

**Boarding**

**International School of Schaffhausen**



**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SCHAFFHAUSEN**

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Switzerland

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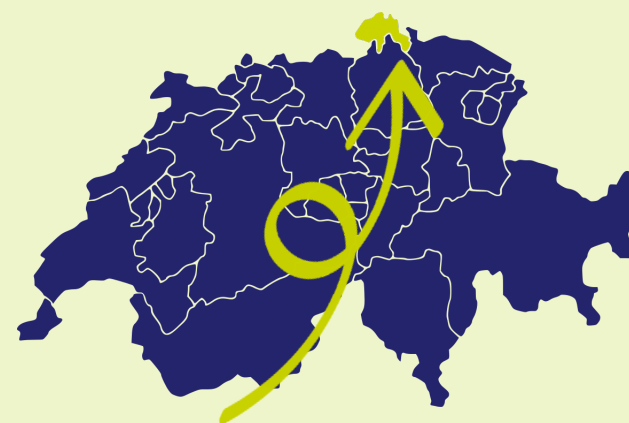
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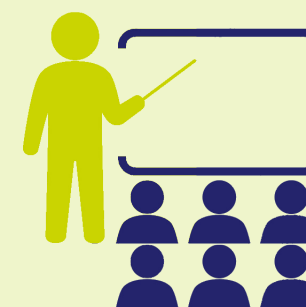
International School  
of Schaffhausen

**OUR CORE VALUES:**

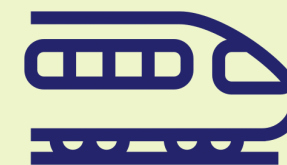
BE UNIQUE • TAKE RESPONSIBILITY • ACHIEVE POTENTIAL

**LOCATION**

THE CANTON OF **SCHAFFHAUSEN** IS THE NORTHERNMOST CANTON OF SWITZERLAND. TOURISM, AGRICULTURE AND HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY ALL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CANTON'S ECONOMY. THE TRAFFIC-FREE OLD TOWN OF SCHAFFHAUSEN IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE PRETTIEST IN SWITZERLAND ON ACCOUNT OF ITS 171 ORIEL WINDOWS AND LAVISHLY PAINTED FACADES.

**TEACHER/STUDENT RATIO**

1:6



**40 MINUTE**  
TRAIN RIDE FROM  
ZURICH CITY

**251 STUDENTS**

33 CHILDCARE 42 ELC 58 PRIMARY  
78 MIDDLE YEARS 40 DP

**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE CURRICULUM**

**100%** STUDENT GRADUATED  
**34 POINT** AVERAGE



40 NATIONALITIES



AGES 1 - 18

**STUDENT POPULATION**

**TUITION FEE: 30'610 CHF**  
**BOARDING FEE: 23'480 CHF**

**UNIVERSITIES OUR GRADUATES GO TO**

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY • BOCCONI UNIVERSITY • ST. GALLEN UNIVERSITY  
AND MANY MORE [WWW.ISSH.CH/DE/UNIVERSITAETEN](http://WWW.ISSH.CH/DE/UNIVERSITAETEN)



# WELCOME

ISSH is a well-established international school in the Zurich North area, and is reputed for its family-like atmosphere. We make students feel at home, away from home. We invite teenagers aged 15-19 from around the world to join our international community of learners, to share our passion for knowledge and to develop into life-long learners. Over 40 nationalities are represented in our student body. This diversity of cultures, languages, faiths and experiences creates a learning and living environment which is extremely rich in perspectives and where care and respect for one another are fundamental. We offer a unique residential programme and an international university entrance qualification that will open doors to universities across Europe, America, Africa or Australasia.

ISSH boarding is different from the traditional boarding school concept as our programme turns teenagers into independent and responsible young adults who are well prepared for university life abroad and have a clear vision of their talents, strengths and goals for life. We want our boarders to develop into responsible community members.

Our boarding students take on projects for organising weekend activities and are engaged in service within the school and local community. They develop independence and self-sufficiency through a freedom of choice within clearly defined boundaries. We respect the needs of senior students while ensuring a healthy, well-structured and balanced lifestyle. We encourage our students to be engaged in our community, in their learning and in shaping their own future. Both the ISSH community and the local Schaffhausen community offer a wealth of possibilities for engagement and activity. We have built up strong links with Schaffhausen businesses and institutions, enabling us to create a unique work experience programme which is a central element in our career planning process.

We want our students to be active. Our tutors and mentors engage with each student so that their talents and interests are nurtured and further developed. The options for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities within easy reach are manifold. The programme comprises of visits to CERN or the United Nations Organization in Geneva, excursions to the Alps, water sports on the Rhine and explorations of the Black Forest. Europe's capital cities like Paris, Berlin or Rome are within easy reach for weekend trips or class excursions.

Learning for understanding as opposed to memorization is a fundamental principle of the IB programmes. Inquiring, making connections to previously acquired knowledge and transferring knowledge and understanding between subjects are skills that our students use on a daily basis. Inquiry learning is the catalyst for all teaching and learning at ISSH. We look forward to welcoming your child into our community.

Gundula Kohlhaas  
Head of School



Dear Boarder,

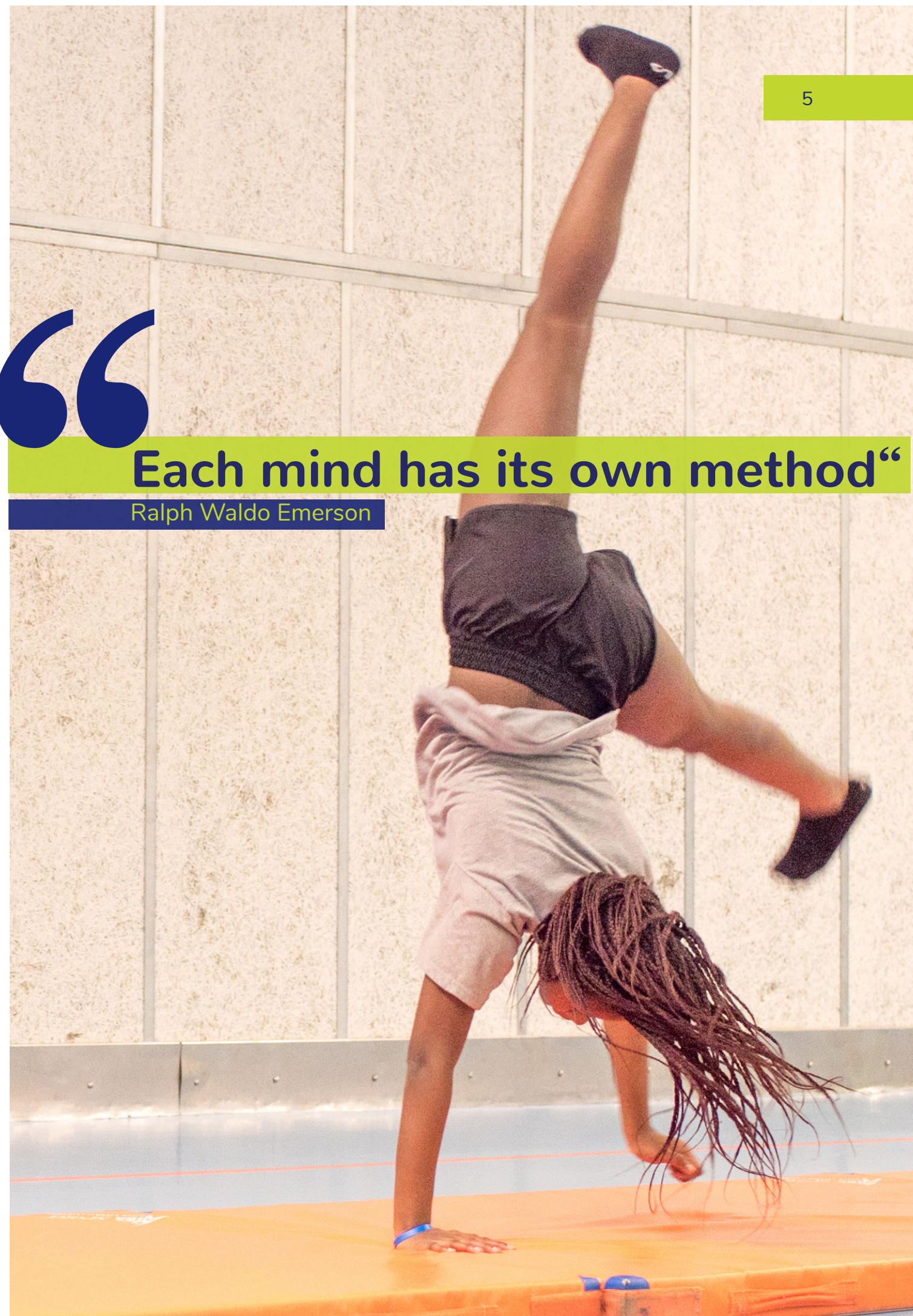
Boarding at ISSH is a unique and extremely rewarding experience. Living together in a close community of widely diverse students and staff, each with their own individual backgrounds, cultures and personalities, is both challenging and life-changing. The interpersonal skills developed will become a cornerstone to your work and play, and the friendships and relationships built will last long beyond your school days. I encourage you to embrace this opportunity, to celebrate the diversity, and to live up to the inevitable responsibilities which come hand-in-hand with independence.

Ken Russell  
Head of Boarding

“

**Each mind has its own method“**

Ralph Waldo Emerson





# THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WITH A SWISS HEART

## THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WITH A SWISS HEART

In the most Northern part of Switzerland, you will find one of the most preserved towns from the Middle Ages, located just around the corner from the largest waterfall in Europe. Schaffhausen, with its narrow cobbled streets and 16th Century Munot overlooking the city, has a charm and character that gives you a glimpse of its history at every corner.

When ISSH was founded in this city in 1999, there was a vision to provide students with something more than a traditional education, but to keep Switzerland at its heart. When you enter the doors of our school, you immediately feel at home in our family-like atmosphere. Located in a building with a deep historic background, we combine the latest research on teaching and learning, with an international perspective, to create a curriculum that prepares students to be life-long learners, connected to a global community. Whether part of the local hockey club, learning to swim at the local swimming pool, enjoying film festivals or traditional parades, Schaffhausen is rich in history and culture for families from every part of the world.



## SCHAFFHAUSEN

The town of Schaffhausen is located in the northernmost corner of Switzerland, very close to the German border and only 40 minutes from Zurich. Its vicinity to the Black Forest and Lake Konstanz makes it a popular tourist destination with the Rheinfall as the biggest waterfall in Europe being the main attraction. Zurich airport and the excellent Central European railway system provide opportunities to discover capitals like Paris, Rome and Berlin.

The medieval Old Town of Schaffhausen with its colourful building facades is considered one of the prettiest in Switzerland and offers a big variety of shops and restaurants. Schaffhausen also has a lot on offer for culture lovers. It is famous for its monastery, museums, theatres, concerts and small but vibrant arts scene.

From the Munot Fortress you can enjoy a view over the whole town, the surrounding vineyards and the hilly regions of the Randen.

The river Rhein and its beautiful forestry beaches invites you to go walking, cycling and boating. Schaffhausen is a small and beautiful place where young people can explore and grow in a safe and well-organized environment.

## BOARDING HOUSE

The ISSH Boarding House is a stable, caring, family-like place to make it a home away from home. A caring environment is paramount to ensure that each student can reach their full potential in both their academic studies and their development as a well-rounded individual. Our mixed gender Boarding House is located on the outskirts of Schaffhausen and is only 5 minutes away from the school. The private ISSH School Bus collects and returns the students to the house every school day. It is fully-equipped with home-like amenities including a kitchen, common area, and fully furnished rooms where students can live and study comfortably. The house is divided into a boys and girls floor, with the kitchen and lounge area as shared spaces.

We believe that the Boarding House is a community and all our members are expected to take responsibilities for the daily tasks. With the support of our experienced coaches, our boarding facilities in Schaffhausen provide an ideal environment for our students to develop independence and self-management skills for their future life.



# WHY STUDY AT ISSH?



- ✓ Our well-qualified and experienced teachers are highly enthusiastic and passionate about their subjects.
- ✓ The small class sizes and time given for individual attention enable our staff to build strong relationships with each student and to cater for different needs.
- ✓ We provide a forward thinking approach to residential education. In contrast to the traditional boarding school model we are neither isolated nor exclusive. Our students learn how to live in and contribute to the real world.
- ✓ We offer special support programmes for students whose mother tongue is not English.
- ✓ We offer the study of German at 3 different ability levels.
- ✓ We are an international community of learners where ethnic and faith differences are celebrated and each student is strengthened in his or her own cultural identity.
- ✓ Students can choose from a variety of subjects to build upon their strengths and get optimal support in areas of development.
- ✓ We embrace a culture of excellence where students are expected to achieve their full potential.
- ✓ We provide an environment where young people are encouraged to take responsibility, to become critical thinkers with an open mind and to approach challenges with confidence and optimism.

# INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EDUCATION

The International School of Schaffhausen has a long standing history with the International Baccalaureate programmes. The IB is recognized as one of the world's leading educational programmes. The IB Diploma, which is a two year programme, is highly valued by universities as being one of the best programmes to prepare for university.

The IB Diploma course leads to university entrance qualification recognised in over 60 countries. The programme has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities. It prepares students for success in higher education and to be active participants in a global society.

The IB Diploma Programme is designed to meet the needs of international students, both mother tongue English and EAL (English as Additional Language).

IB Diploma Programme students choose their subjects from a range of options and levels and can thus balance their strengths, weaknesses, talents and interests by choosing a personal profile. They, nevertheless, cover a range of subject areas ensuring breadth of knowledge so that their options are open in choosing the right university or professional career later on.

The programme is rigorous and globally recognized for its high standards. IB Diploma Programme graduates develop the skills and attitudes they need for both academic and personal success. Their studies increase their understanding of languages and cultures and they explore globally significant ideas and issues. This is what makes them stand out from their fellow students with a national curriculum background.

The IB Diploma not only opens the doors to universities worldwide, but also focuses on the development of the whole person through one of its core requirements called CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service). CAS encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, in sports and in community service, thus fostering their awareness of and appreciation for life outside the academic arena.

For more information on the IB DP programme, please visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).





# WHAT IS IT LIKE BEING A BOARDER?

## VERONIKA STUDENT

My name is Veronika and I'm from Russia. I spent two years at ISSH and thinking back it feels like a home where I was able to make lifelong friends.

I have relatives in Schaffhausen and they told me about ISSH. I have always wanted to study abroad, and when I found out about the school I knew from the start it would be the place where I could fulfill my potential and get new experience. My goal was to get a better education and improve my English. Both of these goals I have accomplished through the boarding programme at ISSH. As it is an international school, English is a primary language both at school and at the boarding, which gives everyone an opportunity to learn and/or improve their language skills with support of staff and other students.

Being miles away from home for such a long period of time can be a bit difficult sometimes, but all the staff members are doing their best to make all students feel comfortable and provide whatever support and help they might need. Living at the boarding house is an unusual experience that teaches you to be more responsible and independent. But the main thing that I learnt, from living with other students all from different countries, is to be understanding and accepting towards each other. It gives an opportunity to learn from others and become more open and social with people.

When I was there we had several events, like an "open house party" which included dinner. We sent invitations to our neighbors and school friends, so they could come over to the house and see what it's like to live there. Also, we had an amazing trip to Geneva organized by the Head of Boarding, Mr. Russell. We had a tour at the Swiss chocolate factory and the well known Collider at CERN. Besides that, with other boarding house students we spent a lot of time together, either baking desserts after dinner or organizing movie nights.

## MAIRA STUDENT

My name is Maira, I'm 18 and I lived at the boarding house for 2 years. I was looking for an international school in Switzerland and saw ISSH on a website reviewing Swiss private schools. The reason why I chose it was because it offered an opportunity to 'win' a full scholarship.

Even though my parents are not very familiar with the international educational system of IB, they expected from the school to understand and respect the cultural differences of the students. As for me, I wanted to have a good experience in an international school that would help me get into a university. Since there were quite a few newbies in my class, making friends was super easy (and people were really nice). My time at the boarding house was really fun..... And I'm glad that Mr Russell considered our ages, subject choices and interests when making the room choices. I definitely enjoyed it when we had our meetings with all the boarders together because it also helped me get over my homesickness. My English improved tremendously thanks to the balance between academic and formal language spoken at school and the more 'everyday' English in the boarding house.

Lastly, I would definitely recommend boarding ISSH to people who want to experience a different kind of boarding life! ISSH boarding is not like other boarding schools, it has a special family-like atmosphere. People are very supportive. The boarding team staff were on the same wavelength with us!

## ADRIANA G.P. PARENT

Adriana is the mother of Magdalena who graduated from the International School of Schaffhausen in 2020. She had the following feedback:

"We arrived in Schaffhausen from Mexico in 2016, where Magdalena completed grade 10 at a renowned private school in Colima. Our intention was for her to get assistance from an integration school to attend the local Kantonsschule. Because of the lack of French and limited German, the local school was a struggle, and we looked for alternatives. After visiting some International schools in the area, we decided on the International School of Schaffhausen.

Magdalena liked the friendly environment and started to thrive. Although she attended an excellent school in Mexico, the quality of preparation for the future at ISSH is a lot higher.

Despite having to work very hard to reach the desired results at grade 11, she enjoyed attending classes, especially because of the quality and professionalism of the teaching staff. Her favorite subject was Maths due to the very clear and practical set-up of the programme, and although Maths had never been her strongest subject, Magdalena achieved well in this. Her main focus was Biology because her dream was to study Marine Biology, and her biology teacher motivated her to progress and so she gathered an in-depth understanding of the topic.

The school focuses on deep analysis and investigation, and the level of education is so much higher compared to Mexican schools. After her graduation in 2020, Magdalena applied to universities worldwide, and all her applications were accepted. Currently, she is studying at a university in the UK and is getting excellent results due to her strong knowledge base. She even received a partial scholarship.

Magdalena feels proud having been part of the ISSH community, and we can wholeheartedly recommend this school to any student from Mexico or around the world."

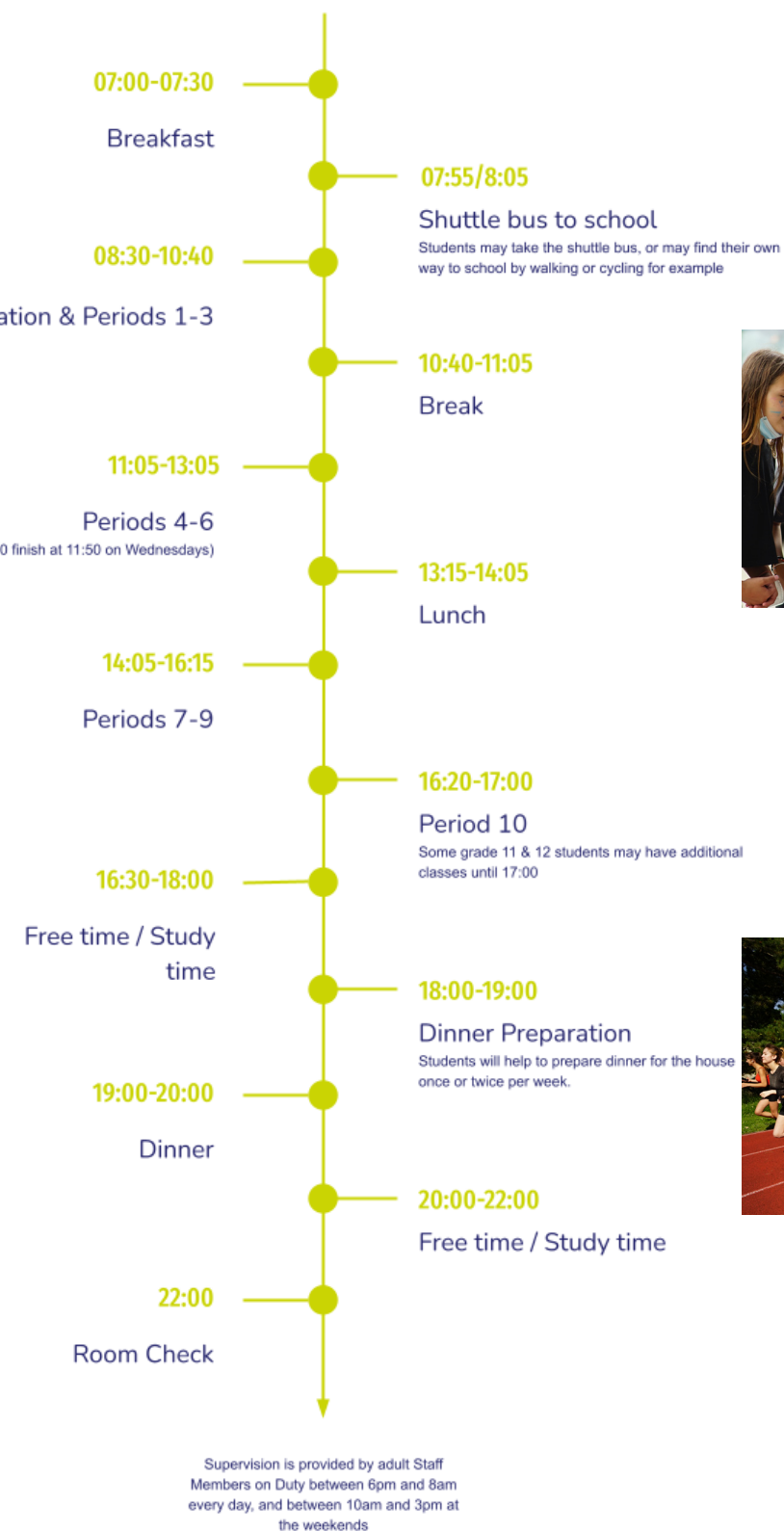




# A TYPICAL DAY AS A BOARDER



Homeroom Registration & Periods 1-3



## HEALTH & WELL-BEING

### COACHES



Our staff come from different backgrounds and different parts of the world, and they all have in common their dedication to make our boarding students feel at home. Our "Head of Boarding" Ken Russell, together with his committed team, act as mediators, counselors, comforters and coaches to students from many different nationalities, to create a thriving and balanced boarding community. The boarding team helps to ensure that our boarders succeed, not only on an academic level but also as young adults. The team will always be there if one of the boarders needs them, from supporting through homesickness to just being there for a quick chat or piece of advice. Living so close together our coaches can become one of the most significant people in our students' lives, and like a parent, our team will do their utmost to make everyone feel welcome and at home, whatever is going on in their lives.

### NUTRITION



Our students have breakfast and dinner at the boarding house together with their housemates. We meet a wide range of tastes and meal preferences and make sure healthy, varied and wholesome meals are prepared together under the leadership of the coaches for everyone. Many items are made from scratch, with the help of our students, and baking and cooking is a good way to bond and have a fun time together. By being actively involved in the food preparations, the young adults develop a positive relationship with food and make informed choices.

### ACTIVITIES



Boarding students enjoy a range of activities at school, and after school from Monday to Friday, with many opportunities to explore further afield on the weekends. These aim to engage students in creative, sporty and academic pursuits and range from going to the cinema, museums, swimming in the river to hiking in the mountains during the summer months. We also encourage self-initiated individual or group trips and activities to develop independence in our students.



We cater for each student's individual needs by providing additional services in language development, remedial teaching and university/ career services.

#### LANGUAGES

Languages are the key to success in a global society. ISSH is an English-speaking community. English is the language of communication and instruction. We have structures in place that give extra support to students for whom English is not their mother tongue. German can be taken as an acquired or mother tongue language, or from beginner level. The German speaking local environment and the school's strong links to the Schaffhausen community enable our students to regularly practise their German outside the classroom. We also offer French and Spanish.

#### UNIVERSITY COUNSELLING

ISSH encourages the students to take responsibility and be actively involved in shaping their future. At ISSH we assist the students to explore their academic interests and to make well-informed subject choices before entering the Diploma Programme. From Grade 9 onwards, information sessions and workshops are organised for students and their parents.

#### CAREER SERVICES

The world of work is ever changing; the ISSH Career Services aim to prepare students for these challenges and opportunities. We help secondary students expand, not narrow, their career options with career workshops, hands-on opportunities, and career skill development.

A ten-session workshop helps students understand themselves, explore their talents and skills and acquire solid job searching skills. Further career exploration is provided through participation in the "Swiss National Future Day", where students spend a day shadowing a career of interest. Regular career forums are offered where students hear from a panel of experts in various fields. Students are also encouraged to explore future career interests by enrolling in university summer programs and applying for internships or part time jobs. During the final two years in the Diploma Programmes, we support our students in the fact-finding and procedures for university applications worldwide.

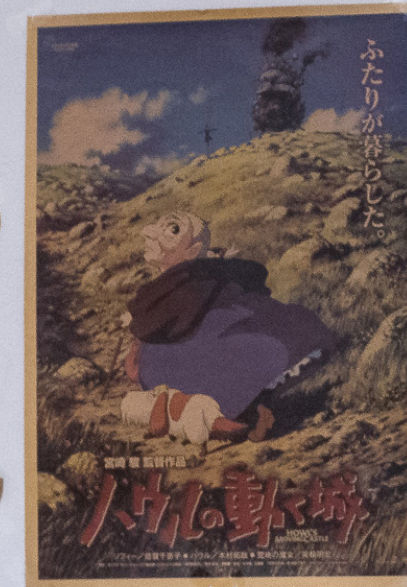
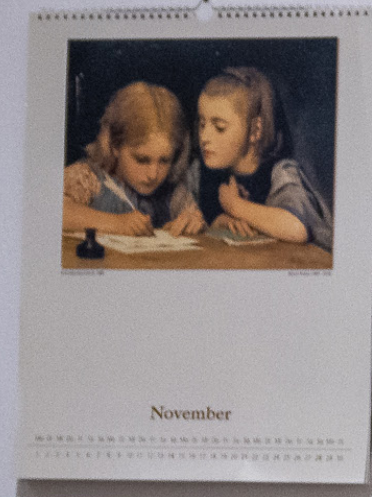
#### SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

ISSH Special Education Needs (SEN) Services provide case management and referrals for students with special educational or other needs. ISSH works closely with community agencies and professionals of all fields to provide the necessary support for students and where required for the parents and teachers. When needed, as Individual Educational Plans (IEP), and behaviour plans are implemented with the aim to optimise the student's learning and school experience. To support students who need regular one-to-one support, we offer learning support services inside and outside the classroom at an extra cost.





# OUR OPTIONS



1

## BOARDING PROGRAMME

It is our goal to develop the boarders into responsible members of an international community who freely contribute their strengths and talents. Our students learn to engage successfully with day-to-day residential life, and with the requirements of the Diploma Programme, through a structured system of guided instruction leading to increasing independence.

2

## HOST FAMILY PROGRAMME - BOARDING FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

Our students, in this programme, live within carefully chosen Swiss or International families and join the International School of Schaffhausen as a day student. Many of our host families have their own children at ISSH or are former families. We also have a circle of Swiss families who enjoy welcoming international students into their homes. The host family programme is a great opportunity to experience a cozy family life as the host families provide our students with lots of love and care.

Our host families live in Schaffhausen and the surrounding area. The school's host family coordinator monitors the well-being of our students closely and ensures that their family and host family are in regular contact.

3

## FLEXIBLE BOARDING PROGRAMME

Within this programme, families can choose the length of stay, the form of accommodation and the educational programme for their child.

The length of stay can be adapted to the individual's needs and can be anything from 2 weeks, to a month or a full year.

The International School of Schaffhausen provides quality education in a stimulating and caring environment. We aim to produce life long learners according to the standards of the International Baccalaureate Organization. We apply the principal of mutually supporting and respecting one another as different personalities with the same basic needs. Students and teachers contribute to making learning an exciting and enriching experience respecting that

**"Each mind has its own method."**

Ralph Waldo Emerson



# CHALLENGED TO GROW



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