



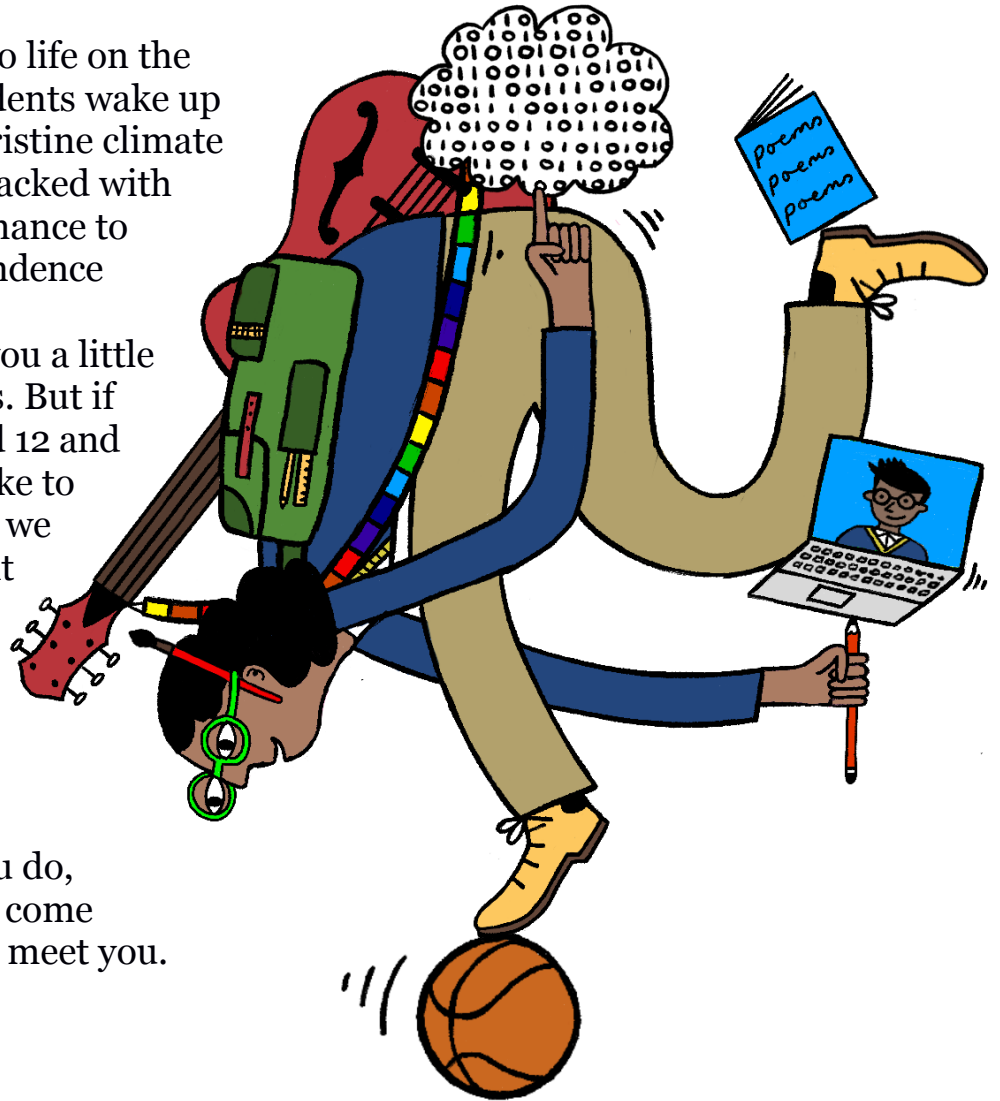
# Aiglon Junior School



# Welcome...

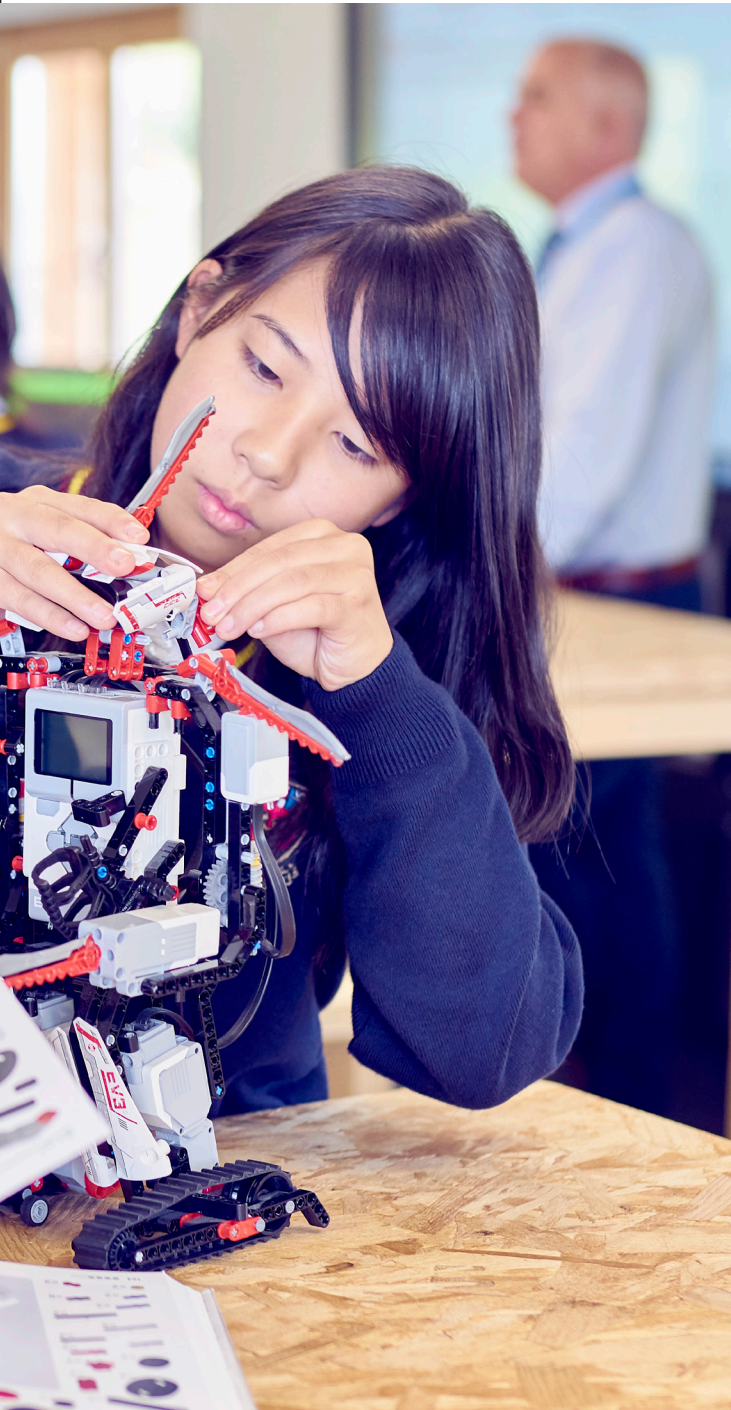
... to our Junior School and to life on the mountain, where Aiglon students wake up to spectacular views and a pristine climate – and go to bed after a day packed with adventure, friends and the chance to grow in maturity and independence in a safe environment.

In this prospectus, we tell you a little bit about all of these subjects. But if you're aged between nine and 12 and wondering what it is really like to become an Aiglonian – what we have for breakfast, how easy it is to make friends here, and who might be able to help you with your homework – then turn to the middle section of this booklet called 'At Home'. We think you'll like what you see – and if you do, make sure you book a trip to come and visit us. We can't wait to meet you.



# Academics





## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



### **We start with passion and curiosity and deliver academic excellence**

Academic excellence starts with intellectual curiosity. Which is why, at the Junior School, passion – for learning, for sports and for arts – comes first.

Our curriculum is broad and deep. Built around a core of English, Mathematics and Science, students investigate human experience in all its forms across French, Art, Music, Drama, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Physical Education and Computing. Languages are key: the English and French programmes are tailored to each individual, and students are encouraged to develop excellence in their native language. Students are taught, in very small groups, by our team of expert and experienced educators.

Achievement is critical, says Mr Stuart Hamilton, Head of Junior School and La Baita Houseparent – and each student's outcomes are rigorously tracked. "But true academic excellence takes much more," he says. "We want our Junior School students to experiment, discover, have fun and challenge themselves through learning. And as they do it, we ensure that they develop the skills and concepts that will see them through Senior School – and beyond."

## DAILY LIFE



### **Days on the mountain start with breakfast – and end with a smile**

Aiglon life is packed with adventure: as well as six formal lessons, social and developmental skills are taught and nurtured by teachers, Houseparents and tutors, whether over lunch, in the playground or after school.

Students can choose from almost 40 different activities, from anime to dance to coding. The Junior School makes full use of all school facilities, including the sports centre, observatory and Makerspace. In winter, students enjoy twice-weekly skiing lessons with highly qualified instructors and with unrivalled access – the ski lift is just a five-minute walk away.

Downtime is prioritised. After dinner, students relax in their boarding houses, with time to read, call home, watch films and chat to Houseparents and each other. At weekends, students take part in expeditions, social outings, cultural trips, sports and activities.

After a full day, the Junior School is more than ready for bedtime at around 9pm. “Though after a particularly busy day, younger students might be asleep by 7.30pm,” says Ms Francisca Luco, La Casa Houseparent and Head of Spanish. “But it’s always with a smile on their faces!”

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#### IN THEIR WORDS

**“Life on the mountain is creative, stimulating and active: students are encouraged to make the most of their day, and to enjoy as much as they can of what we have to offer here”**

MRS VALERIE SCULLION,  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS  
& MARKETING









## DISCOVERY PROGRAMME



### The world is our classroom with the pioneering Discovery Programme

Our Discovery Programme harnesses the power of real-world learning to develop critical thinking and deep subject understanding.

“Educating the whole person, not just one aspect of an individual, has been in Aiglon’s DNA right from the very start,” says Mr James Pigott, Assistant Head of Discovery, “and the Discovery Programme takes that to the next level.”

Through travel, adventure and experience, students are able to develop new skills and acquire knowledge for themselves while letting their curiosity run wild. Projects are diverse and imaginative: students have explored the history and geography of the Mediterranean aboard a 45ft yacht and put their STEM skills into practice while making space observations at NASA.

“Our holistic approach looks at all aspects of students’ development. We’ve been doing it for 70 years, but it has never been more relevant!” Mr Pigott says. “And in a rapidly changing world, it’s vitally important that we prepare our students not just for the IGCSE and the IB Diploma – but, crucially, for the world beyond.”

“

IN THEIR WORDS

“Discovery has pushed our son completely out of his comfort zone and challenged him in ways we never thought possible. He has grown enormously in confidence and intellectual curiosity”

PARENTS OF BERTIE  
(YEAR 8)

## PREPARING FOR SENIOR SCHOOL



### Ensuring students thrive at Senior School is all about careful preparation

Our junior curriculum provides seamless preparation for the Senior School programme and the IB Diploma, developing key competencies and concepts, and laying the groundwork for success. Teachers instil good study habits and routines, and many of the Junior School programmes continue into the Senior School, including the Discovery Programme (which continues into Year 9).

Indeed, Aiglon's Junior School students have a particular advantage: they know the school and its rules, traditions and customs, they have already settled in and made friends and know many of their teachers. And we know them – ensuring that teachers and tutors can prepare and stretch each student for the academic challenges of Senior School.

And that, as Mrs Nicola Sparrow, Head of School, points out, can make all the difference. She says: "I really notice that Junior School students are so much better prepared for Senior School, both academically and emotionally, compared with students who come from other schools. They are more independent, have much better study habits, and they know what to expect."

“

#### IN THEIR WORDS

“Being in the Junior School was so fun that I didn't realise I was being prepared for the academic challenges to come! So many of my good learning habits, interests and skills spring from the time I spent there”

IVAN, (YEAR 13)





# Adventure





## EXPEDITION PROGRAMME



### **Our students play and learn in an inspiring and spectacular environment**

“Being connected to the world we live in is a fundamental part of being human,” says Head of Expeditions Mrs Louise Thomas. “We encourage students to develop a love of the outdoors, of immersing themselves fully in what’s around them.”

The expedition programme is carefully structured around three themes – Explore, Development and Discovery, and Developing Personal Competence – each carefully matched to the academic curriculum and students’ interests and ability as they move through the school. So where younger students will begin exploring the forest and developing their problem-solving skills, older junior students have the chance to tackle a three-day mountain expedition, taking part in the Young Navigators Awards and developing their climbing skills.

Safety always comes first. Our team is highly qualified and experienced; each year group is looked after by a specific team member, ensuring that the needs of each individual are taken into account. “Many schools offer an outdoor programme, but what makes Aiglon truly different is that expeditions are integral to our curriculum,” says Mrs Thomas. “It’s outdoor education – but it’s also education in the outdoors.”

## A TRADITIONAL CHILDHOOD



### **Away from screens and distractions, children have space to grow and develop**

Building a den in the woods. Walking down to the local shop to buy sweets with your pocket money. Kicking a ball around with your friends. The simple activities that make up a traditional childhood also help to build vital skills in these formative years: confidence, independence and curiosity. And these shared experiences also build friendships and create memories that will endure for years to come.

Aiglon's beautiful, rural setting in a tiny mountain village allows students to experience these joys in a way that is rarely possible at home. Lakes, mountains, woods: all are literally a few steps away. And while students are allowed some, limited, screen time (devices are distributed and collected by staff to ensure well-rested students), non-digital activities are encouraged during evenings and at weekends, with board games, quiet reading and impromptu ball games common activities.

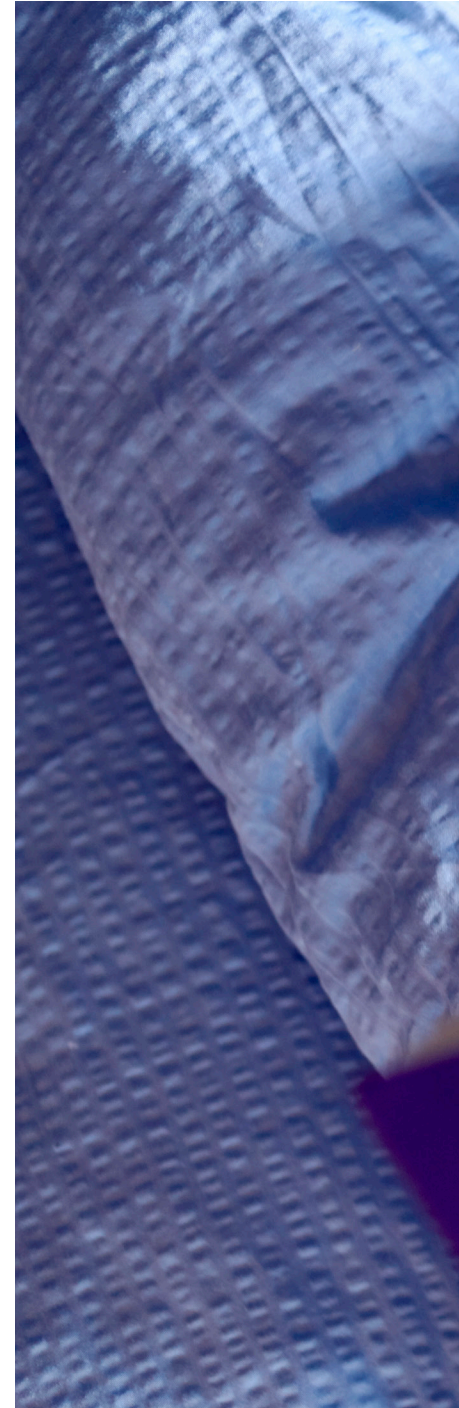
It's something that Kai Yee's (Year 7) family loves. "We live in a beautiful city – but our daughter cannot leave the house without getting in the car. At Aiglon, she can play and get muddy with her friends in a way that's not possible at home."

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IN THEIR WORDS

“Living a simpler life at Aiglon has made our son appreciate what he has. And he has blossomed, becoming more independent, organised and mature”

PARENTS OF ANDREI  
(YEAR 7)









## ALL UNDER ONE ROOF



### **With all activities a few steps away, students can develop their passions**

Life at Aiglon is fun – and busy! “Everything is just a short walk away, accessible right here at school,” says Head of Junior School Mr Hamilton, “giving students more time to follow their passions.” Students are exposed to a whole range of activities, and many take up something completely new, such as a new language (Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, French, German, Italian and Russian are all available, along with cultural activities relevant to each language) or a new sport (from swimming and tennis to volleyball, basketball, kayaking, cycling and table tennis – many of which make use of the school’s excellent facilities).

Budding and experienced musicians alike enjoy instrument lessons and ensembles, while would-be rocket scientists can stargaze to their hearts’ content at Aiglon’s on-site observatory. And that’s before you get to skills such as coding and cooking, and cultural activities that include creative writing, film club, drama club and craft club. And at weekends, students enjoy free time in their house with their friends, on-site activities and can take part in cultural trips that take them across Europe. As we say, it’s busy!

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IN THEIR WORDS

**“There’s just no way he’d get this breadth and range at home – we’d never be able to fit in the classes! Now, he has the chance to try new things – and the time to really develop those passions”**

PARENTS OF SOTARO  
(YEAR 8)

# At home



**At home at La Casa**  
La Casa, our junior girls' boarding house, has plenty of spaces where you can hang out with friends.

**Guess who?**  
Making friends is easier than you think! Most students make firm friendships within the first few weeks of term.



**Time for practice**  
La Casa's piano is available for serious practice – or serious fun!



## BOARDING LIFE

### What's it really like to live at Aiglon? We have the lowdown...

After months of planning, preparing and dreaming of snow, you've finally arrived on the mountain! We're so excited you're here – and we can't wait for you to get started.

First things first: home will be one of our lively, friendly and cosy junior boarding houses, either La Baita (boys) or La Casa

(girls). When you arrive, you'll meet the house team: your Houseparents, Assistant Houseparent, Tutor and Aide de Maison. And then it's time to explore your new home.

"I was pretty nervous when I arrived as it was my first time away from home," says Rea (Year 8). "But my Houseparent was really nice and once I had put my teddy on my bed and stuck up my photos, my nervousness sort of changed into excitement about what was coming next!" ▶



**Never too old**  
Don't leave your teddy behind – most Aiglonians have at least one (or four) stashed under the covers.



**Homework at home**  
Boarding at Aiglon means you have access to learning support as and when you need it.



#### Fun and games

Whatever your interests, at La Baita you can always find someone to join you in a game.



## BOARDING LIFE

Let's talk friends. It's the one thing that everyone worries about before they arrive... but it just doesn't seem important after the first week! First stop are your roommates – you'll get to know them pretty quickly and have some amazing adventures together. So when you crack that tricky maths question or make camp for the first time, the chances are it will be your roommates who'll be cheering the loudest.

At Aiglon, your friends will be from all over the world; together you'll get to share and celebrate each other's culture and travel the globe without leaving

your house. You'll quickly get to know everyone in your house – and, of course, the whole house team is on hand (and keeping a particularly close watch in those first weeks) to ensure you settle in.

"It's completely natural to miss home at the start," says La Casa's Houseparent, Ms Luco, "but the Junior School is very small and our focus is on fun! After the first few days, students start planning all the activities and adventures they've always wanted to do but couldn't at home. You see their eyes open to the opportunity and the environment – it's always an exciting moment." ▶



“

IN THEIR WORDS

“La Casa is so cosy and friendly. It’s fun, it feels like home!”

JIMENA (YEAR 8)



## BOARDING LIFE

At the heart of the house is your Houseparent, who, with the Assistant Houseparent and Aide de Maison, is on hand to help you settle in and make the most of your time at Aiglon. Just like your parents, they will make sure you wake up on time, that you’ve brushed your teeth and that your room is tidy... and, just like your parents, they are also there to support and guide you, whether that’s a hug after a long day or taking the time to help you tackle your homework.

“Before I arrived, I was worried about what would happen if I felt unwell or if I needed to talk to a teacher,” says Bernardo (Year 7). “But my Houseparent is so easy to talk to and always makes time for me, no matter how small the problem.”

Don’t be fooled though, it’s not just about the serious stuff. Many of Aiglon’s Houseparents are also known for their baking skills... so don’t be surprised to come back home to freshly baked muffins or biscuits! ▶



**On cloud nine**  
We don't advise  
jumping on your bed,  
but we can't say it's  
not been done before!



**Downtime at La Baita**

School life is full of adventure, but you'll also have time to relax and chat to friends and teachers.

**Bookworm alert**

Screen time is kept to a minimum, leaving plenty of opportunity to indulge your passions.

**BOARDING LIFE**

Speaking of which: food. The first thing to say is that it is yummy, starting with breakfast, which could be anything from fresh fruit and cereal through to waffles, pancakes or, occasionally, doughnuts!

At break you can have juice and tartine, and lunch is usually at the School Restaurant, overseen by Aiglon's Head Chef, where you get to choose from a whole range of different dishes (including dessert!) every day.

At dinnertime, the whole Junior School gathers at La Baita to eat together in the dining room. And after lessons? Well,

you'd have to try really hard to be bored at Aiglon. You can choose from more than 40 activities, from chess and camp craft through to biking, swimming and football.

You'll usually get to spend at least an hour every day on activities, so you can develop your current interests and try out new ones. And at weekends, as well as relaxing, you'll have the chance to go on outings to the cinema, the local town and the go-karting track, to name just a few. Or you might go on expedition with your housemates or classmates, exploring the mountain and maybe even sleeping under the stars.

# Pastoral care





## JUNIOR SCHOOL TEAM



### **Our expert, hands-on team are there to guide and support students**

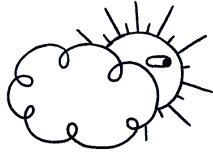
Our Junior School is intentionally small, enabling us to offer a home from home, managed by a team with the experience and time to support every student. It is led by Mr Stuart Hamilton, who brings more than 20 years' experience to Aiglon. Together with his wife, Laura, Mr Hamilton heads up the La Baita houseteam (which includes Houseparent deputies and matron), giving him a complete overview of school life.

At La Casa, the Houseparent team is led by Ms Francisca Luco, who says her focus "is ensuring students' experience is positive, fun and gently guides girls towards becoming more independent".

Every student is also supported by their tutor, who is responsible for their overall education and wellbeing, and will be your first point of contact.

A member of staff is on duty in each house 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If a child has a minor illness they are looked after by their Houseparent. The campus Health Centre is also staffed 24 hours a day by professional nurses, and it's the place where students are looked after if they need constant monitoring or interventions.

## HEALTHY MINDS



### Students learn to look after their mental health and make good choices

At Aiglon, we believe that the balanced development of mind, body and spirit has never been so relevant. In today's fast-paced and stressful society, teaching children how to maintain good mental health is vital.

"We are a traditional school in some ways, but also a progressive one," says Mrs Sparrow, Head of School. "We help children to make the right choices for their mental health – whether limiting screen use, or how they treat each other."

Screen time is allowed, but limited. Students are encouraged to make the most of the school's beautiful setting and learn the benefits of being in nature. "The resilience they learn on expedition will stay with them throughout their lives," says Head of Expeditions Mrs Thomas.

Staff get to know students very well. They know when something is wrong, and will always step in to help. "Sometimes there are disagreements, just like in any family," says Mr Hamilton. "That's part of life, and also part of being in this wonderfully diverse, international community. We help our students learn to resolve their conflicts, develop confidence and live together happily."

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#### IN THEIR WORDS

**"It's been incredible for us to see the change in our daughter. Expeditions have boosted her self-esteem, confidence and independence. She is more resilient and more able to tough things out and push harder"**

PARENTS OF XIMENA  
(YEAR 8)

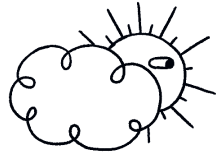








## HEALTHY BODIES



### **An active lifestyle and a healthy diet keeps Aiglonians healthy**

Fitness helps children become more confident in all areas of their life, says Mr Hamilton. “We see that confidence transfer to the classroom, and to their social interactions. So we take students’ physical activity very seriously!”

The breadth of physical activities at Aiglon means that there’s something for everyone – from competitive sports such as ski racing and basketball to walking, cycling and kayaking. And the expedition programme encourages students to have fun outdoors without necessarily feeling as if they are taking part in an organised sport.

Good, nutritious food is at the core of a child’s physical wellbeing, and students enjoy a healthy, balanced diet. “Ensuring good nutrition before and after school is key. Eating healthily makes such a difference to their concentration,” explains Mr Hamilton. Students are also encouraged to develop good table manners and cooking skills, sharing their creations with their house – habits that benefit them long after they leave Aiglon.

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**IN THEIR WORDS**

**“Exercise at Aiglon is not normal exercise! It’s so cool on the mountain! You do these amazing things you couldn’t do anywhere else and then you get to say that it’s good for you!”**

**ANDRÉ (YEAR 6)**

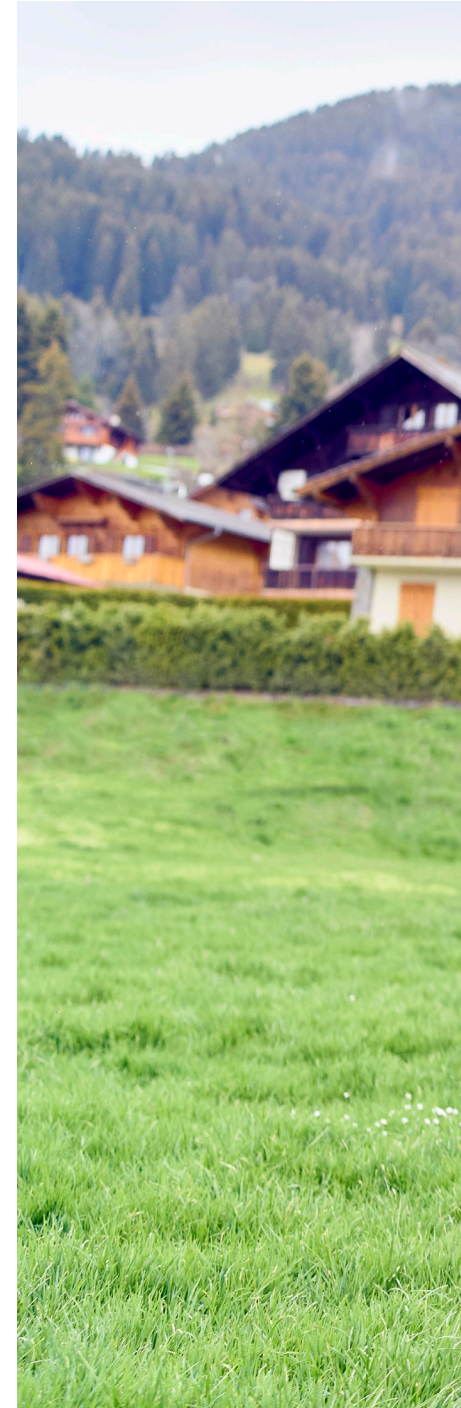
FIND OUT MORE



## Would you like to become an Aiglonian?

“The Junior School experience is very special: we bring together a small, select group of professionals with an expert teaching team who use our unique Alpine environment to develop the whole child,” says Mrs Valerie Scullion, Director of Admissions & Marketing. “And as our students grow – in confidence and independence – so their academic studies flourish, creating resilient, capable individuals ready for the challenges of Senior School.”

Our team is on hand to assist with your application, so please contact the Admissions Office for more information or to schedule a campus visit. We look forward to you joining our community!





## CONTACT



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