



St. Gilgen
International
School | SALZBURG
AUSTRIA

Path of Excellence



Seven Days Bulletin



VOLUME 1 | TERM 1a
2nd - 6th SEPTEMBER 2026

Save the Date



START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Start of 2026/27

We expect to see ALL students representing StGIS proudly by wearing the correct school uniform from the beginning of term. In the event of missing or delayed items, students should wear navy formal trousers, a white shirt and smart black shoes.

Wednesday 2nd September: (RE)OPEN

- From 1200 New boarding students encouraged to arrive in houses. Please keep house teams informed with expected arrival times.
- 1400–1600 ALL new students induction session. Hosted by the Student Leadership Team on school campus.
- 1600–1730 Head of School welcome address. Drinks reception [hosted by Parent

Community group]

Thursday 3rd September: (RE)CONNECT

- Official start of term 1 for ALL students, grades 4–12.
- 0800 Arrival in courtyard and welcome from Head of School.
- Extended Mentor Tutor session. Normal timetabled lessons begin Period 3
- 1545 End of Day 1.

Friday 4th September: (RE)FOCUS

- 0800 Arrival in courtyard. Full FORMAL school uniform.
- Normal timetabled lessons continue.
- 1455 End of Day 2.



START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th September:

Boarding Weekend

- Full boarding weekend. All boarding students expected to stay.
- Swim tests and watersports at Fuschlsee.
- Social events in boarding houses in the evening.

Monday 7th September

- 0800 Whole school assembly.
- Normal timetabled lessons continue
- 1530 – 1730 Activities carousels and taster sessions. ALL students welcome

Tuesday 8th September

- Swim tests for new day students after school.

Wednesday 9th September

- 1400 onwards Annual Bell race – whole school community event

Please always refer to the STGIS Parent Portal if further information is required about upcoming events, key dates and other important aspects about school daily life.



MR CREW
Head of Boarding & Student Life

Calendar 2026/27



Welcome to the 2026–27 Academic Year

A very warm welcome to everyone as we begin the 2026–27 academic year!

Whether you are returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we are delighted to have you with us.

We hope the summer break gave you opportunities to relax, recharge, enjoy quality time with family and friends, explore new interests, and grow.

Learning, of course, takes place everywhere and all the time. I am sure that throughout the summer there were many moments of learning—through new experiences, travel, conversations, reading, trying something new, or simply seeing the world from a different perspective.

We are ready to welcome you back and have many exciting opportunities prepared for you, both

academically and socially. We look forward to a year filled with curiosity, connection, challenge, and growth.

We warmly invite all students and families to our **Welcome Reception on Wednesday, September 2nd at 4:30 p.m.** It will be a lovely opportunity to reconnect with returning families, welcome those who are new, and start the year together.

On Thursday, September 3rd, the first classes will start, marking the beginning of another exciting year of learning and discovery.

Welcome to the new academic year—we are very glad you are here!



MS MÖTZ
Head of School



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StGIS Parent Association

invites all families to the Welcome Reception

ON WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, FROM 16H30 TO 18H00
IN THE ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL COURTYARD



Ready for Mathematics

RESOURCES, CALCULATORS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

As we settle into another exciting year of learning, we would like to remind families to review the Mathematics Resource List and ensure that students have the materials they need to support their learning throughout the year.

We would especially like to draw the attention of our Grade 9 families to an important resource requirement. Students in Grade 9 will need a **Ti-Nspire CX graphing calculator**, which will be used regularly in class and will continue to be an important tool throughout their mathematics studies. Parents are welcome to purchase the calculator independently; however, we strongly encourage families to purchase this specific calculator model, as this is the calculator that will be used and taught in lessons. To make the process more convenient, calculators can also be purchased directly through the school, and the cost will be invoiced to parents.

This is also a good opportunity for families with students in Grades 10 to 12 to check that their calculators are still in good working order. Before the start of the school year, please ensure that calculators can be located, are fully charged, and are ready for use from the first week of classes.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to offer students opportunities to participate in a variety of mathematics

competitions and challenges throughout the year. These events provide an excellent chance for students to extend their problem-solving skills, experience mathematics beyond the classroom, and engage with like-minded peers. Whether your child is a keen mathematician or simply enjoys tackling a challenge, we hope many students will consider taking part.

Further information about upcoming competitions and registration details will be shared throughout the year, so students and parents are encouraged to keep an eye on school communications.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students come prepared, confident, and ready to make the most of their mathematical learning journey. We look forward to a year filled with curiosity, challenge, and achievement in mathematics.



MRS AMBIGAIBALAN
Head of Mathematics



“A new academic year is a new opportunity to learn, grow, connect and make a difference.”

PRIMARY INFORMATION SESSION - GRADES 4 AND 5 FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER @ 14H00

On Friday 11 September at 2:00pm, we will be holding our annual Primary Information Session for Grade 4 and 5 parents in Room 1911. This session is particularly useful for families who are new to the school and will provide an overview of the Primary programme, including routines, learning, communication and what to expect during the school year. All Grade 4 and 5 parents are warmly invited to attend.



MS WILLEY
Head of Primary



Academic Staff 2026/27

The school year 2026/27 is starting soon after a great summer. We are welcoming 10 new staff members from Germany, UK, US, Australia, Spain and Greece. We are delighted to welcome our new staff members into our StGIS community; all of them bring excellence, enthusiasm and international experience.

We are proud to now represent 25 nationalities in our StGIS Staff community of 50 teachers and boarding staff who offer the Path of Excellence for our students. After a great week of new staff induction, we are all very excited to welcome all students back at StGIS to start a new school year.



MRS LOHSE

Head of Operations & Office Administration



FERNANDO AGEO DE DAMAS

Spanish & German DHP Traube

Education:
BA Politics & International Relations (SOAS); MSc European Politics & Policy (UCL); Qualified Teacher Status AO route, Chiltern Group (QTS)

Nationality: Spanish

I'm originally from Spain and have spent much of my life living and working internationally. Before joining StGIS, I worked in international education in the UK, teaching Spanish across the IB and British curricula and taking on roles in both academic leadership and boarding. I studied Politics and International Relations at SOAS University of London and EU Politics and

Policy at UCL. Outside the classroom, I enjoy travelling, languages, football, tennis - and watching Real Madrid.

“LEARNING FEELS DIFFERENT SURROUNDED BY NATURE.”

I am very excited to begin this new chapter in St. Gilgen and become part of the school community.



KATE SOMMERVILLE

Head of Teaching & Learning, Teacher of English

Education:
MSc Education Leadership & Management – University of Bristol; Level 7 Executive Performance Coach – Institute of Leadership & Management; PGDip Applied Positive Psychology – University of Lisbon; PGCert English Studies – University of Nottingham; PGCert Education Research Methods – University of Bristol; PGCE – University of Leeds; BSc Econ European Studies (French & Politics) – University of Wales

Nationality: British (English)

I am delighted to join StGIS as Head of Teaching and Learning. Having held senior leadership roles across Asia and Europe, I believe education begins with relationships: knowing and valuing students and colleagues, recognising their pathways and nurturing their growth.

I lead through curiosity, kindness and collaboration, building aspiration across teams and helping others see possibilities in themselves that they may not yet see. At a time of rapid change in education, I am

excited by the opportunity offered by StGIS's unique setting and IB continuum to innovate in skills and pedagogies while ensuring that learning remains deeply human and rooted in relationships, place and context.

“INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ON A HUMAN SCALE.”

Outside school, I am a rower, runner and cyclist and, as a linguist, look forward to adding German to my repertoire.

I am a Mathematics teacher with experience in international and IB education, and I enjoy helping students see mathematics as a way to think critically, solve problems and better understand the world around them. Having lived and travelled in many countries and speaking Greek, English and Spanish, I value international-mindedness, cultural exchange and learning from different perspectives. Outside the classroom, I am passionate about sport and the outdoors, especially football, surfing, kitesurfing and snowboarding. I believe mistakes are an essential part of learning

and mathematical thinking — after all, MATH can also stand for “Mistakes Allow Thinking to Happen.”

“INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, NATURE, LEARNING, CHALLENGE, CONNECTION, GROWTH.”

I am very excited to join the StGIS community and look forward to contributing academically and to life beyond the classroom, and engaging in the wider school community.



VASILEIOS MIGKOS

Teacher of Mathematics

Education:
BSc Mathematics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; MEd Special Education, University of Nicosia & University of Patras

Nationality: Greek / Canadian



REBECCA RAFFERTY

Head of Science, Teacher of Science

Education:
BSc Nutrition and Biochemistry, University of Nottingham; IOC Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Nutrition; MA Education Leadership and Management, University of Exeter

Nationality: British

I am Rebecca Rafferty, a British teacher joining STGIS as Leader of Learning for Science, with Chemistry as my specialist subject. I read Nutrition and Biochemistry at the University of Nottingham before specialising in Sports Nutrition through the IOC Postgraduate Diploma, and I hold an MA in Education Leadership and Management from the University of Exeter. My career has taken me from the UK to Switzerland, through co-educational and single-sex schools and both day and full boarding

settings, in roles ranging from Head of Department and Director of Studies to House Parent and Head of Boarding.

**"MOUNTAINS,
GRAND LAND-
SCAPES, VISTAS,
EXPLORATION
AND NATURE."**

Outside the classroom I am happiest outdoors, running, cycling and hiking, so the setting of St. Gilgen was an immediate draw, as was the international community in the school and the IB programme.

Hi, I'm Katharina, and I'm excited to be joining StGIS as an English and German teacher. Before moving to St. Gilgen, I taught at international schools in Switzerland and Italy, as well as in the UK.

**"COMMUNITY –
NATURE –
INTERNATIONALISM –
WARMTH –
ADVENTURE –
INSPIRATION."**

I studied English Literature in London and later completed a PGDE and a Master's in Educational Leadership. Outside the classroom, I love dancing, horseback riding, skiing and travelling, and I'm always up for exploring somewhere new.

I'm really looking forward to becoming part of the StGIS community and making the most of life in beautiful St. Gilgen!



KATHARINA WEIGEL

Teacher of English/German

Education:
BA English Literature; PGDE; MA Educational Leadership

Nationality: German & Russian



STEFANIE HARMS

RBA Kendler

Education:
International PA (Akademie fuer Wirtschaft & Verwaltung, Bad Waldliesborn, Germany); ASA qualified Swimming Teacher; 10 years Boarding experience

Nationality: German

I am German, but have lived in England for the past 33 years, for the first 24 years as a British Army wife with ability to adapt to anything.

**"INTERNATIONAL,
ADVENTURE,
NEW OPPORTU-
NITIES & FRIENDS,
OUTDOORS."**

Mother of two adult children in their 20s and one grandchild (still getting used to that). Love the outdoors and my sports, mainly swimming, walking, jogging and cycling, but also enjoy craft work, DIY, gardening, and singing (sang with Military Wives Choir for 7 yrs) and there is always time for a cuppa and a chat!

Nicholas Graben is an accomplished international educator and music specialist with over 16 years of teaching experience, including more than a decade in international schools across Europe, Asia, South Asia, and Latin America. Originally from Alabama, he holds degrees in Instrumental Music Education and Special Education from the University of North Alabama. Nicholas has taught across the full IB continuum, as well as Cambridge IGCSE and the British curriculum. His experience includes PYP, MYP, and DP, along with roles as a CAS Coordinator,

IB Examiner, and IB Workshop Leader.

**"COMMUNITY,
DIVERSITY,
CREATIVITY,
OPPORTUNITY,
BELONGING,
INSPIRATION."**

Passionate about creativity, inclusion, and student-centered learning, Nicholas believes the arts foster self-expression, collaboration, critical thinking, and intercultural understanding. His global experience shapes his belief in inspiring curiosity, compassion, and lifelong learning.



NICHOLAS DUANE GRABEN-BALL

Head of Arts, Teacher of Music

Education:
Bachelor of Science in Instrumental Music Education (P-12); Master of Arts in Special Education (6-12)

Nationality: USA



JULIE LODI

Teacher of Music

Education:
MA Arts Administration, Goucher College; BMusEd, minor in Spanish, Texas Christian University; Master's coursework in Teaching English as an Additional Language, University of St. Thomas

Nationality: American

"Your students are your mirror. You get back the enthusiasm you give them," a treasured teacher told me, and it remains my mantra. I love learning filled with encouragement, students clearing bars higher than they knew possible, and performance which builds invaluable confidence. Music is universal, and I'm thrilled to bring that spirit to StGIS. Adults are welcome to join us!

I've built music communities for 34 years in Venezuela, Argentina, Czechia, the Philip-

pines, and the USA. My experience spans general music, choir, band, musical theater, guest conducting, workshop presentation, Arts Dept. leadership, and Trusteeship of the Association for Music in International Schools.

"STUNNING SEASONS IN A CRADLE OF MUSIC!"

Beyond class, you can find me cooking (spicy!), swimming, and enjoying friends and family with my husband Eddie.

Originally from Herefordshire in England, I've been fortunate to teach in Portugal, Hong Kong, South Korea, Italy, and the UK. These experiences have shaped my love of learning and working with young people from diverse cultures. I believe every student should feel challenged, supported, and inspired to flourish, both in and beyond the classroom. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time

with my family, reading, and getting involved in sports, drama, and music.

" SMALL SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART."

I'm delighted to be part of the StGIS community and look forward to getting to know our students and families, supporting them on their learning journeys, and playing an active role in the life of the school.



ALEXANDER SOMMERVILLE

Teacher of EAL

Education:
B.A. (Hons.) in History & Archaeology (University of Manchester); Postgraduate Certificate of Education (University of Leeds)

Nationality: British



PETER ROBERT MCCOMBE

Teacher of Maths

Education:
Bachelor of Education; Master of Education (TESOL); extensive professional learning in International Baccalaureate programmes, curriculum development, and leading the evaluation of IB World Schools.

Nationality: Australian

I am delighted to be joining StGIS and becoming part of such an internationally minded and welcoming school community. I have worked in education for over four decades across Australia, Europe and Asia, in a variety of leadership, teaching and consultancy roles. Throughout my career, I have been passionate about creating engaging learning environments where students are encouraged to be curious, reflective and confident learners.

"A BEAUTIFUL SETTING FOSTERING GLOBAL LEARNING."

I value the power of education to connect people, develop global perspectives and inspire lifelong learning. At StGIS, I look forward to contributing my experience, collaborating with colleagues and supporting students as they grow academically, personally and as responsible members of a diverse community.





WED 2 nd	In House	VEGETARIAN/VEGAN AND GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE.	Pizza Dinner
THU 3 rd	Gasthaus Wirt am Gries		<i>Soup:</i> Cream of cauliflower soup (V) <i>Main course:</i> Beef Stroganoff, rice, rösti, vegetables; Veggie Stroganoff (V) <i>Dessert:</i> Cake <i>Salad bar</i>
	Hotel Kendler		<i>Dinner:</i> Boarding Community Dinner - Grilled meat, cheese, vegetables; roasted potatoes, gravy, salad bar & dessert
FRI 4 th	Gasthaus Wirt am Gries		<i>Soup:</i> Cream of vegetable soup (V) <i>Main course:</i> Pasta with either smoked salmon, creamy sauce with bacon or veggie sauce (V) <i>Dessert:</i> Cake <i>Salad bar</i>
WEEKENDS	Restaurant Voucher		Hotel Gasthof Kendler/ CASA-M/ Brunnwind/ Nilu's Portofino/ Pizza King Fuschl/ LIVA

If you have any feedback or questions, please send an email to catering@stgis.at



St. Gilgen
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