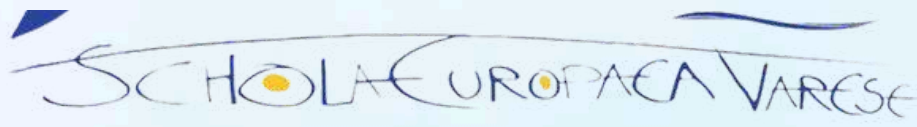




Newsletter No.9

May 2026



Secondary

As we enter our final term, let's celebrate our achievements, support each other, and stay focused to achieve our goals!

Schuman Day

Celebrating Europe together: Euro Day 2026

European Spirit



Families, parents, students, and staff came together to celebrate **Euro Day** across the Materna, Primary, and Secondary schools on May 8 in a joyful celebration of European spirit and community. Throughout the afternoon, parents enjoyed student performances, explored art exhibitions, supported sports teams during the VolleyCup, and discovered a wide variety of activities organised across the campus, including quizzes on Europe, music performances, salsa dancing, AI and coding workshops, EPAS activities, and presentations from the Model European Council, Model United Nations, and the Student Committee.

A musical highlight of the day was the performance by the choir "La Magia della Musica e del Canto", directed by Mayra Torres, who presented an energetic programme dedicated to The Beatles. The festive atmosphere continued with a performance by the Elgar Teachers' Band, much appreciated by the audience. One of the most popular moments of the event was the opportunity to sample delicious dishes from different countries at the national gastro stands, creating a warm and festive atmosphere throughout the school.



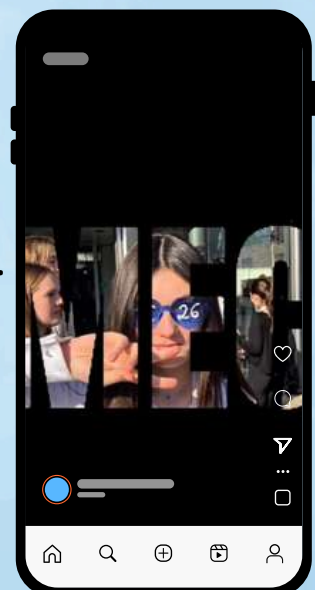
Many thanks to all the participants who helped make this such a relaxed and enjoyable event filled with European spirit. A special congratulations also goes to our coordinators Damien Lhermitte and Giuditta Grolla.



Model European Council

We are incredibly proud of our students who represented the European School Varese at the **Model European Council, hosted by European School Karlsruhe in March.** Our students took on the roles of delegates for Spain and Luxembourg, while others contributed to the highly active MEC Media Team, showcasing both their diplomatic and creative skills.

A special thank you to the MEC Media Team for capturing the highlights of the event.



This achievement would not have been possible without the tireless dedication and guidance of teachers Adriana Kolkiewicz, Marek Kolkiewicz, and Paul Cawthorne. Well done to all involved for your commitment, professionalism, and enthusiasm, you have represented our school with distinction.



From **March 11 to 14, 2026**, 20 students from the European School of Varese (10 girls and 10 boys) took part in this extraordinary **Euro Sport competition** hosted by the **European School of Brussels IV**.

Five disciplines, a true test of versatility: ultimate frisbee, 3v3 basketball, touch rugby, pickleball, and an obstacle race — the result of two years of preparation and training. Our school achieved excellent results this year. Competing against 26 schools, we won the Obstacle Course and the Cultural Challenge, missing the podium by just one point!



Eurosport is much more than a competition: it is team spirit, intercultural exchange, and new friendships among students of the European Schools. A big thank you to teachers Giuditta Grolla, Simon Richter, and Joao Ribeiro, who accompanied the students, and to Piera Macchi and Dario Pollicini for their valuable support during the preparation.



MILAN MUN



This was our school's 14th consecutive year of participation in the **Model United Nations conference** which took place at **Bocconi University** from the **19th to 22nd of March**. 15 of our students from S5, S6 and S7 took part representing India, Spain and Algeria with one delegate playing the role of Tsar Alexander of Russia in an historical simulation of the 1815 Congress of Vienna.

The student delegates debated a range of political, economic, social, and environmental issues, including gender equality, protecting biodiversity, deforestation, combatting organised crime, malnutrition and obesity, international trade disputes, labour rights, Syrian refugees, Brazilian indigenous communities and the Gaza conflict. The students distinguished themselves with their enthusiasm, dedication and excellent teamwork.

Mant thanks to Adriana Kolkiewicz. Paul Cawthorne and Marek Kolkiewicz for their expert guidance.





Re:Earth Fashion Show



Thank you to everyone who supported our **Re:Earth Fashion Show**, held on the Thursday and Friday before Easter break. Our talented S5 and S6 students delivered a stunning collection inspired by the principles of sustainable fashion and eco-design, under the expert guidance of Art teachers, Francesca Pacciani and Julia Ammon.



During preparations, students engaged in the entire creative process, from conceptualisation to material selection and garment construction. As they explored nature and its elements, they transformed what might otherwise be considered waste into remarkable pieces of art, demonstrating that limitations can become opportunities for innovation.



The event featured 23 original ensembles, all crafted from 100% sustainable materials, including natural, recycled, regenerated, and upcycled resources. We were all impressed by the trojan effort and creativity of the designers. As well as highlighting our students' remarkable skills, the show demonstrates that fashion can be both beautiful and ethical.



New Life Bazaar



Our student-led reuse market during Green Week, '**New Life Bazaar**', was a great success, promoting sustainability and reducing consumption. There was an impressive array of books, games, collectibles, electronics and video games available.

S7 Micro Electronics students led the event, implementing a clever token system and collecting and valuing the items at lunch breaks. In the spirit of circular economy principles, any remaining items have since been returned to their owners.



We remind our whole school community to continue supporting sustainability through our Parents' Association's O-Marché app, our own Microelectronics students' Repair Club, the Ispra Repair Café, and upcoming book exchanges.

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.

- Free Download from **AppStore** or **PlayStore** (Or tap here from your smartphone)
- Sign-Up with your email
- Join the ESV community exchange group by entering:
 - Group ID: **VENICA**
 - Group Code: **379-011-968**

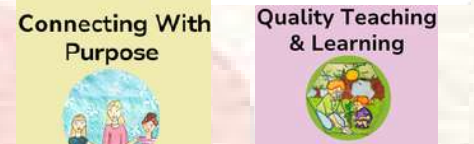
www.agsv.it
Parents.Association@agsv.it
https://o-marche.net
contact@kircncreatives.com



L'Istituto De Filippi Collaboration



On **March 13**, S1 students enhanced their culinary skills at **L'Istituto De Filippi**, collaborating with the canteen provider So.Vite and chef Emmanuele Mezzera to design part of the Green Week menu. The day included a theoretical session with a nutritionist, discussions on Lake Maggiore's environment, insights from the 'Slow Food' organisation, and local fishermen, focusing on nutrition and responsible sourcing. This was followed by a practical cooking class using local products, culminating in the selection of a sustainable menu for Green Week. The initiative highlights the connection between daily choices and sustainability, with gratitude extended to all involved. Click on the images to read about the masterclass in local news.



Mensa Pop-ups

Our mensa provider So.Vite and L'Istituto de Filippi demonstrated two pop-up workshops in our mensa to promote our Green Week actions.

The first pop-up celebrated the local producers we use and students had the opportunity to sample various delicious local products.

In the second pop-up promoted a local Food Bank that collects unwanted food and makes it into jams and other condiments. Our mensa committee hopes this will reduce food waste next year.

To learn more about local food bank **Donononsolopane**, click on the image:



If you would like your child to attend L'Istituto de Filippi's **Food Summer Camp** to learn about local producers and boost their cooking skills, click to find out more:



Student-Led Workshops



Our first Green Week could not have happened without the drive and enthusiasm of our students. As well as proposing the initiative, designing promotional materials including the mascot and logo, **Membro Eco** collaborated with middle management at every step of the process, ensuring a programme of activities that reflected our students' values and celebrated student voice.

Student-led workshops centred on four topics: **food waste, endangered animals, Erasmus Maris (microplastics and marine research), and the impact of meat.** Over forty students, mostly from S6, delivered workshops to materna, primary, and secondary classes.



Primary teachers were particularly impressed by the knowledge and leadership skills demonstrated, and were moved to see their former students return to their classrooms as such confident and capable young adults.

It is truly a privilege to teach these young people and to watch them grow into thoughtful, proactive, and socially responsible individuals, committed to building a better future.



Green Week - JRC Diaries

An element of the **Joint Research Centre** expert visits appreciated by students and teachers alike this year is how well the scientists aligned with our target learning outcomes and Green School ethos. These expert visits helped reinforce one of the core aims of Green Week, empowering students to be informed, responsible citizens. We are extremely grateful to our visitors for their time, their knowledge, and his ability to make complex scientific ideas both accessible and engaging.

Monday 24 March, Day One of Green Week!

A huge thank you to the two visiting experts, Zanolello Flavio and Eugenio Gervasini, for providing presentations and Q & A sessions to our students on two critical and fascinating sustainability topics for the first day of Green Week!

Biodiversity Workshop – S6 Students

Eugenio Gervasini, Agronomist and Scientific Administrator at the JRC provided an insightful presentation on Biodiversity, climate change, and adaptation strategies. Students gained a deeper understanding of key syllabus areas: Biodiversity and climate interactions; Sustainable agriculture; Integrated pest management; Citizen science and environmental awareness!



☢ Nuclear Waste Management Workshop – S5 Students

Flavio Zanovello delivered another very relevant and thoughtful presentation on Nuclear Waste Management, again skilfully integrating multiple syllabus targets: Understanding waste; Radioactive waste; Processing techniques; Conditioning & disposal.

🌱 Tuesday 24, Day 2 of Green Week!

Many thanks to Mathieux Fabrice, a mechanical engineer who holds a PhD in design for **recycling electronic waste**, presented on the topic. Electronic waste is especially relevant to our students, who participated earlier this year in the Terra Rara project, collecting electronic waste that was later transformed by an artist into a beautiful installation in our city centre. Our in-house Repair Club, run entirely by students, also helps give faulty or broken electronics a second life. 🦋 Student feedback included that the presentation was “contemporary and hit close to home” and did “an excellent job at getting the students involved”.

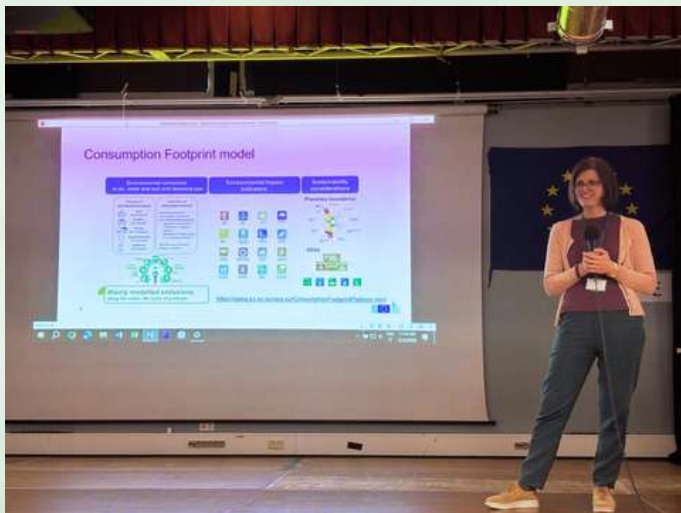


We had more student interaction and engagement in the afternoon with Celia Burgaz, who played the JRC's **Sustainability Game** with delighted groups of our S1 students. Celia is a Scientific Project Officer at the JRC, and an expert in sustainable food systems and health policy. Students loved the colourful graphics and interactive nature of the game, and said it made understanding the impact of choices 'easy and fun'! What a wonderful tool for teaching sustainability to young learners!

🌱🦋 Wednesday 25, Day 3 of Green Week

We had the privilege of welcoming Davide Lanzoni who delivered a JRC expert lecture on “**PROJECT SUPERFOOD**” to S5 and S7 students. Davide runs the fascinating Exploratory Research Project SuperFood at the JRC. He introduced students to contemporary research in sustainable food systems, prompting reflection on some ethical and environmental implications of these new technologies. Students engaged actively with questions on food security, solutions, and cost. Students strongly engaged with the topic, which has particular relevance to those studying the Society, Technology and Science course.

🌱 Thursday 26, Day 4 of Green Week 🌱



A massive thank you to Giulia Listorti, experienced policy analyst and project coordinator, who delivered an excellent presentation and Q&A session to S6 and S7 students on ‘**The Future of Food**’. The materials were accessible, visual, and engaging, greatly enhancing students’ subject-based learning on this important topic.

Thank you to all our visiting experts for your time, your expertise, and your commitment to bettering our school community. Your contributions are so valuable in bringing complex topics to life and inspiring our students to **Build The Future We Want**.



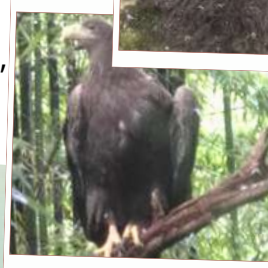


Exploring Biodiversity at Oasi di Sant'Alessio

51 students visited the **Oasi di Sant'Alessio in Pavia** for an in situ study of **biodiversity conservation** on May 5.

During the visit, students learned about protected species currently being cared for as part of conservation programmes before being reintroduced into their natural habitats.

The experience offered a valuable opportunity to observe biodiversity and environmental protection efforts firsthand. A special thank you to Antonella Sgaramella, Integrated Science Coordinator, for organising the trip, and congratulations to all the students involved for their curiosity, enthusiasm, and positive attitude towards learning.



Collaborative Planting Project

Protecting Our Planet



Collaboration between primary and secondary students creates valuable opportunities for student mentorship and builds community spirit.



One fine example is a **joint biodiversity project** involving **P4 and S4 Francophone classes**. In the first semester, they planted bulbs together in the school gardens. In the new year, they observed soil samples using binocular magnifying glasses and microscopes in our biology laboratories.

Sadly, the garden was accidentally damaged during maintenance work, but the project will adapt, ensuring students continue to benefit from the kind of practical, collaborative learning that is essential for deep understanding and lasting engagement. Many thanks to teachers Marc Perrin and Vincent Lestra for this meaningful initiative.



Biodiversity through Spanish



Subject departments bring our Green School values to life by creating engaging projects and opportunities for students to develop their green competences throughout the school year. We're delighted to shine a spotlight on the **Spanish Department's work** this semester as one such example.



S2L1 Spanish students, coordinated by Prof. Laura Morales, took part in the European **Life Insular** project, which focuses on developing sustainable policies and protecting biodiversity on Atlantic islands. Their work centred on the **Parque Nacional das Illas Atlánticas** in Galicia.



This learning on sustainability was complemented by the work of students in S5L3 and S6L1, coordinated by Prof. Gema Sampedro, who delivered presentations on the **Parque Nacional de Doñana in Andalusia**, exploring its ecological importance and the challenges it faces. A huge 'enhorabuena' to all participating students for their fantastic efforts.



School Days at the JRC



On Thursday, 23 April, we celebrated the conclusion of our **“School Days at the JRC – ESV”** collaboration, giving students the opportunity to explore real-world science and sustainability in action.

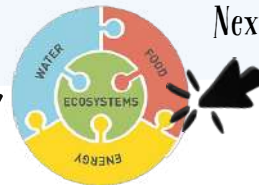
The culmination of this engaging project included a visit to the water, vehicles, and smart grids interoperability laboratories, and presentations of student projects that had been developed on these topics, following workshops led by JRC scientists earlier in the school year.



The day was also significant as we had the opportunity to welcome the school’s incoming Director, Zdravka Grdan.

We see the great value of what the Joint Research Centre offers our students, particularly in terms of the scientific knowledge they gain and the pedagogical connections that can be built from this experience. We warmly thank the JRC scientists for their commitment and expertise, and congratulate our students for their enthusiasm and dedication.

What is WEF Nexus?



WEFE Nexus Project Presentations



There was a fantastic atmosphere in the Aula Magna May 6, when our **Science and Technology Studies students** presented a range of projects based on their learning on the **WEFE Nexus**: looking at the interconnected nature of water, energy, food production, and environmental health.

In an exciting marketplace structured event, students presented and learned from others' work on topics that included the planet in 2030, the textile industry, human health, and water scarcity in Europe, among many others.

Well done to the students who ensured the event was a pedagogical success through their diligence, collaboration, and critical thinking on our environment, as well as their excellent STS teachers.



ESSS - European Schools Science Symposium 2026



Congratulations to our participants in **the European Schools Science Symposium 2026**. You can still see their project displays outside the biology laboratory in the Da Vinci building. The projects include a 3D-printed robotic arm for plant care in hydroponics and an experiment on the survival of crickets in cold environments. We are incredibly proud! Our 3D printing enthusiasts have since applied their skills to repairing items around school that would otherwise need to be replaced, such as lab covers and an office coffee machine.



Congratulations to our S3 secondary cycle student, Matěj Hradec, who received **2nd prize in the Junior Section**. Matěj's project, **"Solvent-based recycling of multilayer plastic packaging using xylene as a dissolution medium,"** explores an innovative chemistry-driven approach to recycling complex plastic packaging. By selectively dissolving polyolefin layers such as PE and PP, the method aims to recover near-pure plastics while keeping costs low and reducing waste.

This recognition reflects Matěj's curiosity, scientific rigor, and commitment to sustainable innovation. Click on the article thumbnail to read more about his success!



A big round of applause also to Ms Charlotte Dudal, his Integrated Science teacher, for her excellent guidance and support.

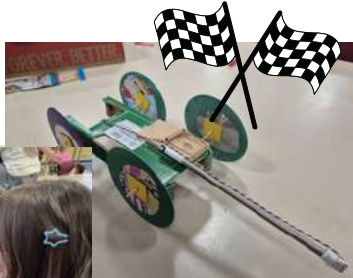
Mousetrap Race 2026



Coinciding with the Friday of Green Week, we held our annual Mousetrap Race before the Easter break. Our cafeteria was transformed into a real race track, giving S3 Integrated Science students the opportunity to put into practice what they had learned in the "Work and Machines" unit.

Students applied key scientific concepts such as energy transfer, while collaborating, problem-solving, and thinking creatively.

Race day was full of enthusiasm, with an impressive variety of engineering choices and inventive designs on display. A special thank you goes to coordinator Antonella Sgaramella, the Integrated Science teachers, and our Science technicians for their mentorship.

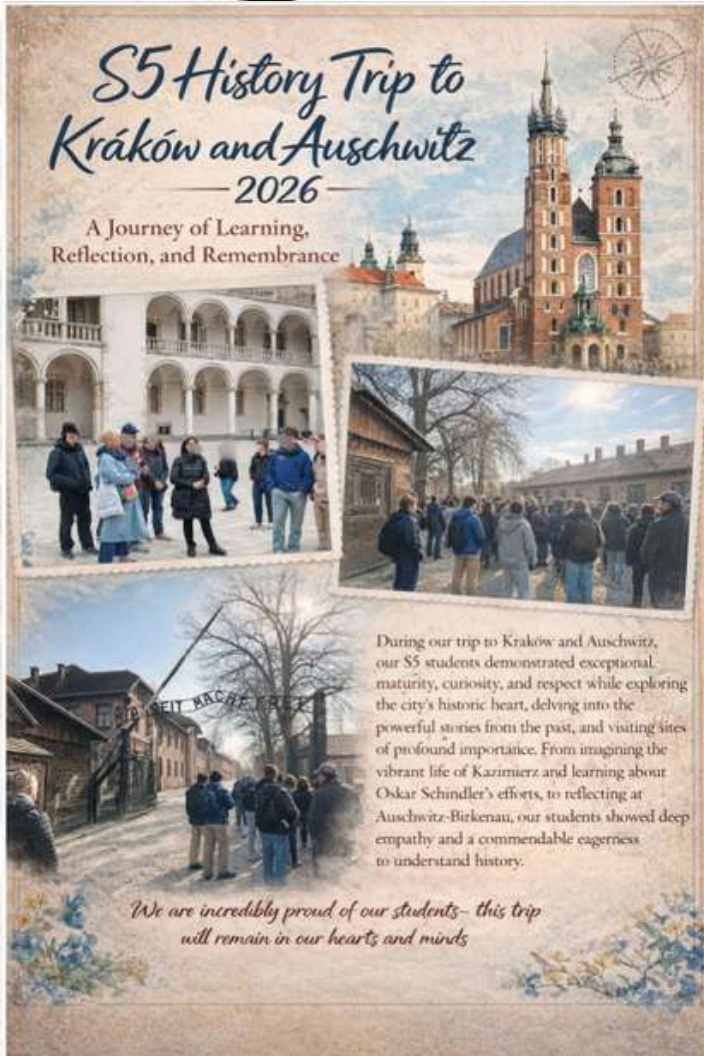




S5 Krakow and Auschwitz Trip



Read more about this trip



Our **trip to Krakow** was an unforgettable experience, combining historical discovery with moments of reflection and collective learning. The tour took us to the historic heart of the city, with the evocative Wawel Castle and the vibrant Market Square, where the students appreciated Krakow's architectural beauty and cultural vibrancy. A visit to the former Jewish quarter of Kazimierz offered a significant insight into the legacy and traditions of Jewish life in Poland before World War II. A particularly powerful moment was the visit to the Oskar Schindler Factory Museum, where students confronted the complex realities of life under Nazi occupation. Through immersive exhibits and personal stories, we explored the themes of courage, resistance, and humanity during one of the darkest periods in history. The visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was a profound and moving experience. Walking through this place of memory allowed the students to reflect on the consequences of hatred, intolerance, and indifference.

The GDR and the Fall of the Berlin Wall



Recently, Mr. Steinbach, a valued member of our management team, gave an inspiring talk to S7 History students about **life in the German Democratic Republic and the fall of the Berlin Wall**.

Drawing on his own experiences, he combined personal memories with historical insight, helping students better understand the realities, restrictions, and hopes of the period. Students were encouraged to ask questions and engage in thoughtful discussion throughout the session.

What especially stood out was the warm and open atmosphere Mr. Steinbach created, sparking curiosity, empathy, and reflection on themes such as freedom, division, and reunification. The talk was a powerful reminder of how lived experience can bring history to life and encourage critical thinking about the world today.

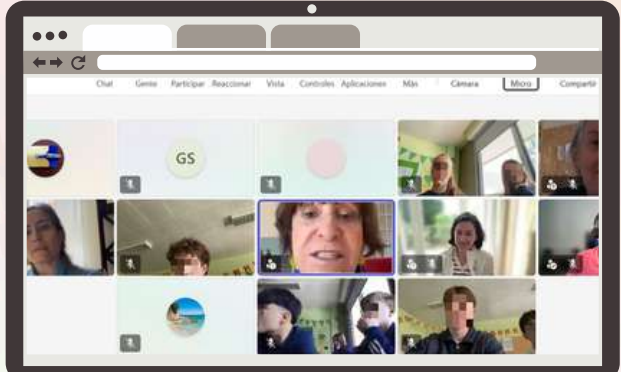


Online Meeting with Rosa Montero



On April 14, via a webinar, the students of S7L1 and their teacher, Ana Rodríguez, had the opportunity to discuss **La Buena Suerte**, a contemporary Spanish novel that is part of this year's BAC exam, with its author, Rosa Montero. In addition, parents who participate with teacher Laura Morales in the Spanish **Reading Club-E-leo** were also present and were able to share their thoughts with the author.

Thank you so much, Rosa, for your time, your dedication, the opportunity you've given us, and the warmth with which you've embraced this initiative!



World Book Day 2026



On April 23, the L1, L3, and L4 Spanish students in Ms. Ana Rodríguez's classes displayed their work in the atrium of the Da Vinci building to celebrate **International Book Day**. The project involved reading novels and exploring them through literary storytelling, black-out poetry to find poetry in Spanish texts, and the words of Cervantes that remind us of the importance of freedom and justice.



The Ministry of Education, Vocational Training, and Sports has highlighted this activity as a best practice in its Acción Educativa Exterior, which you can read more about by clicking the image:



Celebrating a Young Author: Gaia Gladulich



Congratulations to S7 student **Gaia Gladulich** who recently published her debut novel **Stronger Than She Looks**. The book explores themes of resilience, courage, personal growth, and the invisible struggles people may face while appearing strong on the outside. We are excited to read more of her work and wish Gaia all the success in her future writing.

ICT S4 Conference

Connecting With Purpose



Quality Teaching & Learning



Many thanks to the **Joint Research Centre** and our ICT Coordinator, Théo Giani, for organising an informative **ICT conference for S4 students** on Friday the 13th of March. Led by experts in the field, including Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Maruszewski, the conference focused on the vital role of digital technologies and computational thinking in today's world.



The expert presenters engaged students with an accessible and compelling approach, encouraging them to consider the impact of technology on various aspects of life and learning.

This event provided students with valuable insights into the importance of technology in their education and future careers.

Nuit du Code... by day.

Following the success of last year, we hosted another **Nuit du Code** (by day) on Wednesday the 6th of May. The event encourages programming and digital creativity, with participants working in teams to create video games in *Scratch*.



Not only is the joy of coding nurtured but also a sense of teamwork and camaraderie among our young students. A special thank you to this year's facilitators and ICT teachers

for facilitating this creative, project-based learning experience.



Quality Teaching & Learning



Photomath Competition

Students from European School of Varese recently took part in the international **PhotoMath competition** organised by the European School of Alicante. The competition invites students to explore the connection between mathematics, art and everyday life through photography and mathematical reflection.

[Click to learn more about how to participate in this annual competition and view past winners:](#)



The competition offered students a creative opportunity to show how mathematics can be discovered far beyond the classroom, in nature, architecture and design. Congratulations to all participants for their thoughtful and imaginative contributions.



Lights, Camera, Distinction!



Our S7 Film Studies students achieved a **distinction**, the **Best P.O.V. / Perspective Award**, at the **European Parliament Short-Film Competition for Schools, LUX**, that took place in Rome on 19th March 2026.



S7 Film Studies Students - From L to R: GABALDO, Luca S7EN, RIOUAL, Roxane S7EN; ANTONIOTTI, Niamh S7EN; Ms. Tsompanopoulou (teacher); BLECH - TOLPO, Joshua S7EN; STEINHAEUER, Ela Isabel S7DEA; DE JONGE, Thelma Alice S7FRA; EFF, Sigrid VA S7EN.

Thirty-five schools from across Italy participated in the prestigious competition, with our school submitting two short films, one created by our S7 Film Studies students and another by S6.

All students will receive a certificate of distinction or participation from the European Parliament, and both of our school's submitted films will be uploaded to the **EP LUX** official site. We are so proud of their creativity and hard work. A huge congratulations to the students and to Film Studies teacher, Fenia Tsompanopoulou.

Winning Words for S6 Film Studies



Additionally, S6 Film Studies students **Davide D'Alberti and Noah Lorini** won **first place** in the **2026 Opera Prima Script-writing Competition** organised by Cattolica University of Milan and open to all Italian schools. Their winning script was about the events of May 1968 and their impact on education. With over 500 schools taking part, this is an outstanding achievement! Our winners will be offered free access to Lecco Film Festival, with all expenses covered.



All of our S6 students contributed high-quality work in the form of original scripts and short stories. S6 students attended a ceremony to celebrate their achievements on Tuesday, 28th April at the Cattolica University of Milan, where they received their awards and certificates. Congratulations and well done to all of our students and their dedicated teacher.

Journeys in Creativity



On April 17, the award ceremony for the creative writing competition "**Journey: Through Thoughts and Words**" was held in the Aula Magna. Initiated by the European School of Karlsruhe and supported by our school, it involved students from Italian L4 S5 and S6, French L1 in S5, and Philosophy in S6, guided by their respective teachers. Our school welcomed a delegation from Karlsruhe who enjoyed a welcome buffet and an impressive concert by the student orchestra, conducted by Prof. Candido.



After the ceremony, some of the winning works were shared: diaries, poems, and drawings inspired by the theme of travel as a moment of meeting, exploration, and self-discovery. We sincerely thank our colleagues from the European School of Karlsruhe, Annabella Raucci, Céline La Gall, and Frédéric Houam, for involving us in this fantastic creative project.



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AGSEV

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welcomes and supports
all class reps!

 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



Celebrazioni nazionali



Viva la Repubblica!

02/06



Schéinen Nationalfeierdag!

23/06

Glædelig Grundlovsdag!

05/06



Glad nationaldag!

06/06

Vesel dan državnosti!

25/06



Feliz Dia de Portugal!

10/06



Sretan Dan državnosti!

25/06

 [School Website](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

25/05 – 29/05: S5 exams

01/06-12/06 : Bac Written Exams

29/05-12/06 : S6 Exams

02/06 : National Day - School closed

12/06 : Last day of school for S5

15/06- 26/06 : S5 - Work experience

15-06- 19/06 : S3-S6 : Compulsory trips ; S1-

S2-S4 : Project week

24/06 : Sports Day

26/06 : Last day of school for S1,S2,S3,S4,S6

29/06 - 02/07 : Oral Bac exams

03/07 : Bac ceremony

LinkedIn Page



School calendar

