

PROSPECTUS



LE RÉGENT
CRANS MONTANA COLLEGE

Switzerland 

A British International Boarding and Day School

for students aged 4 to 18

An International Baccalaureate World School

offering the IB Diploma Programme

WELCOME



‘ We aim to produce well-rounded, internationally-minded young men and women, through a rigorous approach to teaching and learning. Our ultimate mission is to help our students become caring and compassionate young people who will feel the need to live wholeheartedly our ethos of **COURTESY, COMPASSION, CREATIVITY and COURAGE.** ’



COURTESY • COMPASSION • CREATIVITY • COURAGE



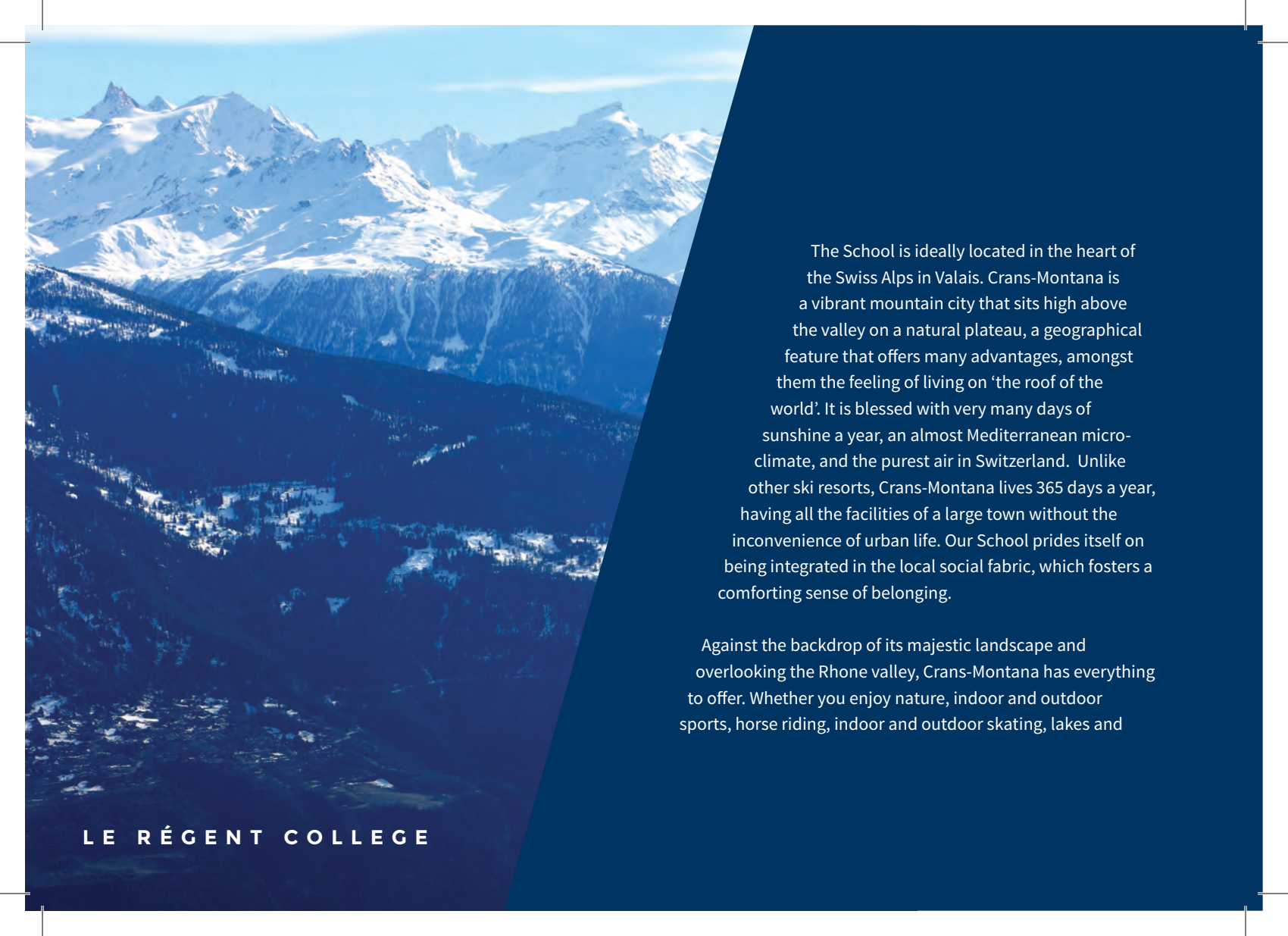
FROM THE HEAD MASTER



The booklet you are holding in your hands will provide you with a glimpse of who we are and how we approach teaching and learning. Every member of our community takes pride in guiding and supporting our students in a non-judgmental fashion, leaving them with a lasting feeling of self-empowerment. We have put in place an effective system of tutoring, small classes, student recognition, stress management, and outdoors education which does not leave any room for falling behind, while empowering each individual. Our students' wellbeing will always be our number one priority and it is a privilege to support their growth and help them achieve their ambitions. I hope that this brochure will manage to convey the values of COURTESY, COMPASSION, CREATIVITY and COURAGE that permeate all our work and our community. However, it will never replace a face to face meeting and I encourage you to come and pay us a visit. You are always welcome at Le Régent College!



Didier Boutroux



The School is ideally located in the heart of the Swiss Alps in Valais. Crans-Montana is a vibrant mountain city that sits high above the valley on a natural plateau, a geographical feature that offers many advantages, amongst them the feeling of living on 'the roof of the world'. It is blessed with very many days of sunshine a year, an almost Mediterranean micro-climate, and the purest air in Switzerland. Unlike other ski resorts, Crans-Montana lives 365 days a year, having all the facilities of a large town without the inconvenience of urban life. Our School prides itself on being integrated in the local social fabric, which fosters a comforting sense of belonging.

Against the backdrop of its majestic landscape and overlooking the Rhone valley, Crans-Montana has everything to offer. Whether you enjoy nature, indoor and outdoor sports, horse riding, indoor and outdoor skating, lakes and

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LOCATION

water sports, beach clubs, luxury shopping, going to movies, musical escapism, dining, relaxing in luxurious spas, or attending worldwide sporting events, there is always something to do in Crans-Montana and its surroundings. Special events include: the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup Ladies, 'Patrouille des Glaciers' (an iconic ski race), Crans-Montana Classics (Master Classes concerts), Omega European Masters (a prestigious golf competition), Caprices Festival (music festival), and Longines Jumping (an international equestrian competition).

Nestled in this wonderful environment, the school offers its students an optimal learning environment, and a unique boarding experience!



PRINCIPLES

We embrace the idea that no two students are alike and that all students can learn so long as the curriculum is relevant to their lives. We also strongly believe that to attract knowledgeable teachers who care about student learning and value others, a school must grant the space and resources to innovate and offer an optimal teaching environment. Le Régent College offers an ideal school environment for a balanced and happy life that enhances academic progress, personal growth, the development of individual talents, and the discovery of others.

It is governed by four School Principles:

COURTESY, COMPASSION, CREATIVITY AND COURAGE.

COURTESY

has gradually become a forgotten virtue in these fast-moving times. This quality is based on respect for everyone, their beliefs, cultures and personalities. Being courteous to others encourages them to reciprocate, therefore creating an atmosphere of tolerance, acceptance and openness.

COMPASSION

fosters our ability to recognize when others need help, to provide support and guidance to those close to us in this boarding environment as well as to those beyond who are much less privileged than we are. Compassion helps create a warm family atmosphere around us and encourages all to gain the sort of success that comes from a committed team effort.

CREATIVITY

is too often a neglected talent which is so important in the development of the whole person. Creativity, as encouraged and developed in the minds of children today, holds the imaginative solution to tomorrow's global challenges.

COURAGE

helps us to go beyond what we feel is our maximum, to commit fully to what we do, and to stand up for what we believe in. After a setback, courageous people find themselves even more eager to achieve their goals. They are also able to express and discuss their views in an open, reflective and respectful manner. Courage, and the commitment it implies, ensures we do our utmost to see all our challenges through to a positive conclusion.



TEACHING AND LEARNING



OUR MISSION

Through a rigorous approach to teaching and learning, and a rich co-curricular programme, we produce well-rounded, internationally-minded young men and women.

CURRICULUM

From Reception to Year 11, we teach a curriculum which is based on the British National Curriculum. It leads to GCSE and IGCSE ; it is followed by the International Baccalaureate (IB) syllabus in the last two years of secondary school. Designed around our four founding principles, COURTESY, COMPASSION, CREATIVITY and COURAGE, our curriculum promotes critical thinking and creativity.

IB WORLD SCHOOL

We have embraced the IB Diploma Programme as our sole post-16 curriculum as we are convinced that it offers the best preparation for university and life beyond. It is an academically challenging programme of education based on a balance of academic rigour and a skills-based approach to learning. By the time students graduate, they have developed the competencies necessary for lifelong learning and holistic development. In addition, they have embraced the IB mission that 'other people, with their differences, may also be right.'

ACADEMICS

A hand-picked team of well-experienced and dedicated professional teachers leads, supports and motivates the students to attain the best results they can achieve. Classes are small, and our tutoring system does not leave any room for coasting or falling behind. Self-discipline, independence in learning and inquisitiveness are key skills that are instilled.

As might be expected of a school in Switzerland, itself a country of four official languages, great attention is given to introducing additional foreign languages, including Mandarin which is taught as early as Year 3. In our Bilingual Infant School, pupils aged 4 to 7 are taught in both English and French. Subjects such as Music and Art are given the strong support they deserve. Students have the option to study LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) with a dedicated teacher at le Régent College. A large place is devoted to all kinds of sports, to follow the old adage 'mens sana in corpore sano'. ICT plays a strategic role in our curriculum and is in constant development.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

Our rich co-curricular programme is designed to provide students with opportunities to challenge themselves well beyond their

comfort zones and experience a wide range of different activities. Amongst them are our iconic Long Expeditions which never fail to leave our students with a lasting sense of accomplishment while building their resilience and character.

READING AND INFORMATION LITERACY

We cultivate a genuine love of reading and empower students with the information literacy and digital citizenship skills which are essential to success at school, university and beyond. They are taught how to find, use, and critically evaluate a wide range of resources and information.

Both our libraries are a blend of tradition and innovation, benefitting from 'state of the art' ICT infrastructure where students and staff can access the latest e-resources. With a constantly growing collection of print and electronic books, journals and magazines, we foster a culture in which students are encouraged to read widely, research and study. We are committed to stimulating intellectual curiosity and developing a whole school reading community, laying the foundations for a lifetime of learning.





BOARDING LIFE

JUNIOR SCHOOL

In the Junior School, boy and girl boarders live on separate floors, each looked after and provided for by the House Parents and Assistant House Parents. Small numbers and the special care given to the children's welfare, together with a real family atmosphere, ensure a harmonious and happy life. Each student shares a very comfortable room with en-suite shower and other facilities, with another three of their peers. They enjoy their own very well-appointed Library which is a focal point for their learning; there is also ample, safe space for playing and enjoying each other's company. Our indoor Sports Hall is situated a few metres away, enabling our students to exercise and have fun in sport as often as possible.

Breakfast, morning and afternoon breaks are served in the building, but lunches and dinners are in the main Dining Room located in the Senior School. Great care is taken by the school chef and his team to prepare well-balanced meals with plenty of fresh and delicious food. Special dietary requirements are also catered for. Meals are taken in the traditional manner sitting together with members of staff, and good table manners are an integral part of the well-rounded education the school provides. Evening and weekend activities are organized regularly and include sports, cultural outings, and forays in the surrounding mountains with specialists making sure all students have a full and diversified educational experience. We believe life in our school should feel like home away from home, and we take every step necessary to make this happen.

SENIOR SCHOOL

In the Senior School, the boarding houses are looked after by House Parents who are resident in the building. They are experienced in running efficient, caring, friendly and purposeful communities; they are also members of the teaching staff. We create an industrious atmosphere during the week, interspersed with fun and physical activity. The two boarding buildings have three floors with two students per room. A boarding tutor lives on each floor. House Parents and Tutors are supported by two school nurses and local doctors. In both our Junior and Senior schools, generous space is dedicated to comfortable and well-appointed common rooms for the students' enjoyment and relaxation.



SATURDAY PROGRAMME

Our Saturday programme is an important part of the education we offer. By providing our students with opportunities to challenge themselves, and experience a wide range of different activities, the Saturday programme reinforces our core values of COURTESY, COMPASSION, CREATIVITY and COURAGE. Activities include: ***International Day, rock climbing, high ropes challenge, making pottery, curling, sledging, cycling, cross-country skiing, ski touring,***

woodcarving, special presentations, Le Régent Day, going to the opera, and hiking. We expect our Day students to take part in the Saturday activities because they are vital to their development. In order to benefit fully from all school life has to offer, we encourage as much participation as family life allows.





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SPORTS

Sport plays an integral role in the day to day life of pupils at Le Régent College. As well as the obvious health benefits, we know that sport teaches our pupils a plethora of other vital life skills: team work, leadership, resilience, self-discipline, physical and mental commitment, along with a healthy respect for opponents and authority. It is our aim that by the time students leave us they take with them not only a lifelong passion for sport, but also the core skills to be able to enjoy many different sports and activities.

The winter term is entirely dedicated to our ski programme, allowing students to ski up to 3 times a week with qualified local instructors. We have an excellent, versatile sports hall as well as two outdoor tennis courts. We are privileged to be able to play golf on the prestigious Crans-sur-Sierre golf course, and to have the use of a nearby football pitch. Our budding footballers train with a talented and well-qualified coach. As a member of SGIS, we take part in many inter-school competitions every year.

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CREATIVE ARTS

We offer a great many opportunities to discover and nurture special abilities in drama, music and art.

The Visual Arts Room functions as a working studio where students benefit from a thorough art education. We teach traditional practices to build a solid foundation for higher level learning, and to enhance practical knowledge and dexterity. Our students also experiment with emerging creative media and we provide opportunities for unusual and challenging projects. Every young person is an artist at Le Régent College and we give them the tools and the confidence to express themselves artistically throughout their lives. We regularly incorporate visits to internationally acclaimed art collections.

Our music department boasts a growing choir, a flourishing orchestra (which welcomes young players within the local community), performances, Master Classes with professional musicians, and private music classes. Our students take the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Rock School examinations.

We are proud of our exciting programme of drama productions, which involves all age groups. Our students have the opportunity to participate in public speaking events (within the school and beyond) which, at an early age, develop skills of clear and confident public communication.

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THE OUTDOORS

It is important that students at Le Régent College develop a relationship with the natural world and learn to enjoy, respect, and take care of our environment. The mountains and forests that surround the school are the perfect classrooms for the children to learn about themselves and the world in which we live. Both in summer and winter, we make the most of this incredible resource to discover the beauty of the environment, and the diversity of flora and fauna available right here in Valais.

In Year 9, students start work on their their John Muir Award. This environmental award scheme focuses on wild places, which helps people connect with nature, enjoy, and care for wild places. The environment is not seen in isolation or as an add on but as an essential component at the heart of outdoor experiences, adventure, learning, creativity and wellbeing.

Le Régent College is currently the only institution outside of the UK that is recognised as a provider of the John Muir Award.







LONG EXPEDITIONS

Our “Long Ex” programme supports our approach to teaching and learning. It helps us craft confident, courageous, and compassionate young people with integrity and strength of character.

Some expeditions are challenging and provide the opportunity to live for a few days in basic conditions to boost resilience and creativity. By doing so, we give students the means to be grateful for what they usually take for granted, and that many less privileged youngsters of the same age around the world sorely lack: running water, food in abundance, electricity and the likes.

Expeditions, whether they are trekking or skiing expeditions, can be physically and mentally demanding. By putting our students in situations that take them out of their comfort zone, in a positive and safe way, we give them a chance to discover their potential. These skills serve them well in their future careers. Our expeditions are exciting and awe-inspiring adventures. Deep in the wilderness, students have a chance to connect with nature, develop a sense of who they are, and realize how connected we all are. Many students keep life-enriching memories and a sense of wonder. The rewards of Long Expeditions are boundless.

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SERVICE TO OTHERS

We are very privileged people and must be aware of the good we can do around us to help and support those who are in need.

To that end, we have created a foundation, Le Régent College Foundation, to (1) offer academic bursaries to deserving students, (2) participate in charitable projects aimed at giving a helping hand to children in need, and (3) support cultural events.

Le Régent Day, held at the end of June, is all about embracing compassion, inspiring our students to be of service to others in need, and expanding beyond the boundaries of our individualistic pursuit of happiness. Students, parents and friends happily take part in several entertaining activities. The proceeds of this annual fundraising event go to selected foundations.

Later in their school career, our students join ventures further afield in order to experience first-hand how much can be achieved by goodwill and hard physical labour.

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REFLECTION

No human being is complete without some kind of spiritual life. We encourage all our students to develop their personal spirituality through our regular Reflection times, where we consider how to put our four core values of COURTESY, COMPASSION, CREATIVITY and COURAGE into daily practice.

Those who practise a religion are given opportunities to attend services when possible.



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