



Newsletter No.6

October 2025

SCHOLAE EUROPAEA VARESE



Secondary



As the seasons change, let's remember that rest is not a lack of progress, but often a first step in making positive changes.

Pupils' Committee

We had another impressive turnout this year for our **membri elections of the Pupils' Committee**. Our student membri are involved in all facets of school life, from promoting green initiatives, to organising valuable social events, to hosting evening concerts, to fundraising for causes that resonate with students, and to promoting our library. As we come to the mid-term, they have already organised multiple fundraising activities for Amnesty, a Halloween disco, and many will be leading workshops for our upcoming Kindness Week.

A special congratulations to our newly elected **Student Presidents, Francesco Bulgheroni and Simone Antonetti**, both from our Italian section.



Student Voice is the most crucial component to our '**Building the Future We Want**' vision, and we are delighted to see so many of our students raising their voice. We urge students to reach out to their representatives to voice any concerns or ideas to improve our school. Well done to Kristina Probst and Philipp Pletch, our Student Voice Coordinators, and the students' Election Committee, for the organisation of our student elections.

CoSUP Presidents

Congratulations to S7 students **Alba Araluce** and **Sebastian Nevill** for their election to **CoSUP**, the *Conseil Supérieur des Élèves*, which advocates for students across the European Schools, representing over 29,000 students. Alba and Sebastian shared what being part of CoSup means to them:

“ —

We meet five times a year across different countries to solve real problems and challenges facing the students from wellbeing and sustainability to curriculum reform and digital policies. Whether it's fighting against the team chat ban, directly representing student opinions to the central administration, or organising events like Euronight that bring our community together, CoSup is about making sure students are represented and not undermined.



Festa dell'Atletica



There was an incredible atmosphere on 17 October for the 19th edition of our **Festa dell'Atletica**, which saw around 300 students competing in races across year groups from **P5 to S7**. P5 ran 500m, while secondary students raced over 1000m.

Enthusiasm, competitiveness, commitment, teamwork and organisation were the main ingredients of this memorable event at our school.

The efforts of the runners were supported by our fantastic student volunteers who managed the race schedule, as well as enthusiastic supporters who cheered from the sidelines. You did a fantastic job! A special mention goes to the **Physical Education Department** for their excellent organisation. A morning full of sporting activity. See you in 2026 for the 20th edition!!!



Art Design Week

Once again this year, the European School of Varese participated in **Varese Design Week 2025** (IX^o edition), which was held from 25 to 28 September 2025. This year's theme was '**La Gabbia**'. Among the highlights was the sculpture "The Human Condition" by renowned artist Marco Benedetti, the futuristic "Skyscrapers of the Future" by Alberto Talarico, and the immersive 'Freedom' that featured live butterflies in a 'cage' spectators could walk through.

Our Director, Ms. Farinelle, was proud to represent our school at the inauguration event at Piazza Monte Grappa, which kicked off an exciting calendar of events, talks, and performances, and the transformation of our historic squares and courtyards into striking art installations.

A group of our own talented **peer-to-peer students** played an active role in the week's events, offering their guidance and accompanying visitors on their discovery of the art works and installations. The involvement of our students is a real privilege and a source of pride. They demonstrated their artistic knowledge with confidence, and did a fantastic job of representing our school community



European Day of Languages

The theme for this year's 'European Day of Languages' was "**Languages open hearts and minds!**", which inspired many interesting projects across the cycles. Two of these are featured below.

The project "**Lingua mia, fatti capanna: Giving voice to silent books**," was conceived by Prof. Stefania Poverino in collaboration with Prof. Giuditta Grolla, European Spirit Coordinator. The activity engaged primary and secondary school classes in a shared reading and creative writing workshop. Silent books, wordless books with a universal language, allowed students to explore visual storytelling as a tool for inclusion, creativity, and intercultural growth.



The initiative was organised with the collaboration of the libraries of the Primary School (Michela Marinello) and the Secondary School (Francesco Scomazzon), as well as the student Emma Montaleone (S5itaA) and the students Eleonora Bonato, Serena Catiglioni, Lucretia Piva and Andrej Sobolev (S3itaB).



After an initial phase of reading and reflection, the students created original texts inspired by the images in the silent books and shared their work in a final moment of exchange and collaboration. This experience was rich in creativity, cooperation, and European spirit, which highlighted how languages can truly open hearts and minds.



Another project, '**Heart and Spirit**' saw senior students conduct research into renowned international writers and artists, to find quotes featuring the words 'heart' and/or 'spirit'. Art teachers and students then transformed these quotes into beautiful textured displays.



Visit of a German Brass Orchestra



In October, we had the honour of hosting a German Brass Orchestra from **Modellschule Obersberg**.

Students in **P5, S1 and S2** (and many fortunate staff members) were enthralled by their outstanding concert performances in the Aula Magna, which included vibrant instrumentals of well known and modern melodies.



Many of our students also had the special opportunity to play their instruments in small **group workshops** delivered by members of the orchestra. Students benefitted greatly from live, individualised feedback and encouragement from the musicians.

We are very grateful to the orchestra for their generosity in sharing their breathtaking talent and their passion for their craft with our students. You delighted us all, and reminded us of how magical music truly is. Thank you to Prof. Kristina Probst, who organised and facilitated this wonderful experience.



Erasmus Maris

From 15 to 19 September 2025, nine of our **S6 students**, accompanied by teachers Charlotte Dudal and Koen Quintens, participated in **Erasmus Maris Week at Borriana** (Spain). This event was organised by the MARIS network, a European collaboration between educational, scientific and nautical centres, and its goal is **to harmonise the monitoring of microplastics in marine environments**.

Over the week, students and teachers from seven European Schools were engaged in hands-on training in sampling and analysing microplastics, hosted by the Escola de La Mar Burriana. Students develop new skills in nautical settings and in classroom sessions that were transformed into scientific laboratories.

Our participation helps us deepen our understanding of marine pollution, scientific methods, environmental citizenship, and international cooperation. The knowledge and experience we gain can then be shared with the school community, with the hope of inspiring further projects and raising awareness about marine microplastic contamination.

We are proud to represent Varese in this European initiative, and look forward to expanding ideas, data, and connections.



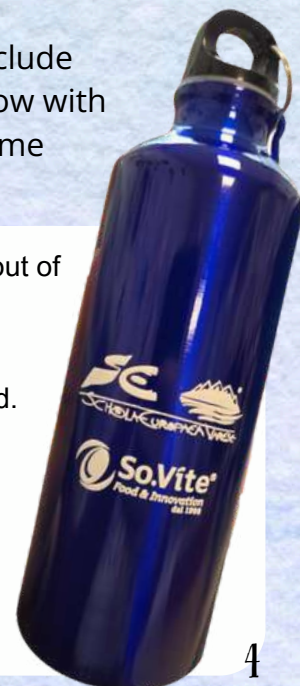
Mensa Updates

Plastic bottles in the Mensa will soon be no more! Congratulations to all students, staff, and parents who have called for this important change, and a big thank you to our **COMSEV Committee** and **So.Vite** who have kindly procured these beautiful stainless steel water bottles.

This was one of our green goals for this school year. Others we are excited about include project 'Terra Rara' (page 5), litter collecting/community clean-ups, and a fashion show with upcycled materials. **Membro Eco** and our **Green School** Staff Working Group welcome more ideas.



- Single-use plastic bottles will be phased out of our Mensa.
- A third water dispenser has been installed.
- New, larger glasses will be available.
- New **So.Vite** sustainable water bottles have been distributed.



Fattoria Rancina Field Trip

A new cohort of **S5 Biology students** enjoyed a two-day field experience at the **Rancina farm** in Castello Cabiaglio. This serves as a unique opportunity for students to apply their knowledge in situ and assess the ecology of a local ecosystem. Skills and activities involved include:

-  Analysing flora and fauna
-  Examining animal behaviour.
-  Examining biodiversity
-  Measuring species richness
-  Measuring the proportion of air in the soil,
-  Identifying and studying insects in the stream area,
-  Analysing water quality



The collection and analysis of data demonstrated to students that it is possible to live in harmony with the ecosystem, enjoying its benefits while contributing to its sustainability. Many thanks to Fattoria Rancina for their continued collaboration.

'Terra Rara' Project

S6 and S7 Microelectronics students are participating in "**Terra Rara**," a project promoted by the **Municipality of Varese** in collaboration with **Karakorum Teatro**, which combines science, art, and environmental education. The goal is to raise awareness among students and the public about the importance of **recycling electronic waste (RAEE)** and reducing environmental impact.

Starting after the break and until November 27th, a RAEE collection container will be available at school, located near the columns. Students will prepare informational posters and actively participate in the collection campaign, making a tangible contribution to our Green School's sustainability efforts.

The collected material will subsequently be used to create a contemporary artwork by artist **Livia Paola Di Chiara**, created at **the Molina Foundation** and then exhibited at **Palazzo Estense** during the Christmas season, as a symbol of the participatory circular economy and sustainable creativity.

To find out more, speak to Prof. Alberto Vis, who is leading this excellent initiative.





Before the break, S7 students attended an inspiring conference delivered **Matthew Pye**, Philosophy teacher at Brussels II, author and founder of **The Climate Academy**.

The conference engaged the students with concrete data and a fresh perspective on the environmental urgency.

Thank you to Matthew Pye for passionately sharing his commitment and vision, and to Fenia Tsompanopoulos for promoting this important educational initiative in our school.



Erasmus School Exchange



As part of the **Erasmus+ project Strategic Partnership for Schools**, we recently hosted two groups of Slovak students from the **Evangelic Grammar School in Banská Bystrica**. Over two weeks, they visited multiple classrooms and subjects, made new friends, and experienced authentic school life here at the European School of Varese.

This mobility marks the continuation of the successful collaboration between our two schools and aims **to strengthen intercultural understanding, enhance language skills, and encourage cooperation in a European context** through joint learning experiences and class visits.

A special thanks to Prof. Tomáš Škraban and our Director Ariane Farinelle for their work in implementing this project.



Gina, La Panchina

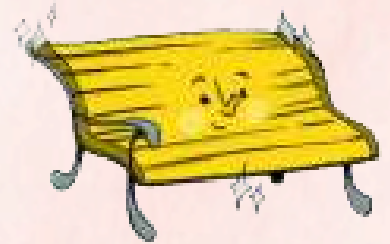
The European School of Varese has recently welcomed "GINA, La Panchina," an initiative that brings together colour, creativity, and core values. In collaboration with the organization **HELPIS**, creator of the **"Yellow Bench® against bullying"** project, two cheerful yellow benches have been installed on the school grounds.

These benches, symbols of kindness and respect, represent a tangible message against bullying and cyberbullying. Each bench is uniquely numbered and included in the national map of yellow benches, creating a symbolic connection among all Italian schools participating in the project: a true network of kindness and inclusion that spans the country.

October was a month of creativity and reflection at the European School Varese. For the International Day of Non-Violence, celebrated on October 2nd, Primary P5 and Secondary S1 students collaborated in an activity with strong symbolic value: the decoration of "GINA the Bench." A simple yet meaningful gesture that transformed an everyday object into a message of peace, empathy, and solidarity.

The students also created an artistic and creative program to share their commitment:

- 🎵 Performances of the songs *Be Kind* and *Toi plus moi*,
- 🖼️ Poster presentations with anti-bullying messages,
- 🎬 Screening of the stop-motion video 'Unity Wins'
- 🤝 Demonstration of a Friendship Handshake,
- 🎭 Drama performance entitled *Don't Be a Bully!*



Teachers, students, and guests were moved by the sincerity, enthusiasm, and dedication of the young participants. With initiatives like this, the European School of Varese continues to promote values of respect, inclusion, and kindness, building every day an environment where every student can feel welcomed and valued.



'Busted' Project



In September, girls from **S4 classes** attended a special **breast care session in the** Aula Magna hosted by **Eva De Groeve**, a former student who is currently undertaking a degree in medicine.

The **"Busted" project** aims to raise awareness among younger generations about breast cancer risk factors and the importance of prevention and early diagnosis. Through a hands-on workshop, the students learned how to perform self-examinations using filled balloons and created a mini informational booklet and a personal check-up calendar.

It is estimated that one in eight women worldwide will develop breast cancer during her lifetime, but early diagnosis significantly increases the chances of cure and survival.

A huge thank you to Eva De Groeve for sharing the knowledge, tools, and awareness essential for self-care with our students.



Classroom Spotlight

A Nordic Podcast



Swedish and Danish S7 students are working together on a podcast about **the importance of Nordic literature in the process of dismantling traditional gender roles in the 1880s.**

The podcast will be entered in a Danish competition for High school students about Nordic literature in November. As well as honing their skills in audio production and scriptwriting, this creative project nurtures cross-cultural appreciation and communication.



A Latin Escape Game

Professor Benaouda's Latin students enjoyed **an original escape game** based on the chapter **"The Origins of the Roman Republic"**.

Once inside the classroom, the students had to gather all the clues to formulate hypotheses about what might have happened inside. They then questioned the witnesses, translating the depositions written in Latin into French. Finally, they verified their evidence by analysing Botticelli's famous painting, "The Tragedy of Lucretia." Our little detectives solved the case with great enthusiasm!



BTFWW Project

Our school had the privilege of presenting our "**Building the Future We Want**" vision at La Festival Nazionale dell'Innovazione in Valdobbiadene over the weekend. Many thanks to our wonderful teachers Ester Bortels, Daniela Carugi and Jo Rivers Scott who represented our school.

The BTFWW project involves a whole-school approach that includes students, parents, and staff in building a brighter future under five key pillars:

- 🌍 Protecting Our Planet
- 🤝 Connecting with Purpose
- ★ European Spirit
- 📖 Quality Teaching and Learning
- 💙 Wellbeing for Our Community



Each year, we work together as a community and with the wider community to further this vision, taking concrete steps that empower our students to grow as responsible, engaged, and resilient citizens of the future. We are excited for what this new school year will bring!

Pedagogical Training Day

Wellbeing and improving student outcomes through **self and peer assessments** were the focus of our Pedagogical Training this year.

We are grateful to our expert speakers, Sarah Seleznyov, who shared ideas to boost mindful self-awareness and collaborative rapport, and Éanna O'Boyle, who outlined practical strategies to facilitate self and peer assessment in secondary school.

Teachers valued the opportunity to reflect on their own practices and exchange ideas with colleagues. Learning is central to what we do here and we are eager to continue learning and improving outcomes for our students.



Immersive VR Training

Teachers in the Dutch section had a unique virtual training experience on 22 October courtesy of **Nederlands Onderwijs in het Buitenland (NOB)**, which aimed to improve communication with parents.

Teachers engaged in **an immersive virtual reality module** where they could practise their reactions to different scenarios, reflect on outcomes, and develop their professional skills.



Have you checked out Agsev's (Parents' Association) new website?



Home School Life ▾ Parents ▾ Sustainability ▾ News & Events

**Together,
We Make a Difference**



Upcoming Events

**26/10 : Österreichischer
Nationalfeiertag**

Austrian National Holiday



28/10 : Státní svátek

Czech National Holiday



01/11 : Święto Niepodległości

Polish Independence Day



18/11 : Lāčplēša diena

Latvian National Holiday



01/12 : Ziua Națională

Romanian National Holiday



06/12 : Itsenäisyyspäivä

Finnish Independence Day



25/10 - 02/11: Mid-Term Holidays

03/11 - 05/11: S2 Visit to the Campo dei Fiori
Astronomical Observatory

10/11-14/11: Kindness Week

12/11: Meeting for future exchange students

28/11: Online Parent/Teacher Meeting (half day)

9/11 - 20/12: S1-S5 FR Castor Challenge (ICT)

10/11 - 14/11: S1-S5 IT Bebras Challenge (ICT)

10/11 - 21/11: S1-S5 EN Bebras Challenge (ICT)

8/12: Feast of the Immaculate Conception - School
closed

11/12 - 17/12: S7 Two-hour exams

12/12-19/12 : S6 exams

15/12-17/12: S5 B Tests

19/12: Short day

School calendar



LinkedIn page



Our online library



mlol
SCUOLA