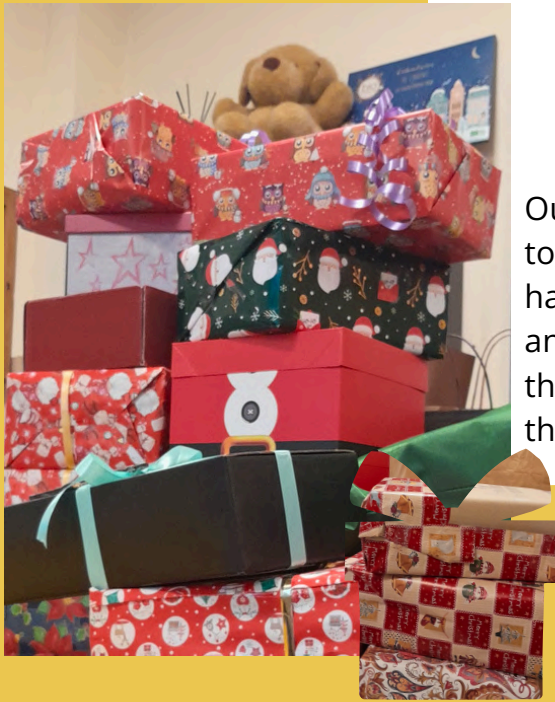




Secondary



As we close 2024, we wish everyone restful holidays. May we all take warmth and comfort from the coming weeks, and return refreshed and ready for the new year.



Shoe Box Appeal



Our festive celebrations brought our school community together in a spirit of generosity again this year. Students have been busy spreading the festive spirit through our annual **Shoebbox Appeal**. A merry and joyful thank you to all those who donated. You will make a significant difference in the lives of those who receive them.

Christmas Markets

We have ended the year with another successful **Secondary School Christmas Market**, and our students were also involved in the Primary School Market. We all enjoyed their displays of culinary and artistic talents. This wonderful event generated valuable funds which will be donated to good causes such as Il Pezzetino and La Croce Rossa, and showcased how innovative and organised our wonderful students are.



Santa Lucia

On December 13th we celebrated **Santa Lucia** to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. Santa Lucia represents **light, hope, and goodwill**. We had a beautiful primary school procession and S1 students handed out special treats to celebrate the occasion. Glad Lucia till alla!
Glædelig Luciadag!
Viva Santa Lucia!



Secret Santa

Students showed their humour and discretion in our **Secret Santa**. This was a great way to forge connections among classmates. We hope participants received a pleasing surprise!



A Joyful Season of Music



Many of our talented performers and musicians took to the stage in recent weeks to brighten the holiday season and spread cheer.

We're delighted to share some of the memorable moments from our atmospheric autumn concert hosted by **Membro Musica** just before the October break: a promising preview of our students' talent.

AGSEV delivered another heartwarming **Christmas Concert**, where families gathered in joyful celebration, singing traditional carols and Christmas tunes together.

This week, we had a beautiful evening of performances at **Chiesa Kolbe**, showcasing our gifted musicians and choirs. We are fortunate to have access to the church for this celebration and appreciate all those families who came to enjoy the event and treated the church respectfully.

Our **Talent Show** further highlighted the incredible musical abilities of our students, with many taking the stage to sing, play instruments, and inspire us to dance along.

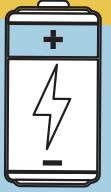
A huge thank you to our amazing performers and the incredible **Membro Musica!** Special recognition goes to our dedicated music teachers, Prof. Candido, Prof. Probst, and Prof. Škraban, for their invaluable support and guidance.



Celebrating STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics



Visit to the Tempio Voltiano in Como



On Friday, December 13th, on the initiative of Prof. Sgaramella and Galinon, the S5 students from all sections visited the **Tempio Voltiano**, located on the shores of Lake Como. During the visit, they had the opportunity to observe original scientific instruments and reconstructions by **Alessandro Volta**, along with documents and materials showcasing his life and discoveries. The lucky students also enjoyed the festive holiday atmosphere by strolling through the stalls of the **Christmas market**. A cultural and celebratory experience that will remain a cherished memory!

Bebras Challenge: A Digital Adventure



From November 4th to 15th, 2024, many students from S1 to S5 and S7 ICT classes participated in the **Bebras Challenge**. This competition, designed to develop students' **talent and passion for informatics and computational thinking**, prompted them to solve practical and logical problems on topics such as algorithms, data structures, and computational analysis. Students competed on various platforms: Bebras UK, Biber (Germany), Bebras.it (Italy), and Castor (France).

The best-performing students will have the opportunity to take part in follow-up competitions organised by Bebras UK and Castor (Oxford University Computing Challenge / Algorea). These advanced stages, offered later in the academic year, are open to the most motivated and talented participants.

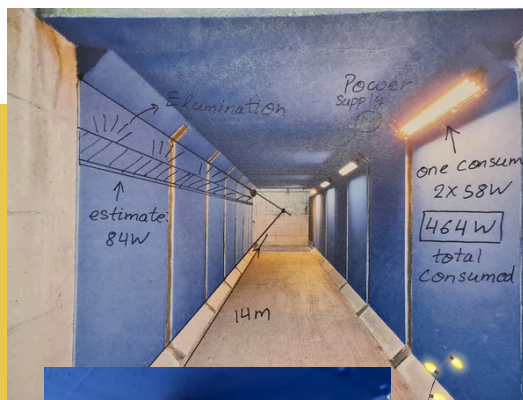
Our ICT teachers will encourage some of our brilliant budding computer scientists to take part in these challenges. In mid-January, a mini-award ceremony will be held at school to celebrate the winners in each category. A big thank you to the ICT team, particularly to Professors Giani and Lebedinsky, for their dedication to this wonderful initiative. Congratulations to all participants!

STEM skills illuminate our way

We have been delighted to find more vibrant additions to our **tunnel art installation** this half-term.

On these dark winter mornings, we depend on the work of our **Electronics Club**, who built and fitted the light fixtures that guide us through the tunnel display.

This hands-on learning, under the guidance of Prof. Vis and Technician Mr. Marchese, involved considerable skill and planning. The outcome is truly impressive. Stay tuned for photos showcasing the culmination of our art and engineering efforts in the next edition!





Repair Service

The **repair club** are hard at work ensuring we do not discard items that could be fixed.

Their recent projects have included repairing Christmas lights, a microwave oven, a smart phone, and even one of our school's light sensors. They have put their skills to further use by creating a work bench to meet increasing demand.

For more information, please contact Prof. Vis at alberto.vis@teacher.eursc.eu.



National Tree Day

On the 21st of November, the Membro Ecologico of our Student Council, together with students and staff, gathered to celebrate **National Tree Day** in Italy.

We planted an olive tree on campus to symbolise our shared commitment to a hopeful, sustainable and peaceful future.

This tree was also planted in loving memory of our colleague, Eoin Pól Ó Rúis, who sadly passed away in July 2023.

We hope this olive tree grows as a living tribute to the values that strengthen our community, nurturing and connecting us from the roots up.



Climate Academy



The Climate Academy encourages students to think critically about the climate crisis within larger systems and act as true agents of change in their own communities. Originally launched as a complementary course in Brussels, it has since expanded into an NGO, active across Europe, Asia and the USA.

In October, **CoSup** and **Membro Ecologico** attended a Climate Academy event organised by the Ufficio Scolastico of Varese at Villa Recalcati, for 30 schools in the region, where they learned about successful initiatives. In the same month, Climate Academy founder Matthew Pye visited our school as a guest speaker for philosophy students, sharing more valuable insights.

Prof. Tsompanopoulou, our Climate Academy referent, will work with Membro Ecologico and other stakeholders in our school towards implementing the Climate Academy philosophy. In the coming years, we will develop collaboration with other Schools and Institutes in the network initiated by the Ufficio Scolastico of Varese, locally and also worldwide, to address the environmental crisis at a systemic level.

Climate Fresh

One of our trained Climate Fresh facilitators, Prof. Lestra, arranged an engaging collaborative workshop on plastic pollution for S5 students. Developed by the Tara Ocean Foundation, the fresk is a visual tool to help students understand the **complex issues surrounding plastic pollution**. Working in groups, students applied their critical thinking to organise a cohesive visual representation.



Basketball School Cup

Our basketball team made their season debut in the **Varese School Cup** with a powerhouse performance, showcasing grit, talent, and team spirit. In the first game, we dominated the court with impressive precision and an impenetrable defense, securing a resounding triumph. Every basket was a celebration of skill and coordination, and the final score spoke for itself: an overwhelming victory.

Despite a promising start and a passionate fight until the very last minute, the team faced tougher opponents in our second match. The loss, though bitter, did not dampen the group's indomitable spirit, which displayed enviable determination.

A special thanks goes to the fans, whose tireless cheers filled the arena with energy, giving the team the strength to fight to the end. Another round of applause undoubtedly goes to our talented dance crew, who cheered everyone during the breaks with outstanding and enthusiastic performances.

The season has just begun, and our team's goal remains the same: to return to the court hungrier for victories than ever!



ISCRIVITI ORA

Have you registered for **ECO RUN 2025** yet? On **May 11, 2025**, our school will be participating in this exciting event promoting **environmental sustainability**.

ECO RUN 2025 features two fun, non-competitive races: 5 km and 10 km, welcoming participants of all speeds. Registration fees vary depending on when you sign up, so do so soon! All registration proceeds go to charity.

After registering, you'll receive a **'Race Pack'** that includes the official event T-shirt and other lovely goodies. Details on pickup can be found at www.ecorunvarese.it.

To showcase our school spirit, we'll be wearing a **special T-shirt** available for €3. Purchase it on the event day just before the race at the European meeting point at **9 am in front of the fountain in the 'Giardini Estensi'**. For more information check out **our school's ECO RUN page**.

Let's make this year's event the best yet! Register now and invite your friends to join in the fun!



The Advent Book

Since December 1st, Madame Benaouda's S1L1FR students have established a ritual when they enter French class: **the Advent Book**. The mischievous elf Trifouille randomly picks the name of a student in the class to open the new Christmas story. He then reads it silently while enjoying a Christmas cookie. During the class period, the book passes through everyone's hands so that all the other students can discover the story of the day for themselves. Let's embrace this tradition and take the time to enjoy a good book this Christmas.



Cinema Outing

On Wednesday 18th December, all the P5 and S1 pupils, accompanied by their main teacher, met at the Nuovo cinema for a joint screening of the film **'The Secret World of Foley'**.

Like every year, this outing forges connections between P5 and S1 students. After the meeting, the different sections met for a session to work on the film. Our teachers' educational kit available allows for collaborative work between the two class levels.



Literary Cafe

On Tuesday, December 3, the S4L1FR students met in Madame Benaouda's French class for a literary café on **Petit Pays** by Gaël Faye. Gathered in a circle, everyone was able to share a favourite passage, a passage that left an impression on them, a reading, a question about the novel while enjoying a fruit juice and a snack. For 2 periods, the students and their teacher attended rich and varied discussions. A great way to start exploring the novel!

Petit Pays won the **Prix Goncourt des lycéens** in 2016. Its author, Gaël Faye, also a slam poet, composer and performer, of Franco-Rwandan nationality, addresses the painful subject of the genocide in Rwanda through the eyes of a child. This novel is largely inspired by his life.





University Fair

To support our senior cycle students in **choosing a university** and planning for their future careers, we hosted our annual University Fair last month. This brought together a diverse range of colleges and universities from across Europe to showcase programs, answer questions, and inspire our students.



Thanks to our dedicated guidance and orientation coordinators in each language section, students receive tailored advice and support, empowering them to make informed decisions that align with their passions and goals.

While academic readiness is important, we remind students of the importance of balance. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, reach out to the many teachers, advisors and counsellors who are here to support you. Remember that you are part of a community that wants to help you succeed.



School Calendar



National Celebrations



Hezký státní svátek!

28/10



Święto Niepodległości!

1/11



Lāčplēša diena!

18/11



La mulți ani!

1/12



Hyvää itsenäisyyspäivää!

6/12

Upcoming Events

08/01: S2 - S5 - Theatre show

"Il diario di Anna"

10/01: S5 - Work experience and choices meeting.

17/01: S5 - Guidance - Orientation.

21/01: S7 - Pre-Bac exams begin.

31/01: S1 - S6 - Distribution of first semester reports.

03/02: S7 - Pre-Bac exams finish.

10/02: S5 - Workshop on CV and Motivational Letter.

14/02: S1 - Theatre show "Città invisibile"

17/02 - 21/02: Science Week.