

# ANNUAL REVIEW

2023 – 2024



Stockholm  
International  
School

*Educating the world in Stockholm*



*María Isabel León*  
Director

*The Director had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon to mark the inauguration of Norra Latin as the second SIS campus in central Stockholm*



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As I remarked at the time, SIS celebrated a pivotal moment with the inauguration of the new Norra Latin campus in August 2023. It marked a significant step in the School's transformation, establishing a state-of-the-art educational facility in a historic location.

Of course, all was not complete. The refurbishment was undertaken at an accelerated schedule and teaching spaces were prioritized – so it meant students still dined at our annex on Olof Palmes gata, and staff hot-desked their way through the early weeks as the offices on level five were given the finishing touches. The transition from four campuses to two was a challenge for the whole School, but staff and students rose to the occasion with their customary positivity and commitment.

Nothing dampened enthusiasm on Welcome Day 2023 as students, families, and staff explored the building for the first time. The event was filled with excitement, drawing both returning and new families to experience the transformed learning environment. Norra Latin, once a conference center, had become a modern educational space, blending tradition with 21st-century learning.

The inauguration offered a glimpse into SIS's future, with advanced facilities planned despite some ongoing construction and outdoor delays due to regulations. Planned amenities included a football pitch, basketball court, wooden stage, and parkour area, enhancing student activities and well-being. By year-end, Norra Latin felt like home.

The launch of Norra Latin represented a major achievement for SIS, positioning the school for growth and reinforcing its commitment to delivering a top-quality international education. The new campus not only expanded the school's physical footprint but also embodied its forward-looking vision. I am proud to have been at the helm of SIS during this important stage of its journey, and immensely grateful to our SIS Board of Trustees for their strategic guidance, to the army of experts, consultants, construction workers, and – most of all – SIS staff, who made it possible, and who achieved it in record time.

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*a significant step  
in the School's  
transformation*



I am deeply grateful to the secondary teachers, leaders, and administrators who showed such flexibility and resilience in adapting to our new campus. Such change is always mentally and physically demanding, but once again the focus on our students brought out the best in everyone to exemplify for them the benefits of collaboration and cooperation, and a willingness to embrace change.

The year concluded on another high note in June 2024, as SIS was recognized as an IB Continuum School—a significant achievement two years in the making. This milestone, which took longer than the refurbishment of Norra Latin, was the result of dedicated teamwork and collaboration across the Primary School. The successful planning and implementation of the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) showcased the commitment and hard work of our Primary team.

The IB Continuum ensures a seamless educational journey, with each programme building on the previous one to benefit students at every stage. The PYP sparks a love for learning and develops essential skills, while the Middle Years Programme (MYP) deepens these foundations through real-world applications. The Diploma Programme (DP) then prepares students for the challenges of higher education and beyond. This integrated approach provides students with a stable, coherent educational pathway from early years to graduation.

I want to place on record my heartfelt thanks to our Primary team for their dedication, leadership, and tireless efforts. Their professionalism and enthusiasm made this achievement possible, ensuring that SIS continues to deliver the highest quality education and enriching experiences for our students.

It is such an exciting time to be the Director of this wonderful School. I look forward with confidence in our future, in our staff, and in our community, as together we shape the best possible experience for our students.

*The band played on as families got their first sight of the Norra latin interior on Welcome Day, Oggi made some new friends, and the SPC made everyone feel at home in their new surroundings*

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*SIS was recognized as an IB Continuum School—a significant achievement two years in the making*



*Hans Skeppner  
Chair of the Board of  
Trustees*



## THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

When, during the 2023-2024 academic year, Jahn Henry Lövaas stepped down as Chair of the Board of Trustees I was delighted to be nominated by my colleagues to assume that position. Having served on the Board since 2021, I recognised the honour of holding the role, and also the significant work ahead. I embraced the responsibility with enthusiasm. The strengths of our School are evident, but the Board was well aware that strong strategic planning would be required to underpin the complexities of the coming years and secure SIS's position as the leading international school in Stockholm.

I once again pay tribute to Jahn Henry and all my Board colleagues who brought us to where we were when I became Chair. We had laid a solid foundation, steering the School through the challenges of the COVID pandemic and had secured our new campus. By January 2024 we were beginning to grow into the new building both physically and metaphorically, and the Board's focus was turning to the opportunities this presents to expand and enhance our offering and our reputation.

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reputation.*

The new space not only allows us to accommodate more families but also presents financial challenges in terms of higher costs, requiring prudent management to swiftly transition from a planned deficit phase to financial stability. This is a critical component of the strategy the Board approved: maintaining a strong balance sheet to support SIS's ambitious goals. A sound financial foundation is key to guaranteeing the School's ability to deliver a high-quality education. Yet, financial stability is just one facet; the Board must also ensure the School remains flexible and prepared to adapt to the ever-changing demands of an international environment. This adaptability, the Board believes, will be essential for SIS to thrive amidst shifting educational landscapes and global circumstances.

While strategic direction and financial oversight are priorities, the Board's role is not to manage the day-to-day operations but to empower the leadership and staff who bring the School's mission to life. "Eyes on, hands off," I like to say. The Board should



maintain a long-term perspective while leaving the daily execution to the professionals. This approach allows the Director and staff to focus on delivering a robust educational experience, while the Board ensures the resources and support are in place to sustain this quality over the long term.

The move to Norra Latin marked a transformative moment for SIS, as did the extension of its International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes to include the Primary Years Programme and secure our status as an IB Continuum School. This development is a cornerstone for the School's future, with the potential to solidify SIS's reputation as Stockholm's premier international school for English-language IB education. The enhanced facilities and increased capacity present an opportunity to grow the student body and attract top educators, making SIS the first choice for both families and staff.

As we move into that future, the Board remains committed to engaging with the SIS community to better understand its needs and aspirations. Such a dialogue is essential to refining the School's offerings and ensuring that SIS continues to be the preferred educational institution for international families in Stockholm. This will involve listening to feedback and remaining open to insights that can help shape the School's path forward.

The Board sees a future where SIS not only meets but sets the benchmark for international schools. It aims to establish SIS as the top choice for new arrivals in Stockholm, a model of academic excellence, and a place where the community thrives. At the end of an intense and transformational year in the life of the School, as we embark on the next phase of development, the Board's work will be to uphold this vision, and foster a learning environment where every student and staff member can excel.

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*the Board remains committed to engaging with the SIS community to better understand its needs and aspirations*

# Governance

Two leadership teams manage the operational aspects of the School's curriculum management, development, and administration.

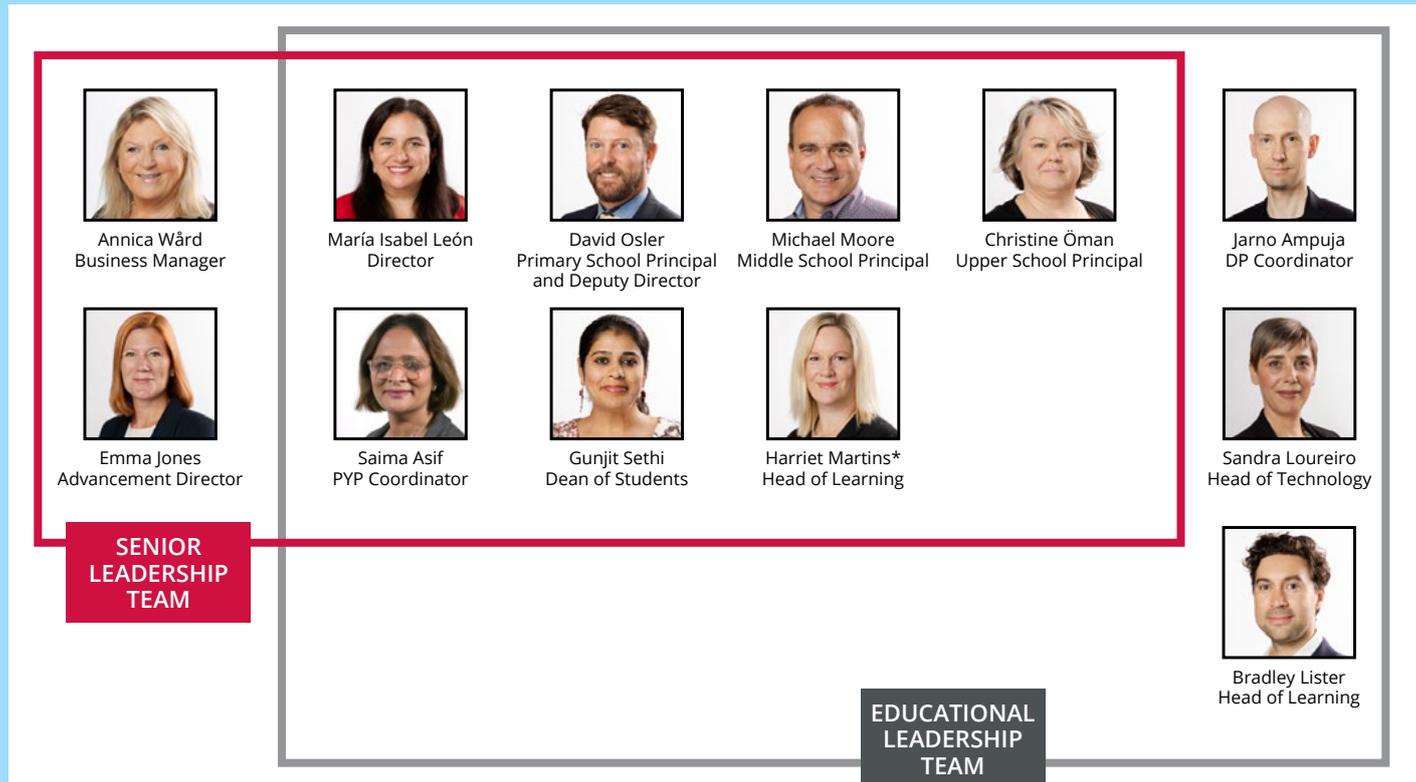
The Senior Leadership Team (SLT), headed by the Director, forms a close working unit that formulates strategy and guides the school through day-to-day processes.

The Educational Leadership Team (ELT), also led by the Director,

collaborates and focuses on bringing teaching and learning to the highest levels throughout the school.

A number of key roles sit on both teams and, when necessary because of leave or other commitments, substitutes are appointed to those roles.

Membership of the teams during 2023-2024 is shown below.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023/24

As a not-for-profit Foundation, the School is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board oversees the management of the School and provides strategic direction. The Board is self-perpetuating and serves without remuneration.



Jahn Henry Lövaas  
Chair (until Dec 2023)



Hans Skeppner  
Chair From Jan 2024



Annika Vikult  
Vice Chair from Jan 2024



Daniela Baiocchi  
From Sept 2023



Judith Gough



Vidar Helgesen  
until Feb 2024



Anna-Maria Malm



Philip McCrea



Fredrik Sand



Gulfem Toygar  
from Sept 2024

# Financials

The commitment to occupying Norra Latin makes demands on the School’s financial resources in the short term.

The Board, together with the SLT, undertakes rigorous financial planning to ensure the sustainability and future development of the School. The next few years will show a planned deficit, returning to surplus by 2026-2027, dependant on the rate of growth in student numbers and other factors.

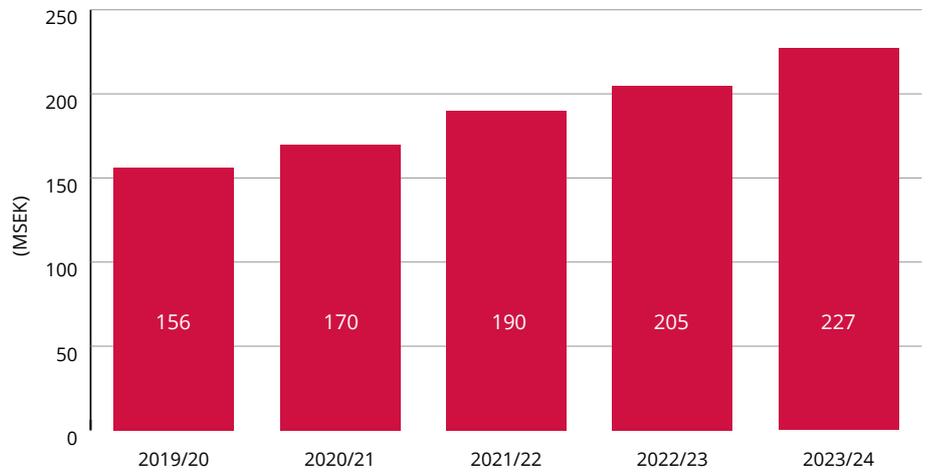
SIS owns the building on Johannesgatan, which is a solid asset, and is well positioned to meet future challenges as a result of prudent financial planning.



## REVENUE

Year-on-year revenue continued to grow during 2023-2024.

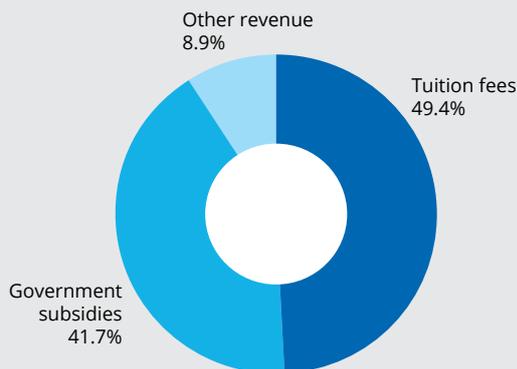
As planned for, the School showed a deficit in the year due to the expenses of intergrating the Norra Latin campus.



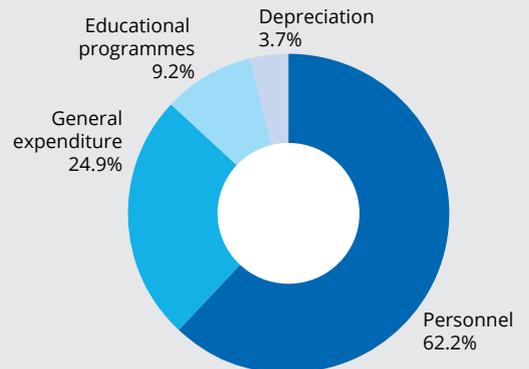
## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The 2023-2024 year produced an operational deficit of 12.7m SEK.

Summary of Revenue



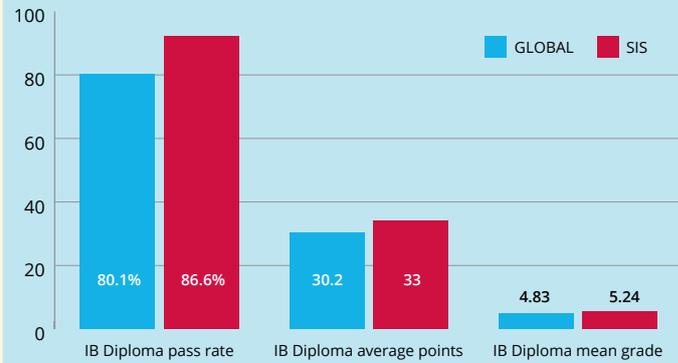
Summary of Expenditure



# Our students

## ENROLMENT

The number of enrolled students in the school increased once again compared to the previous year reflecting the ongoing demand for international schooling in the Stockholm region. The opening of Norra Latin was an important step in allowing the School to continue to function as a vital part of Stockholm's international infrastructure.



## IB RESULTS

Once again SIS's results in the IB Diploma Programme exceeded global averages by a significant margin across pass rates, average points, and mean grades.

## NATIONALITIES

In 2023-2024 no fewer than 63 nationalities were represented within our student body, a profound indicator of our internationality.



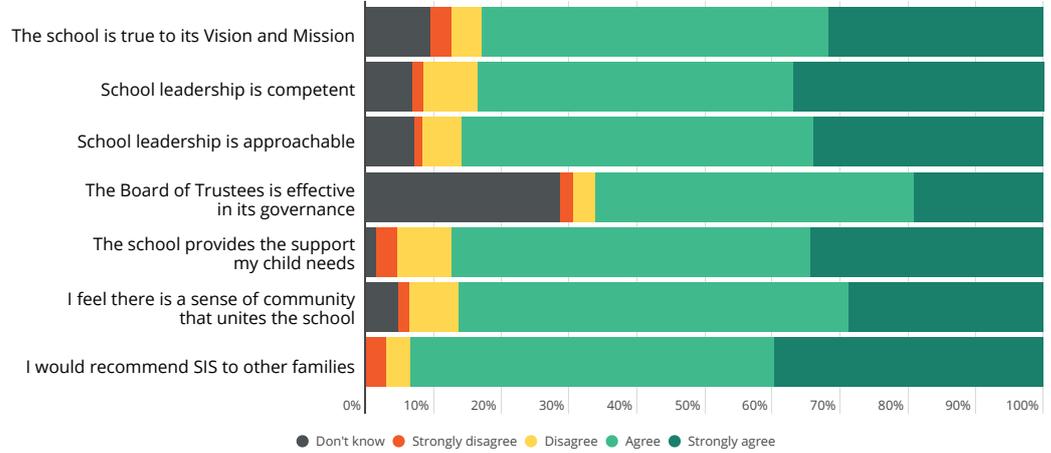
# Our community

## LISTENING TO OUR FAMILIES

Every year the School conducts a survey of parents and guardians to gauge their perceptions of the School, and how they view its strengths and weaknesses. This structured, quantifiable approach allows us to understand the levels of satisfaction in our community, and to identify areas for improvement.

### SIS Parent/Guardian Survey June 2024

262 responses



*Thank you for a great 2023-2024, for making our kids grow and our school grow for the best*

*I think the sense of community is very strong at the school and highly appreciated*



*Can't say enough good things about the upper school teachers and administrators. They are so supportive and relate well to students. Thank you!*

*I am glad the school has tried this, (Yondr phone pouches) even if it isn't the perfect solution, but school should largely be phone-free (especially for younger students).*



*Some comments from the survey*



*Just wanted to give a quick shout out to the Admissions team. Our three kids joined the school this summer, and the team's support was instrumental in that process.*

*While the range of extra-curricular activities is satisfactory, the timing of some of the activities and the fact that students must leave the school site is sometimes a hindrance*



*I love the international day and the SPC run events and I think that the school does amazing events for the students.*

*All teachers and support teachers are wonderful with the children*





# SIS Parent Community

*no matter where you're from or what stage you're at, there's always support, connection, and a bit of fun to be found!*



The SPC, made up of all the parents in the school and led by the energetic SPC Board, brings the community together. Each week, the voluntary SPC board works hand-in-hand with parents and the school to organise exciting events for both families and students and shares important updates to keep parents in the know.

At the heart of the SPC (School Parent Community) in 2023-2024 was the YANA (You Are Not Alone) programme, making sure every family feels welcome and supported from day one. It ensures that no matter where you're from or what stage you're at, there's always support, connection, and a bit of fun to be found!

In 2023-2024, the SPC Board kicked things off with a bang at the back-to-school events and the amazing buddy program, where new parents are paired with seasoned families before the school year even begins, making it easy to settle into Stockholm. They hosted a super fun Buddy Boat event to welcome everyone aboard!

With dedicated reps for Primary, Middle, and Upper School, the Board has also put together crowd-pleasers like Halloween parties, a spring hat workshop, and alongside many parent volunteers, they created legendary themed events, including James Bond, Red carpet, and Masquerade parties that everyone loved. Parent clubs also brought parents together through shared interests—everything from running clubs to book clubs to cooking adventures—and nationality clubs, helping to build connections and a lively community in every class.





### INTERNATIONAL DAY

This was our first year with both campuses, and the SPC board made it unforgettable by hosting the largest-ever International Day at Norra Latin, where we brought everyone together in our new space. It was a spectacular event! Kids had their own “passports” to stamp as they journeyed between different rooms, each representing a unique country and culture. The pride of parents showcasing their heritage at their booths was heartwarming, with crafts, dances, quizzes, and celebrations. And of course, the food was absolutely incredible, just as you’d expect from such a global feast!



### SPC-LED CLUBS

We support three types of parent/guardian clubs to help connect our community. The first reflects the school’s international diversity, with groups based on language or country, covering over 30 nations. Next are the school-specific clubs, organized by class or school section, which became especially active last year. Finally, our most popular option is the interest-based clubs, from art to cooking, city lunches, and book clubs. These parent-led groups were highly successful last year and continue to grow.



# Student life



## Lego League success brings challenges

In December 2023, the SIS First Lego League (FLL) Team embarked on a memorable journey to Mo I Rana, Norway, for the Scandic Finals, having qualified earlier in Sweden. The trip took them to the Arctic Circle, where they faced an exciting blend of competition, adventure, and cultural exchange.

Upon arrival, the team was greeted by the striking landscapes of snow-covered mountains and crisp Arctic air, setting the scene for an unforgettable experience. The remoteness of the location added an element of thrill, while the presence of Oggi, the school's mascot, brought a touch of whimsy. The wise owl accompanied the students throughout the journey, quickly becoming a favourite among participants and symbolising the camaraderie that extended beyond national borders.

At the heart of the event was the Robot Game Challenge, where the team demonstrated their programming and robotics skills. Their LEGO robot,

a product of months of dedication, manoeuvred through tasks with precision, reflecting the students' hard work and innovation. However, the competition extended beyond the arena; the team also impressed the judges with a well-prepared presentation on the LEGO Core Values and their Robot Design Process, emphasising teamwork, inclusion, and sportsmanship.

In addition to the technical competition, the SIS team showcased an innovative solution aimed at encouraging people to return to museums post-COVID. This creative project displayed their ability to tackle real-world problems with thoughtful solutions.

Throughout the event, the team faced challenges with resilience and maintained a positive spirit. The journey to Norway was not just about trophies and accolades. It was an opportunity for the students to grow, forge friendships, and leave a lasting impression on the FLL community.



## TechFest – the genuine article

Building Robots, Coding, Lego challenges, Prototyping self-driving cars, Video creation, Designing video games and AI were all aspects of technology that our students explored during a packed TechFest week.

The whole school community was involved in making the event a huge success. Monday kicked off with an engaging and thoughtful meeting for families with Digital Law expert and Social Media Lawyer, Emma Sadlier. On Tuesday, in Johannesgatan, a member of our parent community, Jeremy Thorpe from Google shared his passion for robotics and showed Grade 4 and 5 students how to prototype a self-driving car! Students were excited, curious, and engaged as they worked together on their creations.

In Norra Latin, a team from Misty Robotics hosted a workshop for Grade 6 students. They each had the opportunity to work in small groups and engage with one of 5 social robots.

Wednesday and Thursday, TechFest continued with student-focused activities, where students learned to create One-Shot-Green screen videos, Coding Imagi charms, Blue Bots, Bee-Bots, AR designs using Makr, and created Robots out of recycled materials!

The week was rounded off by parent, Kevin Grace, the Design Director of Minecraft, who shared his knowledge about Game Development. Students engaged in Low Tech hands-on paper prototyping while our DP students ended the week by sharing information and tips about Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity!



## The student voice at SIS

There was a new musical initiative at SIS in October as SIS choristers took part in the first Nordic Network of International Schools Music Festival. The Nordic Network features international schools from Scandinavian countries and beyond, and SIS is an active participant in its many activities, from student sports competitions to sharing best practice among school administrators. The Music Festival was a new cultural initiative, and our singers, under the watchful coaching and direction of our Music Coordinator, Kimberley Akester, did the School proud.





## SIS plays host

SIS has long been a supporter and keen participant in the Erasmus+ programme. January 2024 saw the School take its turn as host, welcoming visitors from France and The Netherlands. They were given a very warm welcome to Stockholm by our Erasmus Team Sweden – despite the temperatures reaching -15 at one point during their stay.

It wasn't enough to deter our visitors though as everyone threw themselves into an exciting and enjoyable week. As well as exploring the theme of this mobility – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) – the students had a busy time touring Stockholm, visiting the Vasa Museum, and enjoying time on the ice.

The team had enormous fun welcoming their new-found friends, and were at pains to recognise and thank the many staff who added to their experience, and the parents who opened their homes to host our visitors.



# Supporting our students

SIS operates an Annual Fund – the SIS Spirit Fund – as a vehicle for philanthropic giving from our community and beyond. It provides for opportunities and facilities that lie outside the operational budget of the School but contribute enormously to student experience.

From innovation and extra-curricular activity to developing aspects of our campus, the SIS Spirit Fund enriches life in the School.

## Chess moves forward at SIS



At the beginning of the academic year 2023-2024, the SIS Spirit Fund awarded a grant to the SIS chess club. The club had been something of a niche interest, but a group of enthusiastic staff had a vision of how the game could provide both a recreational pursuit and an intellectual challenge for students.

They made an application to the SIS Spirit Fund for an award to allow them to purchase the boards, pieces, and timing clocks to play the game within a competition framework. Within weeks of it being granted participation had started to grow significantly.

The Primary School Chess Team made a remarkable return to the Stockholm District Schools Chess Competition after a hiatus since 2005, as five students from grades 2 to 5 represented SIS with determination and sportsmanship. The competition, which comprised five rounds of intense 15-minute games, served as a platform for our younger chess enthusiasts to showcase their skills and passion for the game.

As the year progressed, the Middle and Upper School students also entered competitions with considerable success winning individual and team awards. By spring term around 80 students were part of a vigorous in-school chess community, playing each other, representing the school externally, training regularly, and learning from a Grand Master coach and enthusiastic parents.



## Words and actions

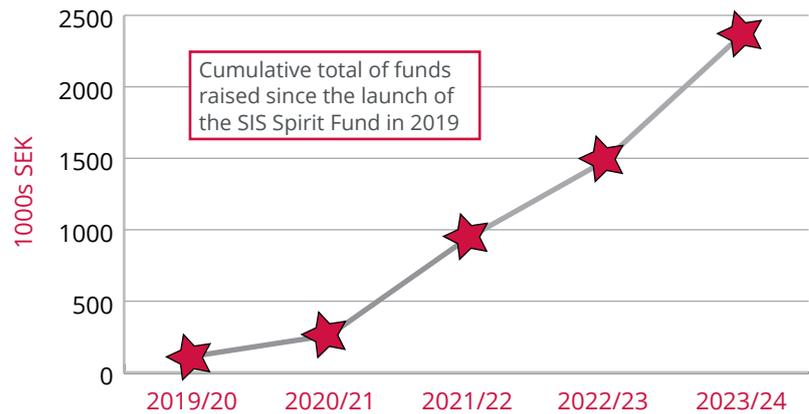
At the end of the academic year, the SIS Spirit Fund confirmed its support for two projects that would impact all our students, from the youngest to the oldest.

In the Primary School, the SIS Spirit Fund stepped up to provide new equipment in the internal playground at Johannesgatan. Dovetailing with the planned annual maintenance of the playground, the award from the fund made it possible to procure some new equipment to add to current resources. It also allowed the early years team to source shelters that would provide added protection in inclement weather in order that our young students get maximum activity time in the playground.

Alongside, an award to the Learning Commons team added to the supply of non-English titles available in the library. The team wanted to have a wider variety of books readily accessible to students, with the titles not limited to the most popular languages outside English, but including some less-spoken languages too.

## SIS SPIRIT FUND

Since its launch in 2019, the SIS Spirit Fund has raised over 2 300 000 SEK to support projects within the School and deliver a better experience for our students and community.



## The Gala grows

Year after year, the SIS Spring Gala puts the fun into fundraising for the School. In May 2024 the SIS Spirit Fund benefited by around 640 000 SEK, continuing the growth we have seen every year since the first Gala in 2022. As always, the event was a symbol of our community togetherness, with volunteers heavily involved in organisation, preparation, sourcing auction items, and bringing people together.

This year saw the Gala held on our own premises for the first time, with the newly open aula hosting its first significant event. It proved a delightful venue, with its grandeur and style adding a wonderful ambience to a hugely enjoyable evening. Once again, good natured competition saw some auction lots competed for furiously, with multiple bids pushing relentlessly towards our magnificent total.

## Renewing and recycling in the Nepal Project

For many, the Nepal Project is an established part of the SIS landscape. It will soon be approaching its tenth anniversary, and down the years many students have benefited from their involvement through their exposure to a different culture, a different economic experience, and a different sense of social priorities at our partner school in Nepal.

The SIS Spirit Fund has regularly backed the project since the Annual Fund was created in 2019, and a 'singing bowl' brought back from Nepal was one of the highlights of the auction on behalf of the SIS Spirit Fund at our spring galas in 2023 and 2024. The Nepal Project is very much student-driven, meaning that over time its leadership changes, but the general commitment of students is inescapable.

This year saw a group of students returning to Nepal and during their trip they took a wider look at the community of which our partner school is part. They visited a workshop where Nepalese women were fashioning bags from recycled denim and other materials. They agree that they would bring a consignment of bags to Stockholm to sell for the benefit of the community and to boost our Nepal project further.



# Donors and volunteers

Stockholm International School would like to acknowledge and thank the donors and volunteers who gave so generously to support the School during the 2023-2024 school year. Your donations to the SIS Spirit Fund allow us to support academic excellence, provide extraordinary experiences, and enhance our campus facilities for the benefit of our students. The time, energy, and expertise volunteered helps build and strengthen our community. We thank each and every one of you.

## DONORS

### 1951 CIRCLE

#### 75 000+ SEK

Willard Ahdritz and Ylva Cavalli-Bjorkman  
Merike and Claes Dahlbäck  
Azfar Hashmi  
The Hitz Foundation  
Jan Ståhlberg  
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Dwayne Thompson  
Mmamothlhabi Tlailane  
Milena Torciano  
Gulfem Toygar  
Annika Vikhult  
Annica Wård

### CHAMPIONS' CIRCLE

#### 25 000 – 74 999 SEK

Maria Brunow  
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Gustav Schmitterlöv

Lotta and Enrique Patrickson  
Katherine Salisbury  
Jessica and Lars Sjöbring  
Hans Skeppner  
June Solbakk  
Anton Wahlman

### COMMUNITY CIRCLE

#### 100 – 2 499 SEK

Joseph Berglöv Kenneway  
Linda Boswell  
Jonathan Foster  
Judith Gough  
Peter Johansson  
Tania Johansson  
Brian and Claude Kelly  
Coleman Kennedy  
Ryan Kingsley  
Anna-Maria Malm

### OTHER DONORS

One additional donor gave anonymously

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

#### 10 000 – 24 999 SEK

Angelika and Sebastian Alexanderson  
George Friedman

### OGGI'S CIRCLE

#### 2 500 – 9 999 SEK

Luis Araneda  
Maral Browaldh and Jens Browaldh

## VOLUNTEERS

### SIS BOARD

Jahn Henry Lövaas  
Hans Skeppner  
Annika Vikult  
Daniela Baiochi  
Judith Gough  
Vidar Helgesen  
Anna-maria Malm  
Phil McCrea  
Fredrik Sand  
Gulfem Toygar

### SPC BOARD 2023-2024

Farah Gillani  
Karen Grace  
Fredrik Juntti  
Claude Kelly  
Emma Lemon Pickett  
Ashley Ranje  
Demetra Stellas

We would also like to thank the numerous volunteers who have contributed to the community with their time and service over the year. From supporting new families on arrival in Stockholm, to staffing events, baking, making, and generally helping to make SIS the wonderful, supportive community that it is – we thank you.

# Welcoming the Nordic Network



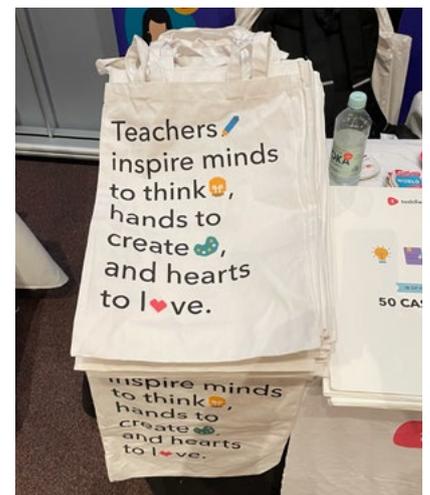
SIS is a founder member of the Nordic Network of International Schools. Ironically, as the network has grown, fewer member schools are able to host large numbers for a conference gathering. With our new space at Norra Latin, SIS was able to open its doors in February 2024 to welcome delegates from across the Nordic and Baltic regions, together with many of our own staff, for the Nordic Network Educators Conference.

The conference focused on professional development, and delegates were able to share thoughts on best practice and how to introduce different themes into their teaching and weave them into the fabric of their curriculum. With major themes including Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice, and using humour to connect, plus mini-workshops spanning everything

from learning support to using music to improve mind and body, the two days were a rich cornucopia of knowledge and experience.

As the first major event to be hosted at SIS, the success of the event was due not only to the conference organisation team under Middle School Principal, Michael Moore, and Primary School Principal, David Osler, but all our IT, logistics, and catering teams who got the building ready and solved problems with positivity and resourcefulness.

The content of the conference was also packed full with the imaginative, informative, and inspiring mini workshops offered by SIS staff across just about all the teaching disciplines and a wide variety of leisure and well-being pursuits.



# University Choices

As we explored during the year how to use our new spaces at Norra Latin, we found ourselves able to offer a new level of experience for our students, and open our doors to colleagues from other schools.

This included the opportunity to be the Swedish host to the Nordic guidance counsellors network (a selection of International Schools in the Nordic Region with Oslo International school taking the lead in 2023-2024) which organised a Nordic University Tour Fair.

The tour gave students contemplating their higher education options a chance to speak with representatives of a wide selection of universities from across Europe and beyond – over 60 in total. Students and their counsellors from other international schools in the Stockholm region attended the fair too.





## Part of the culture

Though irrefutably a school – and one of the best in Stockholm – SIS is perhaps more deeply embedded in the economic culture of the Stockholm region than it is in the educational system.

This was clear in the first Stockholm International Forum, organised by Stockholm International School (SIS) in collaboration with the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. The Forum highlighted key themes of education and housing as crucial factors for attracting top global talent to the Stockholm region, and the pivotal role played by the School.

The event featured Anna Kinberg Batra, Governor of Stockholm County, as the keynote speaker, alongside a panel of representatives from the business, diplomatic, and political sectors. Anna's commitment to Stockholm's future shone through, as she emphasised her desire for the county and Sweden to continue leading in global technology and industrial innovation.

The panel engaged in an in-depth discussion about the needs and challenges facing the international community in Stockholm, reflecting the importance of these issues for the region's continued economic development. They acknowledged the competitive global landscape and the necessity for Stockholm to remain proactive in maintaining its attractiveness as a hub for international talent.

SIS was repeatedly referenced in this dialogue, emphasising its contribution to the economic development of the Stockholm region. As an international school with a distinct profile in the Swedish educational landscape, SIS aims to ensure that key influencers and decision-makers understand the value it brings to Stockholm's society. The panel included two members of the SIS Board of Trustees—Judith Gough, British Ambassador, and Gulfem Toygar, Country Manager of Amazon Sweden—who were ideally positioned to connect SIS's educational mission with the region's global appeal.

The discussion, moderated by Peter Sandberg, Chief Community and Growth Officer at the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, also featured insights from Gustav Hemming, who managed the infrastructure portfolio at Region Stockholm, and Staffan Ingvansson, CEO of Stockholm Business Region. Their contributions underscored the strategic importance of education and infrastructure in supporting Stockholm's economic growth and international competitiveness.

While Sweden was recognised for its strong global reputation, the panelists were unanimous in their view that increasing global competition required vigilance to avoid complacency.

The forum served as a valuable opportunity for SIS to listen, learn, and reinforce its role in supporting the region's



economic development through its high-quality International Baccalaureate (IB) education.

SIS has long been committed to meeting the demand for world-class education in an inclusive and equitable environment. This Forum underscored the School’s ongoing contribution to educating the international community in Stockholm, which in turn supports the city’s ability to attract and retain global talent. Through events like the Stockholm International

Forum, SIS demonstrates its dedication to playing a significant role in shaping the future of the region, not only as an educational institution but also as a key partner in Stockholm’s economic and social development.

The event reinforced the School’s position as a bridge between the global workforce and the local community, ensuring that Stockholm continues to be a desirable destination for professionals and their families from around the world.



School leadership and Trustees welcomed Anna Kinberg Batra, Governor of Stockholm County (far right of picture) to the Stockholm International Forum. (Left to right): Emma Jones, Advancement Director; Gulfem Toygar Country Manager, Amazon Sweden, and SIS Trustee; Marisa León, Director; Judith Gough British Ambassador and SIS Trustee.

# Gaining status



*The team spearheading the journey towards IB Continuum school status by implementing the IB PYP in Primary School: David Osler, Principal; Kim Avery, Vice-Principal; Harriet Martins, Head of Learning; and Saima Asif, PYP Coordinator*

In June 2024, as the end of term was fast-approaching, SIS officially achieved the status of an International Baccalaureate (IB) Continuum School, marking a significant milestone in the school's ongoing commitment to providing a world-class education. The achievement brought together the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP) under one educational framework, ensuring a seamless learning experience for students from early childhood through to graduation.

The journey towards becoming an IB Continuum School began in September 2022, when the Primary School introduced teaching of the Primary years Programme, and the School applied for candidacy status, initiating a trial period to implement the PYP. This phase required extensive planning, teacher training, and curriculum adjustments to align with the rigorous standards set by the IB organisation. With the support of a dedicated IB Consultant and the leadership of the PYP Coordinator, the school navigated this period successfully, meeting all requirements and preparing for the next step: official authorisation.

Having concluded the candidacy phase with a successful consultant visit in May 2023, SIS applied for full PYP authorisation in December of that year. The IB organisation granted this approval without any conditions, a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire primary school team. The final step in the process took place in April 2024, when two representatives from the IB visited SIS for a Verification Visit. This visit involved classroom observations and meetings with key stakeholders, including students, teachers, parents,

leadership, and the Board of Trustees. Their purpose was to evaluate SIS's readiness to deliver the PYP according to the high standards expected of an IB World School.

Achieving IB Continuum status means that SIS can now offer a coherent and comprehensive educational pathway from the Primary Years to the Diploma Programme. The continuity of the IB curriculum across all age groups provides students with a stable and consistent learning environment, fostering intellectual growth and skill development at every stage. The PYP lays the foundation by instilling a passion for inquiry-based learning and developing essential skills. As students move into the MYP, they expand upon this base, connecting their education to real-world contexts and interdisciplinary thinking. The DP then prepares them for higher education, equipping students with the critical thinking and research skills needed for university and beyond.

Achieving authorisation in Primary School was due in no small measure to the whole staff and in particular, the leadership team who worked so effectively with the IB, including the Principal, David Osler, the Vice Principal, Kim Avery, the PYP Coordinator Saima Asif, and the Head of Learning, Harriet Martins. Their work in helping SIS become an IB Continuum School not only enhances the quality of education at SIS, but affirms its commitment to international-mindedness and lifelong learning. The integration of the PYP, MYP, and DP ensures that students experience a progressive and interconnected educational journey, making SIS a leader in holistic, globally-focused education.

# Cultural custodian

As Norra Latin underwent refurbishment following 30 years of operating as a conference centre, curiosity was growing as to how it was being altered behind its imposing façade. This was confirmed when SIS agreed to take part in Open House Stockholm, an architectural celebration of significant buildings around the city – many of them not usually accessible to the general public.

Restricted to opening on only the Saturday of the weekend-long event, SIS was oversubscribed by local residents keen to see the murals, colonnades, and grand staircases of our 1880s edifice.

Visitors seemed impressed and fascinated in equal measure by the quality of the refurbishment and the historical significance of the building, its locality, and its artistic treasures.





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