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## A school of friends for over 50 years: Independent Bonn International School

**Warm, fun and familial: that is how IBIS and its atmosphere are best described. The brainchild of the British Embassy in the 1960s, the school still follows the national curriculum of the UK but is also an excellent choice for local students who want to focus on an English-language education and become citizens of the world.**

TEXT: MARILENA STRACKE | PHOTOS: LARS BERGENGRUEN

Back in 1963 when Bonn was the capital of Western Germany, a group of parents from the British Embassy founded the then British Embassy Preparatory School, which is now known as the Independent Bonn International School, or IBIS for short. Today it is the oldest and longest established international school of the former capital.

The school is a member of the Council of British Independent Schools (COBIS) and

is inspected regularly by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). It is also inspected and approved by the German Education Authorities as an alternative to their own schools. IBIS also belongs to the European Council of International Schools (ECIS), the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Allied German International Schools (AGIS).

“IBIS is a school of friends. In this spirit and with this in mind, we are a school

that welcomes families from across the world as well as the local area,” says Philip Wharton, head teacher from January 2018. “Our highest priority is the wellbeing and learning of the children in our care. Many of our pupils go on to local German schools but many stay with us into Secondary school. We are an established and reputable school which offers stability, challenge and the best education opportunities.”

As well as a large group of pupils from Great Britain, the United States and other English-speaking countries, some 33 nationalities are represented. The school is situated in a residential, leafy suburb of Bonn-Bad Godesberg and enjoys the benefits of being a well-resourced, purpose built school with modern facilities.

"IBIS is a very special place: warm, familial and fun. We have considerably smaller classes compared to other schools in the area, which enables us to focus on each and every child and to bring out the best in them," Wharton expands. "Our learners are happy and proud to attend our school. We also have a strong school community and particularly place emphasis on our positive relationships with our parent body. We are all here to support our pupils and the academic and extra-curricular success we enjoy demonstrates this commitment."

That IBIS follows the national curriculum of the UK is very rare for a Germany-based school. But as Wharton points out, the system is supplemented with an overall international flavour. Daily German classes and support for those whose English needs further training are on offer as well as French and Spanish courses for the older students. School starts at 8am and after-school games-based supervision is available until 5pm.

"Outside the classroom, our pupils have a wealth of opportunity to take part in various sports and artistic ventures," Wharton adds. "Many of our pupils also enjoy the opportunities we give them to learn outside the classroom, with regular learning visits to the local forest, for example. We make the most of the exciting city on our doorstep; enjoying visits to local theatres, sporting venues and of course the Bonner Christmas Markets."

From January 2018 new head teacher Philip Wharton joins the IBIS family. Wharton trained as a French and German teacher in the UK and he went on to teach for 12 years at an International school in nearby Cologne. He was the manager of both Key Stage Two and the Primary School in his previous position and is thrilled to take over this exciting role at IBIS. At the moment, Wharton is learning the daily routines of the school, meeting staff, pupils and parents, as well as spending time in the classrooms observing the high quality learning. The warm welcome Wharton has received from the IBIS community only serves as evidence of what makes the school so special: IBIS is a

school of friends. Philip considers himself very lucky to be a part of it.

When parents are faced with making the decision of which school their child should attend, it is good to get professional advice and think early about personal preferences they have. Wharton points out how important the atmosphere and setting of a school is. "A happy school makes for better learning," he says. "Visit the school to watch the pupils and teachers in action - they will tell you all you need to know. The curriculum is also naturally a hugely important aspect of the school - investigate your options carefully and remember that the best schools,

such as IBIS, prepare children for right now as well as the future."

For more information please visit the following website.

[www.ibis-school.com](http://www.ibis-school.com)



Philip Wharton, head teacher from January 2018 (left).

