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NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SCHOOL

STRONGER EVERY DAY: BUILDING A BETTER SCHOOL TOGETHER



“Stronger Every Day: Building a Better School Together” is more than just a phrase—it reflects our shared commitment to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and a future-focused approach to education. At our school, improvement is not a one-time goal, but an ongoing journey driven by dedication, reflection, and collaboration among staff, students, and the broader community.

This commitment is clearly demonstrated through our active engagement with both national and international accreditation bodies, including the International Baccalaureate (IB), Cognia and CIS (Council of International Schools) reaccreditation process—a comprehensive cycle that challenges schools to sustain and elevate their standards of excellence. These accreditations are more than formal recognitions; they are catalysts for

continuous reflection, purposeful action, and meaningful growth.

Beyond these formal evaluations, our school embraces professional collaboration and global engagement. Our involvement in the Caucasus and Central Asia Association of IB World Schools (CCAAIBWS) provides valuable opportunities for our educators to share experiences, exchange ideas, and promote innovative teaching practices.



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Participation in global conferences and workshops also keeps us at the forefront of educational technology and pedagogy. By attending leading events focused on innovation and digital learning, we are actively exploring how emerging tools can enhance instruction and better prepare our students for a dynamic, interconnected world.



Together, through every initiative and each step forward, we are truly becoming stronger every day.



Nana Patsia – CIS Accreditation Coordinator: “The CIS evaluation visit was an invaluable opportunity to gain an objective, in-depth perspective on our school’s journey. It not only affirmed our existing strengths but also highlighted key areas for growth, helping us reflect strategically and plan how to reach new heights in teaching, learning, and leadership.

feedback received from experienced education experts will serve as a powerful guide as we continue to evolve and strive for excellence.”



Ann Bezhuashvili – PYP ICT Teacher: “Truly grateful for the opportunity to share our experience with colleagues from around the world! The Experiential Learning Conference in Baku was an incredible opportunity for us educators to exchange insights, discuss innovative ideas, and connect on a global scale. These moments of collaboration remind us of the power of coming together with a shared purpose—enhancing education through collective growth. Engaging in meaningful conversations, learning from diverse perspectives, and building lasting professional relationships make experiences like this truly impactful. I look forward to continuing this journey of learning, connecting, and growing together!”





Nino Chalisuri – PYP Music Teacher: “I was truly honoured to travel from Tbilisi to Baku to lead a session at the IB Onsite Professional Development Workshop, held on February 22, 2025, at the EAS Primary Campus. As a speaker, I had the opportunity to share my experience in music didactics, active music-making, and the musical-rhythmic education practices I apply at both the European School and the Tbilisi State Conservatory.

My workshop focused on creative, hands-on strategies rooted in the Orff-Schulwerk approach, and it was a pleasure to engage with passionate IB teachers who brought such energy and curiosity to the session. It was a rewarding day of learning and connection, and I returned home inspired and motivated to continue growing within the IB community.”



Guranda Gogaladze – FABLAB Manager: “What stood out to me at BETT 2025 in London was the sheer pace of innovation in education. From AI-enhanced learning platforms to immersive technologies like VR, the event was full of inspiring ideas. More importantly, it helped us reflect on how to bring this innovation into our own classrooms. Since returning, we’ve already started applying new strategies and tools we discovered—making our learning environments more engaging, student-centered, and future-ready.”



Mariam Khabeishvili – PYP Counselor: “One of the proudest moments for me during the CCAIBWS conference in Kazakhstan was witnessing the presentations delivered by my school’s representatives. Their speeches were articulate, thoughtful, and clearly reflected the values and hard work of our community. Whether sharing innovative practices, reflecting on student outcomes, or presenting research-based insights, they represented our school with integrity and professionalism. I felt immense pride in being part of a team that is not only committed to excellence but also actively contributing to the broader IB community.”

As we continue on this path of growth and transformation, our commitment to raising standards, enriching resources, and investing in staff development remains unwavering. Through international accreditation, global collaboration, and forward-thinking initiatives, we are not only strengthening our school today — we are laying the foundation for a brighter, more innovative tomorrow. By working together as a community of learners, educators, and leaders, we are truly becoming stronger every day.

CULTIVATING GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH MULTICULTURALISM

In an increasingly interconnected world, education must go beyond academic knowledge to prepare students for life as responsible, compassionate, and culturally aware global citizens. At the European School, we believe multiculturalism is not only a celebration of diversity—it is a powerful tool for cultivating the attitudes, skills, and ethical values that define global citizenship. Through immersive cultural experiences, student-led initiatives, and inclusive dialogue, we nurture individuals who respect differences, understand global challenges, and take meaningful action to create a more peaceful and equitable world.

School-wide Cultural Festival: A Celebration of Unity in Diversity

For three unforgettable days, our school was transformed into a vibrant global town! The Cultural Festival brought together every age group, every classroom, and every heart in celebration of the beautiful diversity that unites us. From captivating exhibitions and inspiring assemblies to global citizenship activities, traditional dances, songs, cuisines, and acts of charity—every moment was a window into a different corner of the world.



What made this celebration truly magical were the joint performances—mothers and children, teachers and students—sharing the stage and their hearts. It was a powerful reminder that culture lives not only in traditions, but in the bonds we create and the stories we share.

Intercultural Learning Across the IB Continuum

Students across the IB continuum—PYP, MYP, and DP/CP—actively engaged in vibrant expressions of multiculturalism and global citizenship. These initiatives, rooted in inquiry, celebration, and collaboration, bring the IB mission to life and deepen intercultural understanding at every age.

Kazakh students hosted a joyful Nauryz Meiramy celebration, bringing the rich traditions of Kazakhstan to life for peers, teachers, and parents. Guests enjoyed traditional costumes, folk dances, songs, national games, and delicious Kazakh cuisine—an experience that radiated pride, heritage, and intercultural appreciation.



The MYP Programme led the commemoration of Greek Independence Day, welcoming H.E. Ms. Maria Theodorou, Ambassador of Greece to Georgia, and Ms. Elissavet Karali, Head of the Consular Office. Students presented on historical ties between the two countries and closed with dazzling performances of traditional Greek and Georgian dances.

In collaboration with the European Azerbaijan School, students marked Earth Day 2025 with traditional music, dance, and presentations focused on ecological issues. Their commitment to both the planet and intercultural friendship highlighted the intersection of environmental stewardship and global citizenship.



The Spring Song Festival showcased joyful performances by PYP students, who sang songs from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Through the universal language of music, students expressed unity, creativity, and cultural respect.

The Festival of Hope in Astana, Kazakhstan, brought together selected MYP and DP/CP students for the 4th CCAIBWS Conference—a transformative opportunity to present community projects, participate in debates, and engage in rich cultural excursions. From traditional feasts to historical tours and poster presentations, this experience deepened students' appreciation for regional and global diversity.



The Georgian Programme: Fostering Identity and Intercultural Dialogue

The Georgian Programme continues to provide rich opportunities for students to explore their national identity while engaging meaningfully with global cultures.

This semester's "Step-by-Step Towards Europe" intellectual games expanded to include Austria and Italy. Students from across the school joined in friendly competition, deepening their understanding of European history, cooperation, and cultural diversity.

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Organized under the Georgian Programme, the Valentine's Day Assembly offered a cross-cultural exploration of love and celebration. Through poetry, multimedia, and music, students examined Valentine's Day traditions from around the world—fostering empathy, curiosity, and cultural literacy.



ASAS: Inspiring Global Discourse and Exchange

The American School of Advanced Studies (ASAS) continues to lead pioneering initiatives that highlight multiculturalism, academic excellence, and civic responsibility.

On May 27, ASAS hosted the 4th International Interdisciplinary Hybrid Conference, themed “Georgia and the World,” in collaboration with Cognia and Tbilisi State University. Student presentations and expert dialogues focused on trade, language, education, and geopolitics—placing our learners at the heart of global thought exchange.



Selected students in Grades 9–12 participated in an immersive exchange with AKS Lytham Independent School in the UK. In addition to experiencing British academic and cultural life, our students proudly led workshops on Georgian language, legends, and heritage—demonstrating true intercultural reciprocity.

The “All of Aeschylus!” Classics Competition united Grades 9 and 10 through a series of performances, trivia, and costume design celebrating ancient Greek literature. This dynamic event showcased how classical texts can ignite creativity, critical thinking, and cultural reflection in a modern context.

Looking Ahead: Shared Vision, Shared Responsibility

Through inquiry, celebration, and service, multiculturalism at the European School is not just taught—it is lived. From our youngest learners in PYP to our graduating changemakers in DP, we nurture global citizens who are informed, compassionate, and empowered to create a more just and inclusive world.

YOUNG LEADERS IN ACTION

At the European School, leadership is not a title - it's a mindset embedded into everyday school life. This semester, that philosophy came alive through a series of student-led initiatives that gave young people the chance to lead, innovate, and take ownership of their learning.

One of the standout moments this semester was the HMC Young Global Leaders Program, held right on campus. Forty students spent three transformative days in workshops led by two Harvard University mentors, sharpening their skills in public speaking, negotiation, and communication. The training pushed students beyond the theoretical, giving them hands-on tools to tackle real-world challenges with confidence and clarity.

Student voice also took center stage in Entrepreneur 2025, a school-wide competition inviting students to pitch forward-thinking solutions to improve campus life. The ideas were bold and practical: solar-powered charging stations, hydroponic greenhouses, inclusive murals, and digital tutoring platforms, to name just a few. Judged by a panel of school leaders, external experts, and student parliament representatives, many of the projects are now under review for implementation - proving that when students are trusted with real decisions, they deliver real impact.

Meanwhile, student leadership went public through a major event organized by Student Parliament President Kato Mamukashvili. The conference brought together young leaders and seasoned professionals, including Vakhtang Butskhrikidze, CEO of TBC Bank, and PR strategist Teona Bagdavadze, who shared insights on ethical leadership and innovation. Peer-led workshops rounded out the event, creating a collaborative space where students weren't just listening - they were leading.

And in a forward-looking development, the school launched the SABADO Leadership Academy, a long-term program for high schoolers that kicked off



with weekend residential retreats. The sessions focus on global issues, media literacy, and cultural narratives, aiming to develop not just knowledge but the reflective and interpersonal skills that define responsible global citizenship.

These aren't just isolated success stories. They're evidence of a school culture that consistently invites students to take initiative, solve problems, and lead with purpose. At the European School, leadership isn't something students wait for - it's something they grow into, every single day.



ANASTASIA VADACHKORIA AND THE ART OF DANCE

The European School is proud of its students' achievements and is delighted to share their stories with the readers of the school newspaper.

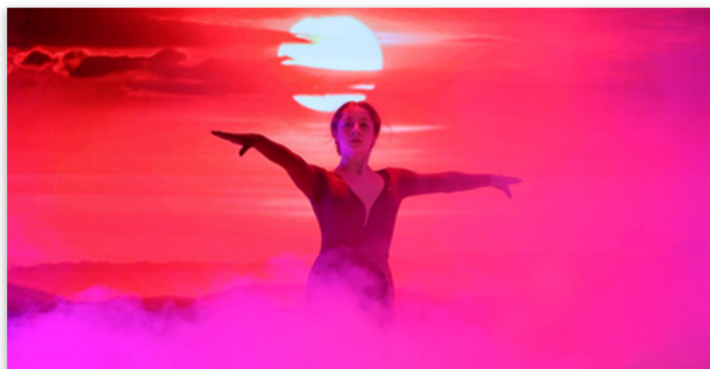
Today, we introduce Anastasia Vadachkoria, a student of Grade 8G in the Georgian Program.

Anastasia is an excellent student who approaches her responsibilities with dedication. She also serves as the Deputy Head of the Middle School Student Council.

In this interview, however, we will not focus on her academic life. Instead, we will present Anastasia as a professional dancer at Studio "Telasi" — a name associated with numerous successes in both ballroom and contemporary dance styles, achieved in local and international competitions.

Tell us about yourself. How old were you when you started dancing?

My name is Anastasia Vadachkoria, and I'm 14 years old. I began rhythmic gymnastics at the age of 4, and for the past four years, I have been dancing with the Tela Dance Studio. I specialize in ballroom and contemporary (modern ballet) dance styles.



Why did you choose the field of ballroom and contemporary dance?

I've loved dancing ever since I was little. After I gave up gymnastics, I realized I could combine sport and art, and that's how I chose to explore my potential through ballroom and contemporary dance.

What does a typical day in your life look like as a dancer? How do you balance school and dance?

Very simple, actually. I wake up, have breakfast, and dedicate my mornings to school. The second half of the day belongs to the dance studio. I train for 2 to 6 hours. After that, it's back home to do homework and study, then off to bed. And believe it or not, this routine doesn't feel boring at all!

This academic year (2024–2025) has been especially successful for you. Tell us about the competitions you've participated in and the results.

Thank you! I've competed both in Georgia and internationally. I believe that most of this season's competitions ended well for me, but of course, there is still a lot of work ahead.



Which competition has been the most emotional for you, and why?

The Thessaloniki Dance Festival (TDF) in Greece. I was honored to represent Georgia and thrilled to win. Standing on the highest step of the podium while holding the Georgian flag at such a large-scale international event was deeply moving.

Which of your victories do you consider your personal record or a turning point in your dance career and why?

Probably the "Georgian Cup 2025." I ended that competition with five first-place awards. At first, I couldn't believe it. But once it sank in, I felt incredibly proud to have achieved a goal I worked so hard for.

What motivates you?

First and foremost, the encouraging words of my family and loved ones. But I'm also motivated by the goals I set for myself. When you reach a goal after putting in so much effort, stress, and emotion, it's a truly rewarding feeling, it makes everything worthwhile.

How do you manage to maintain high academic performance while dancing at such an intensive level?

Honestly, I'm not sure, I barely have any free time. But because I love what I do and understand that education is essential to my future, I don't mind the busy schedule at all.

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In your opinion, what is the key to success?

Believing in your own potential. I wish everyone could discover a field they're truly passionate about, something they love doing.

What advice would you give to your peers?

I encourage all my peers to always treat one another with respect, no matter what. Let's avoid unnecessary conflicts. And when it comes to the future, I hope you find a hobby or a sport that you truly love.

THE ECHO OF KNOWLEDGE

There is a quiet truth that runs like a golden thread through the halls of every great institution: when a teacher is inspired, a student awakens—and when the student awakens, the world itself shifts to light.

Socrates, in Plato's *Ion*, offers a timeless metaphor for this phenomenon: "The magnet not only attracts iron rings but also imparts to them a power whereby they, in turn, can do the very same thing as the stone and attract other rings... so that sometimes there is formed quite a long chain... they all depend for this power on that one stone." In much the same way, inspiration begins with one—whether a teacher, a mentor, or an idea—and flows outward, connecting and uplifting all it touches. At the European School, true success begins with that very spark of inspiration. Our dynamic and challenging environment nurtures a culture where passionate teachers are constantly evolving—searching, learning, and striving for excellence. This ongoing commitment leads to a powerful chain of positivity: a fulfilled teacher inspires engaged students, who in turn bring pride and satisfaction to parents—ultimately making our entire school community thrive with joy. We flourish because our educators are ever restless, ever reaching—pursuing wisdom not as a destination but as a lifelong pilgrimage. Their devotion is the heart of our success, and their triumphs are the school's own. Today, we share two such triumphs—stories not only of scholarly achievement but of vision, passion, and the enduring power of intellectual courage.



Professor **Ekaterine Kobakhidze**, a distinguished voice in Classical Civilizations, carried the banner of our school to the venerable University of Bologna—Alma Mater Studiorum, the oldest university in the Western world. There, beneath the weight of a thousand years of learning, she offered to young minds her insights into the Greek and Latin inscriptions that whisper from the stones of antiquity, revealing the hidden threads between ancient empires and Georgia's own historical tapestry. Her lectures, woven with precision and passion, brought new light to old words and new context to our national narrative. And beyond the classroom, in a meeting with Professor Renzo Tosi, President of the Italian National Association of Classical Culture, she planted seeds of future collaboration—seeds that may yet blossom into cultural exchange, mutual learning, and friendship across borders.

The flame of inquiry burns in more than one lantern.

In Austria, among the hushed corridors of the Vienna National Library and the academic vigor of Central European University, another of our scholars was quietly making history. Ilia Tsetskhladze, a devoted teacher of Georgian language and literature, immersed himself in ancient manuscripts, peeling back the layers of time to uncover the philosophies and theologies that shaped civilizations.



His research, rigorous and revelatory, has already found its way into the pages of scholarly journals. One article, published by the National Center of Manuscripts, explores the Georgian translation of a homily by Athanasius of Alexandria—a work as profound in its faith as it is in its literary structure. Another, published by the University of Georgia, draws a delicate yet daring comparison between the philosophical language of participation in Plato, Plotinus, and Gregory of Nyssa—tracing divine ideas across time, tradition, and belief.

At the European School, we do not chase success — we cultivate it, with patience, passion, and pride. For we know that the joy of a teacher becomes the joy of a student, the joy of a student becomes the joy of a parent, and so the circle completes itself, again and again, in the quiet symphony of a school that dares to believe in greatness.

OUR ALUMNI ON THE PATH TO SHAPING THE FUTURE

At the European School, graduation is only a beginning. Each year, our alumni take bold steps into the world, carrying with them the values, knowledge, and curiosity nurtured within our school walls. In this issue, we are proud to share the remarkable journeys of three graduates - Kato Bakradze, Ana Tsulaia, and Irakli Bezhuashvili - whose post-school paths exemplify excellence, resilience, and purpose.



KATO BAKRADZE

After graduating with honors in Economics and Psychology from Yale University, Kato embarked on a four-year career at a large asset management company in Boston (Artisan Partners), conducting investment research for an emerging markets sovereign debt fund. Whether meeting with policymakers, government agencies, and leaders (including a prime minister) or travelling in countries around the world for business (including Tajikistan, Albania, Serbia, Romania, Poland, or Montenegro), she has brought energy, insight, and her inquisitive mind to every project.

This fall, Kato will join Oxford's Saïd Business School for a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) as a Saïd Future Leaders Scholar. After graduating from this one-year intensive program, Kato plans to continue building her career in London.

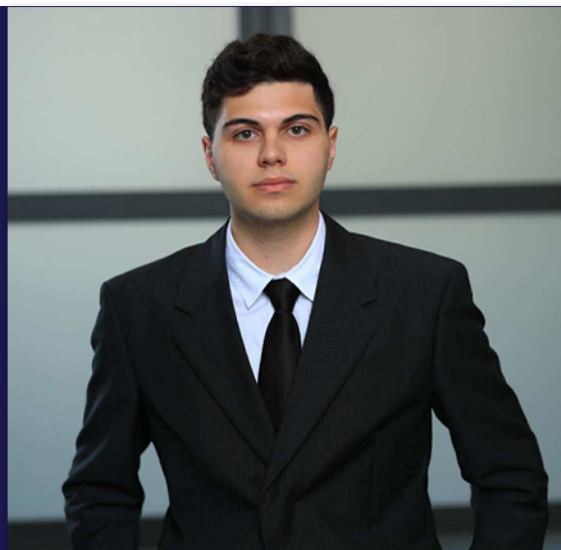


ANA TSULAIA

Ana Tsulaia graduated Summa Cum Laude from Emory College of Arts and Sciences with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Beyond earning impressive MCAT scores (top 5%) and a spot on the Dean's List for five of the eight semesters, Ana actively engaged in advocacy efforts to improve access to healthcare. Her time at Emory Goizueta Business School enriched her vision to scale career impact beyond clinical settings. This August she will begin studies at Harvard Medical School, driven by a commitment to transform knowledge into action.

IRAKLI BEZHUASHVILI

Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics from Columbia University, Irakli Bezhuashvili plans to continue his academic journey at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, where he will pursue MPP (Master of Public Policy). At Columbia, Irakli completed the departmental honors thesis (awarded to only 15 students in the Political Science Department), held top positions in student organizations (Director General at CMUNNY, President of Columbia European Society), became a Student Scholar at Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, and was inducted in Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honors Society.



Irakli served as an Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations, as Deputy Executive Director of European Horizons, and as the founder of Action for Community Transformation (ACT) Georgia. Irakli's impressive career also includes policy work at the European Parliament, energy research at Calik Holding, and foreign policy analysis at The Jamestown Foundation.

Kato, Ana, and Irakli exemplify the European School's values of academic excellence, global citizenship, and responsible leadership. Their journeys inspire younger generations and are a testament to the incredible strength of ES alumni - shapers of future in Georgia and beyond.