International School
Ho Chi Minh City

2024-25
Academic Year In Review

Message from the Head of School

Mr. Marco Longmore
Head of School

Since joining ISHCMC in January 2025, I have been hugely impressed by the commitment and energy evident across all areas of school life. This report captures just a snapshot of all that has been achieved this year. I would like to thank everyone who contributed with such purpose and joy to bring our vision - to thrive in a rapidly evolving world - to life.

This year has been a powerful reminder of what makes ISHCMC extraordinary. From academic gains to student-led initiatives, we have continued to grow, innovate, and connect, empowering every learner to thrive.

We celebrated standout achievements in MAP *(Measure of Academic Progress)* and IBDP *(International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme)* performance, expanded our leadership in digital learning, and deepened our culture of belonging through meaningful DEIJAB+ *(Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Accessibility, and Belonging)* initiatives. Whether hosting a triathlon in the Primary School, watching student changemakers in action, or contributing to global pilots on AI and wellbeing, the energy behind learning has been unmistakable.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the trust of our families, and the incredible energy of our students. Together, we are building a school that is academically rigorous, inclusive, future-focused, and filled with heart.

Looking ahead to SY2025–26, we will sharpen our focus on measuring the impact of learning, sustaining high-quality teaching, and fostering a global mindset in every classroom.

Thank you for being part of the ISHCMC journey. The future is bright, and we're just getting started.

1 Executive Summary

This year, ISHCMC celebrated significant achievements in academics, wellbeing, and innovation. Guided by the Cognita Quality Framework, our community made measurable progress toward our mission to empower every learner to thrive.

Key Highlights

Academic Excellence:
Growth in MAP scores across divisions; a 98% IBDP diploma pass rate compared to the global average of 81% and an impressive average score of 34 points, above the global mean of 30.58

Belonging & Inclusion:
DEIJAB+ strategy launched; restorative practices embedded; student voice strengthened.

Innovation Leadership:
AI pilots with Flint and MARIO frameworks; EduSpark adopted by all TAs *(Teaching Assistants)*; Apple Distinguished School nomination.

2025–2026 Strategic Priorities

Deepen consistency in teaching and learning.

Expand innovation in instructional design.

Advance student agency and inclusion.

2 Who We Are

As Vietnam's first IB World School, ISHCMC continues to lead in progressive, student-centred education. We are defined by our commitment to diversity, high standards, and global citizenship.

1,469 students from **50+** nationalities

180+ faculty from **20+** countries
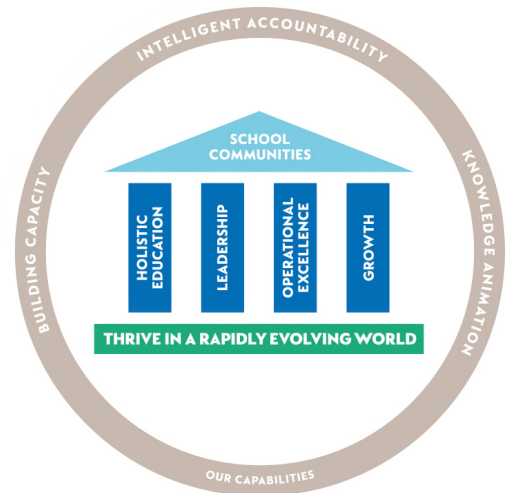
Student–teacher ratio: **8.5:1**

Member of the **COGNITA** global family schools

3 Strategic Priorities & Impact

This section showcases ISHCMC's progress within the Cognita Quality Framework, under four pillars:

- Holistic Education
- Leadership
- Operational Excellence
- Growth

Holistic Education

ISHCMC nurtures the whole child, academically, socially, emotionally, and ethically. This year's impact included exceptional student performance, enhanced wellbeing structures, and expanded student agency.

Cognita Quality Framework

Academic Growth

- MAP scores exceeded global and IB averages in all core areas
- IBDP results improved
- Redesigned science curriculum for concept-based learning

University Outcomes

- 1,200+ global university offers
- $57M+ USD in scholarships
- 140+ university visits and fairs

Curriculum Development

- English, Math, and Science scopes and sequences revised
- PYP Programme of Inquiry updated and aligned to IB descriptors

Student Agency

- MUN *(Model United Nations)* participation grew from 12 to 40+ students
- 83 student-led Service as Action groups with 588 students
- Secondary Student Executive Team (SET) restructured for broader impact

Wellbeing & Inclusion

- DEIJAB+ curriculum launched in Grades 6–10
- 158 safeguarding cases supported via CPOMS *(Child Protection Online Monitoring System)*
- VOS *(Voice of Students)* survey results:
  - » Safety: + 5.3%   » Concern: + 9.4%   » Care: + 6.8%

Digital Innovation

- Flint AI and MARIO piloted for personalized learning
- Apple Distinguished School nomination received
- Technology integrated across K–12: Minecraft, robotics, podcasting
- All teaching assistants received professional development via EduSpark

Global Citizenship

- CAS *(Creativity, Activity, Service)* projects such as Sonder Struck, Myanmar Aid, and Library of Joy empowered students to take meaningful action.
- A new Global Citizenship curriculum was introduced, aligning learning experiences with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Student-led initiatives and service learning deepened awareness of global issues and encouraged responsible, compassionate engagement.

Leadership

At ISHCMC, leadership is shared, relational, and future-focused. We built capacity through professional learning, succession planning, and strong community engagement.

Faculty Culture

- We're strengthening a culture of belonging through shared values, community stories, and school-wide celebrations.
- In response to staff feedback, we're expanding targeted Personal Development in SY2025–26 with a focus on EAL, learning support, and time to apply learning.
- VOE survey insights - collegiality, student relationships, and work-life balance — are shaping our 2025–26 action plan and driving school-wide growth.

Leadership Development

- The Middle Leadership Program was expanded to build capacity and support emerging leaders across the school.
- Coaching and growth plan cycles were refined to ensure stronger alignment with strategic goals and professional development.
- Leadership pathways were clarified to support talent development, succession planning, and a culture of continuous improvement.

Community Engagement

- Rhino Academy flourished in 2024–25, offering 42 courses across three seasons to empower and connect our parent community through shared learning.
- We strengthened parent-school dialogue by hosting regular Parent Forums and Head of School Forums, creating open channels for feedback, collaboration, and shared understanding.
- More than 2,500 enquiries were received by our Community Support Desk — all fully addressed.

Operational Excellence

Effective systems underpin student success. We prioritized safety, policy alignment, and communication clarity to support a thriving learning environment.

Safeguarding & Compliance

- Fully compliant with MOET, DOET, CIS, NEASC, IB, and Cognita
- CPOMS and POSISH curriculum used to strengthen child protection
- Staff-wide safeguarding training implemented

Facilities & Safety

- Renovations to the Primary entrance and sports courts enhanced safety, functionality, and the overall campus experience for students and families.
- ISHCMC successfully achieved HACCP recertification, reaffirming our commitment to high standards in food safety and operational excellence.
- Access control and first aid systems were upgraded to improve campus security and emergency responsiveness.
- A new Health & Safety portal was launched, providing staff and families with streamlined access to essential policies, procedures, and reporting tools.

Policy & Communication

- Parent communication channels were reviewed and improved, with continued efforts underway to ensure clearer, more consistent, and responsive engagement.
- Policies, handbooks, and key documents were updated to better reflect ISHCMC's strategic priorities, with a focus on transparency and community alignment.
- Ongoing feedback from families is informing next steps to strengthen two-way communication and build greater trust and clarity.

Growth

ISHCMC's growth reflects confidence in our mission and values. This year, we welcomed new families, launched new programs, and strengthened our brand.

Enrollment & Retention

- ISHCMC enrolled 1,469 students by May 2025, reflecting continued growth and community confidence.
- Full compliance with MOET/DOET, CIS, NEASC, IB and Cognita expectations.
- Growth was strongly supported by parent advocacy, with word-of-mouth playing a key role in attracting new families.

Family Experience

- Celebrations including wax museums, triathlons and annual traditions such as the Flag Parade and World Food Festival strengthened family engagement and school spirit, in partnership with our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO).
- Joyful community events and open, welcoming school tours reinforced a sense of connection and pride across our school.
- Thoughtful communications and inclusive experiences continue to build visibility and deepen the sense of belonging that defines ISHCMC.

Strategic Programs

- We reimagined and relaunched our English language support program as the IELP – Language Enrichment & Acceleration Pathway, reaffirming our commitment to inclusive excellence and personalized learning.
- IPAA *(ISHCMC Performing Arts Academy)* celebrated excellence in music, dance, and theatre
- Co-curriculars expanded:
  - » 267 activities   » 147 student performers   » Key clubs: DECA, ISHMUN, Stingrays Swim Team

5 Looking Ahead: 2025–26 Priorities

ISHCMC is poised to build on this year's momentum. Informed by community feedback and Cognita strategy, we outline our future goals and next steps for continued impact.

1 **Implement a Framework for Evaluating Impactful Teaching and Learning** to ensure consistent, high-quality instructional practices that drive student progress.

2 **Launch a Framework for Evaluating Impactful Leadership** to support leadership growth, accountability, and alignment with ISHCMC's strategic goals.

3 **Strengthen instructional quality through Universal Design for Learning (UDL),** supporting diverse learners and inclusive classroom environments.

4 **Expand global innovation pilots and deepen partnerships across Cognita** to bring cutting-edge ideas and best practices into our classrooms.

5 **Advance schoolwide integration of DEIJAB+ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Accessibility, and Belonging)** to ensure all members of our community feel seen, supported, and empowered.

List of Abbreviations ▼

CPOMS – Child Protection Online Monitoring System
- A secure system for recording and monitoring safeguarding, wellbeing, and pastoral care concerns.

DECA
- An independent, interscholastic student-led organisation. In Vietnam, DECA supports the development of leadership and entrepreneurship in the fields of management, marketing, finance, and hospitality.

DEIJAB+ – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Accessibility, Belonging +
- An extended acronym reflecting ISHCMC's commitment to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and equitable school environment.

HACCP – Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
- A globally recognised certification system for managing food safety risks in schools and other institutions.

IBDP – International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
- A rigorous two-year educational programme for students aged 16–19, recognised by universities worldwide.

ISHMUN – ISHCMC Model United Nations
- The official Model UN conference hosted by ISHCMC, engaging student delegates from international schools across the region.

MAP – Measures of Academic Progress
- A standardised assessment tool used to track student academic growth over time in core subjects.

MUN – Model United Nations
- A student-led simulation of United Nations proceedings, where students engage in debates and diplomacy on global issues.

PD – Professional Development
- Training and learning opportunities provided to staff to enhance their professional skills and effectiveness.

PYP – Primary Years Programme
- An inquiry-based learning programme for students aged 3–12, forming the foundation of the IB continuum at ISHCMC.

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
- A collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations to address challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.

SET – Student Executive Team
- The leadership body representing the student voice at the Secondary level, coordinating initiatives, events, and advocacy.

TAs – Teaching Assistants
- Support staff who work alongside teachers to enhance student learning and wellbeing.

UDL – Universal Design for Learning
- An instructional framework that promotes inclusive education by designing flexible learning experiences to meet diverse learner needs.

VOS – Voice of Student Survey
- An internal survey tool used to measure student perceptions of safety, support, and school culture.

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