

THE

ISSOS TIMES

Cambridge

13 July — 3 August 2022

the experience of a lifetime™



Wallace

win the Cup!

News & Events

See inside for all winners and reviews

Welcome back!

Returning staff & students

Welcome from the Programme Director



It really has been my absolute pleasure to be the Programme Director at ISSOS Cambridge this summer.

It really has been my absolute pleasure to be the Programme Director at ISSOS Cambridge this summer. Our team has been phenomenal and it has been such an honour to work with so many talented people from around the globe. It is this team who have united to ensure our students have had the experience of a lifetime, as did we! We watch the bonds form between our clans, classes and groups. The same has happened within our team.

Many of our staff are returning team members which means they have vast experience, but that we keep returning as each summer is so special and diverse. It is the camaraderie, the fun and the dedication of our staff members and our team that ensures that the quality of what we do is of utmost importance and we approach everything we do with professionalism. We have an amazing head office team who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that everything is ready for our summer sessions.

This year I have had incredible support in the leadership team by my side. Our head counselors Helen and Kyle have led a team of nine counselors to ensure each and every student in our care is safe and cared for whilst with us at ISSOS. We have Clare, our programme assistant who makes sure everything is organised for a smooth running of our overall operations here in Cambridge, and our media manager Nicole always has her camera to hand to document the memories that were made and share them with our families and friends.

We have had a summer full of learning, laughter and sunshine! This summer school is more than three weeks in a Summer, it lasts well into the future. We are now part of a bigger and wider family. Thank you for choosing ISSOS and we hope to see you next year to relive it all again and make more memories!

*Lorraine Kenny,
Programme Director*



“Our team has been phenomenal and it has been such an honour to work with so many talented people from around the globe.”

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

Variety Show



The Variety Show is one of the most-awaited events at ISSOS. An entire evening devoted to students showcasing their talents, building their confidence, and coming together to cheer for their peers. The 2022 Cambridge edition of The Variety Show saw some stellar vocal performances. Sixteen-year old Elise astounded the audience with her Opera rendition of Ave Maria. Students Zoey, Justus, Nine, Alfaaz, Korosh, and Wiktor each presented a range of singing and rap performances.

Keeping in mind the stages of growing up the students are currently experiencing at their ages; 15-year old Lucrezia's poetry about it being "okay to not be okay" as she highlighted the struggles of self-image, struck a chord with students and made them reflect deeply. This was a significant achievement for her as this was one of



her first poetry works written entirely in English. An element of comedy was injected into the evening with a segment of Improv Theatre by students Ela, Nidia, and Dominique who invited live audience feedback into their impromptu performance.

In true ISSOS fashion this evening was no stranger to clan rivalry. While the students took the evening as an opportunity to demonstrate their range of natural flair, it was also a chance for the ISSOS staff to put their dancing shoes on. Most notably, the students witnessed their counselors go toe-to-toe with each other during a Lip-Sync Battle. Clan Wallace got the ball rolling with Avicii in matching yellow outfits; a performance topped with multiple cartwheels. MacDonald turned up on stage dressed as a Pitbull-trio, electrifying the audience with the artist's biggest hits.



This performance ended with fellow clan students joining their counselors on stage, bearing hand drawn flags from their countries. Perhaps one of the most memorable moments of the night was Clan Stewart's Lip Sync of "Time of your Life". The students' enjoyment of this act was mirrored in their thunderous applause and cheers. Clan MacGregor, however, were crowned victorious for their rendition of "You're the one that I want" from Grease.

Overall, it was a night packed with laughter and enthusiasm. One could feel the positive energy radiating from the students. As a counselor, it was pure joy to see students' confidence develop tremendously, even though we were only half-way through the session.

Hubbiah Rafaqat, Three Counselor

Citizenship Award

Kaspar Pajo



"It has been such a pleasure to have a student of Kaspar's calibre this year. He is not just a strong academic student but is also ready to get involved in clan events and ignites the spirit of participation in others. Kaspar has been chosen for this award due to his commitment and sustained promotion of international understanding and cooperation in our school community. He always greets everyone with a hello and treats everyone with respect."

The ISSOS Citizenship Award is very special as it is not given out at every session or even every year. The award exists to celebrate a student who exemplifies everything ISSOS stands for, and who is a good role model for others. The recipient is voted for by all of the teachers and counselors and it is only given out if we genuinely feel there is a student deserving of it. The recipient is traditionally someone who not only gives their best, but promotes a positive environment within and beyond the ISSOS school community, and Kaspar has consistently displayed these qualities.

He always displays a positive attitude, readily volunteers to help, takes time to speak and socialise with all members of our school, never gives up and always gives 100%.

On behalf of everyone in the wider ISSOS family we would all like to thank Kaspar, and wish him the very best of luck for what we know will be a very bright future.

Lorraine Kenny, Programme Director

PROFILES

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

This is my second year, I went to Yale in 2019 and currently I am in Cambridge for summer 2022.

What academics and electives have you done at ISSOS?

I took Advanced English and Theatre in Yale and this year I am taking Debate and Outdoor Leadership

What makes you want to keep coming back?

The memories of my last summer and the chance to make new memories, and meeting all the people! Also getting to use my English and to get to know other cultures is very enriching.

What has been your favourite part about ISSOS this year?

The community, how we are a big family and how everyone is having such fun together! We are bonding so much, and all have such a strong sense of celebrating, living life and being joyful.

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

Don't be afraid about anything, because this is the experience of a lifetime and you will not regret giving it your best. Now that I have been here again for a second summer, I know that I don't have to expect to be perfect in English all the time, and people are so inclusive that it is just fun all the time.

Nine Gauthier



Returning Student

Returning Staff



How many summers have you worked at ISSOS, which roles have you done and at which campus?

I've worked at ISSOS Cambridge for two previous sessions and I've worked at ISSOS Yale for one session, each time as an English teacher.

Why do you like working at ISSOS?

For me ISSOS is about working in a group and the atmosphere created each summer is so special. Our tagline is the experience of a lifetime and I can honestly say that each summer a little part of that experience always stays with me. The ISSOS values match up with my philosophy of education and our students are always at the heart of everything we do.

What is your favourite ISSOS memory?

My favourite memory was the first day of orientation and meeting the staff members who became my colleagues, from all over the world. Everyone not only had experience, but an interesting story and made up a wonderful part of our ISSOS family. In our first day of

orientation, we created bonds through activities that were carefully constructed and incorporated the ISSOS values.

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

I would probably choose Debate as it is something that I enjoy so much each year. For an elective I would choose Theatre, as my background is the arts and I would love the opportunity to do the activities our students get to do, and to work in an ensemble to produce finished pieces for Creative Night.

What is your 'normal' job outside of ISSOS?

I work as head of an international middle school which offers the MYP curriculum. I also work for the International Baccalaureate as a workshop leader and programme leader.

*Lorraine Kenny,
Programme Director*

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 Stewart



Individual Spirit Awards



Wallace: *Bele Kruger*

Stewart: *Mahrin McGregor*

MacDonald: *Mahsa Khajavi*

MacGregor: *Mila Oborenko*



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. In the end, the Clan Cup was awarded to Wallace and the Spirit Shield to the Stewart Clan.

HIGHLAND GAMES

WALLACE: 8825



STEWART: 7450

MACDONALD: 7075

MACGREGOR: 6875



**Wallace
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

Dragons' Den

The Business and Entrepreneurship class at Cambridge challenged the students to consider how they would tackle global issues in innovative ways. The UN Sustainable Development Goals formed the basis for the students' discussions of these challenges and the core concepts of values led business framed the programme.

The programme culminated in the students producing a pitch to present to their fellow ISSOS students and a selection of four formidable Dragons. Each team was asked to produce a thorough and professional pitch for a product, service or project that incorporated the knowledge and skills gained across the three weeks in class, whilst solving their targeted issue. Fundamental to each pitch was the principle of 'why' – the purpose and reasoning behind their idea.

The teams worked really hard in the preparation and delivery of their presentations, impressing the judges and audience with their level of professionalism. The students' ideas focussed on confronting issues such as gender equality, period poverty, hunger, sustainable energy production and marine pollution.

All of the students performed remarkably and should be very proud of their contributions. But there could only be one winning team, and The Dragons and I chose our winners on the idea we felt would have the greatest impact. The winning team were Margaux, Mahsa, Maria, Camille and Luca, whose business concept was 'Mens.' They envisioned a range of male grooming and cosmetics products that were aimed at reducing period poverty by alleviating the stigma by providing information on the packs and through the donation of sanitary products funded through profits gained. This innovative approach seeks to start meaningful conversations whilst providing a practical solution.

The class embodied an entrepreneurial approach, inspiring each other to think differently. I hope they can pass on this enlightened perspective in what I know will be accomplished future careers.

Justin McGinn, Business & Entrepreneurship Teacher



Winning Team



Mens -

Male grooming products with profits going towards funding sanitary products for people in period poverty.



Journalism



This year's journalism class focused on understanding contemporary journalism and knowing which steps need to be taken, and which responsibilities fulfilled for people to gain back the trust in media that has been lost throughout the previous decades.

Understanding the theories behind concepts such as fake news, misinformation, disinformation, and much more was covered through conversation, discussion, and class debate, whereas the practical skillset of journalism was developed through writing, interviewing, and filming exercises.

Besides solely dealing with distrust in media, we spoke a lot about ethics of

journalism, why audiovisual elements in journalism carry significance, how research is conducted in media, how different audiences perceive the media, and how journalists need to express themselves for various audiences to understand them and engage with them. On top of that, we covered various communication science theories that can be used as a guide to effective writing – such as the two-step-flow communication model, the theory of confirmation biases, agenda setting theory and more.

Homework nights (despite initially sounding like the worst imaginable Evening Programme!) were a very popular part of class. During the first

homework night, students interviewed their counselors and teachers, and wrote out articles based on the information gathered. For the second homework night, the students were divided into different columns and genres – each covering a part of the ISSOS experience in video format.

On top of learning how to write, research, and ask questions, the students dabbled in video and audio editing, podcasting, and filming – and turned our class into a wonderfully pleasant and highly functional editorial office.

Petra Radic, Journalism Teacher

Debate



After a busy few weeks learning the skills of Debate, the Final Night Debate was a chance for our Debate students to show off what they have learned to the rest of the campus. Taking place in the historic Cambridge Union, eight students discussed the motion: This house would limit the development of strong Artificial Intelligence.

Both sides of the house debated with skill and eloquence, trying to convince us of the benefits and harms in a world with this technology. In opening government we had Malek and Yasmina, who framed and defined the motion, telling us to imagine the harms that strong AI could bring. They concluded that the risk posed by stronger AI could be apocalyptic for humanity and lead to the destruction of our institutions and values. In opening opposition, Emelie and Wiktor told us that stronger AI could lead to greater human progress and that humanity and AI could coexist peacefully. In closing opposition,

Zoey and Dominique both summarised the debate and introduced a burden, what is the value of humanity?

However, in the end, Connor and Alfaaz won the evening in the position of closing government. The two presented us with the idea that a stronger AI and humanity could not coexist in the workplace or in society and suggested that the motion would lead to the destruction of jobs and lower the quality of life for millions. Furthermore, they suggested that as AI is programmed by humans, it would contain all the same biases and prejudices, hence further expansion of AI would only lead to an expansion of these biases.

Connor and Alfaaz were chosen as our winners by a panel of the other Debate students, all of whom were in agreement as to the high quality of the debate that evening.

Cameron Bennett, Debate Teacher

ELECTIVES



Outdoor Leadership



This year's outdoor leadership course was designed to support students in developing the skills and qualities needed to excel both as a leader and as a team player. Through a mixture of sports, outdoor pursuits and classroom-based lessons our group approached the classes with both enthusiasm and a hard-working spirit.

Throughout the elective students worked in different teams where they were able to make friends and develop relationships with their peers. We explored types of leaders and the students developed a knowledge of six different leadership styles and then researched well known leaders who exemplify each of the six styles and made comparisons to their own leadership style. Throughout every team challenge different students volunteered, and were chosen, to become team leaders. This allowed each individual to step up in challenges where they felt particularly confident.



We also took part in three water-based trips; raft building, sailing and punting. Many of the students were pushed outside of their comfort zones during these activities and it was wonderful to see everyone working together to overcome challenges in the water. As well as having fun, the students learned invaluable skills such as patience, bravery and teamwork. In sailing students had to communicate effectively in pairs to successfully manoeuvre the boat. A real highlight of the elective course was the final session when we punted down the River Cam, students had to trust each other for balance and directions. Luckily we all stayed dry this time!

It has been my pleasure to teach the outdoor leadership class this year. I hope that all of the students have developed confidence and resilience as a result of the elective class. I know that this wonderful group of young people will go on to great things!

*Sophie Igoe,
Outdoor Leadership Teacher*



Award Winners



Yes I Can Award – Nive Gauthier

*Awesome Attitude Award –
Margaux Samford*



Devising a piece of theatre is no easy feat! It requires an enormous amount of creativity, a huge amount of collaboration, and a tremendous amount of hard work. For that reason, the young performers at ISSOS this year should be filled with pride and a great sense of accomplishment. In just 3 short weeks they put together a completely unique play entitled 'Unheard Narratives', a deeply personal, funny one moment then heartwarming the next, piece of theatre. It showcased their wonderful talent for writing, performing, and working together as an ensemble.

A main focus for us over the past three weeks was on building that ensemble, working as one 'unit' on and off stage, whilst learning how to devise a new theatre piece from scratch. However, they have also worked very hard on developing their performance skills in general through a number of engaging and physical workshops.

We have learnt what physical theatre is and how it can be used instead of words and to tell a story in a piece of theatre. We have explored using different inspiration, such as music or text, as a starting point for devising scenes or plays. Our performers have enjoyed the playfulness of words, learning to 'release' the potential of their speaking voice, whilst also exploring how the body and voice can work together in performance. We have also learnt how to mine an existing play text for a character's 'given circumstances' and their objectives and obstacles, using them as part of character analysis and in performance.

It truly has been an exciting and inspirational journey for all and our performers should be so incredibly proud of what they have achieved in this time. I know that I am!

Amy Lewin, Theatre Teacher

Theatre



Award Winners



*Performance Award -
Zoey Barker*

*Comedy Award -
Adrian Kattan Garcia*



Tennis



Tennis is always a popular elective choice at ISSOS, and this year was no exception! This elective gives students a chance to learn new skills and develop their understanding and love for the game. It was fantastic to see the students not only improve their tennis skills but to also see the development socially.

Many of our students had prior tennis experience and so were able to fine tune skills they had learned whilst beginners were able to grasp the fundamental skills of tennis.

Each session the students learned through team practice, one-to-one coaching and partner feedback and all received feedback from the expert guidance of our coaches which allowed each individual to significantly improve their tennis.

It was a joy to watch the students practise and a huge improvement was evident. There was always a great buzz at tennis with all students eager to learn and get playing. This made for a fantastic three weeks where students from a multitude of different nationalities were able to play and learn from each other.

As a Counselor it was a great way to get to know the students by participating in the sessions and this has truly enhanced my experience.

Every single student in tennis should be extremely proud of their accomplishments as all of them have improved massively. I truly hope they continue to develop with the same eagerness they have shown throughout their time here at ISSOS.

Lily Ynill, Clyde Counselor

Award Winners



Beginner - Elise Kliesow

Intermediate - Cate Brico

Advanced - Amber Razzaq

Photography



The Photography class this year has been a true mix of those who have taken up a camera for the first time, to some students who are highly experienced. The session started with learning the buttons and functions of the camera and moved on to looking at the various ways of composing images to make them visually appealing, looking at the impact of colour on images and how to use object placement to create different effects. The students were always enthusiastic and keen to practice everything they had been taught.

Plenty of time was spent developing their photographic skills with regular trips into the beautiful city of Cambridge to

capture images. We had great fun with a scavenger hunt to provide inspiration and the students had to think outside the box to find all of the items within the time. They excelled and really took the challenge on, with some amazing photos as a result.

Students also had the choice of staying in the classroom where I was on hand to help them edit their images in their own unique styles. For some students this was by adjusting colour and others were cropping, editing the lighting, playing with the composition, and exploring some of the wonderfully creative ways that images can be manipulated using the most up to date editing software on the market.

There have been many highlights of the class but watching the students grow, learn and become more confident with a camera has been a real joy for both me and my students. The photography exhibition at the end of the programme gave them an opportunity to show off some of their favourite images to their fellow ISSOS students.

*Chris Wilde,
Photography Teacher*



Award Winners

Most Creative Award – Amaya Buenfil

Most Developed Award – Emily Heidrich

Innovation Award – Wiktor Sadowski



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

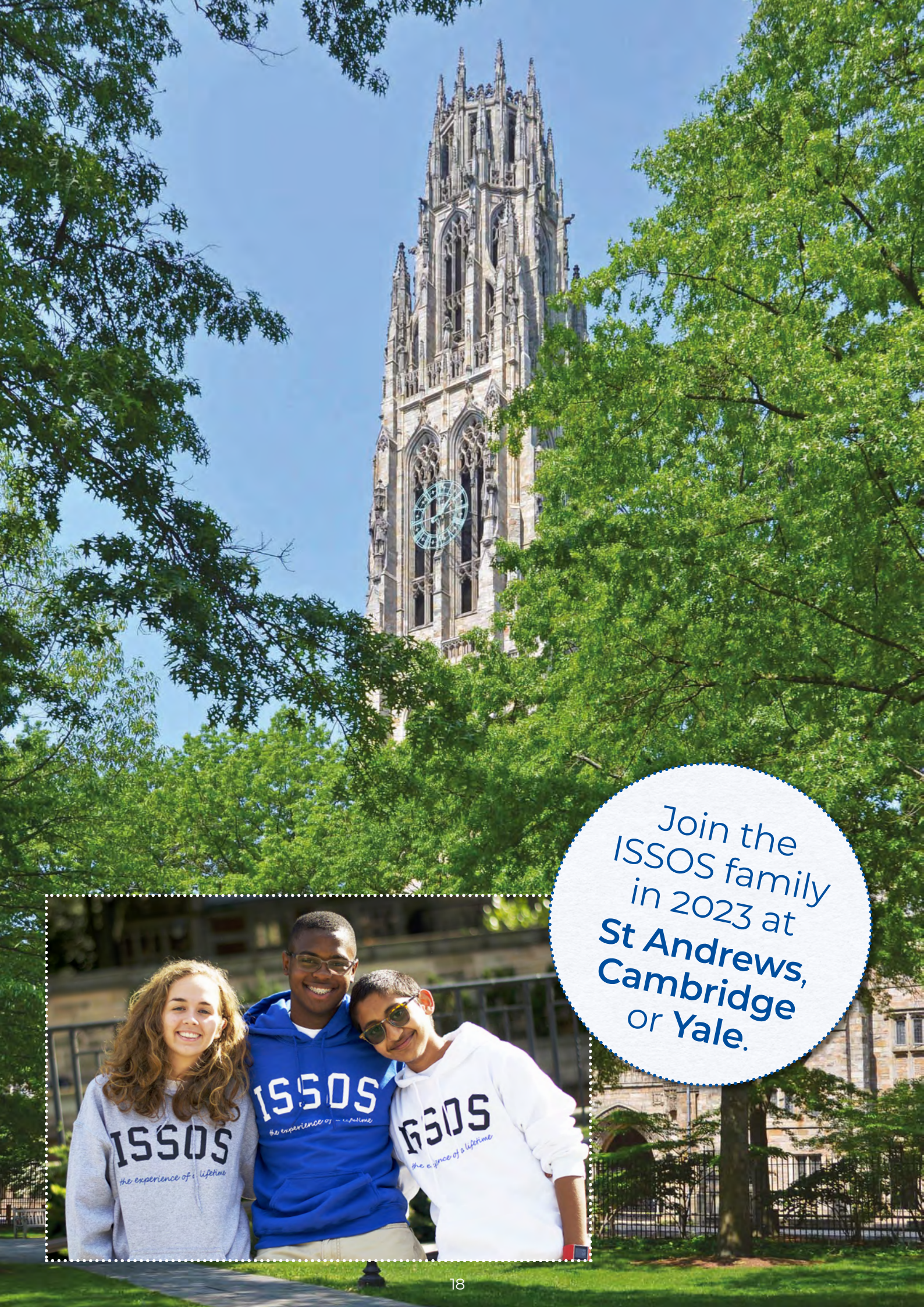
Every summer we have students who are interested in applying to some of the world's top universities and this year has been no exception. ISSOS is proud to have amongst its staff members, a number of graduates from the UK and USA's top ten universities and a number from universities around the world 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 Elisabeth Marksteiner, an Educational Consultant 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!

Search 'ISSOS' on:



Cambridge
12 July – 2 August 2023

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