



GENEVA ENGLISH  
SCHOOL

## A YEAR IN REVIEW 2017-2018



## LETTER FROM THE HEAD

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Welcome to the very first edition of our Annual Review and Information Booklet. In these pages we have tried to encapsulate all that makes GES such a wonderful environment and such a special place in which to learn and to grow up. I hope you will find interest and inspiration here, reflecting the energy and pioneering spirit of our community and our desire to stay at the forefront of international education.

2017/18 has been a year of considerable development at GES. At the beginning of the year, our secondary pupils moved to a new brand new site in Versoix. The environment there has provided all that we could have wished for – calm yet inspiring, with state-of-the art facilities and a modern, integrated, collaborative feel that reflects our values. Pupils, staff and parents mix easily in the bright, new spaces and there is a genuine sense of teamwork between adults and children.

The quality of staff that we have employed at GES Secondary is outstanding. We look for experts in their field who are open-minded, keen to look at education with fresh eyes, eager to collaborate with like-minded colleagues, and able to see the links between different areas of knowledge.

Now that the Secondary is established, a healthy and invigorating exchange of ideas is developing between teachers of all age groups. Inspectors who visited the School last year noted that we have a very special atmosphere in which members of staff are keen to embrace new ways of teaching and in which there is genuine dialogue about the education and welfare of young people. Although we are growing, we remain an intimate and friendly community, known for the warmth of its welcome.

The newly appointed subject leaders and heads of department have approached their roles with enthusiasm and have made a significant difference to the quality of many areas of school life. The Houses too have been given a new lease of life, with the House leaders helping to coordinate a number of new competitions, including art, singing and athletics. Sport at GES has reached a new level this year, with more participation and more success than ever, all underpinned with a clear value system of teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship.

We believe in listening to the voice and opinions of our pupils – and both the Primary and Secondary now have active School Councils. In addition, we have set up Eco Schools Committees, keen to promote environmental awareness and more sustainable practices at the School.

Pastoral care systems have been reviewed and strengthened, and the recent appointments of School Counsellor, School Nurse and School Doctor will add further expertise in this vital area of our provision.

Above all else, we want our pupils to be happy and to enjoy their days at school. Our small school environment, in which individuals are known and understood, provides a place in which every child is encouraged, valued and supported.

I hope that this record of our activities this year reflects something of the spirit of this extraordinary school and of the children and staff who work together here.

*Tim Meunie*

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A NOT FOR PROFIT SCHOOL

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Geneva English School was established in 1961 by a small group of parents who were looking for a well rounded, holistic and high quality education for their children. From the beginning, there was a sense of teamwork, camaraderie and inclusiveness that continues to this day. We pride ourselves on the warmth and friendliness of our community. New families are welcomed with open arms and both children and parents make new friends quickly. All parents are members of our Association and all are encouraged to get involved with the life of the School. Parents organise a number of events throughout the year that provide fun for all the family and help to bind our community together. These include our annual Christmas and Summer Fairs to which former pupils, parents and staff often return to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

As a not for profit school, all of our money is reinvested in the School to improve the quality of the education and the range of opportunities that we offer to the children. We take pride in the expertise and skill of our teachers and teaching assistants and are careful to appoint the very highest calibre of staff. For a small school, the range of clubs and activities that we offer is remarkable - and testament to the passion and dedication of the staff. In addition to the money that is reinvested every year to improve and enhance our facilities, parents help us to raise money for special projects. We also believe that it is important to remember and to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves, both locally and in the wider world. Children and parents help us to raise funds and our School Councils and Entrepreneurship Club are involved in choosing and supporting charitable causes both in the local community and across the world

## TRULY INTERNATIONAL

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Although Geneva English School was set up to provide a British education for British families, it is now a truly multicultural, diverse and international institution, attracting families from Europe and around the world. There are currently children from 48 different nationalities, speaking at least 35 different languages. We very much enjoy the richness and interest that this brings and we find many ways in which to celebrate the diversity within our community.

Families choose GES for its warmth and friendliness, its special atmosphere and environment, and for the assured quality and holistic nature of a British education, backed by independent reports and by accreditation from the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) and the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS). As an international school, we take a global perspective in all that we do, aiming to ensure that our pupils are able to empathise with others and to appreciate different viewpoints.

We are committed to equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, race or background. We also celebrate cultural diversity and place great importance on the mutual respect and understanding that we show to each other, appreciating our differences and valuing the contribution that every individual can bring to society.



## KEY NUMBERS

# 295

pupils



# 55%

# 45%

# 48

nationalities



# 100%

Teachers who have UK teaching qualifications



### Average class sizes

Early years **16**



Primary **18**



Secondary **11**



### Student to teacher ratio

Early years **7:1**



Primary **10:1**



Secondary **6:1**



# 100%

Surpluses reinvested in school development



# 50+

co-curricular clubs and activities offered



# 13

SGIS (Swiss Group of International Schools) trophies won this year: 1st in Switzerland for primary school sports competitions.



# 118

Primary children who participated in the Escalade race



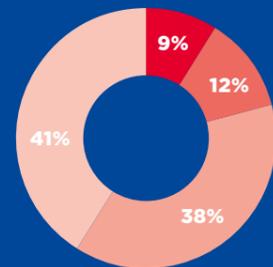
# less than 1%

Families leaving to go to competitor schools



### Parent occupations

- Missions and diplomatic corps **9%**
- Commercial sector and self-employed **12%**
- International, governmental and non-governmental organisations **38%**
- Multinational companies **41%**





## OUR VALUES

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Our core values of teamwork, community, respect, courage, opportunity and integrity really matter to us and underpin all that we do. Extending to the whole community, pupils, staff and parents, they represent the fundamental beliefs and ideals that we all share and to which we are committed. We discuss and reinforce these values regularly in lessons, assemblies, tutor time and PSHCE lessons. Most importantly, we all do our best to demonstrate these values in the way that we conduct our lives, treating each other with mutual respect and kindness.

### Community

Learning to live, work and play together; feeling happy, safe and confident in our environment and helping others to feel the same; appreciating the importance and the contribution of every member of our society; understanding how we can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely; learning to be responsible citizens of GES and of the world.

### Respect

Celebrating and valuing our differences, whether in appearance, culture, race, religion, opinion or skills; appreciating our similarities; identifying and combatting discrimination; being empathetic and able to see things from different points of view; having respect for democracy and the rule of law; having respect for our environment and having a commitment to global sustainability; showing kindness and thoughtfulness to others.

### Opportunity

Having the motivation to make the most of the openings and chances that come our way at GES; being the best we can be in all we do; pursuing excellence in our learning; being open-minded, curious and adaptable to change.

### Integrity

Being open, honest and true to ourselves; being courteous and polite; having the moral strength to make the right choices; doing the right thing when nobody is watching; having the motivation to complete tasks to the best of our ability.

### Teamwork

Working with co-operation, purpose and commitment to achieve together; living with each other in a spirit of collaboration and fellowship; always looking to help and encourage other people and to see the best in others.

### Courage

Tackling new challenges with determination; growing in independence, with the confidence to try things even if they might be difficult; showing resilience; never giving up; challenging behaviours and attitudes that are contrary to our shared values.



## OUR VISION

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Our vision is to provide an outstanding education within a caring and collaborative learning environment. We take the traditions and values of British education and combine them with the best of modern, international programmes to create an engaging, relevant and cutting-edge education that prepares individuals for the interconnected world of the future.

### Geneva English School aims to enable its vision by providing:

- A warm, welcoming and outward-looking international community in which the fundamental values of GES are lived out in reality;
- A caring, purposeful and stimulating environment in which boys and girls feel happy and confident, and where staff and pupils enjoy working and learning together.
- An atmosphere of teamwork, fun and self-motivation in which the talents and interests of every individual are encouraged and developed;
- Sensitive pastoral care based upon a close understanding of each individual child;
- Opportunities for personal social development that encourage and promote thoughtfulness, empathy and integrity;
- A curriculum that is engaging, relevant and challenging and in which linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, physical, creative, social, moral and spiritual elements are intrinsic and interlinked components;
- Expert, well-motivated members of staff who are committed to the continual improvement of the school, to their own professional development, and to the happiness, development and success of the children;
- Opportunities for pupils to engage in a wide variety of activities, to develop their skills and confidence, to engage with both the local and wider community, and to experience the beauty and culture of Switzerland.

## LEARNING AND TEACHING

The curriculum is at the heart of everything we do at GES. It includes not only time-tabled lessons but also the wide range of enrichment activities that enhance the experience of our children. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum' - what the pupils learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. Our aim is to foster self-confidence and self-belief in a climate of encouragement, growth and opportunity that enables every individual child to fulfil their potential.

We encourage our pupils to be open-minded and curious. We are proud of the fantastic progress and achievement that children make at GES, as evidenced by our most recent inspection report. However, we are certainly not a pressurised environment or an academic hothouse. Children of all abilities flourish here. As a multinational community we are committed to ensuring that all children have equal access to the opportunities we provide, regardless of gender, ability, race, religious beliefs or background. We actively promote a relaxed and happy environment in which children genuinely enjoy their learning and the challenges that it brings.

Collaboration between pupils and teachers, and an injection of new ideas based on modern educational research, are enabling us to fashion policies and practices for teaching, learning and assessment that are fresh, engaging and effective. Our open-minded culture and our small-school environment encourage true integration between all areas of learning.

Our programmes for the early years (under 5s) and for Key Stages 1 to 4 (ages 5 - 16) are broadly based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and on the English National Curriculum, adapted to our international context. At 16 pupils sit a range of GCSEs or IGCSEs before embarking on a post-16 programme which we have called

the A-level Baccalaureate. This innovative and flexible scheme will allow individuals to choose a curriculum that is tailored to their skills, talents and interests but that also forces breadth of study. Alongside their three or four chosen A-level subjects, pupils will be encouraged to continue with complementary studies in languages, mathematics or science. They will also follow courses designed to bind ideas together and to cross traditional boundaries of knowledge - courses in critical thinking, philosophy and global studies. In addition, they will choose an area in which to do some extensive individual research and produce a report or a presentation. Finally, they will also engage in their choice of enrichment activities in the local and wider community, developing their skills as global social leaders of the future.

We recognize that our pupils are growing up in a world that is changing at an ever-increasing rate. Many of them are likely to work in jobs that do not yet exist. In order to be prepared for the world of tomorrow, our pupils will need to be able to embrace change and to be adaptable. They will need to be courageous and comfortable with uncertainty. They will need to be able to look at the 'big picture' and to appreciate the complexity of our interconnected world. Above all, they will need to have developed the attributes that will help them to lead fulfilling lives in an exciting but unpredictable future:

- Curiosity
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Commitment



## SAFEGUARDING, PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING

The happiness, safety and wellbeing of our pupils lie at the very heart of all that we do. Only when a child is happy, confident and relaxed will they be able to learn, to express themselves and to fulfil their potential.

All of our staff (teachers, teaching assistants and support staff) are intimately involved with pastoral care and all are trained in the safeguarding of children. As a small school, we feel that we have the advantage of knowing our children well, so being able to notice quickly when individuals are upset, isolated or anxious. We are also a warm, generous and encouraging community with a strong set of shared values and a culture of looking out for each other. Nevertheless, it is an area that requires constant reflection and development, especially in the light of the global increase in the number of children suffering from depression and anxiety.

### Our pastoral leaders and safeguarding leads

Nicky Fortune: Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)  
Emily Brown: Head of Pastoral Care and Deputy DSL (GES Early Years and Primary)  
Sue Power: Head of Upper School (GES Primary)  
Catherine Peart: Deputy DSL (GES Secondary)  
Sandra Cameron: School Counsellor  
Julie Exton: School Nurse

## PUPIL VOICE

We believe that children should be involved with their teachers in conversations about the development of the School and about their own education. We want our pupils to develop a genuine pride and sense of ownership in the School, and have the confidence to communicate issues and suggest improvements. The School Councils at GES Primary and GES Secondary therefore occupy an important position in our organisation. Central to our culture and provision of pastoral care is the principle that everyone should look out and care for others. The pupils often have excellent ideas in this area and a keen sense of social justice and equality.

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, CITIZENSHIP AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE) is an essential part of our pupils' social and emotional development. It gives our pupils the opportunity to question and consider, in a safe and supportive environment, a wide range of issues that are vital to their happiness, safety and wellbeing. It is an important part of the way in which we prepare our pupils to be caring, thoughtful citizens in a rapidly changing world.

Across the School, in age appropriate ways, we explore six core themes:

- Being the Best I Can Be and Being a Citizen;
- Celebrating Difference and Respecting Rights;
- Managing Risk and Getting Help;
- Healthy Relationships;
- Staying Safe and Staying Healthy;
- The Wider World.



## PIONEERING PROJECTS



### Entrepreneurship

Our Entrepreneurship Club has been very successful in organising events to bring the GES Secondary community together and to participate in the local community. These events range from apple picking in the local orchards in Vaud, to an Easter bonnet-making workshop for primary siblings and an après-ski themed film night with a Canadian buffet. All the ideas are generated by the pupils themselves and the profits from each project are used to buy resources and equipment for the next round of entrepreneurial ventures.



### Design Thinking Day

'Design Thinking' is the term given to a series of creative strategies used during the process of designing. Increasingly, it is being applied as an approach to resolve issues in business and to foster innovation. It is also beginning to be used by educators to encourage critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

As our contribution to the 'Open Geneva' event this April (<https://opengeneva.org>) GES Secondary held a workshop day, applying Design Thinking to a series of problem solving tasks that required research, reflection and rapid prototyping. Thanks to our talented community of parents we started the session with three dynamic presentations, giving real life examples of the use of effective communication, empathy and creative thinking in business. The pupils were divided into teams and given a problem to solve for a crew of space explorers on Mars. Investigating with *Empathy*, the children researched to define the needs of their subject. They then moved on to *Ideate* - to generate a range of creative ideas, letting their imaginations run wild. Next, they built a *Prototype*, which they had to *Test* and *Evaluate* before presenting to their client, the space explorers on Mars.

The day was great fun, filled with activity and an impressive display of free-spirited creativity.



### UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award

The Rights Respecting Schools Award is an initiative run by UNICEF. It encourages schools to place the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of its ethos and curriculum. It aims to protect the wellbeing of all young people and help them realise their potential. It is based on the principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. We are delighted that GES has now been awarded with the Bronze level of this award: 'Rights Committed'. This demonstrates our commitment to educating our pupils about children's rights around the world and about their responsibilities both towards each other and towards the wider global community.



### TED-Style Talks

We value the importance of inviting experts in a variety of fields to inspire our pupils to think about the different paths open to them in their futures. This year, we have enjoyed a wide range of TED-style talks from a range of inspiring speakers, including:

- Tim Smith from CERN, who spoke about big data, engineering and matter;
- David Wahl, ex pupil of GES and co-founder of Scientia Education, who gave us a wide ranging talk on science and technology - from the very big to the very small;
- Alexis McGivern, who explained the negative impact of plastic waste on our world and urged us to avoid single-use plastic products;
- Misha Gopaul, inventor of the FATMAP app, who explained how he is revolutionising the world of maps;
- Kevin Chaplin, managing director of The Amy Foundation and The South African Ubuntu Foundation, whose inspirational message was one of reconciliation and forgiveness, of good coming out of tragedy, and of hope and opportunity for people who live in extreme poverty in the Western Cape.
- Isabelle Santoire, athlete and local mountain guide, who was our guest of honour at the GES Secondary End of Year Celebration and Primary Speech Day.



### Challenge Antarctica

Barry (Baz) Gray, a former UK Royal Marines Commando, hopes to complete the first solo, unassisted and unsupported, coast-to-coast crossing of Antarctica, via the South Pole. GES is delighted to be associated with this fascinating and courageous expedition. Baz has already visited the School twice and will return next term to give us an update on his training and preparation.



### Eco Schools

Thanks to the work of the Eco Schools Committee and to the efforts and enthusiasm of the children, Mr Fowle, Mrs O'Reilly and other members of staff, we are well on our way to the prestigious Eco Schools Green Flag Award. This demonstrates our commitment to education for sustainable development and to caring for our precious environment. Much of the work of our young eco-crusaders has centred on an audit of single-use plastics in the School and an assessment of our arrangements for reducing waste, reusing resources and recycling materials.



What does it look like?

What does it look like?  
What does it look like?  
January 21st  
January

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ENGLISH SCH

## TESTIMONIALS

“GES Secondary embraces the best of the English and IB education systems in the heart of an international community. It has a special fizz and buzz that you can't find in a big school. The dynamic, innovative and open-minded teachers give the school energy and have created interconnected and enriching courses within the core curriculum. Every teacher has been recruited to be able to bring something special to the School from yoga to mountaineering and journalism to rock bands, making it not only a place of excellent academic learning but one where pupils can safely and individually explore all other important aspects of life.”

GES Secondary Parent

“This school gives us many amazing opportunities to learn and have fun! I feel like I have learnt so much. We are a small community, we are all open and we work as a good team.”

Pupil

“We are a small group so we can talk to anyone we want and our voice is heard to improve the School.”

Pupil

“Thank you so much for having my husband and me for a visit and for being so attentive and informative on Monday.”

Prospective family

“My choice was not just down to the academic learning, although that is very important. It was more about being certain my daughter was getting a well-rounded education. I could see the effort and attention to detail that went into the learning at GES Primary and was confident this would continue into the secondary years, which it has.”

Primary and Secondary Parent

“Very flexible and accommodating. Tailored instruction to our daughter's needs, with appropriately high expectations, a lovely campus, and plenty of outside time for kids. A welcoming and friendly community of parents.”

Ex Primary Parent

“GES Secondary is unique and special because the teachers have developed a close bond with us, meaning that the teachers know us not just by our names, but by our personalities.”

Pupil

“What are the three best things about GES?  
1) The teachers and staff  
2) Transparent procedures and flexibility to change  
3) The community”

Ex Primary Parent

## A YEAR IN REVIEW: EARLY YEARS



Early Years at GES continues to buzz as our youngest boys and girls have enjoyed a year of learning through play and discovery.

The Nursery children have loved exploring our beautiful grounds, sharing a story amongst the trees or assessing and taking calculated risks with friends in the adventure play area. We have many special places where we can learn to collaborate, have fun, develop resilience and work as a team.

Children in our Reception classes visited the local community to post a letter and to buy fruit to taste. Undoubtedly, the highlight of their year was a trip to meet Santa in his home!

Parents were invited into the Early Years classrooms for ‘See Us Learn’ mornings, providing the children with the opportunity to showcase their efforts and talk their parents through the activities they had experienced.

At GES we recognise the crucial importance of early years education in the development of children. It is a time to provide boys and girls with concrete experiences, to revisit ideas and experiences in different contexts, and to embed important social and learning behaviours. We believe that we have the environment and the expertise to deliver this phase of education better than anywhere else in the area, so we are very excited to be embarking on a project of expansion and development of our Early Years department.

Our new Early Years department will occupy the ground floor of our wonderful and historic building in Genthod, with its stunning views across our playing fields and Lac Léman to the magnificent Mont Blanc. In our free-flowing indoor environment with its integrated outdoor space, we will provide a range of resources, enabling the children to explore, to be creative, to make choices, and to learn through play.

This project allows us to develop further our unique, integrated approach to the learning of languages. French teachers will come to the Early Years Department to work alongside their colleagues, sharing the environment and resources, and following the same pedagogical approaches and themes. We believe this is the way in which to make languages, and French in particular, an everyday and natural part of school life for everyone, building confidence in communication and a real sense of how languages around the world relate to each other.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW: PRIMARY



### Active learning

We believe in making learning fun, active and memorable. Activities have included dressing up as a dinosaur for the Dinosaur Stomp, reliving a Victorian school day, discovering mathematics outdoors, reliving life on VE day and making advertisements to promote weird and wonderful inventions.

Theme days support the topics and bring them to life. We have seen whole year groups dressed as pirates, ancient Egyptians, ancient Greeks and giant Chinese dragons.



### Houses

Our House system has gone from strength to strength. It provides a deeper sense of belonging in all our children and allows pupils of different ages to work together. In particular, it enables the older children at GES Primary to take pride in encouraging and helping the younger ones.

Friendly rivalry and good-natured competition has been apparent throughout the year. The House Charity Colour Run raising an astonishing amount of money for the World Wide Fund for Nature, charity chosen by the pupils themselves. The House Singing Competition provided an opportunity for the children to create music as a team, whilst their participation in a number of exciting and enjoyable sporting events (not least the excellent Lower and Upper School athletics sports days) has provided fun and enjoyment for all.



### Outdoor education and school trips

We believe in the fundamental importance of education outside the classroom and we are developing outdoor education in a number of exciting ways. Day visits and residential trips into the beautiful countryside and mountains within easy reach of the School provide unforgettable experiences and invaluable opportunities for teambuilding and challenge.

In September, Year 5 stayed overnight in Les Gets, France. They hiked along the mountain, enjoyed magnificent views of Mont Blanc and developed their talents as artists with their 'Land Art' creations. Year 6 explored the 'Planet Walk' high above St-Luc in the Valais and ventured out into the night to stargaze at an observatory situated at a height of over 2000m. Year 3 explored the wonderful cave formations in the Grottes de Vallorbe, while Year 4 visited the Roman remains in Julius Caesar's 'Novodinium', more commonly known as Nyon.

For many the highlight of the year is our residential trips week in the summer term, in which children from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoy visits and trips that provide an increasing level of challenge and adventure.



### Performing Arts

The performing arts provide opportunities for creative expression, teamwork and the building of self-confidence. In the autumn, Years 5 and 6 threw themselves enthusiastically into a spectacular performance of the musical, *Wind in the Willows*. Years 3 and 4 entertained us with their aptly named show, *Step Into the Spotlight* and Lower School opened the Christmas Fair with a lovely mixture of Christmas carols.

Putting on performances and shows on in the professional environment of the Genthod Salle Communale has given them an extra lift and presented a wonderful opportunity for the children. Towards the end of the summer term, Lower School presented *The Bee Musical* while the Performing Arts Club gave us *Mary Poppins*. Both performances were full of colour and life and were hugely entertaining.



### Music and Art

Music and Art have developed in a number of interesting and creative ways at GES this year, both at the Primary and at the Secondary. The Art exhibition at the Summer Fair showcased the work of children across all parts of the School, while Buskers' Corner provided an opportunity for us to hear the musical talents of both children and staff. Informal musical concerts held at GES Secondary have been a joy – and this year we hosted Associated Board examinations for the first time. Rounding off the musical year, the Lower School and Upper School Choirs and the GES Primary Ensemble combined to give us a lovely concert at the Genthod Salle.



### Sport

The past year has seen a record number of children taking part in sporting events. Not only have participation, enjoyment and commitment increased across the board but the level of sporting achievement and success for both girls and boys has been quite unprecedented. For a small school, we punch well above our weight in sport.

Running was prominent in the Autumn term with 36 children taking part in the annual, GES-hosted cross country competition and making us extremely proud with their gritty determination and individual performances. Then, on a very chilly December morning, well over 100 children turned out to represent the School in the traditional Escalade races in Geneva.

During the winter months, many children took to the ski slopes and more than 100 children participated in the school ski competition at St Cergue in February. In addition, several children have represented the School at Giant Slalom races in Morgins and Le Grand Bornand.

Football, rugby and netball have all held an important place in the GES sporting calendar, with the children excelling themselves in several tournaments throughout the year. One of the highlights for both pupils and staff was the Spring term Year 5 and 6 rugby and netball tour in England.

The sporting year culminated with our inter-school athletics competition in May, followed by the hugely enjoyable Lower and Upper School sports days.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW: SECONDARY



### Opening Ceremony

On Monday 12 March, GES Secondary was officially opened by our Chair of Governors, Mark Williams. Joining us at the opening ceremony were representatives of the Versoix and Genthod authorities, and Barry Gray, the explorer and expeditionary mountaineer, who has become a friend of GES. We were also delighted to welcome architect, Dirk Jan Postel, who in collaboration with the GES Secondary pupils and our team of educators, designed our school building. The pupils performed their own haunting and mysterious Antarctic musical composition. It was a fantastic evening, celebrating all the hard work that has gone into creating this unique learning environment.



### Productions

GES Secondary christened the stage in our performance and assembly space, 'Chaplin', with its first production, *21 Christmas Stars*. Every pupil took part and the audience was entertained by a range of performances in English, French, Spanish and German, showcasing the pupils' wide-ranging talents in languages and performing arts.

In the summer term, the pupils performed their version of *Le Petit Prince* to a large and appreciative audience of parents, staff, siblings and friends. The pupils were given the freedom to be creative, working with their French and Drama teachers to convert the book into an original play in French. What emerged was testament to the teamwork between pupils and staff that exists in our school.



### Verbier Ski Camp

GES Secondary's first ever ski camp was a great success. During the day, pupils enjoyed skiing lessons in the beautiful resort of Verbier and in the evening, they participated in a range of enjoyable, teambuilding activities.



### Sport at GES Secondary

At GES Secondary, we put into practice educational research showing that regular involvement in some form of physical activity really improves the pupils' academic progress. Our teachers lead break-time exercise sessions, which involve yoga, circuit training and pilates. It really wakes up everyone's brain!

Beyond this, our pupils continue to have weekly sessions of physical education, led by our Leader of Sport. The programme of study draws on excellent local resources to ensure that the boys and girls have access to a wide variety of physical activities. We take advantage of the local facilities at the Versoix Centre Sportif and the gym at Genthod, both of which offer outstanding, state-of-the-art facilities. We create a breadth of opportunity that gives pupils the chance to find the sport or activity about which they can be passionate. In addition to following the PE National Curriculum units of work, pupils get the opportunity to sample sports and physical activities ranging from yoga to tennis, and from zumba to squash.





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