

International School SEYCHELLES

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24th April 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Two of the most important questions for parents are always “How is my child doing?” and “Compared to what?”. These are particularly critical questions for families away from home or in schools that differ from the state system in the country they are in, as it can be hard to know how systems and standards compare. For many years, it was difficult for any International School to answer these questions in a really substantial way, because apart from external examinations (such as IGCSEs & A Levels) for senior students, there was no form of external assessment normed on any international standards. This has now changed, with the development of the **International Schools’ Assessment (ISA)**.

What is ISA?

The International Schools’ Assessment (ISA) is an annual assessment programme that has been specifically developed to measure the skills of mathematical literacy, reading and writing of students in International Schools.

ISA is based on the internationally-endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and has been designed and developed by the Australian Council for Educational research (ACER).

The ISA reports provide descriptive information about what students know and can do. The results are equated from year to year, so they can be used to track changes over time at both individual and school levels.

What ISA is NOT

ISA is not a comparative test that students ‘pass’ or ‘fail’. It will not be used for any purposes other than providing data to us, to you, your child, about his/her learning. Therefore, whilst we may give opportunities for practice, students do not ‘prepare’ for the assessments, since they are consistent with what the students should be learning on a regular basis.

Who uses ISA

A large and ever-growing number of International Schools use ISA, including many of the acknowledged world leaders in International education.

How do the assessments work?

Students complete a reading literacy assessment, a mathematical literacy assessment and two writing assessments. Each of these assessments takes between 45 minutes and one hour to complete, and include both multiple-choice and open-ended tasks.

ISA at ISS

Students from Year 4 to Year 9 (Grade 3 is equivalent to Year 4 and Grade 8 equivalent to Year 9) completed the assessments in early February and the results have now arrived. The report gives a detailed record of your child’s performance in numeracy, literacy, reading and writing.

You are not born for yourself but for the world ...

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As a school, we will analyze data about general patterns of performance and use this as another indicator to monitor and improve our educational programme.

In Conclusion

Many parents from ISS have been asking for a reliable external assessment of their child's abilities and progress through the school for a number of years.

We see the introduction of ISA as a significant advance that will provide parents and teachers with clearer information about your child's progress measured against credible, objective international standards.

Please find the attached set of reports showing your child's achievements in the International Schools' Assessment that was administered in February.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Pillay
Principal

Peter Rowlands
Head of Secondary

Beryl Nicholson
Head of Primary