St. Gilgen International School | SALZBURG AUSTRIA

Path of Excellence



Seven Days Bulletin

VOLUME 11 | TERM 1b

23rd - 27th NOVEMBER 2026



Save the Date

COMING SOON

19.11.2026 (from 19h00)
STEM Evening

20.11.2026 (13h30)
Parent Community Café: meet the new Counselor

24.11.2026 (09h20 to 10h00)
Lanterna Visit - Study Skills in the IBDP

03.12.2026 (13h45-14h30)
European Universities Consortium Visit

03.12.2026
Grade 12 Theatre Collaborative Performance

08.12.2026
Public Holiday (No Classes)

17.12.2026 (Evening)
Christmas Caroling

18.12.2026 (All day)
Parent-Student-Teacher Consultations

19.12.2026-10.01.2027 (No Classes)
Winter Holiday

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Saturday 21st November

Climbing Indoors

Zoo Salzburg

Hike to Fuschl Lake

These are the activities planned for the weekend, however there can be last-minute changes!

Calendar 2026/27

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2026/27

CIS & WASC

WELCOMING THE CIS & WASC EVALUATION TEAM TO STGIS

As a reminder, next week, from **21-27 November 2026**, StGIS will welcome a joint evaluation team from the **Council of International Schools (CIS)** and the **Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)** as part of our regular five-year accreditation cycle. Being accredited by CIS and WASC means StGIS aligns with internationally recognized standards of educational quality.

During the visit, the team will be meeting with stakeholders, as well as visiting lessons, activities, and Boarding houses. The team will focus on three key areas:

🌍 **Engagement for ALL** - strengthening global citizenship and intercultural understanding across our community.

♻️ **Sustainability for ALL** - embedding meaningful and lasting sustainable practices within and beyond the school.

🏡 **Boarding** - enhancing wellbeing, belonging, inclusion and intercultural understanding within our boarding community.

The visit provides an opportunity to showcase the authentic learning experiences, values and sense of community that make StGIS such a special place.



MS MÖTZ
Head of School



Opening Doors to Future Possibilities

EXPLORING UNIVERSITY AND CAREER PATHWAYS BEYOND STGIS

One of the most exciting parts of life at StGIS is helping students discover where their passions and ambitions might take them after graduation. Throughout this first term, students have benefited from an exceptional programme of university engagement, with opportunities to connect directly with admissions representatives, professors, alumni, and higher education experts from around the world.

Through a combination of in-person visits, webinars, workshops, and specialist seminars, students have had opportunities to explore a wide range of academic and career pathways, from business, engineering, and the humanities to the arts, design, hospitality, luxury management, and elite student-athlete programmes. These experiences, often offered as part of the IBDP Summit curriculum, help students move beyond brochures and websites, giving them first-hand insight into what different universities, courses, and career journeys can offer.

Most importantly, these experiences help our students make informed, confident decisions about their futures. Opportunities like this will continue throughout the year - students only need to sign up and attend as and when they become available. We are grateful to every university, alumnus, and partner organisation that has contributed to this term's programme and helped our students explore the many exciting possibilities that await them beyond StGIS.



The universities and organisations that have supported our students so far this year are featured on the following page.

MR PATTON
IB Diploma Programme Coordinator
University and Careers Guidance



Winter Ski Programme

SEASON 2026-27

We plan to run skiing on 6 Saturdays in Term 2, starting on the 16th of January, usually going to Russbach, which is around a 40-minute drive from the school. Students will travel on a hired bus, accompanied by school staff. We will be departing from St. Gilgen at 8.15 in the morning, skiing continuously and then returning to the village for a late lunch by around 13.30. The costs for the Saturday skiing programme (transport, lift passes, instructors) are covered by the school.

Instruction at all levels

We will provide instruction on skis and snowboards at all levels; as an International School, each year we have some students who have never experienced snow before, and it is a delight to see them progress to being confident skiers. As part of our broader winter programme on weekdays, we also offer cross-country skiing (Langlaufen) and ski/snowboard touring (hiking uphill with skins and then coming down off-piste – for advanced skiers only).

Logistics

We are hiring professional ski instructors in addition to our qualified staff, to maximise the quality of our instruction and pastoral care. For sign up, priority will be given to boarding students who need to sign up via SchoolsBuddy by the end of Tuesday each week. Any day students who would like to join the weekend ski program need to sign up for any remaining places via SchoolsBuddy by the end of Wednesday each week. This will allow us to plan for group sizes and instruction levels.

Equipment hire

We will arrange equipment hire for students who don't have their own, for the season through the **Check Point ski shop** on site in Russbach. We will not hire on the day, as that will delay the skiing, but we have arranged whole-season prices for our students (see below). They offer three different price levels of equipment for skiing and one for snowboarding. All price levels are adequate - in fact, for beginners, the sport and premium package would not be suitable. Students who are joining the ski touring activity on the Wednesday afternoons and need touring equipment for the season, can rent it there as well. If you are interested in this arrangement for your child, please fill in the form linked below (one per child) by latest Tuesday **1st of December**, as this will allow us to pre-order the equipment. Equipment can then either be collected during an organised school trip on Thursday **10th of December** (departure after school with an estimated return time to school at 19h00) or for day students of course at a time of your convenience. In that case, please call the shop beforehand, to check opening hours. If that is your choice, payment has to be made upon equipment collection. If rented and collected through the organized school trip, parents will be invoiced from school for the rental fee.





MR KUKLA
Head of Outdoor Education

We recommend wearing a back protector on our school skiing days.

- Helmet €27, - (must be worn)
- Top Ski + Boots + Poles €185, -
- Sport Ski + Boots + Poles €299, -
- Premium Ski + Boots + Poles €449, -
- Snowboard + Boots €299, -
- Touring skis + Skins + Boots + Poles €449, -

Saturday ski and equipment hire form

Junior Maths Competition

JUNIOR MATHEMATICS COMPETITION IN DÜSSELDORF

Are you ready to put your mathematical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to the test on an international stage?

The Mathematics Department is inviting interested Grade 9 and Grade 10 students to take part in the Junior Mathematics Competition in Düsseldorf, Germany, taking place from 26-28 February 2027.

This exciting **team competition** challenges students to work collaboratively on a variety of mathematical problems, requiring creativity, logical reasoning, and effective communication. Participants will have the opportunity to represent STGIS alongside students from international schools across Europe.

Students must enter in teams of three. Only two teams will be selected to attend the competition. The estimated trip cost is currently between €850 to €1,100 per student, depending on the final number of teams and participants. This cost includes flights, accommodation, competition registration, lunches during the competition, local transport, competition materials, and a competition t-shirt and swag bag. Further information will be shared with interested students and their families.

To register your interest, please email Miss Ambigaibalan (**n.ambigaibalan@stgis.at**) by Saturday, 28 November with the names of the three students in your team.

Can't form a team? You are still encouraged to register your interest. We will do our best to connect interested students and help form teams where possible.

As places are limited, if more students express interest than there are spaces available, team places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



We look forward to seeing Grade 9 and 10 students represent STGIS in Düsseldorf.

MRS AMBIGAIBALAN
Head of Mathematics

ORGANISED BY

ISMTF
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS MATHEMATICS TEACHER FOUNDATION

HOSTED BY

ISD
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF DÜSSELDORF
SINCE 1968

JUNIOR MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 2027

A TEAM EVENT

OPEN TO GRADE 9 & 10
BORN AFTER 1 AUGUST 2010

FEB 26 - FEB 28
DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY

COST PER STUDENT:
€850 - 1100
DEPENDENT ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

Put your mathematical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork skills to the test while competing against students from international schools across Europe and get the chance to explore the city of Düsseldorf in a once in a lifetime opportunity!

MAX OF 2 TEAMS WILL BE COMPETING FROM STGIS

HOW TO APPLY

1. Form a team of 3 students.
2. Discuss the trip and costs with parents of all three team members.
3. Select a leader and email your interest to Miss A by **28 November**

Please note: Submitting an expression of interest does not confirm your participation. A further confirmation will be requested from parents of all team members before the trip is finalised.



Christmas Stockings Activity

STUDENTS STITCH THEIR OWN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

As you will have noticed upon returning from the Half-Term break, St. Gilgen is already transforming into the charming little Christmas village we all love, in preparation for Advent. What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than making mantelpiece stockings?

A stocking is such a personal product, and once we get one, we tend to keep it for many years. They usually hold a special meaning, and become part of our family traditions. It was with this intent, that I approached this 'Saturday-Sewing' activity. I wanted students to feel ownership of their product and make something they would truly treasure for years to come.

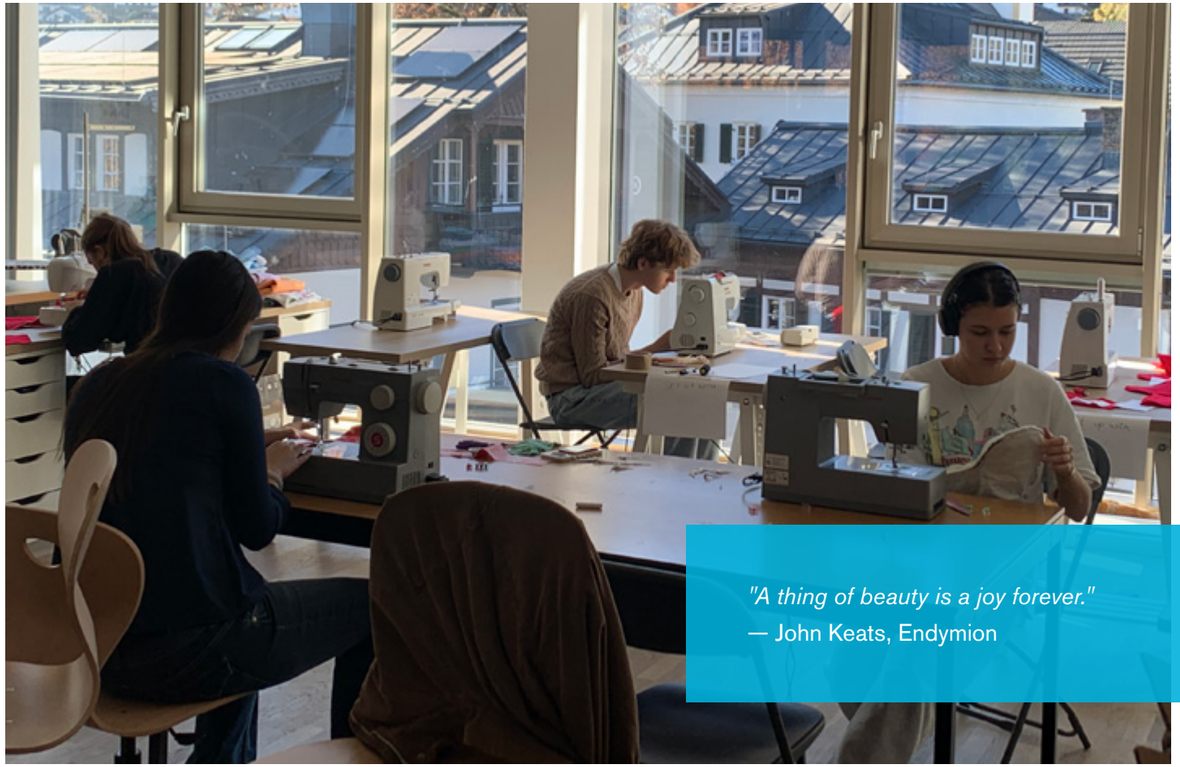
In school we usually ask students to put their phones away *(Not seen, Not heard!)*; but, in this instance, I began the workshop by saying: "phones out!" and I asked them to hop online to get some inspiration.

Every student picked a different design; some chose oversized stockings, others, a series of smaller ones to be connected together as a sort of Christmas banner, others went for a single, but more elaborate design.

There was no prescribed template to follow; I wanted each student to interpret the brief in their own way, making something that reflected their personality and imagination. Students also had a wide range of materials at their disposal; red and white felt, snowflake-printed fabric, wadding, ribbons, gold and silver threads…

Then, we got large sheets of paper out to make a plan and a pattern. Each student had their own machine 'station' so they could take their time *making* without having to take turn *sewing*.

Over the course of the workshop mistakes were made, stitches were unpicked, stitches were re-sewn. At one point, as we were approaching the 'deadline' I felt I was the host of *"Making the Cut!"* As it turns out, the time assigned for the activity was not quite enough to finish projects. But instead of seeing pupils dashing away to lunch at 1pm, I saw them all engrossed in their work, and so the 3-hour activity turned into a 4-hour activity (and yes-probably the chocolate biscuits and the hot spiced punch helped too…!)



"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."
— John Keats, Endymion







By the end of the session, they had all finished one or more stockings. While these might not have been totally perfect, they were certainly personal and heartfelt.
I believe that getting students to do practical work and *actually* see how long it takes to make things by hand is very valuable. After this experience, I am hoping that as our pupils wander through St Gilgen's Christmas market, they'll appreciate the work and dedication of our Village's artisans even more.



MS MAURI
Teacher of Design Technology

"Peace is not just made at conference tables, but in classrooms, neighbourhoods, and everywhere people meet with open minds and open hearts."

- Antonio Guterres - United Nations Secretary General -

We would like to invite you to our

Parent Community Cafe

with the

Mr Gould - School Counselor



Invited: Parents

When: 20th November 2026 at 13:30

Where: Conference room

International Men's Day

CELEBRATING POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

Each year on 19 November, people around the world celebrate **International Men's Day**, a chance to recognise the positive contributions that men and boys make to our families, schools, and communities.

This year's theme, **"The Future is for Everyone,"** reminds us that an inclusive and successful future is built when everyone feels valued, empowered, and able to contribute. It encourages us to celebrate the many ways that men and boys positively influence those around them while continuing to promote respect, kindness, and equality.
Within our international school community, we are so fortunate to be surrounded by positive male role models. Fathers, grandfathers, step fathers, brothers, uncles, teachers, coaches, boarding staff, colleagues, classmates, student leaders and friends all play an important role in supporting and inspiring others. Through their encouragement, compassion, leadership, and everyday acts of kindness, they help shape a community where everyone can thrive.

To mark International Men's Day, our school has taken part in a range of activities celebrating the men who make a difference in our lives. Staff have shared messages of appreciation through a dedicated shout-out board, students have reflected on and celebrated positive male role models, our boarding houses have hosted celebrations and created their own gratitude walls, and Mrs La Rondie has created a special display in the library showcasing students' gratitude and recognition for the important men in their lives.

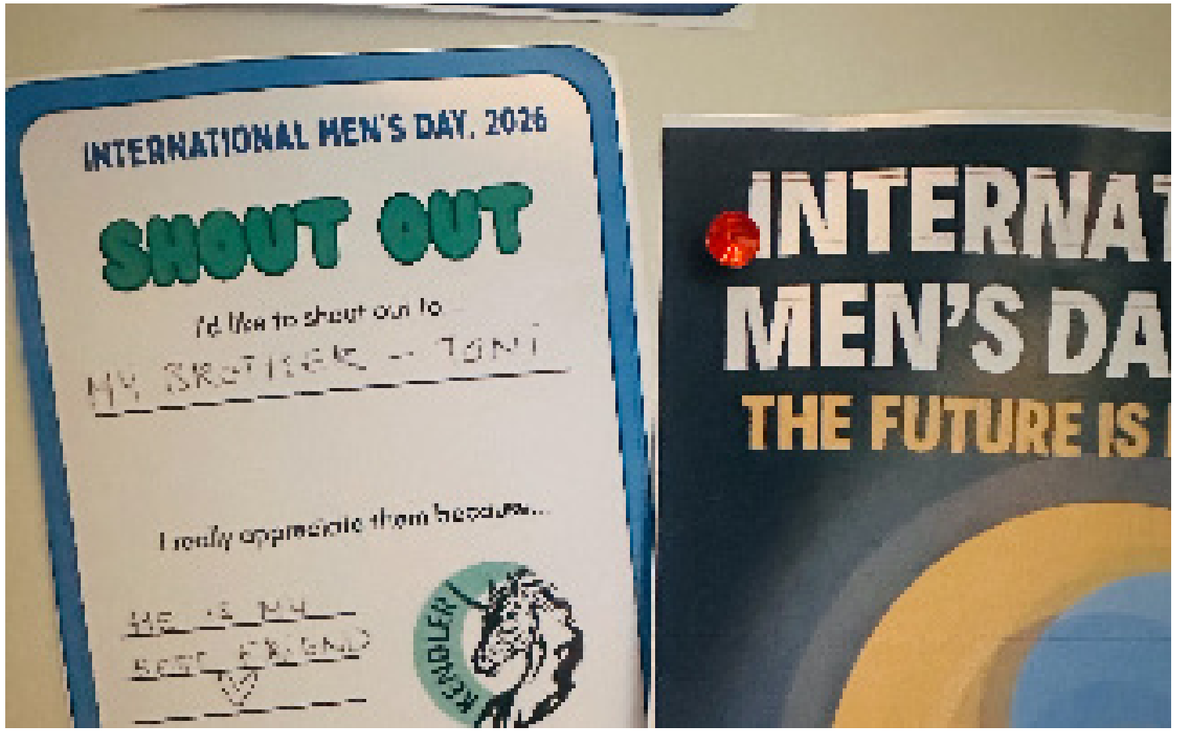
As we celebrate International Men's Day, we thank the many men and boys in our community who contribute to making our school a welcoming, supportive, and inspiring place for all.



Happy International Men's Day from our school community.

MS BRAND
House Parent - Kendler
Learning Support Team





HYROX

MORE THAN JUST A WORKOUT

For my Personal Project, I decided to organize a HYROX-style event at our school on **Wednesday, 2 December, at 19:00.** HYROX has become a big part of my daily life, and through this project, I want to share my passion for the sport and encourage other students to give it a try.

HYROX is a fitness competition that combines running with eight different workout stations, including rowing, sled pushing, sled pulling, burpees, farmers carries, lunges, wall balls and the SkiErg. What I really like about HYROX is that it challenges both your physical and mental strength. It is not just about being the fastest or strongest, but also about pushing yourself, staying motivated and seeing what you are capable of achieving.

Over time, HYROX has had a big influence on my daily life. It has helped me become more disciplined, motivated and confident in myself. It has also taught me that progress takes time and that even small improvements are something to be proud of. This is one of the main reasons why I chose HYROX as the focus of my Personal Project.

However, I didn't want to organize just a normal HYROX competition. I wanted to make my event a little different and use it as an opportunity to learn more about **adaptive athletes and how people with disabilities participate in sports.**

During the event, participants will complete modified versions of the eight HYROX stations. Some exercises will involve using only one arm, while others will be performed in a seated position. These adaptations are designed to help us explore different ways of completing fitness challenges and better understand the importance of accessibility in sports.

Through researching and organizing this event, I also hope to learn more about the challenges adaptive athletes face, the determination they show and the different ways sports can become more inclusive.

Another important goal of my project is to encourage students to try something new. I know that HYROX might sound difficult or intimidating at first, especially if you have never done this type of workout before. But I want to show that you don't have to be an experienced athlete to enjoy it. Everyone starts somewhere, and the most important thing is being willing to try.







The event will take place on **2 December at 19:00**, and both day and boarding students are welcome to sign up. There will be approximately 16 places available, and Ms. Riley will be supervising the event to make sure everyone can participate safely.

For me, this project is not only about organizing a sports event. It is about sharing something that has positively influenced my life, learning more about inclusive sports and hopefully inspiring others to discover something they enjoy just as much.

I hope that through this event, more students will become interested in HYROX, challenge themselves and realize that sport is not only about competition, but also about personal growth, inclusion and having fun.

Thank you very much for your time and help!



LIYA
Grade 10 Student



Art Encounters

This past Saturday, our boarding students visited the Museum der Moderne Salzburg to explore the exhibition *Curiosity in Flux: Art from Salzburg between Fresh Start and Recollection* and take part in a museum-guided workshop. The exhibition examines Salzburg's identity through the perspectives of artists connected to the region, bringing together 23 contemporary artists working across a range of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, film, and installation. During the workshop, students were encouraged to translate their thoughts and observations into both verbal and visual language, taking a closer look at how selected artworks are composed, presented, and experienced. They explored the different ways artists communicate ideas and how the presentation of an artwork can shape the viewer's experience. One of the highlights was an interactive installation by Thomas Hörl, which invited students to dress up in colourful costumes and pose on a rotating stage surrounded by mirrors. Hörl's work draws inspiration from Austrian and Alpine folklore, exploring themes of tradition and mythology through masks, garments, and theatrical settings. The installation offered students a playful and engaging opportunity to become part of the artwork themselves.



MS SPROWL
Visual Arts and Design Teacher







Grand Theft Auto VI

UNDERSTANDING THE PEGI 18 RATING

As no doubt most students will be aware, Grand Theft Auto VI releases today. It is probably the most anticipated video game release in history, and no doubt many members of our community will be eager to play it. However, we need to make sure we are making safe, informed, wise decisions.

In every region in the world, it has received the highest age rating possible, and this means that only adults should be playing it. In Europe, PEGI has given it a **PEGI 18** rating; in the USA, the ESRB notes that the game includes: **Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Mature Humor, Nudity, Strong Language, Strong Sexual Content, and Use of Drugs and Alcohol**. Given these ratings and descriptions, it simply is not appropriate for children to play.

At launch, it is available for Playstation and Xbox. Here is the guidance on how to set **parental controls for Playstation**, and **here for Xbox**. Any questions, queries, or if you want more information, please do get in touch with me.

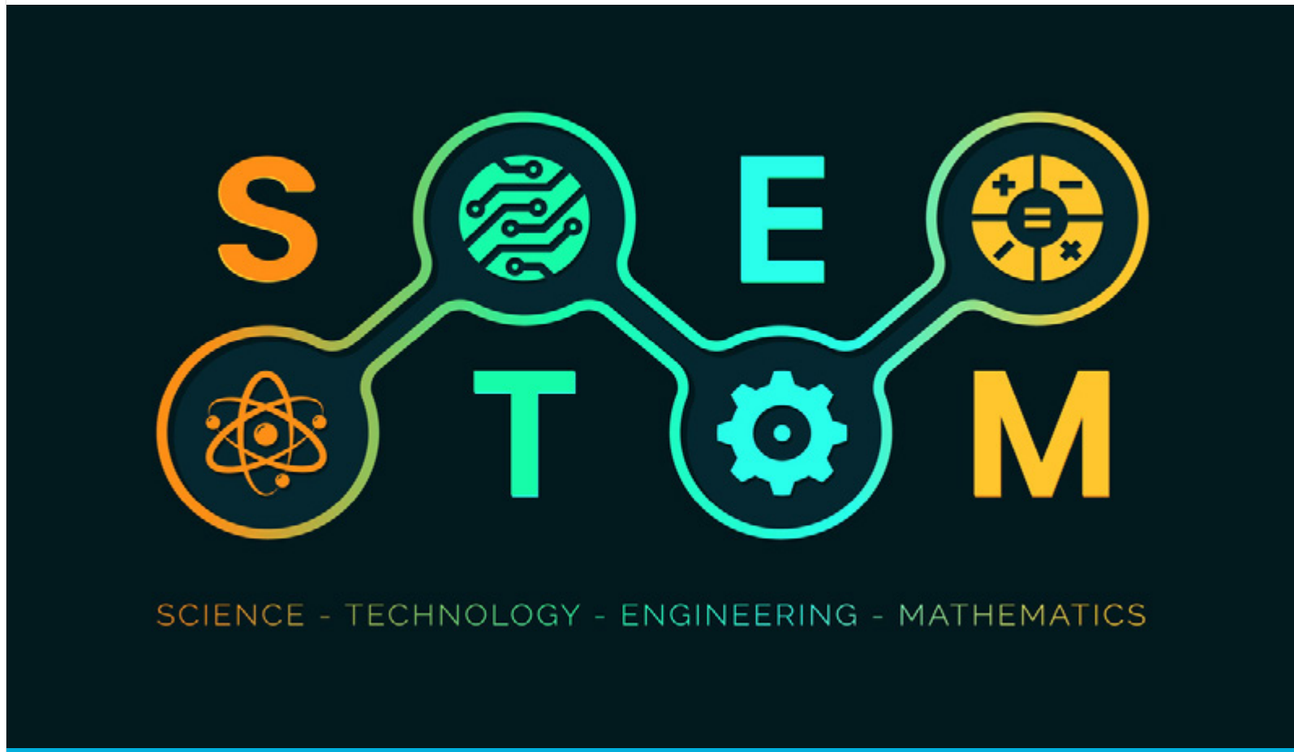


MR FLINT
Digital Learning & Data Protection Co-ordinator;
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Stem Evening

When: Thursday, 19th of November, 19:00-20:30
Where: Softspace 15



Ever wondered how science, technology, engineering and maths shape the world around us? Whether you're into technology, love solving problems, enjoy being creative or are simply curious about what's possible, there's something for you! Come along, try something new, challenge yourself and discover where STEM could take you.

Menu for the Week



MON 23rd	Hotel Kendler	*Soup:* Clear beef broth with profiteroles *Main course:* Grilled chicken pieces, rice and vegetables; Savoury strudel with vegetables (V) *Dessert: Cake* *Salad bar* *Dinner:* Schnitzel, potatoes, vegetables; Fried cauliflower, camembert and mushrooms (V)
TUE 24th	Hotel Kendler	*Soup:* Cream of vegetable soup (V) *Main course:* Kasspress knödel and spinach knödel with Sauerkraut (V); Pasta with cheese sauce, tomato sauce (V); Gluten free pasta *Dessert:* Vanilla pudding *Salad bar* *Dinner:* Meat skewers with ratatouille and rice; Vegetable skewers with ratatouille and rice (V)
WED 25th	Gasthaus Wirt am Gries Hotel Kendler	*Soup:* Cream of celeriac soup (V) *Main course:* Pasta with tomato sauce, cheese sauce or creamy ham sauce, vegetables *Dessert:* Yoghurt with berries *Salad bar* *Dinner:* Pot roast beef, noodles, potatoes and ,vegetables; Vegetable patties (V)
THU 26th	Gasthaus Wirt am Gries Hotel Kendler	*Soup:* Chicken soup *Main course:* Beef goulash, rice and vegetables; Vegetable goulash, vegetables (V) *Dessert:* Cake *Salad bar* *THANKSGIVING DINNER:* Roast turkey and gravy, pumpkin, green beans & bacon, corn on the cob, roasted potatoes; Vegetarian meat alternative; Chocolate cake with chocolate sauce and cream
FRI 20th	Gasthaus Wirt am Gries	*Soup:* Pumpkin soup (V) *Main course:* Oven roasted chicken breast, potatoes, rice, Vegetable patties, vegetables (V) *Dessert:* Yoghurt with apple sauce *Salad bar*
WEEKENDS	Restaurant Voucher	Hotel Gasthof Kendler/ CASA-M/ Brunnwind/ Nilu's Portofino/ Pizza King Fuschl/ LIVA

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN AND GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

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

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SALZBURG | AUSTRIA

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Accreditation

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