



Secondary



A new semester has begun at the European School of Varese, and in our third edition of the academic year, we celebrate opportunities for growth and learning.

## Congratulations S7s!

Following a great deal of hard work and dedicated effort, S7 students received their **Pre-Bac examination and continuous assessment grades** this month. Students were celebrated with a **special breakfast** in the Mensa on the 14th of February where their official results were distributed.



We encourage students to take a moment to celebrate their accomplishments, as this is no easy feat. For any student who feels disappointed, remember we are here to support you, and the second semester can be more successful.



## Angelo Turconi Visit

We had the privilege of welcoming **Mr. Angelo Turconi**, a distinguished Belgian photographer, geographer, and author of **Congo on the Road**, to our school in February.

He graciously agreed to speak to our History and Geography students, offering a unique opportunity to meet and learn from his extraordinary wealth of experience. His deep passion for life, exploration, and his work in Africa is truly inspiring, and we are fortunate to have him share his insights with our community.

Mr. Turconi also presented a **photographic exhibition** of his work in the Congo at our school.

Many thanks to Prof. Cooke and our librarian, Francesco, for facilitating this valuable visit.



# Remembrance

Our school marked **Holocaust Remembrance Day**, which commemorates the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on the 27th of January, 1945, with various cross-curricular discussions and projects around the themes of oppression, discrimination, and learning from the past.



## Il diario di Anna



In January, our school hosted a thought-provoking interactive theatrical show, ***Il diario di Anna***, for students from S2 to S5

Actors Marco Bossi and Manila Tunesi of **Teatro Periferico** engaged students in a series of social experiments that left them with a deeper understanding of the causes and effects of discrimination and racism. This innovative reinterpretation of Anne Frank's diary encouraged students to reflect on oppression and discrimination in a contemporary context.

Thank you to our librarian, Francesco, and Pedagogical Advisors, for facilitating this valuable learning experience.

## One Family's Story

On Tuesday, January 28, students studying **Moral through Italian** had the privilege of welcoming **Mrs. Katherina Ziman**, grandmother of one of our pupils.

Mrs. Ziman shared her experiences as part of the first generation of children whose parents and relatives had been imprisoned in concentration camps. Through **deeply personal family stories** - of grandparents she never knew, of her parents, of her aunt - she shared a poignant story of loss, resilience, and the enduring impact of history. Her storytelling was powerful yet never morbid, as she reflected on the contrast between past and present: while we remember, her parents' generation longed to forget.

Her father was a prisoner in Auschwitz, her mother in Buchenwald. To give their children peace of mind, they shielded them from the horrors they had endured, waiting until they were older to share their experiences.

Our students listened intently, asked thoughtful questions, and showed great respect throughout. Mrs. Ziman expressed her appreciation for the class, feeling warmly welcomed. She left with a positive impression of our school, and we have no doubt that our students will carry her words with them for years to come.





From February 17th-21st, our school held our annual **Science Week**. It was jam-packed with activities **celebrating STEM and STEAM**, integrating science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. The week could not have been so successful without the support of our lab technicians, ICT crew, maintenance staff, as well as our teachers and students. This is a significant cross-curricular event each year and we can only include a selection of memorable moments here.

The **dedication and initiative** demonstrated by students this Science Week in preparing presentations, sharing their knowledge and inspiring their peers was a **highlight of the week**. We commend our students for their commitment to learning and bettering our school community. We are so proud of our students' excellent communication and organisational skills.

Our **Erasmus Maris** project students presented their experiments and findings on **microplastics** to multiple classes **from S1 to S6**. Their delivery was polished, incorporating hands-on demonstrations and interactive quizzes. The project not only raised awareness about the environmental impact of microplastics but also encouraged students to think critically about sustainable solutions. The young scientists impressed their audience with their depth of knowledge and their hands-on experiences exploring marine life with biologists.



**Physics students in Prof. Vis's S6 class** had the opportunity to teach their peers. Their classmates were impressed with their efforts and their infectious enthusiasm for science. They truly embraced the opportunity to share their knowledge and did a fantastic job.

Leadership roles were not limited to our senior students, however. **S2 students of integrated science** led a **chemistry lab**, guiding P4 and P5 primary students through captivating chemical reactions, encouraging collaborative learning and engagement. A big thank you to Prof. Dudal for coordinating the event.



**Prof. Nowaczyk's S3 Moral class** delivered engaging presentations on societal inventions to P4 students. Presentations included details on the inventor, creation date, functionality, and benefits. Inventions covered included the GPS, sunglasses, the Internet, the zipper, the telephone, and the computer. All participants learned new, surprising facts. Plans are in place to coordinate with P5 language classes for further presentations.





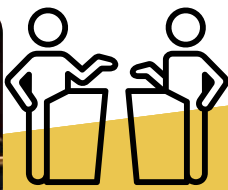
# Fram2 Contest

On Monday, **Prof. Sgaramella and Prof. Dell'Uomo**, together with **JRC Radio Club** and **ARISS** scientists **Francesco Lecca** and **Enrico Ben**, launched an exciting new collaborative project to mark the start of Science Week.

Chemistry and physics students from S6 classes will take part in **Fram2**, an international astronomy competition that challenges them to connect with the **SpaceX space station** using sophisticated antenna equipment. During these transmissions, they will receive images of the Earth's polar regions taken from orbit. To succeed, students must accurately identify and assemble the images, **demonstrating their analytical and problem-solving skills**.



During the launch event, students had the opportunity to test radio equipment and connect with the International Space Station (ISS), observing live footage of astronauts at work.



## Debating AI

On Thursday, February 20, a **debate on artificial intelligence (AI)** was held in the aula magna, led by the students of **Spanish S6L3** and coordinated by **Prof. Morales López**. This activity also included the collaboration of the Spanish classes in S1L1, S2L1, S4L3, S6L4 of **Prof. Rodríguez Gil**, as well as the presence of three experts from the JRC: **Jorge Araluce, Carlos Sánchez Belenguer and Carlos Angorilla Bustamante**, who shared their insights and feedback with all the participants.



## Science Meets History

**Prof. Rodríguez Gil and Prof. Morales López** organised an informative guided tour of **Santa Maria della Gioia**, exploring its history and architecture from historical, artistic, and mathematical perspectives. A special thank you to Santa Maria della Gioia for the insightful tour!



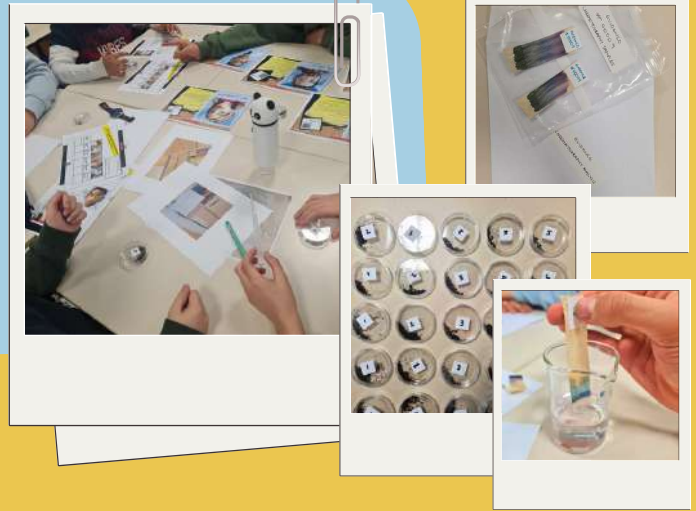
## Artistic Physics

**Two new vibrant ceiling tiles** have been added to our **'Artistic Physics'** project, led by **Prof. Vis** with contributions from numerous students over recent years. The tiles serve as a visual reminder of the creativity and curiosity that fuel scientific discovery.



# Project-Based Learning

In Prof. Winston's S2L1 English class, students engaged in a rigorous forensic investigation, stepping into the shoes of detectives to uncover the culprit in a fictional crime scene. Their detective work included **chromatography, fingerprint analysis, and shoe scraping examination**. This was an immersive and enjoyable experience in the world of sleuthing.



Prof. Fialho's S1 integrated science class learned about **fermentation** by cooking pancakes and bread. They even got to sample the tasty results of their experiment! The hands-on approach made the learning process more engaging and helped students understand the practical applications of scientific concepts in everyday life. Speaking of applying what they learned, let's hope they treat their parents to breakfast!

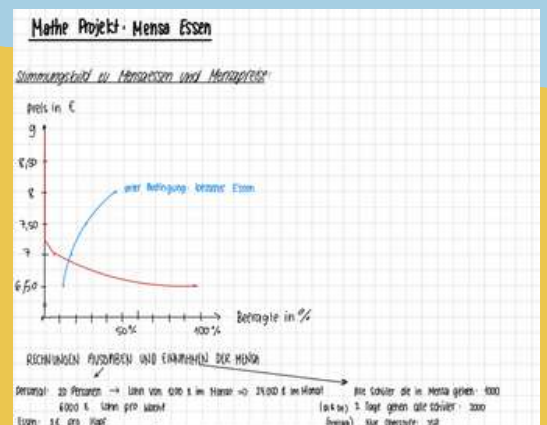


In Prof. Berger's S1 mathematics class, students explored the strength and efficiency of hexagons by analysing honeycomb structures. They learned why nature and engineering often rely on this remarkable shape for stability and strength.



Lucky students in S1 to S3 ICT have been bringing technology to life by programming **LEGO robots!** Through this exciting project-based learning, they've been developing coding skills, problem-solving abilities, and logical thinking.

Prof. Berger's S5 mathematics students have been diving into **economic relationships in financial mathematics**. Applying mathematical concepts to everyday financial scenarios helps students develop critical thinking and numeracy skills that will serve them well in the future.





# Special Guests in the Aula Magna



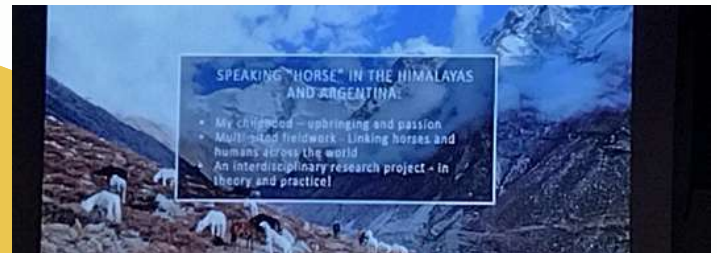
On Tuesday, **Dr. Luca Belotti** delivered a highly interactive and engaging lecture to students and teachers on the topic: **"Explore, Create, Grow: Experiential Learning between STEAM and Career Guidance."** His talk highlighted the importance of integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) to inspire creativity and innovation. Students and teachers alike left feeling inspired!



On Wednesday morning, **Yancen Diemberger**, an anthro-zoologist involved in the University of Cambridge ABC project (Anthropology By Children), presented her **interdisciplinary path inspired by her passion for horses and the way they communicate**, that led her to do fieldwork in Nepal, Tibet, Argentina, England and Italy. This was an exciting and interactive presentation that fascinated students from S2-S7.



On Thursday, **Dr. Naouma Kourti**, a JRC engineer, presented her interdisciplinary work on **Women and Immigration**, that involves the production of a series of animated videos for children, narrating the story of mythical Europe and her adventurous immigration journey from the East to the West. This is an alternative approach that combines Greek mythology, History, Politics and the contemporary reality of immigration.

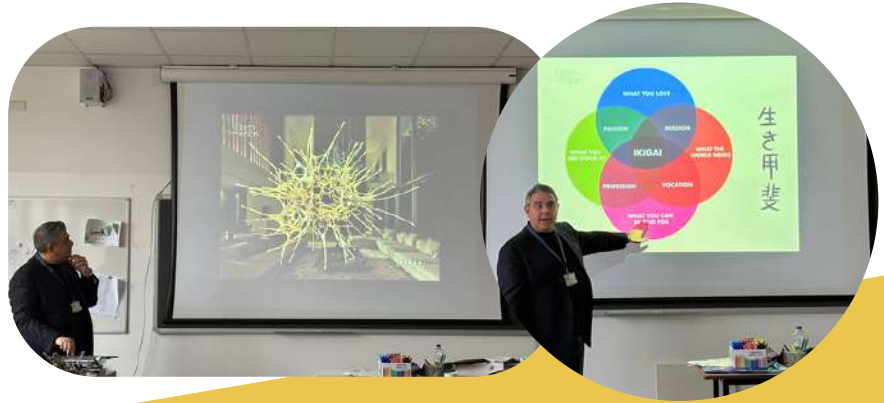


Many thanks to our **Climate Academy facilitator** and Philosophy Coordinator, **Prof. Tsompanopoulou**, who organised these three valuable Aula Magna events, as well as our ICT team who provided the necessary technical support.



Architecture and Design was prominent in our Science Week, thanks to **Nicoletta Romano**, director of **Living is Life** magazine, and designer **Silvana Barbato**, who curated a fantastic week of activities to immerse students in the creativity and beauty that define art, architecture, and design.

**Dodo Arslan**, renowned international artist, offered an inspiring lecture to our **final-year art students** to open the event, sharing the impact of art and design on his life and encouraging students to explore their creativity and embrace their true selves.



Internationally acclaimed architect **Riccardo Blumer**, a **Compasso d'Oro** award-winner and professor at the **Accademia di Mendrisio**, where he also served as Director, delivered a talk that wove together **history, architecture, art, and culture**, taking students on a journey through his numerous projects, including well-known buildings in the Varese and Milan areas and **innovative use of food-based materials**.



Artists **Jean Kleber Bezerra de Mello** and **Fernando Gallucci** explored the concept of harmony and balance with philosophy students from the school's philosophy course. They discussed the relationship between space and emotions, advocating for **mindful consumption and the reuse of objects that carry memories of past experiences**.



Bringing innovation and creativity to the forefront, 23-year-old interior designer and writer **Leonardo de Franceschi** guided students engaged in our 'Peer to Peer' project through spaces where interior design, music, and fashion intersect and blend. His presentation was inspired by his book **Dalle strade alle stanze, Rap americano e Interior Design**. We hope students will value his advice to **be bright, stay curious, and explore as many different fields as possible!**



A big thank you to our **General Secretary, Stefania Di Furia**, as well as our **Art Department** and **Philosophy Department**, for their organisation.



## Basketball Cup



On February 3rd, the European School of Varese once again took part in the **Basketball School Cup**, an event organised by **Varese Pallacanestro** involving several secondary schools from the Varese province. Our basketball team fought hard in an effort to make it to the quarter-finals for the second consecutive year.

After a strong start with **a win in our first match**, we faced a tough challenge in **the second game against the Sereni Luino School**. Despite the immense effort from our players and the unwavering support from our enthusiastic Tifosi, we were unable to secure a victory against such a strong team.

Our cheerleaders performed brilliantly, delivering two outstanding routines. Our Membro Foto was on hand to capture the sportsmanship and positivity that characterised the event. It was wonderful to see excellent participation from our students, who fully embraced the event, along with the dedication of our physical education teachers, **Prof. Grolla, Prof. Pollicini, and Prof. Ribeiro**. Their support was invaluable in fostering a strong sense of community and teamwork among our participants.



## Teachers' Forum



Three of our school's workshop proposals have been selected for presentation at the upcoming **Teachers' Forum** in Cyprus this April.

Congratulations to **Zdravka Grdan, Jo Rivers-Scott, Julia Payne, and Rachele Confalonieri**, for this well-deserved recognition of their contributions to our community. A big thank you to the **Cyprus Presidency** for organising this event.

Here are the selected proposals:

● **Effective Pedagogical Support in Conflict and Stress Management for Teacher Wellbeing**

Presented by **Zdravka Grdan**

● **Educational Scenarios and Voices through Kamishibai**

Presented by **Rachele Confalonieri**

● **Building The Future We Want (BTFWW): A Whole School Approach to Empowering Students, Teachers, and the Entire Community to Collaborate on Sustainability Education and Action**

Presented by **Jo Rivers-Scott** and **Julia Payne**.

We wish our teachers every success at the forum and look forward to the positive impact of their efforts.





## Rewriting the Rules!

Student voice is a valued part of our school community, and we strongly uphold **the Lundy Model** in fostering meaningful student participation. This is why our current rules were a collaborative effort with student representatives, and why students are now closely involved with **the update of our school rules**.



Many thanks to our **Wellbeing Coordinator, Prof. Leavey**, and our **Pedagogical Advisor, Prof. Gysemans** for coordinating useful **student feedback workshops** on our update. Many thanks to our excellent student representatives and all the many individual students who have made valuable and thoughtful contributions. We remain committed to nurturing a culture of open dialogue and continuous improvement, where students feel encouraged to express their ideas and contribute to positive change. So if you have an idea to share, **please speak up!**

## Interview with our CoSup Reps

Recently, we asked our two representatives at CoSup -the student representative organisation for all 13 schools - to fill us in on their roles and hopes for the future.

***Can you introduce yourself and tell us what inspired you to get involved in CoSup?***

Our names are Andrea and Diego, and we both attend the Italian section. What inspired us to get involved in CoSup is the desire to make students' voices heard, doing our part to change what students dislike about the European Schools system and improving students' lives. We were also interested in the opportunities CoSup offers to meet people from across Europe and develop our diplomatic skills.

***What has been the most rewarding part of the role so far?***

The most rewarding part of our role so far is people's confidence in us, and watching the numbers on CoSup social media increasing, as it means more students are getting involved in CoSup. Representing all of the pupils of ESV internationally is a big responsibility, and students should be more aware of what we do and what CoSup and the Pupils' Committee is about; this is why we proposed an awareness survey throughout all European Schools which got approved in our last CoSup meeting in Frankfurt, a big accomplishment for us.



## ...Interview with our CoSup Reps

**How have you been involved in decision making processes across European Schools and our own school?**

CoSup's main role is to represent students at the system-level, while the Pupils' Committee Presidents handle school-level matters. The decision-making process to make system level changes is complex, involving surveys for ideas in our school and then proposing amendments at CoSup meetings, which are then presented to the Joint Teaching Committee and the Board of Governors for approval. It's worth checking out our Instagram posts on [@es.cosup](https://www.instagram.com/es.cosup) to learn more about recent meetings and interventions.

At school level, CoSup participates in the Education Council, safety meetings, and the Admin Board to discuss school changes and future directions. Recently, we participated in the Admin Board meeting with school management and Secretary-General of the European School, Mr. Beckmann. A recent amendment includes updating the school statute to improve the productivity of Pupil Committee meetings by limiting attendance to higher positions and heads.



**Mr. Beckmann is pictured here with management and CoSup member Diego Pirrami.**



**What is one change or improvement you'd love to see in the school?**

We would love to see more students take action instead of just complaining about issues. This is part of our goals for this year: to make the students aware of the voice and the power they have. One of the biggest problems in our school is the fact that more than 80% of our Pupils' Committee is composed of S7s, who also need to concentrate on their BAC, and who are inexperienced in the role, and every year the same situation happens again and again; with a complete reset it's difficult to pass down leadership tasks. This is why we need more people from S6 and S5 to achieve a more even spread similar to other schools. This would help the PC function better in the future.

**What advice would you give students interested in getting involved in leadership?**

Our advice to everyone who wants to get involved in student leadership is to never give up, work hard to make your voice heard, and strive for actual change. Remember to stand by what you promised you would do in your elections, and please understand the responsibility that you have. Your hard work will be rewarded.



## Interview with an author

**Prof. Young's S3L1 English students** had the privilege of conducting a video interview with **Dave Rudden**, author of the fantasy novel ***The Knights of the Borrowed Dark***, which they have enjoyed reading this year.

Ahead of their participation in **Writing Fest**, students asked Rudden about patterns of imagery in his work, his personal connections to characters, and how to overcome writer's block.

This was a great opportunity to learn from a writer accomplished in his craft.



## Writers' Workshop

On Tuesday, February 4th, **Prof. Benaouda's S1 L1 French students** had the opportunity to take part in a video conference with children's literature author **Maxime Gillio**.

They first explored the secrets of story creation. Through interactive discussions and quizzes, the 22,000 students attending online were able to dive into the creative process and begin writing the opening of an engaging story together. Next, they received a surprise video in which the author shared insights into his daily life and profession.

Finally, they had the chance to ask him questions about his career, and in return, Maxime Gillio provided them with writing advice.

## Hogwarts Four Houses Cup

**S2 and S3 students** studying **Latin** in the French section celebrated the first semester **Four Houses Cup**. Each House added up the points they had earned during challenges, and we awarded the cup to the winners.

**Hufflepuff House** won the cup for this first semester. The students enjoyed a shared snack before resetting the points for the second semester. Let's see which house wins next!



## Invisible Cities

We held another **transition activity for P5 and S1** students this month, with the fantastical performance of *Invisible Cities*, a street theatre show inspired by **Italo Calvino's novel**. The actors perform on stilts, taking the audience through various imaginary city settings; contemporary cities with apartments, even futuristic mechanical cities!

What a captivating performance for our lucky students! Thank you to the Pedagogical Advisors and teachers involved in organising and supervising this valuable transition activity.



## Model COP29

Congratulations to all the students who participated in last year's **Model COP29**, where they sampled the complex world of climate policy and global cooperation.

Under the guidance of **Prof. Vansteenkiste**, students were responsible for researching their assigned countries, **crafting opening statements that reflected their nation's climate ambitions and challenges**. They investigated current progress in addressing climate change, formulated plans for financing mitigation efforts, and discussed strategies for collaboration with other countries on climate finance.

The culmination of their hard work was a consensus agreement that included significant decision-making outcomes, such as the acceptance of a carbon emission law, proposals for resource sharing, and ambitious targets for renewable energy transitions. Students later critically examined the decisions made, exploring the potential impacts of various climate policies on their countries and the world.

The experience not only enriched their understanding of global climate governance but also equipped them with valuable skills in negotiation and collaboration. Well done to all participants for their commitment to addressing one of the most pressing issues of our time.



## Repair Café

The repair café has been hard at work fixing your devices. The electronics workbench is now active. It was 100% built by students! Recently, a hairdryer was brought back to life.

Don't forget, if you have any devices that need reviving, you can reach out to **Prof. Alberto Vis** for assistance.





## Il Pezzettino Donation



We had the pleasure of presenting funds raised through our **Christmas Talent Show**, Christmas Markets and other festive collections to **Il Pezzettino** earlier this month.

A huge thank you to all who participated and gave generously. Our European Spirit Coordinators, **Prof. Lhermitte and Prof. Bondieck**, coordinated a lively secondary talent show that showcased a wide range of our students' talents, from a creative recycler and a skilled artist to speedy Rubik's Cube solvers and even a breakdancing Santa. Students who participated and presented should be very proud of their efforts.

This was an exemplary display of **European Spirit**, and we look forward to the positive impact of this fundraising.



## Citizenship Actions for All



The **Citizenship Action for All Programme** (CAAP) has officially launched for its third year, offering students a fantastic opportunity to volunteer in their community and contribute to something greater than themselves.

This year, we are proud to continue our partnership with **Fondazione Piatti** in Varese, a remarkable organisation dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities. ESV is delighted to collaborate with them once again.

In January, two guest speakers visited the school to introduce S6 students to the foundation and its important work. Following their presentation, interested students signed up to take part.

Participants will complete **10 hours of voluntary service** at the following locations:



**Membro Musica** hosted another excellent evening concert on February 19th. The Pupils' Committee should be so proud of the opportunities they have created for students to express their musical talent. The concert featured our youngest and oldest students, a mix of modern and classical styles, both brave soloists and enthusiastic ensembles. It is clear the musical spirit of the school will continue in great hands! Funds were donated via photographer Angelo Turcini to nuns engaged in **relief work in the Congo**. Special **thanks to the music teachers and parents** who nurture this love of music and support these precious events.



February Concert

**Monte Cristallo  
Brunella  
Bobbiate**

We look forward to seeing the positive impact our students will make!





**BE** Join us  
**AGSEV**

AGSEV warmly  
welcomes and supports  
all class reps!

 [www.agsev.it](http://www.agsev.it)

- Participate:** Make a difference
- Celebrate:** Get involved in our events
- Integrate:** Become part of the community
- Exchange:** Be part of the European Schools' network
- Welcome families:** Contact us for any inquiries
- Extracurricular activities:** Enrich your children's education



## **Bebras Challenge**



### National Celebrations



**Su Nepriklausomybės  
Diena!** 16/02



**Head Iseiseisvuspäeva!**  
24/02

### School Calendar



### LinkedIn Page



Well done to the winners and all our participants in the **Bebras / Castor / Biber challenge**, who received their results and certificates on the 24th of January. This annual event encourages students to boost their problem-solving and critical thinking skills through tackling complex computational and logical problems. We look forward to seeing even more participants next year!

### Upcoming Events

- 06/03:** S7 - L1 Italiano – al Piccolo Teatro Milan - "Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore" by Luigi Pirandello
- 13/03 – 15/03:** Model European Council – Luxembourg II
- 13/03 – 15/03:** Model United Nations – Milano
- 17/03 – 20/03:** S5 School Trip to Krakow
- 17/03 – 20/03:** German-Speaking Section Career Guidance
- 18/03:** S1 'Pina Bausch' Musical – Aula Magna
- 24/03:** S7 Conference on International Civil Service
- 31/03:** Class Photos
- 07/03:** World Health Day
- 09/04:** S& CILS B2 exam (Italian certification)
- 10/04:** S2 - S4 'Stupefatto' Show - Drug Misuse
- 11/04:** Last school day before Easter break.
- 28/04:** First school day after Easter break