



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
OF CAPE TOWN

isct.co.za

PROSPECTUS



WELCOME

Choosing the right school for your child can be challenging. As parents, we all want the best for our children and part of this is selecting a school that fits their particular needs. Here at the International School of Cape Town our philosophy is simple: happy children learn better.

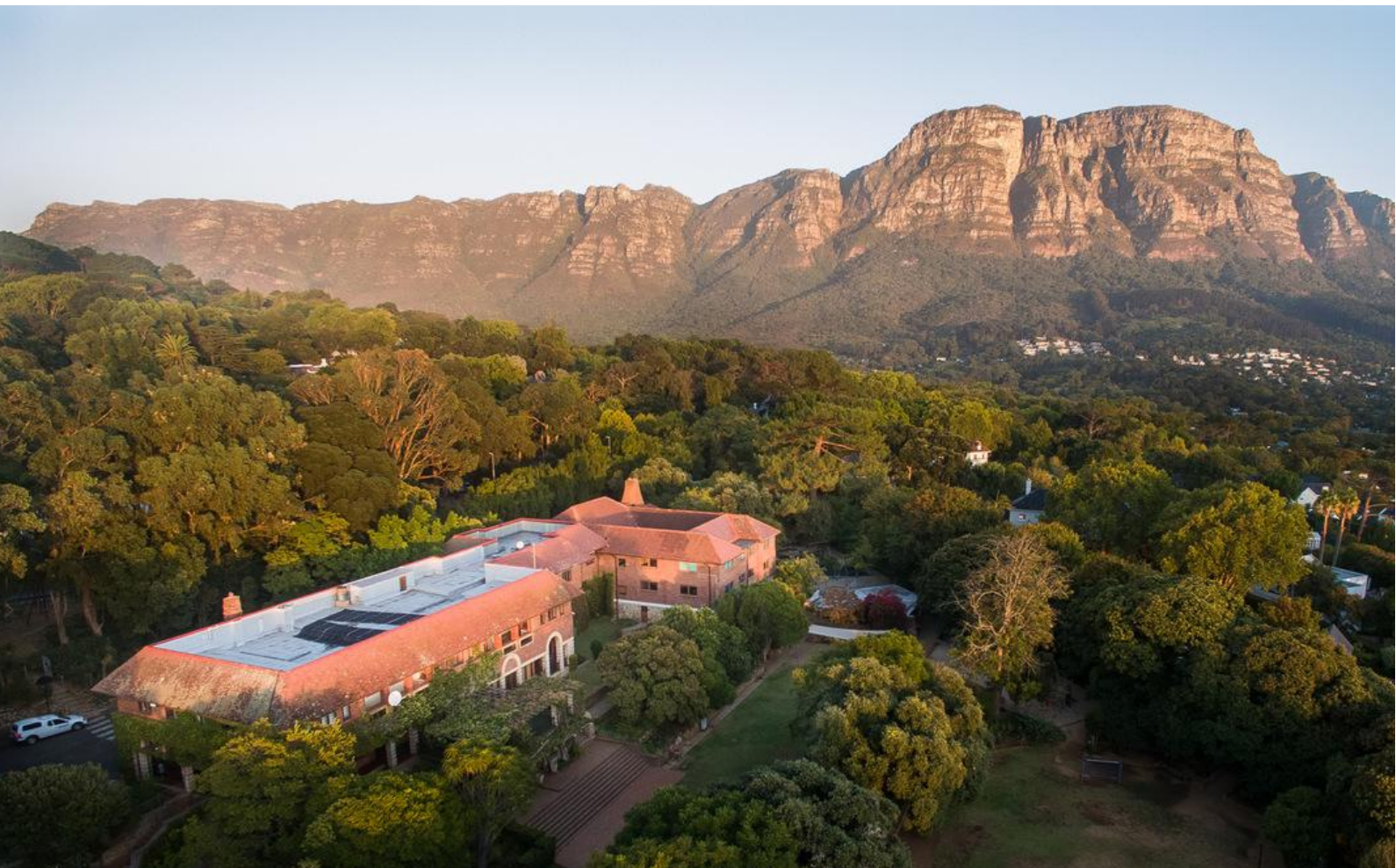
Here we strive to provide a warm and happy environment which allows individuals to be who they want to be. In our relatively short history, we have achieved remarkable successes as a result of our flexible approach to meeting students' needs.

Our success rests firmly on the three cornerstones of effective schooling, namely: enthusiastic students, supportive parents and professional teaching staff.

Most students who come to this school find it to be a "home away from home". While the academic programme is rigorous, students are not unnecessarily pressurised and are allowed to develop within an environment that is nurturing as well as supportive.

Welcome to our home!

David Hunter
Principal



The International School of Cape Town is a private co-educational international school offering a quality British-style education to local and foreign students.

ISCT is committed to developing a progressive school renowned for its high standards, international curriculum, caring environment and dedicated, professional staff. ISCT is a school that has a Christian ethos which celebrates diversity and inclusivity, strives to develop confident, responsible and successful young people and endeavours to keep in touch with the dynamics of education so as to best serve the educational needs of each individual, both staff and student.

The International School of Cape Town, established in 1998, is set in the terraced gardens of Woodland Heights in Upper Wynberg with a second campus, Struben House, a kilometer away in Eden Road, Claremont.

ISCT offers an extended curriculum leading to the internationally respected qualifications of the University of Cambridge. Our results are recognized worldwide and enable the majority of our students to enroll in their first choice of tertiary institute.

Due to the nature of the curriculum, the school is culturally diverse and is made up of South Africans who are seeking an international standard of education, as well as foreign families who find themselves in South Africa - due to work obligations and opportunities. The curriculum for Nursery to Year 9 is essentially an international version of the UK National Curriculum in that students follow the basic outline of the UK curriculum, with adaptations to bring in local content.

Students from Year 10 onwards follow the relevant syllabi leading to Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) at IGCSE, AS and A Level. Our students have excelled in these exams, producing results that are well above the world-wide average at all levels.

The school is owned by Education Development Trust, a registered charity, whose involvement in education is well known and recognized in the UK.

The school is a member of ISASA – the Independent Schools Association of South Africa - and is registered with the Western Cape Education Department as an independent school.



OUR VISION

“Empowering students to shape a brighter future.”

We aim to be:



A centre of academic excellence.



A talent incubator for teachers and students.



A learning environment that is distinctive and nurturing.

Impacting the future, together.

OUR MISSION

“Equipping students with the skills needed for an ever-changing world and a passion for a lifetime of learning.”

To do this, we:

1. Apply global best practices to provide a balanced programme of academic, social, emotional and physical input.
2. Provide a nurturing and supportive environment that is safe and fosters positive relationships.
3. Provide a dynamic environment where children enjoy learning and develop 21st-century skills.
4. Celebrate our diversity by respecting all faiths and cultures.
5. Provide opportunities for students to make positive contributions to their local and global communities.
6. Address challenges faced by students and families by partnering with them to reach a solution.

Equipping Students to Change the World.

OUR VALUES

“At home in the world.”

We believe:

- ✦ That contemporary learning takes place within a challenging, nurturing and supportive environment.
- ✦ That we are enriched by our diverse community, and are committed to creating a space in which everyone is respected.
- ✦ That we have a shared humanity, inspiring a commitment to ethical responsibility as local and global citizens.



AGES AND STAGES

ISCT follows the UK age guidelines, which are slightly different to the South African system. As our academic year runs from January to December, students from the Northern Hemisphere joining us in January, simply start the year again, whereas those joining us after July repeat the end of the year they have just finished.

Age (January)	UK National Curriculum Stage	Year (International)
3 yrs 6 months – 4 yrs 6 months	Early Years	Nursery
4 yrs 6 months – 5 yrs 6 months	Early Years	Reception
5 yrs 6 months – 6 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 1	1
6 yrs 6 months – 7 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 1	2
7 yrs 6 months – 8 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 2	3
8 yrs 6 months – 9 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 2	4
9 yrs 6 months – 10 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 2	5
10 yrs 6 months – 11 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 2	6
11 yrs 6 months – 12 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 3	7
12 yrs 6 months – 13 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 3	8
13 yrs 6 months – 14 yrs 6 months	Key Stage 3	9
14 yrs 6 months – 15 yrs 6 months	IGCSE	10
15 yrs 6 months – 16 yrs 6 months	IGCSE A/S Levels - (August)	11
16 yrs 6 months – 17 yrs 6 months	A/S Levels	12
17 yrs 6 months – 18 yrs 6 months	A/S Levels	13

AGE CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Children entering Reception should normally have reached the age of 4 1/2 years by 1 January in that school year. The minimum age for admission to subsequent grades will be correspondingly increased. The maximum age of admission to any year group will be at the discretion of the Head of School but will not usually exceed 12 months beyond the above recommendation.

Children entering Year 7 (the first year of secondary education) must normally be at least 12 years old by 31 July in that school year. The maximum age of admission to any year group is more flexible in the Secondary School, but it is unlikely that any student will be admitted to a year group if he or she is more than two years of age above the norm for that year group.

DECISIONS ON ADMISSION AND PLACEMENT

Students may not be transferred from one year group to another without the consent of the Principal. The Principal's decision on the admission of a student and his or her placement shall be final.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

EARLY YEARS, KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2



The curriculum in the Primary School is based upon the best theory and practice of the UK National Curriculum, but due cognisance is taken of developments in the South African curriculum.

Our Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students follow an all-embracing curriculum which has as its key focus the development of concepts, skills, attitudes and values. Each child has an individualised learning programme which enables him/her to progress through the course from Nursery to the end of Key Stage 2 at a pace which is challenging without being stressful.

In our Early Years programme, which includes Nursery and Reception, students are introduced to literacy and numeracy concepts and skills when they are ready to learn. Early Years is still a time for play and exploration, as the students gradually enjoy settling into school life and coming to terms with themselves, their families, their environment, and their peers and seeking to answer the questions of who they are and where they come from.

Key Stage Two lays the foundation for a further academic career by allowing the children to take the responsibility for their learning and behaviour. This broad base allows for the children to grow in an international context to become global citizens in the years ahead.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HIGH SCHOOL



The curriculum in the High School in Years 7 and 8 forms a natural progression from work covered in the Primary School but allows students from other Primary Schools to join us.

Years 7 to 9 (Key Stage 3) are the foundation years and seek to build up confidence, knowledge and skills in a range of subjects in preparation for Year 10, when we begin to follow the syllabi of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

In Year 10 and 11 students follow the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) syllabi of the University of Cambridge. In May of the Year 11 year, students take examinations in eight subjects.

After the examinations, provided that the entry requirements are met, students study four academic subjects for the Advanced Subsidiary Examination (AS Level) of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. This qualification is recognised by Universities South Africa (USAf) and is acceptable as an entrance qualification to all South African Universities, as well as for many other universities around the world (including Australia and the USA).

Students may choose to stay on at School for a further year (Year 13) and complete the study of three subjects leading to the University of Cambridge General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (A Level) examinations. These qualifications have international credibility and recognition as entry qualifications to every university and institute of tertiary education in the world.



AS / A LEVELS

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level represents the first half of a full A Level course and gives students the opportunity to study a broader range of subjects without committing to doing a full A Level.

Students can complete an AS Level examination, then stop studying for that particular subject. Alternatively they can choose to complete the remaining course of study in order to take the A Level assessment.

Our AS level programme begins in July and runs for 18 months. This is then followed by the optional A level.

Many of our students complete the AS level and then enter a South African University,

while those who wish to study overseas often stay on to complete the full A-level in 3 subjects. At A-level we switch from the full classroom/teaching method in AS to a tutor-supported self-study system for A2.

This involves on average two contact hours per subject per week while the student follows a well-constructed curriculum in each subject with regular compulsory assignments and assessments.

Usually, a choice of 4 subjects (for AS) is made from the list below, according to prescribed option blocks that vary slightly from year to year depending on the needs and desires of our students.

1. English Language
2. Physics
3. Geography
4. English Literature
5. Chemistry

6. Art
7. Mathematics
8. Business Studies
9. Music
10. Biology

11. History
12. French/ Spanish/
Afrikaans
13. Computing

EXTRA CURRICULAR

ISCT believes in balance and offers a range of extra-curricular activities in addition to the academic programme.

These vary according to season and age of student. We offer both competitive team sport and fitness activities, as well as cultural options and individual music lessons with private tutors. All activities take place from Monday to Friday.

Each class has regular curriculum-related excursions and from Year 5, all classes have an annual camp.

From Year 3 every student is assigned a House (Draco, Orion or Titan) and there is healthy Inter-House spirit in the competitions throughout the year.



STAFF AND PARENTS

We believe our staff are one of our greatest assets. Our staff have a passion for children, their learning and development. We employ well-trained and dedicated teachers who undergo regular professional development, lesson observation and work scrutiny to ensure they meet the highest standards.



TESTIMONIALS

"The International School has been amazing and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you have done for him. These words can never truly explain our feelings and gratitude but please know that you have made a massive difference in this child's life."

"LOVE LOVE LOVE this school and how it never ceases to produce not only excellent results, but happy, balanced kids. Thank you so much to the teachers, leadership team and school support staff who manage to draw the best out of our lovely children."

"We would just like to say how happy we are with the school. We have such a good feeling and look forward to seeing our children grow and develop through school."

"I pray that ISCT may continue being that great place I was always excited to go to and which I called my second home for 8 years of my life."

"I would like to commend and applaud the school for their progressive thinking and approach to their kids. Last night, at the Prize Giving, I was both warmed and blown away by the importance highlighted on the creative, musical and artistic side of the kids. Although a strongly academic school with really bright children, it was refreshing to see a school embracing and recognising creativity. This was an eye opener and I hope many schools follow this example!"

"Thank you to you and all your staff for looking after and caring about him, and others. Wonderful feeling as a parent to find such a great school."

"Thank you for being so 'on the ball' pastorally, (this) is testament to the outstanding pastoral care that ISCT offers."

"I would just like to say thank you once again for everything you did for me during my year at ISCT. I'm so glad I got the chance to meet the people I did, to share classes with some of the most fun and crazy students I've ever met, and to learn the invaluable lessons that I did. From the poetry to the quantum pure mathematics and the never-ending stream of biology practicals, I'd say that it was an experience quite unlike any other!"