

Verbiér, 19 February 2021

*Dear Copperfield parents & students,*

We hope you had a peaceful and restful half term. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 22 February at 0810hrs. Please note the earlier time - we are making start times uniform across the week to create more time for language learning

#### NEW STAFF

A number of new colleagues are arriving in the coming two weeks and we announce them below. Their profiles show our ambition to build first-class language, musical and skiing programmes. We will continue to recruit staff whose values and skills help us to achieve the vision we share for our community.

Born in Spain, Mr Fernando García-Baró is an accomplished cellist with two master's degrees (Geneva and Dresden) in pedagogy and music performance. He is passionate about languages, and combines both translation and music in his professional life. He worked two years at the Staatskapelle Dresden and performs regularly as Solo-Cello with the Mannheimer Philharmoniker.

Nicola Ferronato has a very international background as he lived as much abroad as back home in Switzerland. He was educated in Swiss boarding schools, including Le Rosey. He then studied politics in Paris, France, and St Andrews, Scotland. Nicola is an officer in the Swiss Armed Forces (OF-2) and loves nature, science, music, sports and traveling.

Natalie Osborne is an experienced Learning Support Coordinator and a fully qualified Learning Support teacher, who has worked successfully and extensively in this area over many years and in a variety of well-known international schools in different countries. In addition, she is also a fully qualified and experienced teacher of Music, Piano, English (TEFL), and Russian as a modern foreign language. She is a member of the British Psychological Society and has gained extensive teaching experience combined with pastoral care over a period of 11 years in England and then, after moving to Switzerland in 2012, in Aiglon College, Chesières. She has a Master's Diploma in Special Needs Education and speaks four languages.

Originally from Barcelona, Itziar Michellod has been working in Verbiér since 2010. She graduated from the University of Barcelona in Hotel Management. For the past 5 years she has been working in the swiss banking industry. She loves to travel and speaks 6 languages. She has a great passion for many sports and loves new challenges.



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Daughter of a mountain guide, Sarah Darbellay enjoyed since her early childhood all kinds of sport activities. Energetic and passionate, she encourages the children to adopt an open and positive attitude towards their studies. Sarah graduated from the University of Lausanne. Growing in Verbiér, she has experience as a performing athlete in ski competitions and was a ski instructor in the Swiss Ski School. She also enjoyed teaching swimming and ice skating. Sarah has taught in private and state institutions where she shared her passion for the French language.

#### MUSIC

Three of our new colleagues are quadrilingual concert-standard musicians, and we are excited by the opportunities opening up for our students to learn and savour the combination of linguistic and musical expression. Before half term we purchased a professional quality claviano with the ability to make digital recordings, and we are in the process of procuring a professional quality baby grand piano.

Our musical programme will centre in the coming months around the Verbiér festival, whose programme has been announced here: <https://www.verbierfestival.com/en/programme/>. Our students will learn of the narratives and disciplines behind a range of composers, pieces, instruments, and performers, which they will then have the opportunity to experience in person in Verbiér this July. Copperfield's musical programme will support them as they become connoisseurs of the arts.

#### COVID

We ask parents to ensure that COVID rules are followed after the break. These can be found here:

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov.html>

We wish you a great weekend and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully,

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