

A vibrant international community where every student flourishes





From the Executive Principal

Choosing a school for your son or daughter is one of the most important decisions a parent will make. At ISZN, we believe that education is about empowering students to lead with heart, think boldly, and drive positive change in the world. Our provision is built upon a deep commitment to understanding and meeting the needs of each individual child. We strive to create a vibrant learning community where every student flourishes; academically, socially, and emotionally.

ISZN prides itself on being an inclusive and diverse community. We focus on what children can do, nurturing their strengths and supporting their growth with compassion and care. Thanks to our small class sizes, learning is personalised, allowing students to build confidence, resilience, and a love of discovery. At the heart of our school is a team of specialist and dedicated teachers, drawn from across five continents, who inspire and guide our students to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Our commitment to academic excellence is complemented by exceptional pastoral care. We take the wellbeing of every member of our community seriously, fostering an environment where kindness, respect, and curiosity are celebrated. Beyond the classroom, life at ISZN is rich with opportunities, from sports and performing arts to outdoor education and a wide range of clubs and activities that encourage teamwork, creativity, and personal growth.

I look forward to welcoming you to ISZN, where your child's journey will be shaped by purpose, passion, and possibility!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher Derrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C'.

Christopher Derrick
Principal and Head of Secondary

Our Vision & Mission

Vision

Empowering students to think boldly, lead with heart, and drive positive change in the world.

Mission

We are a vibrant learning community where every student flourishes. We empower students to think boldly and creatively, inspiring them to become curious global citizens who lead with kindness, respect, and resilience.



Living Our Values



At ISZN, values are not words on a wall—they're part of our daily life. Kindness, respect and resilience shape how we interact, learn and grow—both as students and staff. These values are embedded in our assessment structures, supported through our award and recognition systems and actively lived across our community.

Kindness: Creating a culture of care and belonging

Respect: Listening, understanding, and acting with integrity

Resilience: Navigating challenges with courage, reflection, and perseverance

Why Choose ISZN?

Top reasons families choose ISZN:

- **Dual language foundation** from Nursery through Kindergarten, fostering early cognitive development and cultural awareness
- **Academic rigour** through the British curriculum pathway
 - Clear structure and measurable progression throughout
 - Early foundation in literacy and numeracy builds strong habits
 - Continuous pathway eases transitions through to A-Levels
- A **small school environment**, where every student is known, supported, and encouraged
- **Holistic focus on wellbeing and achievement**, supporting both academic growth and personal development
- **Rich co-curricular programme**, including arts, sports, robotics, and student leadership opportunities
- **Central Zurich access** and a **global community**, attracting families from around the world
- **Part of the Cognita global family** of schools, with access to international expertise, training, and best practices



The ISZN Learning Path

From Foundations to Qualifications

Little Ibex (Nursery)

Our nursery students thrive in the warmth and welcome of this environment. A combination of structured activity and free play allow them to develop crucial skills and the dual language approach fosters language development.



Pre-K - KG1

The Pre-K and KG1 programmes build strong foundations for the journey ahead, preparing children for a smooth transition into Primary. Dual-language immersion, early literacy and numeracy, and a nurturing international community provide the optimal basis for your child's early education.



Primary School (KG2- Grade 5)

The incorporation of the academic rigour of the British curriculum within our skills-based framework of instruction ensures that our Primary students have sound academic foundations and are active participants in their lifelong journey of learning.



Lower Secondary (Grades 6-8)

The Lower Secondary programme continues to embed the enquiry skills developed in Primary and creates a seamless transition into the higher level of academic rigour found in the Secondary British curriculum, ensuring strong foundations in all subject areas as students prepare for their examination years.



IGCSEs (Grades 9-10)

Students studying for their IGCSEs will continue their focus on core subjects, but also have the opportunity to choose subjects that interest them as they begin to determine their path forward to tertiary education.



A-Levels (Grades 11-12)

Cambridge and Edexcel International A-Levels are internationally recognised and highly regarded around the world. The syllabuses develop a deep understanding of subjects and form the foundation for university entrance.



Graduation & Beyond

ISZN graduates have the tools at their fingertips to access a tertiary education in Switzerland and internationally, with the IGCSE and A-Level programme considered a gold standard for university access.



Early Years



Early Years education takes place from the ages of 3 months to 5 years and consists of Nursery, Pre-Kindergarten and 1st Kindergarten. During this period, we lay the foundations for the journey ahead, preparing children for a happy and successful progression towards the next stage of their education.

In these classes, we introduce children to the fascinating world of learning in a happy, caring and supportive environment. The teaching space is tailored to the needs of the children; open, play-based learning and a range of flexible seating in all classrooms allows us to adapt our teaching facilities in a way that best suits the subject and lesson. Our youngest students are also exposed to foundational literacy and numeracy skills in a fun and engaging environment that allows them to engage with core skills at an age-appropriate level.

ISZN Dual Language Programme

Enabling your child to thrive in a globalised world

Our Dual Language Programme is offered in the Early Years, from Nursery through Kindergarten 1. Children build a strong foundation in both English and German, developing confidence and adaptability from the very start of their learning journey. This bilingual beginning supports not only language development but also cultural awareness, preparing young learners to thrive as they move forward into our international curriculum.



Primary School

Throughout the Primary School we follow the globally renowned, British Curriculum, which ensures academic rigour within our skills-based framework of instruction.

This curriculum framework focuses on the development of the whole child as an enquirer, harnessing their natural curiosity and creativity. This extends beyond the school walls and provides a well-rounded, challenging, and meaningful education for all students, regardless of their background. The six principal subject areas are Language, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, the Arts and Personal, Social & Physical Education. Increased academic rigour in Mathematics and Literacy is provided through the British White Rose Math and Read, Write Inc. programmes which allow for clear classroom differentiation in these key areas and data-based feedback on individual student progress. A rigorous and well-implemented German curriculum complements our wider learning provision, ensuring every student develops valuable language skills.



Lower Secondary

Our Lower Secondary Programme offers students an enriching curriculum designed to lay an excellent foundation for their IGCSE studies and beyond. Pupils benefit from a wide range of core and extended subjects, with a strong emphasis on Mathematics, Science, Languages, and Humanities. In addition, our curriculum nurtures creativity and personal growth through PSHE, Physical Education, and the Arts — including visual art, drama, and music.

Students are encouraged to become independent, inquisitive learners through our Grade Challenge Programmes, which develop vital research and critical-thinking skills. High-quality teaching and learning are the hallmarks of this phase, ensuring every student is inspired and supported to reach their full potential.

During these years, students have the opportunity to take part in the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's Award, gaining invaluable experiences in resilience, teamwork, and leadership - qualities that prepare them for success in school and in life.





A strong, flexible foundation for A-Levels and future university pathways.

Our iGCSE programme follows a broad and balanced British curriculum, building secure academic foundations while giving students the flexibility to pursue individual interests and future goals.

Students typically study 6–9 iGCSE subjects, combining key academic areas with additional options that reflect strengths and aspirations. Subject choices are guided carefully, with clear input from teachers and academic leaders, so each student follows a programme that is both ambitious and well-matched.

Entry from other school systems: The full iGCSE programme is a natural fit for students entering Grade 9 (typically age 14), whether they are joining from an international school or a local system. Students transitioning from Swiss cantonal pathways or other international curricula can complete the full iGCSE route and progress onwards with A-Levels to Swiss and international universities, depending on graduation outcomes.

Progress is monitored consistently, and structured academic support sits alongside strong pastoral care. The iGCSE years also develop study habits that support success at A-Level and beyond, including organisation, critical thinking, and confident communication.

A-Levels

Deep specialisation with the guidance students need for confident university progression.



In Grades 11 and 12, students focus their learning and build a profile that supports university entry in Switzerland and internationally. Students select three A-Level subjects for specialisation, leading to examinations at the end of Grade 12, supported by expert teaching and structured feedback..

A-Level subjects span established disciplines such as Mathematics, the Sciences, and Languages, alongside options including Economics, Computer Science, and the Arts. Students may also choose to complete the Independent Project Qualification (IPQ) after Grade 11, strengthening research, analysis, and academic writing in an area of personal interest.

Entry from other school systems: The two-year A-Level programme is for students entering Grade 11 with a strong academic base and readiness to specialise. University pathways depend on prior coursework..

Throughout Upper Secondary, students benefit from pastoral care as well as careers and university guidance—supporting subject planning, pathway decisions, and well-prepared applications.

Accelerated Pathway

A focused three-year route to A-Levels for students joining later in secondary school.



The Accelerated Pathway is designed for students who enter in Grade 10 and want a clear, supported route to A-Levels in three years. Students complete an intensive iGCSE year in Grade 10, typically taking 6 iGCSEs, to build the subject readiness and academic habits needed for success in Grades 11 and 12.

Entry from other school systems: This pathway is ideal for students entering Grade 10, including those transferring directly after Sek 3 in the local school system, or for students aiming for the Swiss university pathway without previous iGCSE coursework. It provides a structured transition into Upper Secondary while building the academic readiness needed for A-Levels.

From the start, students receive careful guidance on subject choices and pathway planning, shaped by prior curriculum experience and university goals. Progress is closely monitored, with targeted academic support and pastoral care to help students manage pace and workload.

The result is a structured three-year pathway that supports motivated students to reach strong A-Level outcomes and progress towards Swiss universities, international destinations, or options across both.

High Quality Teaching & Learning at ISZN

At ISZN, our learning experiences are designed to help our students to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. High-Quality Teaching and Learning at ISZN is a learner-centered approach that supports the acquisition of knowledge, skills and values through purposeful communication, collaboration, and positive learning environments.

It involves clear and modelled expectations, culturally responsive practices, and a focus on understanding, application, and transfer of knowledge. Reflection and goal-directed practices are essential components, as is the provision of frequent, actionable feedback.

By building connections to other disciplines and global contexts, learning at ISZN empowers students to become motivated, engaged, and globally minded learners. Aligned with ISZN's core values of kindness, respect, and resilience, our teaching practices foster a supportive and inclusive community where all learners feel valued and empowered. At ISZN our high-quality teaching and learning is framed by the following themes:

- **Content:** Excellent subject knowledge is used to plan and deliver learning experiences with value, relevance and benefit to students.
- **Clarity:** Learning experiences have clear purpose and steps to success.
- **Support and Challenge:** All students are supported and challenged so that they achieve, attain and thrive.
- **Assessment:** Assessment approaches are used to monitor and support student progress.
- **Cognitive Engagement:** Learning experiences encourage deep cognitive engagement and student investment in learning.
- **Collaboration:** Students collectively shape learning experiences, by sharing their knowledge, ideas and perspectives.
- **Enjoyment:** Students are happy and enthusiastic about learning because they enjoy their experiences.
- **Classroom Culture:** Students feel nurtured and ready to learn.

Wellbeing & Belonging

The wellbeing of our students is at the heart of everything we do.

At ISZN we have a very strong pastoral system in place to ensure that we identify any hurdles in our students' lives at an early stage.

Every staff member is involved in making sure that our students feel safe and always know who to talk to if they want to share their feelings with someone or receive support in the classroom or in general. Regular wellbeing check-ins provide valuable insights in how our students are feeling and managing their feelings, outside of their academic performance.

The academic progress of each of our students is monitored, measured, and evaluated on a regular basis in an age-appropriate way. This allows our teachers to differentiate the learning in the classroom and our learning support team to intervene in a timely manner when a student requires additional support or an alternative approach to boost their learning. This could be by scaffolding their learning or stretching and challenging them, targeting the area of need and building on each student's strengths to enhance their learning experience.

Safeguarding at ISZN

Our safeguarding team, along with all teachers and staff members at ISZN, is dedicated to ensuring that the safeguarding of our students is a priority, and that all students have access to the support they need to thrive.

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Co-Curricular Programmes

ISZN offers a broad range of activities to ensure pupils of all ages are able to find something which stimulates and inspires them.

Our Programme of Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) consists of a plethora of after school clubs, all planned to complement and extend the students' learning or personal and emotional wellbeing. Recently offered CCAs include: Ballet, Basketball, Choir, Cricket, Graphic Design, Forensic Club, Yoga and many more besides. Alongside their weekly CCAs, students from Grade 1 upwards participate in an annual 'Camp Week'. The destination of Camp Week varies according to the age of the student, however, all have in common the opportunity to learn more about the natural environment, different cultures, and key life skills.

Throughout the year, children also have the opportunity to participate in a range of events organised by Cognita which span countries, and often continents. For example, the 'Story around the World' initiative has seen ISZN pupils creating illustrations for a published storybook produced by pupils from Cognita schools in Europe, Asia and South America.

The ISZN Ibex, our sports teams, regularly compete with other international schools all over Switzerland in various disciplines.

Grid of activities:

- Arts, drama, music
- Sports teams – girls and boys (e.g. basketball, football)
- Robotics, coding, Playball
- House competitions and events



Our Community

Student Leadership & PTA

**Student Council | School and Sports Captains |
Peer mentoring | Student Wellbeing Leaders**

Our School community reflects its location in Switzerland's most diverse city; our pupil body is made up from over 30 nationalities, whilst our staff body is similarly multicultural.

We pride ourselves on fostering a welcoming and harmonious community, where all voices are heard and valued. Our dedicated Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meets on a regular basis and organises a selection of school events and activities throughout the year.

The Student Council also plays an important role in determining the agenda of the school - the Winter Ball is but one example of an initiative that has stemmed from the Student Council.





Our Cafeteria – Lunches and Day-Round Healthy Snacks

Our on-site school lunches are truly something to be proud of. Prepared daily from scratch by our dedicated school chef and kitchen team, each meal is healthy, delicious, and beautifully presented. We offer a generous buffet-style selection with a variety of options to suit all tastes, dietary requirements, and allergies or intolerances — ensuring every student can enjoy a meal that nourishes and delights.

Every day, students can choose from a wholesome multicourse menu that includes fresh soup, a hearty main course, crisp salads, and seasonal fruit. Our lunches not only fuel learning but also encourage a positive relationship with food and healthy eating habits.





Alumni & Outcomes

Our graduates go on to succeed - academically and as people of purpose

- At ISZN we collectively have over 50 years' experience assisting graduates to secure places to study the courses they desire at institutions of high repute around the globe; including ETH in Switzerland, Michigan University in the US and the London School of Economics. We assist students with every stage of the application process, and provide individual coaching in everything from future planning to interviews.
- Our A-Level programme is internationally recognised as a gold standard for university entrance, renowned for its depth, breadth, and academic rigour and highly respected by leading universities around the world. A-Levels challenge students to develop a deep understanding of their chosen subjects while building the independent thinking skills essential for success in higher education.
- Our students go on to study at leading universities across the globe—including ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, the London School of Economics, as well as top institutions in Amsterdam, the USA, the UK, and Australia. Thanks to the strong foundation provided by our academic programme, they are well-prepared to meet the challenges ahead and achieve their ambitions.

Admissions Made Simple

We believe that joining our school should be an enjoyable and straightforward experience. ISZN has rolling admissions and flexible start dates that allow families to join year-round.

Simply:

1. Enquire

Make an enquiry through our website, by phone, email, or in person.

2. Connect

We warmly invite you to a video call, a visit to our campus and to enjoy a taster day, where you can see our students and teachers in action and experience the ethos and heart of our school firsthand.

3. Apply

When you're ready, simply submit your application through our website.

4. Join

We pride ourselves on quick, clear communication, so you can expect a prompt response and a smooth process as we determine the best place for your child within our school community.

[Enquire here](#)



[Apply here](#)



Key Info & Location

Quick Facts	Details
Age range	3 months to 18 years
Languages of instruction	English as primary instruction, rigorous German curriculum for all German levels and compulsory to G10 with option study to G12, French curriculum compulsory during middle years and option study to G12
Leaving Qualifications	iGCSEs and A-Levels
Curriculum	British Curriculum
School hours	8:30 – 15:30h, Enhanced Care: 7:30 – 18:00h

How to Find Us

International School Zurich North
Industriestrasse 50
8304 Wallisellen

General enquires: info@iszn.ch

Admissions: admissions@iszn.ch





Summer Camp 2025 at ISZN: A Summer to Remember

The final weeks of ISZN's Summer Camp 2025 were full of laughter, discovery and shared memories. Children harvested the microgreens they had planted earlier in the summer, tasting their homegrown crops and learning about the links between science, health and sustainability. At the craft tables they embroidered with colourful yarn, made jewellery and puppets, and decorated fingerprint t-shirts, each one a playful keepsake that reflected the spirit of the group.

Parents shared how their children came home every afternoon full of stories and excitement, and woke up the next day eager for more. The camp closed with birthday celebrations, smiles and a strong sense of community, rounding off an unforgettable summer together.

ISZN Summer Camp 2025 ended with happy faces, proud creations and friendships that will continue to grow.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ZURICH NORTH

General enquiries: info@iszn.ch

Admissions: admissions@iszn.ch

+41 44 830 70 00



Book a Tour

“

I have highly recommended ISZN to several friends and expats on arrival in Switzerland. An excellent school and I am very appreciative of the support they have provided.”

ISZN Parent