

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the CSI! We look forward to meeting our new students in September.

In the Anglophone Section, we offer a rich and varied educational experience. Our lessons often revolve around a class novel, which serves as a springboard for a range of engaging classroom activities. We encourage children to participate in class discussions, think critically, and explore the world around them with curiosity.

We understand that children have diverse learning styles and needs, and we strive to provide activities that motivate and inspire them to learn and grow.

The Anglophone Section is private but operates within the framework of a French public school. It's important to note that the French and Anglophone sections function differently. The French section provides a rigorous academic focus and the Anglophone section, with its smaller class sizes, emphasizes a holistic approach to student development. We recognize that each student is unique and aim to celebrate and nurture the whole child—socially, emotionally, and academically.

The CSI is designed for families who wish to integrate into French life and recognize the importance of learning the French language. Children who arrive at the CSI without French language skills will receive up to two years of FLS (French as a Second Language) classes to help them learn French quickly.

For children who start with no knowledge of French, the schedule includes 6 hours of language class, 6 hours of FLS class, and 12 hours with their French homeroom teacher each week. The goal is for students to learn French rapidly and, as soon as they are ready, transition into their regular French classes.

In the Anglophone Section, students have only 6 hours of language class per week compared to 18 hours of French class. It is important for parents to understand that students have the equivalent of only one day a week of English. In French class, they follow the full French curriculum in only 18 hours, instead of the standard 24 hours in other French schools. As a result, French teachers must maintain a strict rhythm to make sure everything is covered within the academic year. Students are expected to make progress in both their languages, and the academic expectations at CSI are therefore high. For families who do not speak English at home, it is crucial to ensure that students get as much exposure to English as possible outside school.

Attention: French families returning from abroad: It is common for French families who have lived abroad to enrol in the CSI, but it's also common for English proficiency to decline rapidly as sometimes 6 hours a week is not enough to maintain a native-speaker level. Therefore, in some cases, we encourage parents to seek out tutors early on to prevent this from happening. A native-speaker level of English is required for students to continue their studies at the CSI.

Please note: There are no scheduled parent evenings here. However, teachers will arrange appointments with parents if they feel it is necessary during the course of the year. Parents are also welcome to request a meeting with their child's teacher. Please note that both French and English teachers will be present at these meetings.

All students will be given a cahier de liaison (home/ school diary) by their French homeroom teacher. They will write notes to parents so please check these daily. All communication from the French side will be in French. If you need any help with any of the information shared, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher.

Finally, with our nine different language sections, your children will interact with peers from all over the world. Our students' academic growth is not just limited to the classroom but spills over to the playground where many different games are played in many different languages. The CSI is a demanding but enriching environment for students, teachers, and parents.

I look forward to welcoming you to the CSI in September.

Eve Bellanca
Head of Primary Anglophone Section