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**[GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS](#) | [ISD COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT EVENT CALENDAR](#)**

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**GR. 12 STUDENTS & PARENTS****▪ Higher Education Application FINAL Deadlines**

Most UK, EU, Canadian and U.S. applications should now be complete or near complete. Any applications still in progress should be submitted by the start of Ski Week on **FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup>**. As the counsellors will transition to Junior Conferences with the Class of 2026 and academic programme and course choice planning with the Class of 2027, now is the time to take advantage of your counsellor's support to put the finishing touches on your applications.

**Parents:** Please [contact the relevant counsellor](#) with any questions about the status of your child's applications.

**▪ MaiaLearning 'Applying List' Updates**

We remind Grade 12 students to verify their [MaiaLearning](#) 'Applying List' is accurate. This helps your counsellor to know which documents to send by when. Each institution on your list should include the 'Programme' (**Course, Faculty, School, and/or Major**) and the **application deadline**. If you have applied to more than one programme at the same institution, each of programme should be listed. Please see the '[Applying List Examples](#)' for guidance and then [book a meeting](#) with your counsellor to update your 'Applying List' together.

**▪ Application Submitted – What next?**

It is critical to verify that each application is complete and ready for review. Therefore, **we remind all applicants to read your emails carefully (spam/junk too!) and to log in to your application account for each institution to check your 'to-do' list.** In some cases, **you may be required to upload (unofficial) copies of your Senior School Transcript and/or DP Predicted Grades to complete your application.** In most other cases, your counsellor will have already sent the required official school documents via MaiaLearning or by email directly to the Admissions Office of each institution. Keep in mind that institutions are processing and matching thousands of official school documents to each application. Please allow some time for this process to happen (usually 1-2 weeks). **If your student account is not updated with all documents marked as received within two weeks after submitting your application, please notify your counsellor.**

**▪ Admission Decisions – Inform Your Counsellor**

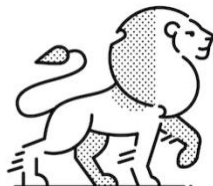
As counsellors are not notified of admission decisions (unless you have applied to the UK), we ask students to share the good news with us personally so we can celebrate the outcome of our work together. Also, remember to **add the decision to the 'YES!' wall in the North Building**. To keep our application data accurate, we also appreciate being informed when you've been told 'No'. Unfortunately, it does happen, but do keep in mind that [you determine the course of your life](#) and that [one decision from an institution does not detract from you as a person or any of your accomplishments](#). We thank you for your continued cooperation and look forward to hearing some great news!

**▪ Campus Visits, YouTube & Unibuddy**

Ski Week and Spring Break are a good time for Grade 12 students to (re)visit the institutions to which they have applied. Before settling on a final choice, we encourage students to take advantage of the many in person and virtual opportunities to explore the institutions/courses on their application list to make the most informed decision about which institution to attend. **YouTube** is a great place to search for 'Student Experience', 'Campus Tour', and other informational videos, while [Unibuddy](#) offers the opportunity to connect with current students studying at institutions around the world. While these virtual opportunities are not the same as an actual campus visit, they are still a great option for gathering the information needed to make a final decision.

**▪ U.S. Citizens & Residents – Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

Colleges use the FAFSA form to determine how much financial aid a student is eligible to receive, which could include grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans. Any eligible U.S. citizen or resident, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs should complete the FAFSA, this includes students seeking a degree from a [non-U.S. \(international\) institution](#). **International students** may be required to complete the [CSS Profile](#) to receive financial aid and/or scholarship consideration.



## GR. 11 STUDENTS & PARENTS

### ▪ U.S. Applicants – [February ACT Registration](#) & [March \\*DIGITAL SAT Registration](#)

The registration deadline for the **February ACT** is **TODAY**. Note that ISD is **not** an ACT test centre. The deadline to register for the **March 8<sup>th</sup> DIGITAL SAT** is **Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**. Visit the **College Board** website to complete your registration, secure your seat, and ensure you are ready to test using the new Digital format. While you're at it, you may also want to register for the **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** and/or **June 7<sup>th</sup> Digital SAT** test date. The early bird catches the worm!

## GR. 11 & 10 STUDENTS & PARENTS

### ▪ Potential U.S. Applicants – [SAT Online Preparation Course](#) Registration

We are pleased to announce a new collaboration with [Higher Ground Learning](#), a US-based company with a long-standing reputation for providing **affordable (just \$649 USD!)** SAT test preparation to students at international schools throughout the world. Please refer to the [course introduction letter](#) and [calendar](#) for the upcoming **March/April** session. If you have questions about the course, visit the Higher Ground website or [email them directly](#).

## GR. 10 STUDENTS & PARENTS

### ▪ [Class of 2027 Gr. 11/12 Academic Programme & Course Selection Timeline](#)

We are gearing up for the start of the Class of 2027 Grade 11/12 academic programme and course selection process together with **Mr. Olson**, the **DP Coordinator**. Please refer to the timeline document for more specific details. Note that **counsellor consultations** are set to happen between **January 29<sup>th</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup>**. We look forward to supporting the Class of 2027 with planning for the future.

## ALL STUDENTS & PARENTS

### ▪ Gap Year Fair – Schule, Reisen, Lernen, Leben Weltweit!

If you have been giving some thought to taking a gap year, the '[Die JugendBildungsmesse](#)' is a great place to explore options for exchange programs, internships, au pair positions, work & travel opportunities and volunteer projects. The fair will take place on **Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00-16:00**. [Register now](#) for FREE.

### ▪ [EINSTIEG Köln](#) – Higher Education, Career & Gap Year Fair

Representatives from several German, Dutch, British and American higher education institutions and companies will take part in [EINSTIEG Köln](#) on **Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**. The event is open to all students and parents. Entrance is **FREE**.

### ▪ Student Information Opportunities in **Germany**

- [HHU Dusseldorf Woche der Studienorientierung 2025](#) – 13.-17. Januar 2025
- [Hochschule Rhein-Waal Study Orientation Weeks 2025](#) – 11. Januar – 07. February 2025
- [Frankfurt School of Finance & Management Data Science Day](#) – 12. Februar 2025
- [FH Aachen – Tag der offenen Tür \(Standort Köln\)](#) – 11. März 2025
- [Helmut-Schmidt-Universität Hamburg: Als Zivilist an der HSU studieren](#)

### ▪ Pre-med Projects – [The Weekly Surgery Online Medical Experience](#)

Work experience sessions for **students aged 14-18** every **Monday at 19:30 GMT (18:30 CET)**. Discuss a different medical case each week with doctors, and with the help of the students attending, diagnose and treat the patient in the interactive 2-hour sessions.

### ▪ [InvestIN Education](#) – Weekend Career Opportunities Ages **15-18**

Students can now register for spring term opportunities, which are available in several **cutting-edge industries** and delivered 'Live Online'. **Students will learn directly from some of the world's best professionals** through a series of live, interactive simulations which provide tailor-made professional experience.

### ▪ [Upcoming Higher Education Visits & Events](#)

Interested ISD students and parents are invited to take part in the upcoming events below:

- [European Higher Education Fairs](#)
- **UK Higher Education Mini-Fair @ ISD – 23.01 @ 12:00-13:30**

[Keith Layman \(A-K\)](#) | [Marlene Mika \(L-Z\)](#) | [Noriko Kitagawa \(Japan\)](#)

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