

THE ISD MONTHLY

International School of Dublin



Primary Years
Programme



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

As autumn approached in late August 2007, a new little school named the International School of Dublin bravely opened its doors for the first time. Four staff, three classes and a student body of 24 pioneered the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP) in Ireland.

"ISD" as it is so fondly referred to, has educated over 330 students representing over 40 nationalities to date. The growing legacy of this school is quite literally traversing the globe.

For over a decade, families within Ireland and beyond have found ISD a very special place. It has become a home from home; inspiring a love of learning. It has expanded the Irish educational landscape, challenging the norm and inspiring novel thinking.

ISD students are encouraged to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners. Recently we reached out to our alumni to learn: Where are they now? What impact are they having on the world? How has their time with us helped to inform their decisions and shape the people they have become today?

At ISD no achievement is too great or small. We are immensely proud of our students both past and present. We are confident to hold our heads high, safe in the knowledge that we have left a positive lasting impression on each young inquirer that we have had the pleasure to know. Please read further to hear from the ever growing family that is ISD.

Pictured above: The first student body of ISD led by Karin Bacon, 2007.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **December 14-16**
Virtual Learning Days
- **December 17 - January 6**
Winter Holidays
School Closed
- **January 7-8**
Virtual Learning Days
- **January 11**
School Building Reopens

HELP PROMOTE ISD:

Please leave us a review on
**Google for prospective
families to read.**

Simply [click here](#) and share your thoughts or experiences with us.

Student Name: Alexandra Erickson

Attended ISD: 2009-2013

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: After receiving an IBMYP certificate and AP Capstone Diploma, Alex is attending her first year of university at College of William and Mary in Virginia, USA. She is considering majoring in chemistry with the goal of becoming a chemistry teacher.

Testimonial: *"Looking back on it, ISD was a crucial aspect of my growth and journey as a learner. Rather than teach from a textbook, ISD encouraged me to be curious and taught me how to act on that curiosity. Simply put, I think ISD taught me how to be a learner. I am so grateful for the experience and that I had that experience so early on. Not having any huge tests or homework assignments to stress over allowed me to focus on learning for learning's sake (as opposed to for standardized testing sake), which has made a huge difference as I progressed to middle school, high school, and now university. Now, if I'm ever in a situation where I don't get as much support from my teachers as I would like, I have the skills I need to be a self-sufficient learner."* - Alex

Student Name: Faya Nohar

Attended ISD: 2009-2014

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: Faya is in secondary school and dreams of becoming a veterinarian. She and her best friend Chloe Stanton, who she met in Kindergarten at ISD, plan to open a joint practice in their home the Netherlands.

Student Name: Markus Martinson

Attended ISD: 2010-2014

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: In Estonia, Markus is one year away from graduating secondary school. He has extensive practise in public speaking and was nominated a finalist for the British Embassy speech competition.

Testimonial: *"Markus has good leadership skills which are a direct result of ISD. When I asked Markus what lasting impact ISD had on him he bombarded me with phrases like 'openmindedness', 'problem solving', 'think outside of the box'. After all these years, he still has the main ideas and values ISD so strongly supports. ISD encouraged Markus to question everything and gave him the courage and skills to stand out for himself and strive for excellence. Estonians are generally introverts by nature and I am sure that Markus' talent in public speaking was acquired in ISD. ISD will always be in our hearts, Markus had such wonderful time there. ISD was not just a school, it was a state of mind!"* - Liina Martinson (Markus' mother)

Student Name: Peter Johnson

Attended ISD: 2009-2012

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: A senior in high school, Peter is a varsity golfer and swimmer. He aced all his advanced placement classes, scored a 1550/1600 on the SAT and is receiving college acceptance letters every day. His first choice is Stanford University.

Student Name: Gabriel Morrison

Attended ISD: 2011-2014

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: Gabriel was the first ISD alumnus to continue his education in Dublin post-ISD attending Sandford Park School. He graduated from secondary school with a full IB Diploma from the International School of Amsterdam. He deferred his university admission to participate in Americorps NCCC, a U.S. national service program. With a group of teammates, he built bike trails near Tucson, AZ, renovated hurricane-damaged houses in Houston, TX, and performed trail maintenance at a state park in rural Arkansas. He just finished his first semester at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and is considering a major in political science or media/journalism.

Student Name: Sabrina Ciauri

Attended ISD: 2011-2013

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: In first year at University College London studying politics & international relations after graduating with an IB Diploma from Halcyon London International School.

Testimonial: *"I am really passionate about international relations, particularly conflict resolution. I have been involved with an NGO here in London called 'Solutions not Sides' about bridging divides among Israelis and Palestinians. I believe the focus at ISD on teaching about the world and sharing cultural perspectives at such a young age is a huge part of why I've chosen to point my life in this direction."* - Sabrina

Student Name: Coline Gailleul

Attended ISD: 2007-2011

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: At 20 years of age, Coline is in her final year at McGill University in Montréal, Canada gaining her Bachelors of Arts in political science and history. She is hoping to go on to pursue a Masters of Arts in Political Science, possibly returning to Ireland to attend Trinity College Dublin.

Student Name: Naomi Breuer

Attended ISD: 2011-2014

Educational Journey Beyond ISD: In freshman year of high school at Washington International School working towards an IB Diploma. She is active in school theatre productions, soccer, guitar and is the youngest ever arts editor for the school newspaper. She hopes to attend Oxford University one day.

Testimonial: *"I would say that ISD did leave an impact on me. Our Units of Inquiry were always very interesting and diverse. At End of Unit Sharings I got to showcase my knowledge to the community. I think that was the foundation of my presentation skills, which I still use. ISD was also a place where I made a lot of friends from all over the world. Ever since I've left Ireland I have been writing letters to one of the closest friends from Dublin. My family and I visited Ireland last summer for the first time since leaving and it was so nice to visit ISD, see old friends and walk around the city again."* - Naomi

Student Name: Eefke Jansen**Attended ISD:** 2009-2011**Educational Journey Beyond ISD:** Attended public primary and secondary schools in Scotland before moving to study psychology at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. Currently in her second year, she plans to move on to do a masters in a more specialised area of psychology.**Testimonial:** *"I was at ISD between the ages of 7 and 9. There is simply something so special about ISD, obviously there's the educational aspect but there's a special twist to the social side of things. It is simply down to the people there. The international nature of the community brings a whole new perspective to making friends. I saw every side of the world by simply sitting within four walls, and for that I am eternally grateful. Not only does ISD encourage you to build relationships, they encourage you to hold on to them long after you leave! ISD definitely taught me values and skills that I otherwise might not have developed as distinctively. These are gifts that have become more vital throughout my life as I grow. In the primary years a person develops so enormously. At ISD I was given every chance to explore who I was."* - Eefke**Student Name:** Avigail Zakh**Attended ISD:** 2009-2011**Educational Journey Beyond ISD:** Avigail finished her university studies in 2020 in Israel with excellent results majoring in chemistry and arts. She has been described as a real painter and artist and worked in The Israel Art and Archeology Museum. She is currently unsure about her future plans.**Student Name:** Angad Thethi**Attended ISD:** 2012-2014**Educational Journey Beyond ISD:** In grade 8 in London attending the IB Middle Years Programme.**Testimonial:** *"ISD really gave Angad a strong foundation in inquiry based learning. His first IB school after ISD approached things more like a British school and Angad always talked about how in ISD they would have done things differently. Angad now has a strong desire to take Action and provide service to others and introduced a concept of conflict resolution to his class which he learnt in ISD. His teachers appreciated his contribution so much that he was asked to present the concept to the entire school."* - Sarab Theth (Angad's mother)**Student Name:** Hanne Siebens**Attended ISD:** 2011-2016**Educational Journey Beyond ISD:** In her final year of MYP at the International School of Luxembourg. Her plan/wish/dream is to return to Dublin to study English Literature with either Drama, Theatre or Film Studies.**Student Name:** Jonathan Erickson**Attended ISD:** 2009-2013**Educational Journey Beyond ISD:** Jonathan is in Jordan working towards the AP Capstone Diploma. He is hoping to go to college to study in the realm of engineering, international relations or political science while being a student athlete.**Testimonial:** *"ISD has most definitely had a lasting impact on me. I have always felt able to interact, connect, and communicate with many different people. The feedback I receive from teachers most often is that I can be reflective and self assess, and how I have critical and analytical thinking skills."* - Jonathan**Student Name:** Thijs Van Noordt**Attended ISD:** 2010-2011**Educational Journey Beyond ISD:** In his second year of engineering at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands.**Testimonial:** *"Our child was labeled a 'bad student' prior to arriving in Ireland. The head of his school before ISD warned us that moving was not a good idea for Thijs. When we returned to this school after ISD, guess what? Thijs was not considered a bad student anymore, very funny and all credit to ISD."*
-Gert-Jan Van Noordt (Thijs' father)**Student Name:** Luke Morrison**Attended ISD:** 2011-2014**Educational Journey Beyond ISD:** In Ghana in grade 11 with plans to join the United States Naval Academy and from there become a Naval Aviator, Test Pilot and Astronaut. If he has some time left over he may dabble in politics.**Testimonial:** *"So far since ISD, there has not been any other school that has taught me as much. The opportunities for creativity and sometimes almost total freedom in and out of the class have shaped the way I learn, think and the type of person I want to be. Many times, when I notice something that just doesn't make sense at a school I go to, or protocol that seems more for the parent's sake than for the kids, I always think back to ISD, and how much they truly cared about the students' well-being first. ISD made it really easy to do my best at everything, and I still think about how exemplary ISD is of the Risk-Taker IB Profile trait. A lot of my other schools, even IB, seem to miss out on that, and I'm really appreciative of the true example ISD was of the IB Learner Profile traits. Something really important that I think mainly comes from ISD is my problem-solving skills. I see often that there are simple problems with simple solutions, and sometimes, I try and put myself in a position to solve them. I think I got that from ISD, with how everything was always very clear-cut. If something was wrong, we fixed it. If something was right, we stuck with it and made it better. I really hope to come visit someday, since Ireland was truly my favorite place I've ever been, and a lot of that was down to ISD's incredible atmosphere, teachers, and freedom."* - Luke