

THE

ISSOS TIMES

St Andrews Session 1

29 June — 20 July 2022

the experience of a lifetime™



Stewart

win the Cup!

News & Events

See inside for all winners and reviews

Welcome back!

Returning staff & students

Welcome from the Programme Director



It has been my pleasure to be the Programme Director at ISSOS St Andrews this summer and work with an exceptional team of counselors and teachers who brought the ISSOS experience to life in St Andrews after two summer of not running in person.

This summer was always going to be a very significant summer for ISSOS as a company, running in person for the first time in 2 years, it is safe to say that every day and moment, student and staff member was appreciated and celebrated more than ever before.

I have the best job in the world, during the year I am the CEO of ISSOS and am able to speak to parents and students all year round and lead an incredible head office team who work all year to make sure that everything ISSOS delivers students and staff 'The Experience of a Lifetime' then in the summer I am able to take on the role as Programme Director and spend time with the phenomenal staff and students who make ISSOS come alive.

I have been supported by a incredible senior management team this summer with Katie Hart as Programme Assistant, Cole Dean and Natalie Scobie as our Head Counselors leading a team of 14 exceptional counselors. I cannot thank

these three enough for their dedication, leadership and constant enthusiasm and for making me laugh every day.

Katie, Natalie, Cole and I would like to thank the ISSOS, St Andrews staff team who choose to give up their summer to teach students in subjects they are passionate about and the counselors who choose to spend their summer making sure each student is safe and cared for while at the same time having fun and engaging in all the activities and trips ISSOS has to offer. ISSOS St Andrews team – you have been phenomenal.

We know that the ISSOS experience is something that lasts beyond the three weeks and that both students and staff have made lasting friendships that span the world. We hope that everyone who was part of ISSOS this summer leaves realising we are all connected and that everyone has the power to make a positive difference in the world. Hopefully through the friendships made this summer and

the social understanding that ISSOS fosters, everyone will remember this summer as one that was full of friendships, laughter and new experiences. I hope to see lots of returning students back next summer in St Andrews, Cambridge or Yale. Thank you for choosing ISSOS and allowing us to spend 3 weeks with you all – it really was 'The Experience of a Lifetime'.

*Jen Munro, Programme Director
and ISSOS Founder*

"I have been supported by a incredible senior management team this summer... leading a team of 14 exceptional counselors."



Our Story

**ISSOS was started with
one clear mission:**

**To create a safe place for
people to learn and grow**

In 2005, ISSOS was established by Jen Munro, a St Andrews University Graduate, who after working as a summer camp counselor in the USA, realised she wanted to provide students from all over the world, with a balanced summer programme.

St Andrews was the obvious choice for the first summer school due to its safe location and historical setting. The first session of ISSOS took place in 2006, with 50 students. In 2011, with growing demand, ISSOS Cambridge was launched. 2016 saw the launch of the third summer school at the prestigious Yale University in the USA. Students have always been at the heart of everything ISSOS does and we have listened to feedback from students

and parents to develop all aspects of the company, fast becoming recognised as one of the top International summer schools.

ISSOS has grown significantly since 2005, attracting students from over 80 nationalities and catering to over 600 students. Every year, students and staff talk of ISSOS as being a family, and that's what we're looking to develop and maintain: an international family where friendships span the world.

ISSOS is a values-led company and has a core set of values that run through everything we do. One of our most important assets is our people and we



*"We work together, we
play together, we live
and grow together,
we are the ISSOS
International Family."*

Jen Munro, Founder

endeavour to find the best people to work with us every year. As we grow, we are committed to offering a quality product and the highest level of service. It is imperative that whilst doing this, we have fun, making sure everyone associated with ISSOS, has The Experience of a Lifetime.

We  ISSOS!

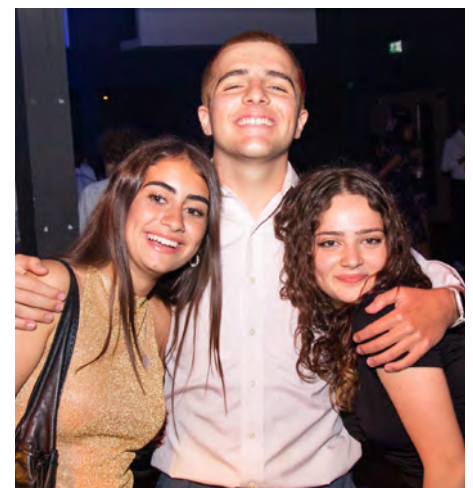


*"ISSOS has helped me to make
new relationships with people
from different countries, and
they ended up being really good
friends. So I am thankful and
grateful for having the
opportunity to stay at this
amazing summer camp."*

Adriana

*"ISSOS gives me the opportunity
to meet new people and make
friends from all over the world. I
made friendships that are going to
last a lifetime. The friendships, the
freedom, the safety, the campuses
and the staff are what makes
ISSOS such a unique and amazing
summer programme."*

Tayma



*"This summer programme has
impacted me more than any
camp I have tried in the past.
Before this month I barely had
any friends outside of even Los
Angeles, let alone friends from
Lebanon, Amsterdam, Italy, Spain
and more! Never have I felt so
quickly welcomed by a group
of people and felt so deeply
connected to strangers after so
little time."*

Kate

NEWS



Variety Show



The Variety Show is always a highlight of the ISSOS calendar, with students and staff relishing the opportunity to show off their many talents! This year was no exception as we were treated to an evening of first class entertainment.

We opened with Ximena, Keira, Nina, Jade, Matilde and Blanca dancing to Timber which started the evening off on a high! They weren't the only dancers we saw that night, with Adriana, Carmen, Paula and Juan treating us to a performance of Macarena and Harry wowing the audience with his rendition of Shakira's Hips Don't Lie. We were also treated to performances from some incredible singers. Maile's Turning Tables and Kenzie's Haunted House were beautiful and brought tears to our eyes, whilst Ximena and Keira's performance of No Lie had us dancing in our seats.

Harry also treated us to the impressive Doomsday Algorithm, and Vincent brought the house down with his magic tricks.

We couldn't let students have ALL of the fun so the counselors also showed us their best lip syncing skills to compete for clan points. McGregor wowed us with their High School Musical performance, MacDonald took us rolling on the river with their take on Proud Mary, and Wallace had us dancing to Shake it Off. But it was Stewart's lip sync to Mamma Mia which was crowned the winner! Shetland counselor Rob closed the show with a performance of Wagon Wheel.

Well done and thank you to all of our performers for entertaining us!

Katie Hart, Programme Assistant

Fashion Show

As counselors, we are the first to wake our students when the clock strikes 7:30am and are equally keen on giving a goodnight hug at 11:00pm. To most students at ISSOS, counselors are a familiar face in the form of an older sibling, mother/father and best friend all in one. And yet, at the Counselor Fashion Show, we are barely recognizable as any of the above!

This summer, our students witnessed a special performance from 14 Hollywood stars that stole all of our hearts growing up. Dressed by the Kinglass girls, Louise took the stage as Justin Bieber whilst 'Baby' blared through the speakers. Calvin and Ben, fighting over making an appearance as Kim K decided that Ms. Kardashian would say hello to the crowd twice, leaving the audience with the chance to choose who was best dressed.

Of course, the incredible Marilyn Monroe, Jack Sparrow, Michael Jackson, Dora The Explorer and so many more also found that they could not resist being part of the ISSOS experience.

Free of any inhibitions, we left our uniforms aside, dug deep into the dress-up bin and walked across the stage as if we truly were as famous as the stars themselves. Counselor Fashion Show (a personal favourite) is amongst one of the evening programmes when we are all reminded that you can be anyone you want to be at ISSOS.

Ray Atibhai, Terviot Counselor



Returning Student



How many years have you attended ISSOS, and at which campuses?

I have been to Cambridge (2019) and St Andrews (2022).

What academics and electives have you taken?

I took English and Photography in Cambridge, and Youth leadership and Tennis in St Andrews.

What makes you want to keep coming back to ISSOS?

Definitely meeting new people from all over the world. However, I would be lying if I didn't say the amazing scenery in St Andrews wasn't a perk.

What was your favourite part of ISSOS this summer?

I went to ISSOS twice, and I can honestly say they were the best summers of my life. You start off with hundreds of strangers, and in less than a week, many of those come to

be your close friends. I met amazing people from all over the world and made friendships that I know they will last forever. I believe the ISSOS slogan is right, it is really the experience of a lifetime. I'll never say thank you enough to all the counselors, friends and teacher, that made me become the person I am today.

If you could give future ISSOS students some advice to help them feel less nervous about coming to ISSOS, what would you say?

Everyone is in the same position as you, there is no need to be nervous of making new friends, because you will all be strangers that wants to have new friends. In addition, everybody miss home sometimes, but you will see that at ISSOS you will create your own home, full of people that will love you and will never leave you alone.

Mania Lombatti

Returning Staff

How many summers have you worked at ISSOS and in which roles?

Cambridge 2019 and St Andrews Session 1 2022, both times as a counselor.

Why do you like working at ISSOS?

My favourite thing about ISSOS is its people - both staff and students. Only the ISSOS family truly understand the "ISSOS bubble" experience. I'm so fortunate to have developed incredible relationships with colleagues and students of ISSOS. ISSOS also values and prioritises mental well-being and enjoyment. As an employee I feel so safe and looked after all summer. Best job ever!

What is your favourite ISSOS memory?

Winning the clan cup in 2022 and my Clyde girls!

If you were a student at ISSOS, which campus, academic and elective would you choose?

I absolutely love the States, so I would study at the Yale campus. My academic would be Business & Entrepreneurship and my elective would be Tennis!

What is your day-to-day job outside of ISSOS?

I graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 2018 – like many other ISSOS staff members – and am a high school PE and Dance teacher.

Rachael Downs



CLAN NEWS

One of the many unique aspects of ISSOS is our Clans. Staying true to our Scottish roots ISSOS invites students into one of four clans; MacDonald, MacGregor, Wallace or Stewart. This is done at the Clan Calling, on one of the first evenings at ISSOS. Once assigned to a clan, students remain as part of that clan for their time at ISSOS, even when they return the following year, they will always be in the same clan as will their brothers or sisters if they too, come to ISSOS.

The clans are an integral and very important part of the ISSOS experience, they exist to promote good sportsmanship, communication, healthy competition and help to bond students from all different nationalities and ages as well as build confidence.

Clans compete over the three weeks in a variety of competitions including; Danish Long Ball, Mini Olympics, Clan Ball, Dodge Ball, Sandcastle Building and many more activities, in order to gain points for their Clan.

The Munro clan – the impartial clan made up of the teachers, head counselors and Programme Director, oversee all the events, ensuring the games are played fairly. Clan events culminate in the final days of ISSOS with the Highland Games where one clan wins the coveted Clan Cup.

Spirit Shield Winners MacGregor



Individual Spirit Awards



Wallace: *Suzannah Galea*

Stewart: *Julie Pribylova*

MacDonald: *Pranav Prakash*

MacGregor: *Matilde Elise Carolinalli*



The final day of ISSOS brings together the four clans who take part in the ISSOS Highland Games; a day of healthy competition, good sportsmanship and a lot of clan spirit. The whole summer school takes part and the event is umpired skilfully by the Munro Clan.

Each clan was separated into divisions; Braveheart, Freedom, Highland and Nessie. The four divisions all took part in a selection of mini games, the infamous Danish Longball and relay races. All clans worked tirelessly, pushing themselves to their athletic best and getting involved in all that was thrown at them.

After the final scores were tallied, all students attended the closing dinner to hear the announcement of the Clan Cup Winner. The Spirit Shield was also given out to the Clan who had expressed the greatest amount of sportsmanship and had provided lively chants at each clan event over the previous three weeks. Clan Cup winners were Stewart and Spirit Shield went to MacGregor.

HIGHLAND GAMES

STEWART: 7500



MACDONALD: 6920

MACGREGOR: 6420

WALLACE: 5835

Stewart win the cup



The Clans



ISSOS 
the experience of a lifetime

SHOW YOUR COLOUR



CLAN HOODIES

Get yours **NOW!**
www.issos.com

ISSOS Merchandise:
Hoodies, water bottles and
more, available online





ACADEMICS

Creative Writing

My Creative Writing students covered a vast range of topics during their time with me, including the narrative essentials of finding inspiration, writing characters, devising settings, crafting dialogue and plotting structure; and explored a number of different mediums including poetry, fiction, visual drama and audio drama.

We looked at work from a wide range of writers and I operated a technology-free class in which the students were not permitted to use their laptops, tablets or phones. Instead, they completed their assignments and writing exercises using the time tested (rather more traditional!) tools of pen and paper.

There was a sustained focus on creative well-being interwoven throughout the classes. Students were not allowed to make self-deprecating comments about themselves or their work when speaking, with the 'penalty' for this being to say three affirmations to the class.

I'm delighted here to share a few of the works my students worked on during their time with me at ISSOS.

Priyanka Jha, Creative Writing Teacher

Sonnet LXV by Pablo Neruda [Trans – Stephen Tapscott]

Matilde, where are you?
Down here I noticed,
under my necktie and just
above my heart,
a certain pang of grief
between the ribs,
you were gone that quickly.

I needed the light of your energy,
I looked around, devouring hope.
I watched the void without you that
is like a house,
nothing left but tragic windows.

Out of sheer taciturnity the
ceiling listens
to the fall of the ancient leafless rain,
to feathers, to whatever the night
imprisoned;
so I wait for you like a lonely house
till you will see me again and
live in me.
Till then my windows ache.

The bloodline – A Poem by Aidan Sibley

The crows circled overhead
Dark figures underneath
Brilliant crowns lit the wayside
And so the others laughed

Plagued visages from a dying star
An all encompassing void
Grafting the souls of wanderers
Still the others laughed

Forbidden scriptures professed of life
Under caring torture
Meticulously plucked from fingernails
Caused others to laugh

And finally when all is done
The sea of blood is calm
The dynasty will end that night
And rattle the sky with laughter

Tea Battaglia – Her Response to Sonnet LXV by Pablo Neruda

I am on the highest hill in the countryside, where the light shines even
if dawn does not come and the mother of the stars reigns.
yet I feel your sense of misery, of pain,
that I provoked you by leaving so quickly.

But, you see, my time had come:
too many things I saw in that desolate, yet inhabited, land.
Do not lose hope just because I am no longer with you, my darling.
I'm like a house
and I left the windows closed, so that the air that contaminated my
lungs was no longer let in.

My house is taciturn, it is a listener, and now it is listening to the rain
pouring.
But you, my dear, leave the windows in your house open for me.



Youth Leadership



The Youth Leadership class experienced many stand-out moments in the three weeks we had the pleasure of working and learning together. Initially, the team got to know one another through team-building activities that involved learning one another's names along with other fun facts about each individual.

Then, the group broke into four teams that undertook a heart-pounding adventure involving crossing a grass "river" full of crocodiles using only planks and milk crates. While the "river" was imaginary, the teams learned a great deal about working together and the meaning of leadership during this fun learning experience.

The next two weeks involved students discovering the fundamentals of leadership styles, diving into styles that suit them based on their own unique personality types, tools and tips for active listening, engaging in actively pushing themselves out of their comfort zones so that they can become and continue to foster the best versions of who they are, both as people and leaders. The students were afforded myriad opportunities to lead others, both individually and in teams. In doing so, they led classes, designed and implemented their own team-building activities, and engaged in presentations.

The session on public speaking was definitely a highlight for the students, who illustrated how remarkable they already are at this practice so often terrifying to people. All students were able to speak on various topics, argumentative to informative, with real presence, grace, and ease. Though many confided that this was their first time public speaking, all were able to command the audience with wit, humour, and authority.

*Jenny Mundy Castle,
Youth Leadership Teacher*

Final Debate Night



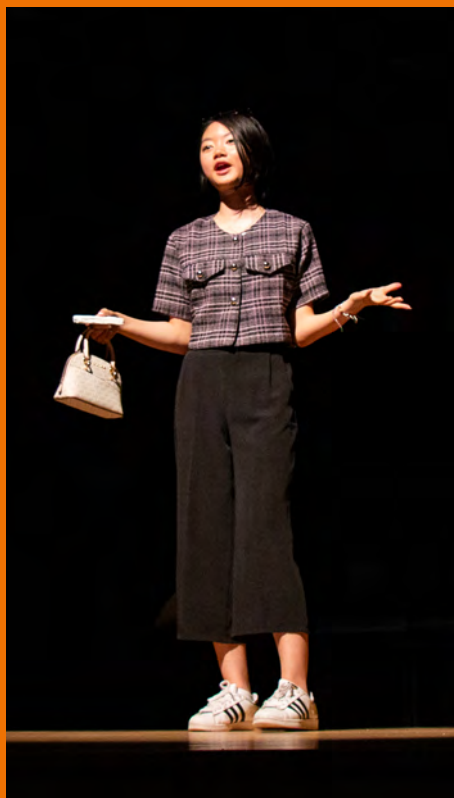
The Final Night debate represents just a small portion of the dedication and exceptional achievements of all of the debate students. They arrived with very different levels of experience but all made significant progress in their skills to deliver five minute speeches with just fifteen minutes of preparation. The generally high standard of debating made selecting students for the final night extremely difficult, but after a week-long tournament assessing speaking, teamwork and judging ability, the most consistent and confident were chosen for the final night debate.

The speakers were Kyra, Sena, Jakub, Elle, Siddhant, Reem, Lavanya and Evan. Peter, Nina, Francesco and Anton judged, led by Polina as the Chair. Special mention to Jack who was the clerk and Pranav, who served in the ceremonial role of Serjeant at Arms. The debate was held in the historic Lower Parliament Hall, with students debating and judging the motion 'This House Believes That The Media Should Not Report on Acts of Public Violence'.

All the debaters acquitted themselves excellently, and many other students contributed to a lively floor debate with the diverse perspectives that ISSOS brings together, ensuring this was a truly insightful discussion. Though the debate was well fought and closely contested, Polina and her panel awarded the victory to Reem and Siddhant for their exceptional opposition to the motion.

Katie Hart, Programme Assistant

ELECTIVES



Award Winners

Lea Lambotte

Lavanya Singh

Sara Al Haj Khalil



Theatre

Over the course of three weeks, the students attended four weekly three-hour-long improvisation workshops which introduced them to improv theatre and taught them many new performance skills and techniques. All of this was to prepare them for working towards their goal of creating a play entirely from scratch to perform in front of the whole summer school.

The students collectively decided on a topic which they would tackle in their final performance ("entrepreneurship"), and chose to explore the many issues, obstacles, and prejudices young entrepreneurs face in the world today. Some of the issues that were explored included ageism, sexism, avarice, and friendships/relationships vs. careers.

This work all culminated in their 20-minute performance during Creative Night. Through improvisations the students had devised a definite storyline and specific scenes, and they performed these in front of the whole school. The students gave a fantastic performance, and the play was well received, with many students and staff praising the cohesiveness of the whole piece and the very important topics that it tackled.

Despite some initial anxieties around performing in front of such a large audience, the students channelled all their energy into the performance and confidently showed off all their newly gained skills. Many of the students developed a passion for improv theatre during their time at ISSOS and are determined to continue acting when they return home.

Tom Van Den Hurk, Theatre Teacher



Art



Award Winners



*Suzannah Galea, Marina Luz
and Dahab El Hanbaly*



ISSOS Art, what an experience! This summer, together with my wonderful students, we undertook the task of exploring as many topics, materials and periods within art history as we could within the three weeks.

It was incredibly important to me that the students were able to engage with themes and ideas they may never have interacted with before, in other curriculum's at their age. Coming from a fine art background I shared my passion for British art history and we experimented with mediums such as sculpture, expressionist painting, clay, print, collage and so on.

In one lesson we explored the history of camera-less photography, its origins in science and botany, as well as considering ancient puppetry, shadow storytelling and Plato's allegory of the cave, creating our own work in response to these discussions. In each lesson,

the subject matter would change into something new, making this an exciting and fast paced class.

Many students found the pace of learning a little intimidating at first, however those very same students expressed at the end how rewarding it felt and what they were going to take away and carry on with. Everyone in the classroom found a way to tap into their own creativity, together we curated an exhibition of all the work created.

My favourite moment of the session was watching the students show their peers and other teachers the work, taking great pride in explaining how it came to be. It was a pleasure to take part in this very important part of a young person's creative and emotional development.

*Molly Norman Lynch,
Art Teacher*

Film



Award Winners



Tara Ziadé, Sydney Pruss and Mariana Viet

In our class, we taught our students the fundamentals of film-making. After explaining the technical aspects of writing a story and production planning; we split the class into five separate production teams. In these teams the students write, plan, shoot and edit everything together, making sure they have complete creative license and ownership over their work.

As teachers, we guided and assisted each group to ensure that they successfully carried out their creative vision, and we taught them how to use professional film editing and script writing software and professional film equipment.

This session was a huge success as all of the five films produced were excellent to watch! Everyone worked exceptionally well together and the stories that they produced were highly moving and entertaining.

The stand-out moment for the class was the film screenings during the creative night. Any student that was apprehensive about showing their work on the big screen or in front of their peers was immediately put at ease by the roar of applause after every film. The audience reaction was unique to each film, but were equally encouraging and positive. Seeing the students be recognised for their weeks of hard work by their peers, and seeing what that meant to them, was a really special moment. We hope that they all felt as proud as they looked that evening.

Tommy Sheridan, Film Teacher

Tennis Review



Tennis is always a popular choice at ISSOS and gives students the chance to work with our professional tennis coaches to learn new skills and develop their love for the game.

Initially, all of the students played together in order for the coaches to observe and decipher the different ability levels. Thereafter, beginner, intermediate and advanced groups were established, although there was some scope for movement between groups for anyone who showed strong improvement.

The primary focus of the sessions was to work on students' skills, but the coaches were able to employ a games-based approach more often than not.

During the final few sessions, students had the opportunity to showcase their improvements through an outstanding two-day tournament. The coaches elected a student from each group to receive the tennis award based on their commitment, desire to improve, positive attitude and ability.

Special thanks must be given to our Tennis coaches who worked tirelessly to keep the students engaged and inspired.

Katie Hart, Programme Assistant

Award Winners



*Simon Kalman, Blanca Riba
and Julia Bouckaert*



Golf Review

Our golf students spent their afternoons on the world class facilities at the Duke's Course in St Andrews and benefited from 3 weeks of intensive tuition from the professionals there.

Regardless of their prior experience or ability, students have taken advantage of the excellent facilities and instruction. Under the expertise and guidance of club professionals Ayden and Tom, the students have participated in activities like driving range practice, Par 3 loops, and mini tournament-style competitions on the full 18-hole Championship Duke's Course.

Feedback has been extremely positive from the professionals and students alike. The teaching professionals have been delighted with the progression of both the beginners and advanced groups. The students have also been praised on their positive attitudes and eagerness to improve their golfing skills.

Individual awards for student merit and improvement were selected by the club professionals and presented at Creative Night, but it's clear to see that the golf sessions at The Dukes Golf Course have been an undoubted success for everyone involved.

Award Winners



*Willingness to Learn - Axel Bjorkenheim
Best Attitude - Moritz Grohman
Most Improved - Almudena Fernandez*

Katie Hart, Programme Assistant

A Stepping Stone to University



"I believe that by attending this workshop, it has given me an advantage over other candidates, because of the excellent advice we received from the university applications expert. All in all, ISSOS does not only improve you as a student, but also a person, by broadening our mental horizons."

Former Student

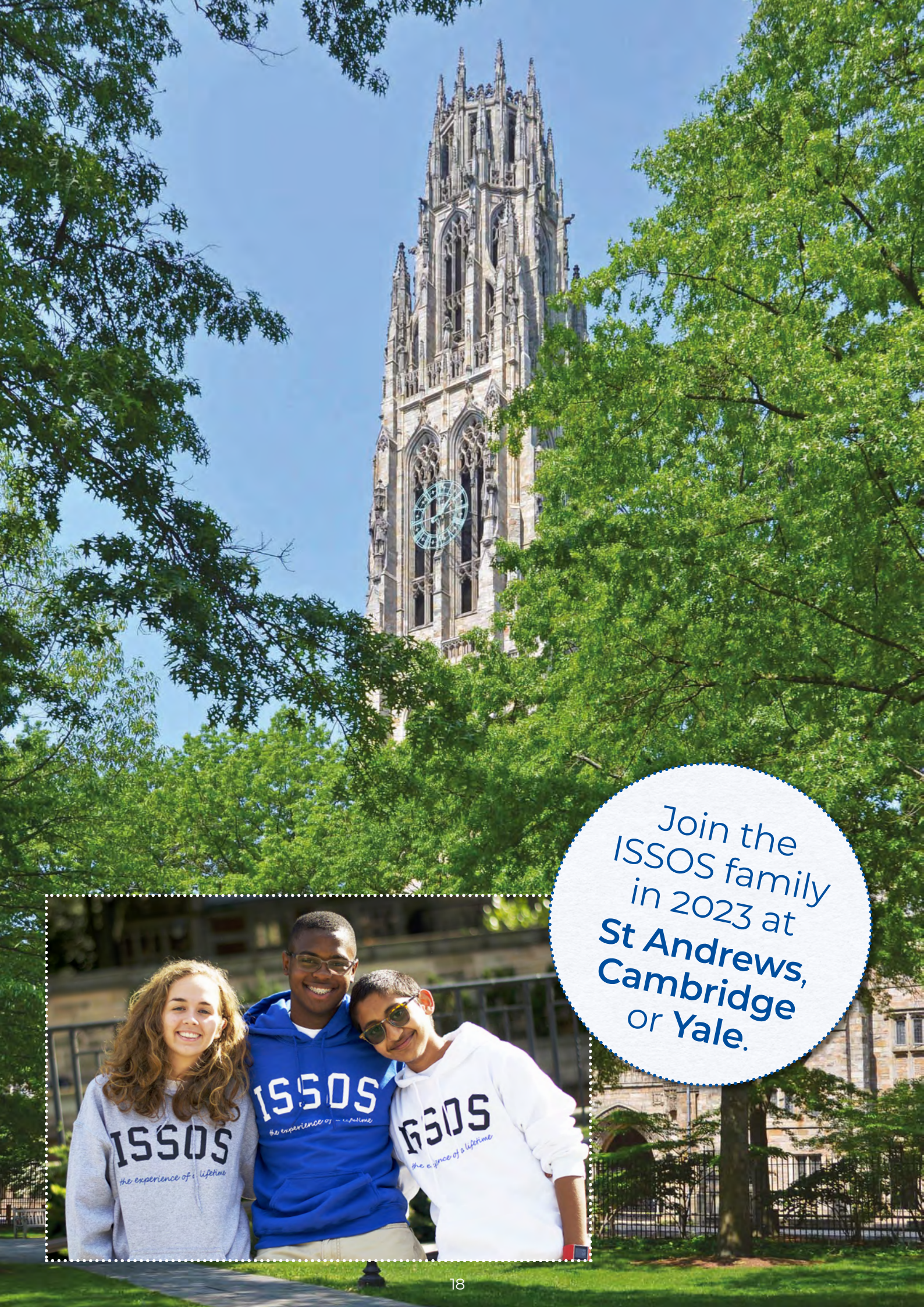
Every summer we have students who are interested in applying to some of the world's top universities and this year has been no exception. ISSOS is proud to have amongst its staff members, a number of graduates from the UK and USA's top ten universities and a number from universities around the world who are happy to share their experiences and memories with interested students.

Many students attending ISSOS have started to think about what university they may wish to attend and throughout the year, we receive emails and phone calls to ask our advice on which university to apply to for specific subjects or the entry requirements for some universities. With this in mind we decided to offer a university admissions workshop to answer any questions students may have and talk them through writing a personal statement, applying to UK, European or US based universities and what admissions departments are looking for.

The workshop was delivered by David Allen, Managing Director of Global College Counselors, with over 20 years experience in advising students and working with some of the best schools and universities in the world.

Although ISSOS is a summer Programme, we do not believe that our responsibility to students ends when the summer ends. We are dedicated to assisting students who wish to apply to a Scottish or UK based university or who wish to interview at a British Boarding school. We endeavour to assist our students in any way we can.





Join the
ISSOS family
in 2023 at
**St Andrews,
Cambridge
or Yale.**

OUR CAMPUSES

St Andrews

The Royal Burgh of St Andrews is the home of golf and the oldest seat of learning in Scotland. The town is steeped in history, tradition and culture and the golden beaches of this idyllic coastal location provide not only a unique and breathtaking back drop but also a stimulating, exciting and most importantly, safe environment for students to spend their summer.

Dates:

Session 1: 2 July – 23 July 2023

Session 2: 26 July – 16 August 2023

Academics: English Language, Debate, Study Skills, IB Extended Essay, Youth Leadership, Creative Writing.

Electives: Golf, Tennis, Theatre, Film, Art.



Yale



Yale provides a unique opportunity for students to spend their summer in one of the USA's top Ivy League universities. Founded in 1701 and famed for its gothic style campus, Yale is deemed to be the most beautiful university campus in the US and has an impressive list of alumni. Students will enjoy the centrally located campus, with access to cafés and shops while being surrounded by the amazing architecture of Yale in this safe campus that will provide students with a summer experience they will never forget.

Dates: 16 July – 6 August 2023

Academics: English Language, Debate, Study Skills, Business and Entrepreneurship, Creative Writing.

Electives: Outdoor Leadership, Tennis, Theatre, Film, Photography.

The University of Cambridge, founded in 1284, is one of the most famous and highly regarded universities in the world. Cambridge alumni include some of the world's most notable scholars including, Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.

While staying in one of Cambridge's oldest university colleges, students will experience the atmosphere of a small university town, with glorious architecture, cafés, museums and theatres, which dominate this small, picturesque and above all safe town.

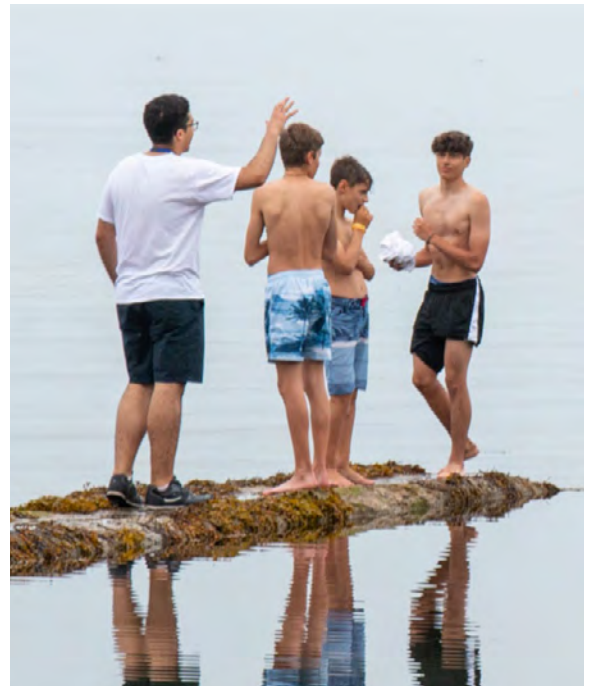
Dates: 12 July – 2 August 2023

Academics: English Language, Debate, Study Skills, Business and Entrepreneurship, Journalism.

Electives: Outdoor Leadership, Tennis, Theatre, Photography.

Cambridge





Let's stay in touch!

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St Andrews Session 1
2 July – 23 July 2023

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