

Dear ISF Community,

We would like to start this month's "ISF Leadership letter" by wishing everyone a Happy Lunar New Year 2025! May you experience happiness, prosperity, and good fortune throughout the new year.

At ISF and in schools around the world, teachers and students are ready to breathe a sigh of relief at having turned the mid-winter corner. January's short, dark days will soon be replaced by the light and hope of spring. That is not to say, however, that January didn't contribute to our personal and academic growth. It certainly did.

On the personal side of things, the tragic passing of one of our students brought all of ISF together as a community. We witnessed our community's capacity to show compassion, empathy, and understanding and to support each other unconditionally. As much as the passage of time helps us begin healing, our thoughts remain with those directly affected by the loss.

On the academic side of things, teaching and learning resumed following the Holiday Break. Students in the ISF Class of 2025 moved four weeks closer to the completion of formal instruction ahead of the IB exams at the end of April. They also waited patiently to learn if their early university applications were successful. In this regard, we want to **congratulate two members of the Class of 2025 for earning offers from Cambridge University in the UK!** This is just the start of amazing things for everyone in the Class of 2025.

January also included opportunities for ISF students to engage in and enjoy athletic and cultural pursuits. ISF Sports Academy teams competed in basketball friendlies and a local tournament; our swimmers participated in a warm-up event before the big GISST tournament hosted at the school. The month also included the 15th Annual United Korean concert. Approximately 350 people attended this annual extravaganza, which included many wonderful performances including modern dance, singing, rap, and classical music as well as the always-powerful performances of Korean drummers and the traditional Korean fan dance. The event was truly spectacular and raised more than €5,000 for the Kenya Project.

Looking forward to February, we move into the last weeks of Term 2. (Remember the Parent Network Morning Mingle on February 7 from 8:30-9:30 in the Sports Cafeteria.) Sandwiched in the middle of the month is the February Break from Feb 10-14 and a staff training day (no school for students) on February 24th. The time off will give students the chance to rest, recharge, and revise ahead of Revision week, which begins just as February Ends - March 3-7.

We close this month's ISF Leadership Letter as we began it – with good wishes for everyone – and a reminder that you are invited to contact any of us with any questions or concerns you may have. We are committed to delivering an exceptional educational experience and thank you for choosing ISF.

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