



Newsletter No.8 *February 2026*

SCHOLAEUROPAEA VARESE



Secondary

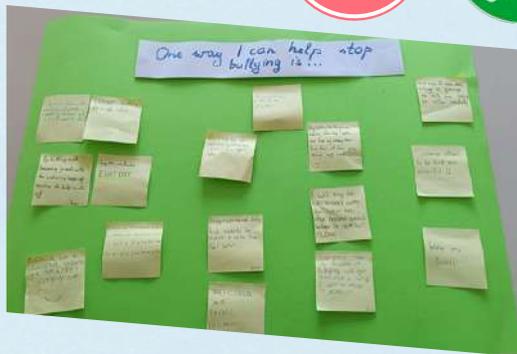
After marking La Giornata Contro il Bullismo e il Cyberbullismo this month, we remind our community that whether we experience or witness harm, seeking support is always stronger than facing it alone.



La Giornata Contro Il Bullismo e Cyberbullismo



Students engaged in various classroom-based activities to better understand the impact of bullying and develop tools for being an upstander.



These included scenario discussions, walking debates, quizzes, and responding to case studies. Many thanks to Prof. Barrett and Prof. Glemziene's classes for sharing a glimpse into their wonderful work.

Mindful Media Workshops



As one of this year's wellbeing and digital initiatives, our S4 students attended workshops focused on the theme of digital defence.

The workshops, entitled **"Mindful Media: Defending Yourself in an AI-Powered World"**, were delivered by expert **Mr Jason Gonin, an IT consultant at the Joint Research Centre**, with professional experience in information technologies, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

Designed as a practical and engaging session, the workshops encouraged students to reflect on digital habits, online privacy, AI bias, and the spread of fake news.

Both students and teachers shared positive feedback, finding the workshops timely and thought-provoking.

We will continue to support our students' understanding of digital citizenship, encourage positive behaviour change and utilise the expertise we are fortunate to have on our doorstep as a foundation for continued learning and reflection.



Visit from Andrea Franzoso

Around one hundred of our Italian students from S1, S2, and S4, had the opportunity to meet writer **Andrea Franzoso, author of the inspiring novel "Ero un bullo. La vera storia di Daniel Zaccaro"** (Milano, 2022).

Franzoso engaged students in a powerful discussion on bullying, self-awareness, and individual responsibility. The session encouraged students to reflect critically on their own actions, develop empathy, and understand the important role they have in building a respectful and positive community.

We are grateful to Andrea Franzoso for his openness and ability to connect with our students, and to our librarian and Italian L1 teachers for organising this impactful learning experience.

Upstanding On Screen



On the 6th of February, our S3 Italian and French sections watched "**Il cielo che si spegne nel mare**", an anti-bullying film especially released to mark **La Giornata contro bullismo e cyberbullismo**. Many thanks to Mondo REC for making this moving piece, created by young people for young people.

The film tells the story of a student who becomes a target for social exclusion and psychological aggression. The narrative examines not only the role of the victim, but also bystanders, perpetrators and adults who failed to notice signs of distress.

The film's intention is to promote reflection on individual and collective responsibility, and to emphasise the importance of acting as "upstanders"; those who intervene in a positive way.

We encourage all members of our community to discuss these themes at home, and reinforce the message that bullying is not something we should tackle alone; whether we are the victim or a witness, we need to reach out and get support.

Remembrance Day

To follow **Remembrance Day on the 27th of January**, Czech and Slovak students had the privilege of attending an online meeting with the remarkable **Eva Umlauf**, one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust.



Born in the Nováky concentration camp and deported to Auschwitz as a small child, Umlauf later wrote a moving memoir about her past entitled 'The Number on Your Forearm is Blue Like Your Eyes'. The novel has since been published in multiple languages. She has also been awarded a state honour by the President of Slovakia.

We are very grateful to Ms. Umlauf for sharing her story with our students. Many thanks to our Slovak colleague at the European School of Munich who organised this event.

Fondazione Megalizzi

Fondazione Antonio Megalizzi was created in 2019 in memory of Antonio Megalizzi, a young Italian journalist who was killed in the Strasbourg terrorist attack in December 2018. Its mission is rooted in Antonio's values of **European citizenship, journalism, youth engagement, and democratic participation**.



Two of our S4 classes attended educational sessions with the foundation, where they learned about how the European Union works, why it is important, and how they can be active participants in it. This promote students' civic competence, helping them understand their rights and responsibilities as EU citizens. Many thanks to Prof. Irimciuc, Prof. Bortels and Prof. Christensen for arranging these valuable sessions.

The year 1968

We had the honour of welcoming **Monica Di Barbora, from 'Istituto Nazionale Ferruccio Parri'** Milan to our school recently to provide an intriguing lesson to our students entitled "The '68: a year of joy, music and troubles". Ms Di Barbora is a renowned historian and researcher, whose work explores the representation of Italian women in fascist colonies and in post-war urban spaces, and archival materials from militant and photojournalistic movements.



Alongside her thought-provoking presentation, students engaged with multimodal materials (audio, video, written texts, audiovisual sources) and constructed their own path through the story of one of the years that changed history.

It was an inspiring visit that left our students with a new perspective and insight into the important work of historians.

Meeting our local Alpini Servicemen!



On Tuesday 24th February, Mr Giuseppe Sala and Mr Ambrogio Gilardi from the Alpini di Varese delivered an engaging lecture on **the history of the Alpini Coros** and their volunteer activity to our S6 students.



The Alpini are the specialist mountain infantry of the Italian Army, with expertise in operating in some of the most challenging alpine environments. Their training includes mountain warfare, survival and movement in extreme terrain, as well as snow and avalanche rescue.

Students also learned about the remarkable volunteer work carried out by Alpini groups across Italy, including those local to the school. Students left inspired by the Alpini's strong tradition of service and commitment to their community. Many thanks to Prof. Esposti Ongaro for his organisation.



S7 Pavia Trip

In January, S7 students studying Spanish as their third or fourth language visited the exhibition **"500 Years of the Battle of Pavia"** in the historic city of Pavia.

During the visit, students explored the historical connections between Spanish and Italian culture. One of the highlights was an impressive 3D virtual reconstruction of the battle, which allowed students to visualise key moments in a more immersive way.

Experiences like this, that place our multilingual learning in a broader cultural and historical context, help students better understand our shared European heritage and histories. Many thanks to Prof. Morales López and Prof. Guglielmi who accompanied students on the trip.



Science Symposium Preparations

Well done to our participants in the **European Schools Sciences Symposium 2026**, who had the opportunity to present their projects at the JRC last month. This was a wonderful opportunity to get feedback from and discuss scientific innovation with experts in their fields.



Projects include a 3D-printed robotic arm for hydroponic plant care, a chemistry-based recycling method for plastics, and an experiment on cricket survival in cold environments. We know they will do us proud at the ESSS this year. Stay tuned for more details of their work in the next newsletter.

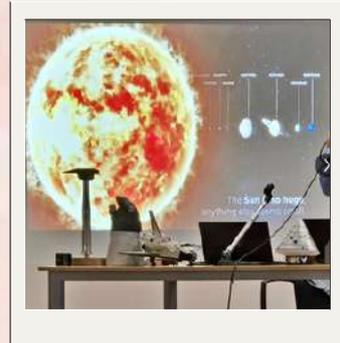
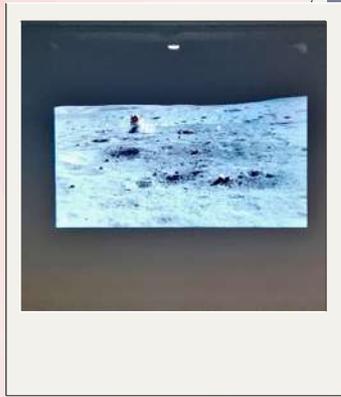




"To the moon and back" : Learning about Space Missions

Before break, we had the privilege of welcoming **Prof. Dario Kubler**, an Optoelectronics engineer and president of the non-profit organisation Asimof, who guided our S2 students on a special space adventure where they learned about the **future lunar-landing missions of NASA's Artemis II spacecraft**. Students enjoyed previously unseen videos of the Apollo 11 Moon landing on 20 July 1969 and learned about the upcoming Artemis II space mission in 2027, which will allow astronauts to orbit the Moon for the first time since 1972.

Through a journey to the moon simulated through animation, students learned about some of the technical challenges of space exploration and the tools required for astronauts' survival on the lunar surface. They also handled some rock fragments from our natural satellite and explored scale models of rovers, spacecraft, and a model of the Starship spacecraft.



Many thanks to Prof. Kubler for sharing his expertise and providing this inspiring educational experience, our Science Department for the organisation, and our ICT team who managed the technical requirements.

Bebras Awards 2026

Well done to ICT students who took part in the international **Bebras Informatics Challenge**. Their problem-solving and computational efforts were celebrated in a small ceremony here at school, where they were rewarded with certificates and cake! We are immensely proud of your efforts and how well you represented our school. Thank you to our ICT teachers and coordinator for their consistently solid preparation and support.



S7 Pre-Baccalaureate



Congratulations to our S7 students who received their **Pre-Baccalaureate results** in January and were celebrated with our traditional Mensa breakfast. These results mark the culmination of years of dedication and growth, and we are so proud of who you are today.

If your outcomes weren't what you hoped, remember that one set of results cannot define you or decide your future. Support is available as you take your next steps; reach out to your teachers and guidance staff so we can help you make the most of the second semester.

Citizenship Actions for All

We are so proud of our fantastic **CAAP students** for their voluntary actions to improve our school and local community. One group, who have been looking after students and assisting teachers in the primary school, have been helpful, polite and punctual in their roles. Another have done fantastic work with the **Fondazione Piatti** at Nuova Brunella and San Fermo every Wednesday afternoon, supporting those with disabilities. We commend them for conscientiously and diligently building crucial community connections.



Paperback Debut!



We are proud to announce that **the paperback version of Sofia Baj's debut novel 'The ISA - The Mystery of the Watch'** is now available on Amazon. Sofia, currently in S7, wrote this captivating detective story at only twelve years of age, and has continued to wow us with her creative voice since. Additionally, she has delivered a writing workshop to younger students and has promoted our school library as part of her role on our Pupils' Committee. Great work Sofia!

Our Olympic Alumnus!



We are incredibly proud of **our alumnus Thomas Larkin**, for his role in the **Italian national ice hockey team** in the Milano Cortina **2026 Winter Olympics**.

From his early years in Varese to captaining the Azzurri on the international stage, Thomas's journey reflects talent, perseverance, and commitment at the highest level. Well done Thomas!

Developing Diplomacy

Every Friday, senior students dedicate their lunch break to developing their debating and diplomacy skills at our **MUN-MEC club**. The impressive turnout reflects our students' strong engagement in international affairs, a field in which many move on to establish careers.



Each week, a new topic is posted in the corridors of the Da Vinci building, and students engage independently in thorough research and discussions, honing important skills in teamwork, public speaking, diplomacy, leadership, and global citizenship. In addition to MUN and MEC, students also take part in various international conferences, further refining their understanding of international relations.

The continued success of this club is thanks to the outstanding mentorship of Adriana Kolkiewicz, Marek Kolkiewicz, and Paul Cawthorne, who have provided support to multiple groups of students over many years.

Celebrating Collaboration

We are proud to highlight the work of our **Administration Board**, whose dedication ensures the smooth running of our school and supports our students and staff every day.

A heartfelt thank you to our Secretary General, the European Commission, as well as our school management, student, JRC Ispra, staff, and parent representatives who help our school continue to improve.

Your commitment and collaboration are at the heart of what makes ES Varese exceptional. It was also a special moment for us to wish our Director well on her new appointment at ES Luxembourg 1.

We were fortunate to enjoy a wonderful meal at our local De Fillippis Culinary School: a reminder that great teamwork and great food go hand in hand! 🍴



Joint Teaching Committee

Our Director and Deputy Directors represented our school this month at the preparatory meetings ahead of the **Joint Teaching Committee of the European Schools**.

The Joint Teaching Committee (JTC) plays a key role in shaping curriculum, assessment and pedagogical policy across the European Schools system, ensuring high-quality and coherent teaching and learning for all students.

Their commitment to leading teaching and learning, and to representing our school community at a European level, is greatly appreciated. We are very grateful for their dedication and the leadership they continue to provide.





Green Week is an exciting initiative proposed by **Membro Eco** of our Pupils' Committee to promote sustainability in our school. It will take place on the **23rd - 27th of March**, and involve an ambitious range of events across our campus, culminating on Friday with a spectacular **'Re:Earth'** Fashion Show.

Our Green Week logo and our mascot, Matcha, a south Chinese tiger, were designed in a collaboration between **Membro Eco** and our **Art students**. The south Chinese tiger is a species highly endangered due to climate change, and Matcha hopes to inspire us all to protect our planet and work collectively for positive environmental action.



Here is an overview of some **confirmed or anticipated events**:

Food Sustainability & Mensa Pop-ups

Student-designed Green Week menu with Istituto De Filippi & So.Vite

Two Mensa pop-ups: Menu design & Food waste reduction

"Zero Waste: Take What You Eat" campaign + sustainable snack bar run by CAAP students

JRC Lectures & Workshops

Mon–Thu: S4–S7 lectures on Nuclear Waste Management, EEE Waste, Biodiversity, Food
Class workshops by JRC experts (on sustainability and health themes)

Fondazione CREDA ETS

Workshops for S1-S3 on water and the circular economy.

Student-Led Workshops and Events

Secondary workshops for primary school students (sorting activity, WWF presentations)

Erasmus Maris demonstrations on Microplastics

Microelectronics workshops and repair club stands

Litter-picking secondary-primary 'buddy' activity

AGSEV and Parents

Climate Fresk Workshop for staff led by Ms. Alison Micklem

Support at our key events including a Circular Economy sale.

Collections of plastic bottle tops *Mille Piedi* and corks *ItalMoldova Cork Recycling*

'Walk to School' Wednesday - Friday

Re:Earth Junk Couture Fashion Show

Friday (primary & secondary audiences during the day)

23 student-designed ensembles from 100% recycled materials



To help us plan sustainably, we would also like to gauge parents' interest in and availability for a potential Thursday evening showing of 'Re:Earth'. Please follow the link or scan the QR code to express your interest.





ESV Community Exchange!

O-Marché App

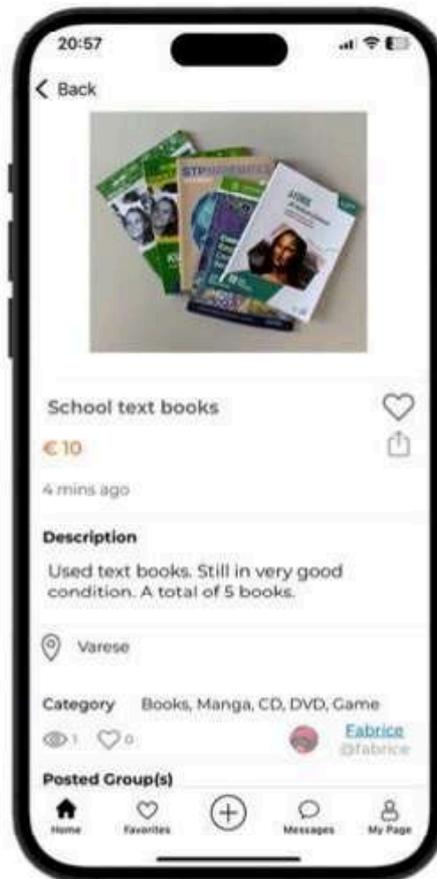


Buy, Sell, Exchange, Reuse, Repurpose, or Give Away
Secondhand Items in the **ESV** Community



For Circular Economy

Use this App to Exchange
Textbooks, Books and other
Secondhand Items!



Very Simple to Use

Create and edit posts
anytime, right from your
smartphone



Private Message

Convenient Meetups:
Easily Arrange Exchanges
at school or in town.

1 - **Free Download from AppStore or PlayStore**
(Or [tap here](#) from your smartphone)

2 - Sign-Up with your email

3 - Join the ESV community exchange group by entering:

Group ID: VENICA

Group Code: 379-011-968

www.agsev.it

Parents.Association@agsev.it

<https://o-marche.net>

contact@kirincreatives.com





Честит Национален Празник! 03/03



Boldog Nemzeti Ünnepet!

15/03



Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh! 17/03



Χρόνια Πολλά!

25/03



Vrolijke Koningsdag!

27/04



School calendar



LinkedIn Page



Our Online School Library



02/03 - 03/03 : S5 (some S6) - PISA Assessments

02/03 : S7 Art - Meeting with photographer Carlo Meazza

03/03: JRC School Workshops.

05/03: S6 Art, S3ITL1 Visit to the Milan office of the European Parliament

09/03 - 11/03 : European School Science Symposium Brussels

13/03: S4 ICT Conference

16/03 - 19/03 : S5 - Trip to Krakow Poland

18/03: Francophone Day

18/03 - 21/03: Model European Council, Karlsruhe

19/03 - 22/03: Model United Nations, Milan

23/03 - 27/03: **GREEN WEEK**

27/03: S3 Mousetrap Race

27/03: S6L1ITA e B + S7Latin : Lecture on Environmental and Animal Law

30/03 - 10/04: Easter Holidays

14/04: S7 CILS esame livello B2 Italiano

20/04: S5 Deadline for Work Experience Choices

28/04: S1 Visit to the Oasi di Sant'Alessio, Pavia