



DSK NEWSFLASH

Newsletter of the German International School Cape Town



Principal's Message

Dear DSK School Community

The first term has flown by, and we have already stepped into the second, which promises to be just as full of activity.

Our school theme for this year is sustainability. But what does sustainability mean for the DSK? What role does it play in our understanding of learning and teaching, and in the way we interact with one another each day? On the following pages, we invite you to explore these questions more closely.

At the same time, our DSK strategy group is looking ahead. Together with you, we are continuing to shape and refine our values and guiding principles. Following the input from parents and staff, our learners are now invited to share their perspectives. Step by step, a shared understanding is emerging of what defines the DSK today and what will carry it forward into the future.

Another key focus remains digitalisation. How can we integrate media into our daily lives in a conscious, responsible, and healthy way? In this edition, you will find further insights and a first look at concrete measures already being put into practice.

We hope these pages inspire you, spark new ideas, and invite you to join us on this journey.

I wish you a great start to the new term.

Kind regards
Sabrina Gellermann

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- Focus Topic: Sustainability in Education
- Digital Wellbeing
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DSK Orchestra Concert 2026
Highlights

FOCUS TOPIC

SUSTAINABILITY IN EDUCATION

Sustainability in Education

LEARNING FOR THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

Sustainability in education is far more than a topic or a timely buzzword. It reflects a fundamental aspiration of learning itself: knowledge should not only be available in the short term, but should have a lasting impact. Sustainable learning does not arise simply from the delivery of content, but from enabling learners to understand connections, engage deeply with ideas, and actively construct their own knowledge. Learning becomes sustainable when it is meaningful, relevant, and rooted in real experience.

Since the early 2000s, educational research and practice have increasingly focused on how to make learning effective in the long term. A key milestone in this development was the introduction of the PISA studies, which celebrate their 25th anniversary this year.

Their early findings highlighted that education systems, including the German system, faced the challenge of fundamentally rethinking teaching and learning processes. The focus needed to shift from the transmission of knowledge towards deeper understanding, the application of knowledge, and the development of cross-disciplinary competencies. This marked an important step towards greater sustainability in learning.

In this context, the concept of competency-based learning has gained prominence. A competency-based approach shifts the focus from what is being learned to what learners are able to do with their knowledge. Subject knowledge remains essential, but it is complemented by skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, and transfer. Sustainable learning becomes visible when learners can apply knowledge flexibly, transfer it to new contexts, and continue to develop it over time. Competencies bring together knowledge, skills, and mindset, and it is this combination that makes learning truly enduring.

„BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE
IN THE WORLD.“

MAHATMA GANDHI





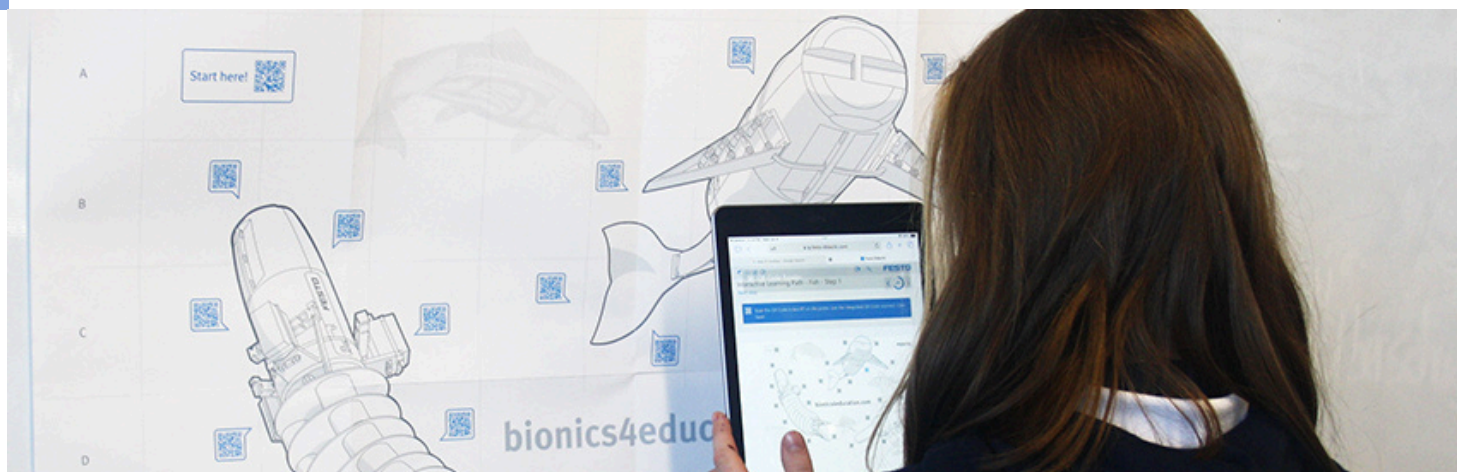
Another key element of sustainable education is cooperative learning. Learning is not an isolated activity, but a social process. Through interaction with others, perspectives broaden, thinking deepens, and understanding becomes more reflective. Cooperative learning strengthens not only academic insight but also social competencies such as teamwork, responsibility, and constructive communication. These skills are essential for sustaining and developing knowledge over time, both in school and in later professional and social contexts.

Closely connected to this is independent learning. Sustainable education aims to gradually empower learners to take responsibility for their own learning processes. Independence does not simply mean working alone; it involves developing learning strategies, assessing one's own progress, and identifying next steps. Those who understand how they learn are able to continuously expand their knowledge and adapt to new challenges. In a world where knowledge is growing at an unprecedented pace, this ability becomes increasingly vital.

Education has not only been transformed by the emergence of artificial intelligence. For many years, knowledge has been accessible almost anytime and anywhere, while the volume of information continues to grow rapidly. This raises a crucial question: what skills do young people need today to be sustainably prepared for the future?

Alongside subject knowledge, these include judgement, the ability to reflect, creativity, a sense of responsibility, and the capacity to navigate uncertainty. Sustainable education equips young people to orient themselves in a complex world, make informed decisions, and actively participate in society.

Ultimately, sustainability in education means designing learning in ways that endure, both for the individual learner and for society as a whole. It calls for approaches that foster understanding, enable collaboration, and strengthen independence. Only then can education truly fulfil its purpose: preparing young people not just for exams, but for life.



Digital Wellbeing at the DSK

SHAPING A BALANCED DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER

At the DSK, we see technology not simply as a tool, but as a shared responsibility. One that connects learners, teachers, and parents alike.

As a school community, we approach technology with intention and a strong sense of responsibility. We use it in ways that enrich learning, while at the same time nurturing focus, well-being, and genuine human connection. This is not a one-off initiative, but a shared and ongoing journey.

To further strengthen this area, we have expanded our team and appointed Yazmine Horowitz as our Head of Innovation. She works closely with the school leadership and a dedicated group of parent experts who bring valuable real-world experience. Drawing on deep expertise in areas such as digital safety and modern communication technologies, this team is helping to shape a thoughtful and forward-looking approach—one that supports a balanced, healthy, and reflective use of digital media at the DSK.

PURPOSEFUL, RESPONSIBLE, LEARNER-FOCUSED

Our approach is grounded in balance: we embrace innovation while safeguarding concentration, wellbeing, and academic excellence.

Middle School

A phone-free environment supports focus, reduces distractions, and encourages real-world interaction.

High School

A structured “Bring Your Own Device” approach helps learners develop responsible and independent digital habits.

Digital Learning

Through subjects such as SciTech and digital literacy, learners build the skills to engage with technology safely, ethically, and effectively.

Artificial Intelligence

AI is introduced in a guided, teacher-led way, ensuring it enhances learning while maintaining academic integrity.



What we are already putting into practice

This work is already visible across our school:

- The Grade 6 “lockable boxes” initiative, currently being reviewed as part of a broader approach to cellphone use.
- A shared commitment to developing digitally fluent learners, not digitally dependent ones.
- The development of a clear AI policy, including guidelines for assessment and responsible use, especially in the High School.
- Ongoing professional development for our teachers to ensure meaningful and intentional integration of technology in the classroom.

What drives this journey is collaboration.

The NewTech team, school leadership, and our parent expert group work in close partnership to shape an approach to technology that both protects and empowers our learners. Healthy digital habits grow through the shared commitment of school and home, and this is exactly where we begin together. Through the expert group, parents are actively involved in shaping and implementing guidelines for digital media and mobile phone use.

Equally important is the active role of our learners themselves. Our TechSanis support their peers and help foster a mindful and responsible approach to digital media.

Together, we are shaping a digital culture that is thoughtful, balanced, and future-ready.



Moments that stay with us

BRIDGING CULTURES: OUR FIRST FRANCO-GERMAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

Our celebration of the Franco-German Friendship Day on 22 January 2026 was a truly special moment in our school year. What began as a meaningful date on the calendar became a vibrant and joyful event, bringing our community together to celebrate French and German culture, language, and connection.

A special highlight was the panel discussion with our German Consul General Tanja Werheit and the Deputy Consul from France Alex Lavaud, who shared insights into the historic partnership between the two countries and the importance of dialogue and cooperation. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for joining us and inspiring our community.

Throughout the day we created shared moments that will last far beyond the day itself. At the DSK, this celebration reflects who we are: internationally minded, values driven, and committed to building bridges across cultures. We are delighted that this event will now become a fixed date in our school calendar in the years to come.

ORCHESTRA WEEK & CONCERT - WHERE MUSIC CAME TO LIVE

A throwback to one of our biggest musical highlights of the first term... and what a journey it has been.

A moment many of our young musicians had been working towards for weeks and months. The kind of moment that builds quietly, rehearsal by rehearsal, until suddenly it is there.

*Before the lights came on.
Before the first note filled the hall.
Before the applause.*

There were long rehearsals, focused faces, shared laughter, and an incredible amount of dedication. There was teamwork. There was resilience. There was passion in every section, every practice, every phrase carefully shaped and refined. What happened during Orchestra Week in Johannesburg was more than preparation for a concert. It was a shared experience that brought our musicians closer together and pushed them to new heights.



And then came the Grand Finale in Johannesburg.

An unforgettable concert. Electric. Emotional. Completely worth the wait.

But the music did not end there. Back in Cape Town, the emotion carried straight into our very own DSK concert evening: A whole lot of symphonies. Inspired by the Orchestrate, our learners brought home not just memories, but new sounds, new confidence, and a renewed love for performing.

The result? A vibrant, powerful programme that truly had something for everyone.

Our DSK Orchestra, the Middle and Senior Choir, and the Primary School Beat Club took to the stage and delivered a performance full of colour and contrast. From Beethoven to Coldplay, from rich orchestral textures to strong, uplifting choral moments – the evening was a celebration of musical diversity and talent.

And yes... there were goosebumps.

These are the moments that stay with us. The ones that remind us what it means to be part of a musical community. The ones that make all the effort worthwhile.

We cannot wait for the next one.

A special round of applause goes to everyone who made this project possible.

Relive the DSK Orchestra Concert 2026 once again: **Highlights**.





What's coming up

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE DSK - OUR FIRST VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

This year, we are taking a new path: for the first time, we are hosting a Virtual Open Day.

When

Wednesday, 22 April | Time: 18:00–20:00

Why virtual? Quite simply, we want to reach even more families and offer those who were unable to join us in February the chance to get to know us. At the same time, we are deliberately exploring new, creative, and flexible ways of connecting in a digital age.

Alongside insights into our academic departments, visitors can look forward to interactive Q&A sessions. Questions can already be submitted in advance via our “Open Day” portal.

We are excited about this new format, and perhaps you know someone who might find this evening interesting. If so, please feel free to share the link with them: [Virtual Open Day](#).

PARENT TALK BY EMMA SADLEIR: PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Apps, rules, online life – how do you survive it all and guide your kids safely?

Emma Sadleir shares practical tips, highlights pitfalls, and shows how parents can stay confident in the digital world.

Tuesday, 21. April 2026 | 18:00
In the von Holten Hall of the DSK.
Tickets via Quicket: [Digital Age](#)

THE DIGITAL LAW CO
BY EMMA SADLEIR

PUBLIC TALK BY EMMA SADLEIR
Parenting in the Digital Age

Everything you need to know to survive raising children in an online world - the laws, the apps, the issues

DATE: 21 April 2026
TIME: 18:00
VENUE: German International School
Cape Town
28 Bay View Ave, Tamboerskloof

Quicket
EXPERIENCE AWESOME

Limited Tickets
Book: www.quicket.co.za

Tickets
R195

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DATES TO REMEMBER

'PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE' – TALK BY EMMA SADLEIR

Tuesday, 21 April, 18:00 – 20:00

LEG TALKS - GRADES 5 - 10

Wednesday, 22 April

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WEEK

Monday, 27 April - Friday, 1 May + Monday, 4 May (Pedagogical Day)

PEDAGOGICAL DAY

Monday, 4 May - **no classes** - emergency care from NAB is available for Grades 1 - 5; more information will follow shortly.

DSK CLASS PHOTOS

Tuesday, 5 May – Thursday, 8 May

SOUNDBUSTER ENSEMBLE CONCERT, GRADES 6/7

Tuesday, 9 June

WINTER CONCERT

Thursday, 11 June

MEET THE TEACHER 1 - GRADES 5 - 12

Thursday, 18 June 17:30 – 20:30

END OF TERM 2

Friday, 19 June

CIVVIES DAYS

FRIDAY, 24 APRIL

FRIDAY, 15 MAY

FRIDAY, 12 JUNE