I have made here will stay with me forever.

Sophie (Winter Camp 2022, Ireland)



Ski Week



WATCH NOW!

Winter Camp



WATCH NOW!

## My Swiss Gap experience at Surval

I've been here in Surval as a Swiss Gap since the start of the first semester in August and the friends that I've made here already feel like sisters to me. Moving to a new country and stepping out of your comfort zone is not something easy. Change is hard, it is hard to adapt to new rules, traditions and society. But becoming part of the Surval family has made it easier because I've learned so many things and the importance of the values in the house: they motivate you to follow your dreams, and I've had the chance to fully understand the Surval motto which is 'Creating powerful stories, transforming futures'.

In the Swiss Gap experience, we get to travel around Switzerland, explore new places and learn more about the different cultures and nationalities around the world. In the winter term we ski twice a week which has helped us improve our ski skills and this has also given us the chance to get to know the different and beautiful places where you can ski in Switzerland. On the other hand, during the week we have our full day of classes of the language you're taking, cookery, etiquette, communications and art. And on the weekends, there are sometimes school day trips for skiing or just going to explore new places. You can also go on your own trips with your friends during the weekend which has helped us mature, and become more independent and organized.

To sum up my year at Surval Montreux will be an unforgettable experience, and I was happy to share ideas and suggestions to make it an even more exciting experience for future Swiss Gap Year students. I will forever take with me what I've learned here and the friends that I've made.

Victoria (Swiss Gap, Venezuela)



Scan the QR codes to watch our Surval Swiss Gap Year video testimonials!



## Interview with Erin

Swiss Gap Year 2020-2021, USA

### Where are you studying now?

I'm currently studying as a freshman at Georgia State University. I've completed the qualifications for my Associate's degree in Psychology and I'm currently studying Religion and Philosophy.

### How well do you think Surval prepared you for University?

Studying at Surval reignited my passion for learning in ways I didn't fully comprehend until I was starting my first semester at university. I was eager to hit the ground running and do my best to excel in all of my classes, but I also came out of my shell a lot during my time at Surval. I felt encouraged to break out of my comfort zone and participate more in school clubs and extracurricular activities.

### What would you say to a girl thinking about joining Surval Montreux?

I would be honest with her and say that it can be a difficult transition if this is your first time away from home. Like any school there will be days where you just don't feel like doing the work, and you may find yourself feeling homesick. In the end it's all worth it though, and the good days definitely outweigh the bad. I have been to many schools over the course of my education and if I had the chance to go back in time to any of them, I would choose Surval in a heartbeat. If I had the chance to talk to another girl thinking about joining Surval I would tell her to go for it!

### How did Surval prepare you for "adult" life?

I think that everyone should have the chance to live away from home at least once before university, which is one of the reasons I am thankful to have attended Surval's Swiss Gap program. Being on my own for the first time and having the responsibilities of planning outings with my friends, exploring the streets of Montreux by myself, and having to manage my money wisely each helped me to grow more independent.



## Interview with Elizaveta Solovyeva

Survall Ambassador from Russia.

Elizaveta attended Surval Montreux from 2015 to 2021.

### Where are you studying now?

I am studying theatre and cinema arts in M. Schepkin Higher Theatre School in Moscow, one of the top acting schools in Russia.

### How well do you think Surval prepared you for University?

Surval has taught me to be able to work a lot, to search for information, to be able to study independently and be keen on learning something new every minute.

### What would you say to a girl thinking about joining Surval Montreux?

It is going to be a unique lifetime experience! Please, take everything you can from it! It is a privilege!

### How did Surval prepare you for "adult" life?

Surval has taught me a lot not only academically, but also life wise: friendship, hard-work, independence, patience, love and care, charity, the importance of being grateful... These are all the things I've learned here and I am constantly remembering.

### What does it mean for you to be a Surval Ambassador?

For me it is a great privilege and responsibility to be a Surval Ambassador. I am very grateful for this wonderful opportunity. Surval is a unique school and my goal is to encourage girls from all over the world to take as much as they can from their particular experience at Surval Montreux. Thanks to this school, I have become a different person with my individuality, preferences and most importantly a person who helps others, respects everyone and always works towards achieving high goals. I wish everyone to experience this.



## Memories of Surval

Survallienne Sharon English from Australia attended Surval Montreux in 1975-1976

It is hard to believe that it has been 46 years since I spent an amazing year at Pensionate Surval.

So much has changed and yet very little has changed.



My trip to Switzerland was my first introduction to overseas travel and that same travel has been a huge thing in my life ever since.

My year at Surval Montreux was filled with fun, laughter, great friends from all around the world, many new experiences, skiing, cooking, pottery, French, typing, Coupe Denmark and chocolate (lots of chocolate!).

Skiing in Andermatt was wonderful: Swiss snow is definitely so different to Australian snow. The morning was spent studying French and then the afternoon was devoted to skiing.

As I am writing this I am leafing through an old diary from way back then, that is filled with hand written messages from many of lovely class mates. Where are they all now? Probably like me 'old' women many with children and grandchildren.



One of my very closest friends was Lesley Reeves from South Africa, unfortunately over the years we lost touch, I would dearly love to reconnect with her and hear about her life.

I shared a room with Chepita Gomez from Venezuela and Carolina (Coco).

Stella Scholles is still a very great friend and we get together whenever we can.

I have such fond memories of Cheryl Stier from the USA, Cecilia Olcese from Peru and Olga Garcia from Mexico, my little skiing buddy!

Vevey was a wonderful place to live, it was so easy to jump on a bus and head into Montreux, for ice-cream and pizza or go by train up into the mountains to explore tiny villages and eat fondue. Lake Geneva was close by for hilarious boating adventures and sunbathing!



In December 1975 we did a bus trip to the Nestle Chocolate factory followed by a visit to the Gruyère cheese factory, from memory we were all quite ill! Don't tell a group of girls to eat all the chocolate they can and then give them cheese and a long bus journey!

I have so many wonderful memories of this time and I just don't know where to stop. Switzerland has a special place in my heart as does Surval. One day I hope to visit again and see all those places I remember so well.



## Gala Dinner

Dear Parents,  
Warm greetings from Surval's Swiss Gap Experience students. We are happy to report that the annual Gala Dinner fundraising event in aid of the UNHCR Ukraine Emergency & Refugee Station held on the 5th of April was a success!

This charity project is aimed at those refugee stations in Ukraine, which have been struggling to aid the large number of refugees in need of shelter, food, water and other basic services as they escape their country under attack in the hope of safety.

The Gala Dinner was named 'The Road to Olympus', following a Greek theme. We fundraised through the sale of tickets for the Gala Dinner and through a very successful raffle sale, which raised 500 CHF! We, as the Swiss Gap Year team, have worked together on The Road to Olympus Gala Dinner all term, as part of our Social Enterprise course, in the hope of raising awareness and funds for a very important cause whilst also creating a night we will all remember as part of our unique Survaliennes experience. We are so happy that the event was a great success!



# Social Enterprise

## Surv<sup>al</sup> & UnseenUK

Unseen UK is a UK based charity organization actively fighting the modern day slavery & exploitation crisis. We collaborated with a Surv<sup>al</sup>ienne, Miss Lucia Saiz Luque, to learn more about the issue. She inspired us with a wonderful and in-depth virtual presentation that opened our eyes and spurred us into action!

It seems the situation is worse than one would initially think – there are tens of millions of individuals forced into labour around the world. Human trafficking, child exploitation, domestic servitude, etc. are all types of this slavery. As women we must know that their cause is in fact our cause, as women and girls account for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% of victims in the rest of the industry.

However, activists make the difference! The charity creates safe houses available to those in dire circumstances, focuses on community building, and runs a 24/7 helpline. These resources are vital - they allow a safe space for victims to reach out and get removed from their un-healthy circumstances. They also offer training in modern day slavery awareness, so that you, as an active professional, employee, or student, can learn to better note the signs of maltreatment and take action! For more information on their work, take a look at the Charities' website: <https://www.unseenuk.org>

The Charity Club worked hard to raise money for the cause by creating fun activities for Valentines Day to amass donations. We organized a hand made sweet assortment basket (complete with decorations and a valentine's note) sale that girls could buy for themselves and/or others. Another activity we organized was an after-dinner ice cream bar filled with flavors and toppings. These initiatives, as well as several donations, raised 200 CHF for the cause. Charity is an important value in Surv<sup>al</sup>'s handbook, and one that we, as future Surv<sup>al</sup>iennes, wish to uphold to the best of our ability. We must be a voice for the voiceless!



*On behalf of the Charity Club, thank you to everyone that made this possible!*

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Watch the presentation!





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