



SURVAL MONTREUX

International Boarding School for Girls 13-19
Prospectus



Welcome to Surval Montreux

Surval Montreux is a small international boarding school for girls between the ages of 13 - 19. Set in a stunning location in the slopes above Montreux, it looks out across the Lake Geneva to the mountains beyond.

It is here that we offer girls the opportunity to love learning, to develop and grow intellectually, personally, and spiritually, and to become leaders. Without the possible distraction of boys, girls have not just equal opportunity but every opportunity to take the lead. They will be the leaders of the school community, helping to make decisions about their facilities and enrichment courses: they will have leading roles in debating, in musical activities, in sport, and in the charities we support both locally and further afield.

Every door is open to them as they develop into independent young women who have grown up in an international community and do not just tolerate, but truly understand, the value and importance of the beliefs, customs and traditions of others. They will be girls who will bring their intelligence, their understanding, and their sense of social responsibility to the service of the communities in which they will live.

We invite you most warmly to come and visit us – for any girl to come and stay for a day or two to experience boarding life in this wonderful environment – or, if you cannot visit, to take advantage of our website, and the personal visits I shall be making to a range of international cities. I look forward to meeting you.

Penelope Penney, Headmistress





Family & Community

Surval is a school, a family and a community. Girls from all across the globe live together here as part of an international family, learning about each others' customs and habits, culture and beliefs. Because we are a small school, with only 85 students at most, every individual is known and appreciated for what she contributes to the whole.

We are also all 'foreigners' in Switzerland and we recognise our responsibility to the community in which we now live and work. This means girls play a significant part in the life of the wider community, preparing them for the high levels of social responsibility they will undertake in different fields in their own countries.





Imagination & Creativity

We strongly encourage the life of the imagination, through music and poetry, art and drama. Importantly too we encourage imagination in personal dealings, so that girls can understand how others might feel in particular situations, and can imagine how it feels to walk in another person's shoes.

Creativity cannot help but flourish in this spectacular setting, where the mountains and lake we see through every window inspire us all to lift our eyes and set our sights high. Our programme of 'specialists in residence' during the year, with a musician, a writer, a dancer, an artist and even a web site designer will stimulate and inspire the girls further.





Independence & Initiative

Girls join Surval from the age of thirteen and experience the independence of living away from home, taking responsibility for their own decisions and actions, and developing a robust and mature independence.

Here they are able to take initiative for aspects of school life, from designing their own Common Room to planning trips and developing an extracurricular programme. Their suggestions are considered and discussed and wherever possible they are brought to fruition. They also develop both independence and initiative in their academic lives, building good habits of independent thought for the future.





Intellectual Curiosity & Challenge

At Surval there is a strong work ethic and a joy in learning. Young children endlessly ask questions - what, why, how - and these habits of curiosity and enquiry need to be cultivated as the child matures. Our classrooms are full of questions: why are things as they are, what if we tried doing this a different way, how can we reach a better solution to this problem? We are all learners and our habits of excitement in learning should grow rather than diminish with age.

Giving girls challenging material and opportunities to experiment helps to open the mind and develop the intellectual power that will enable them to lead interesting and fulfilling lives.

We use every opportunity for learning within and beyond the classroom. On a spectacular day we can abandon laptops and take the whole school up the mountain to explore the geology of a glacier at first hand: an unforgettable learning experience!



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Adventure & Opportunity

What other establishment could offer such a breathtaking setting for adventure and opportunity? The mountains provide not only stunning views but a whole wealth of opportunity for sport in the winter, from skating on the tennis court which we flood and freeze as an ice rink, through to Ski Thursday when we spend a full day on the slopes. In the summer Sport Thursday offers water sports on Lake Geneva, with wake boarding, sailing, water skiing and canoeing, and the Olympic swimming pool at Montreux Clarens in easy reach. Hiking, mountain biking, and many other opportunities for exploration and adventure are developed year on year.





Poise & Confidence

Girls come to Surval with many talents and skills of which they may be unaware. We seek to help them to develop their known talents, discover ones they did not recognise, and develop the self confidence without arrogance that is the characteristic of a happy and successful young woman.

Our girls will go out to be leaders in their own countries, in many different ways, and the confidence and poise they gain at school will enable them to be happy and secure in who they are. This is the true maturity and integrity that we are proud to see in all our girls.





Friendships for Life

Whatever words are spoken or aspirations are set out, in the end what we hope for is that the girls will remember Surval with great fondness: for the family, the friends and the fun they have experienced during their time with us.

When girls leave Surval they become members of a wider alumnae community, those friends for life who make up an invaluable network of independent, thoughtful women whose influence will reach across the globe. Girls will have grown up from the age of thirteen with students of every nationality, and will have developed understanding and friendships in almost every continent.









**For further information,
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INITIATIVE IMAGINATION INDEPENDENCE

