



Dear Parents,

Welcome to this new school year at ESH, we hope that you enjoyed a lovely summer holiday. Last week the teachers and other members of staff and management were already in school to prepare for the new school year. However as of today we can really call the ESH a 'school' again because a school isn't really a school without any pupils or students. So we were all very happy to welcome 650 children today.

We feel that this school year can be seen as a 'brand new start'. This morning there were more than 100 new pupils and our team of teaching staff also increased with 16 new teachers. As previously announced we opened a new year group with S4. We now also have temporary classrooms located on our premises to accommodate all the pupils, although these are unfortunately not yet in use; we will be moving 10 classes into the new building by next week.

In this issue of our newsletter I would like to take the opportunity to shortly introduce myself. Marianne de Graaf already informed you of her retirement before the summer holidays and as of the 1st of August I took over the post of director of The European School of The Hague. I have an educational background and was involved in international education as a teacher, as a principal, but also as a policy advisor and a teacher trainer. I have represented the Netherlands in the Board of Governors of the European Schools for almost 10 years so you could say that I am well acquainted with the European Schools. Nevertheless, to become the director of the ESH is a great challenge for me and I feel privileged to be working in this multilingual and multicultural environment. I will be working closely with our teachers to empower them and to explore and develop the children's' talents. I am looking forward to meeting parents on suitable occasions and to collaborating with the representative of parents and teachers to develop our school.

I wish all pupils and students together with their parents a wonderful school year.

With kind regards,

*Frans van de Kerkhof*

Director European School The Hague

## Primary School information

### Staff changes

We are happy to report that we are starting the new school year with an even bigger team of Primary school teachers. Welcome to our new teachers; Ms. Alexandra Fitzpatrick (P1NEb), Ms. Debby van Schaik (P2 NE), Mr Anthony Berry (P1ENc), Mr Gareth Mate (P3ENa), Ms Rachel Hamer (P4ENa), Ms Laura Keibel (P1DE), Ms Violaine Chanel (NUFR1/2b), Muriel Pouget (P3/4FR) Ms Marion Moulin (L2FR) and Mr Paul Klarenbeek who will be the Primary music teacher. All vacancies except for one have been filled as we say goodbye to Ms Rufini who has accepted a job elsewhere. We are looking for a new Italian Mother Tongue teacher.

### Arrival and collection procedure

The drop-off and pick-up procedure remains the same as last school year. Nursery children can be dropped off and picked up at their classrooms. For the first week of school parents can escort their children in Primary classes. After the first week all Primary pupils can go to their classrooms by themselves and they will gather by class on the Primary playground at the end of the school day.

*Eugene Voorneman, Deputy Director Primary*

**Library volunteers** - We are looking for parent volunteers for the Primary library. We would like to hear from you if you can dedicate a minimum of 3 hours per week (on the same day every week) in supporting the librarian (book covering, labeling, cataloguing, etc.); supervising the library during school hours (check in and check out of books); and supporting the organisation of special events. Do you feel like joining the team? Please email us at [library@eshthe Hague.nl](mailto:library@eshthe Hague.nl)

## Secondary School information

### New staff

Also in the secondary school, we are happy to welcome new staff, seven in total. Mr Martin Beije will be the S1N mentor and teach integrated Science in Dutch along with Chemistry in English, Mr Bernard de Vries will be the S1En b mentor and teach Human Science, Ethics and Geography in English, Mr Pieter Selen will teach Integrated Science in English, ICT and Physics in English. Ms Tijen Keita will teach German, Ms Caroline Emery will teach English, Mr Eric Bonnet will teach Maths and Integrated Science in French and Ms Sabine Louwman will teach Economics. Last week we had a very fruitful induction week which showed the new teachers to be very positive and committed to the school.

### Location changes

From this year there will be some changes, all of secondary will eat in the atrium in period 5. Some offices have moved. My office is now on the second floor next to that of Mr Marsman near the primary library. The old canteen under the stage will become a proper common room for secondary students where they may relax- it is however not yet open as we are waiting for the delivery of special common room furniture.

### Secondary school assembly

Today we had our first all secondary assembly in the atrium where the secondary students had a chance to meet the new director Mr Frans van de Kerkhof and also the new secondary teachers. During the assembly we also had two musical performances on the piano with Mathis Dugin (S2e) playing Chopin and Elsa Ring (S2e) playing Schubert as well a wonderful performance of Irish dancing by Madeleine Burr (S2e). It was lovely to see the talent we have in the school. We will be having more assemblies for all of secondary as the year progresses. Tomorrow all of S2 are going on a team building survival course with their mentors. It promises to be a great experience.

All in all it has been a good start to the new academic year.

*Deirdre Byrnes, Deputy Director Secondary*

**Media center volunteers**

There will be a coffee morning at 9.00 on Thursday 10 September for parents who are interested in helping in the secondary media center. We will be explaining 'in situ' what kind of tasks there are and what opportunities you can get involved in.

**Canteen**

This year LOF catering will provide freshly prepared lunches for ESH pupils again. If your child is already registered this will automatically continue in the new school year. If you would like to make use of this service, please send the registration form (available from the website or from reception) to: [canteen@eshthehague.nl](mailto:canteen@eshthehague.nl) or hand it in at the canteen.

**Contact information**

Should you have any changes in your contact information (new mobile number, change of address, emergency contact details) please let us know. You can visit the reception to communicate this information. You can also contact the reception for a permission slip for anyone who will be collecting your child(ren) from school on a regular basis (ie. a nanny or childminder).

**School bus**

This year the school buses will park and wait for the children on the school parking lot. We believe this is a safer and more efficient organisation of school bus collection.