



Life lived on the mountain



AIGLON COLLEGE

AVENUE CENTRALE 61
1885 CHESIÈRES-VILLARS
SWITZERLAND

+41 24 496 6177
admissions@aiglon.ch
www.aiglon.ch



AIGLON
Switzerland



WELCOME TO LIFE LIVED ON THE MOUNTAIN

When John Corlette founded our school in 1949, he knew that the balanced development of mind, body and spirit would require unique ingredients. A strong and abiding family spirit. Inspirational and outstanding educators. A truly diverse student body.

A unique location. And the spirited independence that comes with being a non-profit school. And that is why, at Aiglon College, we live life on the mountain – it is our home, our classroom and our way of life.



MIN

Focuses on the intellect and the capacity to think, learn and reflect powerfully and purposefully

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our broad, demanding curriculum is the bedrock for success

The Aiglon curriculum is designed to ensure that every aspect of a student’s intellectual development is supported. Alongside the internationally recognised IGCSE and International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes, our students are expected to explore a diverse range of subjects, from Arabic to the visual arts.

We carefully measure each student’s progress and performance throughout their time with us; results demonstrate the positive difference Aiglon makes and we significantly outperform global averages.

Yet an Aiglon education offers more than access to the world’s best universities. The sheer breadth of academic choice is an opportunity for powerful personal development. Students design a truly individual programme that can unlock their full potential.

“At Aiglon, you quickly realise that anything is possible – whether that’s climbing a mountain or winning a place at a top university,” says Inigo (Class of 2017, Stanford University). “During my five years, I was supported, encouraged and stretched. My teachers, houseparents and tutors were instrumental in helping me achieve my goals.”

Expert teaching and small class sizes are key to achievement

At Aiglon, students follow a focused, integrated curriculum comprising academic studies during the week and guided trips and activities each weekend.

Most teaching takes place in small classes, averaging 12 students. Subject teachers, tutors and houseparents are always available to students, ensuring their developing needs can be met with the resources and encouragement they need to succeed. Students meet with their academic tutor weekly, ensuring their progress is continually monitored, and gaps and opportunities identified. Students may also work with the Learning Support Department.

Aiglon attracts experienced, expert teachers who are involved in all areas of school life. As a result, students benefit from strong and stable relationships.

“Teaching at Aiglon is a pleasure. Seeing our students challenge themselves and reach their goals is hugely rewarding,” says Mr Esmond Tweedie, IB Coordinator and Senior Tutor. “We enjoy significant academic success – our IB results are among the highest in Switzerland and the relationships between staff and students are a key factor in that.”





This is a place where students come and grow. They have so many opportunities and, academically, they are well prepared for the rigours of university life

Mrs Nicola Sparrow
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

At Aiglon, every student's unique talent is nurtured

Aiglon students design their programme of studies to fit their interests and their learning needs. For many students, our incredibly diverse and extensive curriculum – from individualised programmes of study for music and languages, to specialist teaching in subjects as varied as astronomy, computer science and music production – is a real surprise.

Naturally, we offer teaching for students learning English as a second (or third, or fourth) language, and Aiglonians typically graduate speaking multiple languages, alongside their native tongue.

Our College and Careers Counselling team works closely with each student through the process, from course selection, to building a programme of study, to university application and, ultimately, to deciding which offer to accept. “We use a personalised approach to help determine which course will best suit a student's strengths and individual career goals,” says Mrs Patience Fanella-Koch, Director of College and Careers Counselling. “A successful university placement is the result of research, open communication and hard work.”

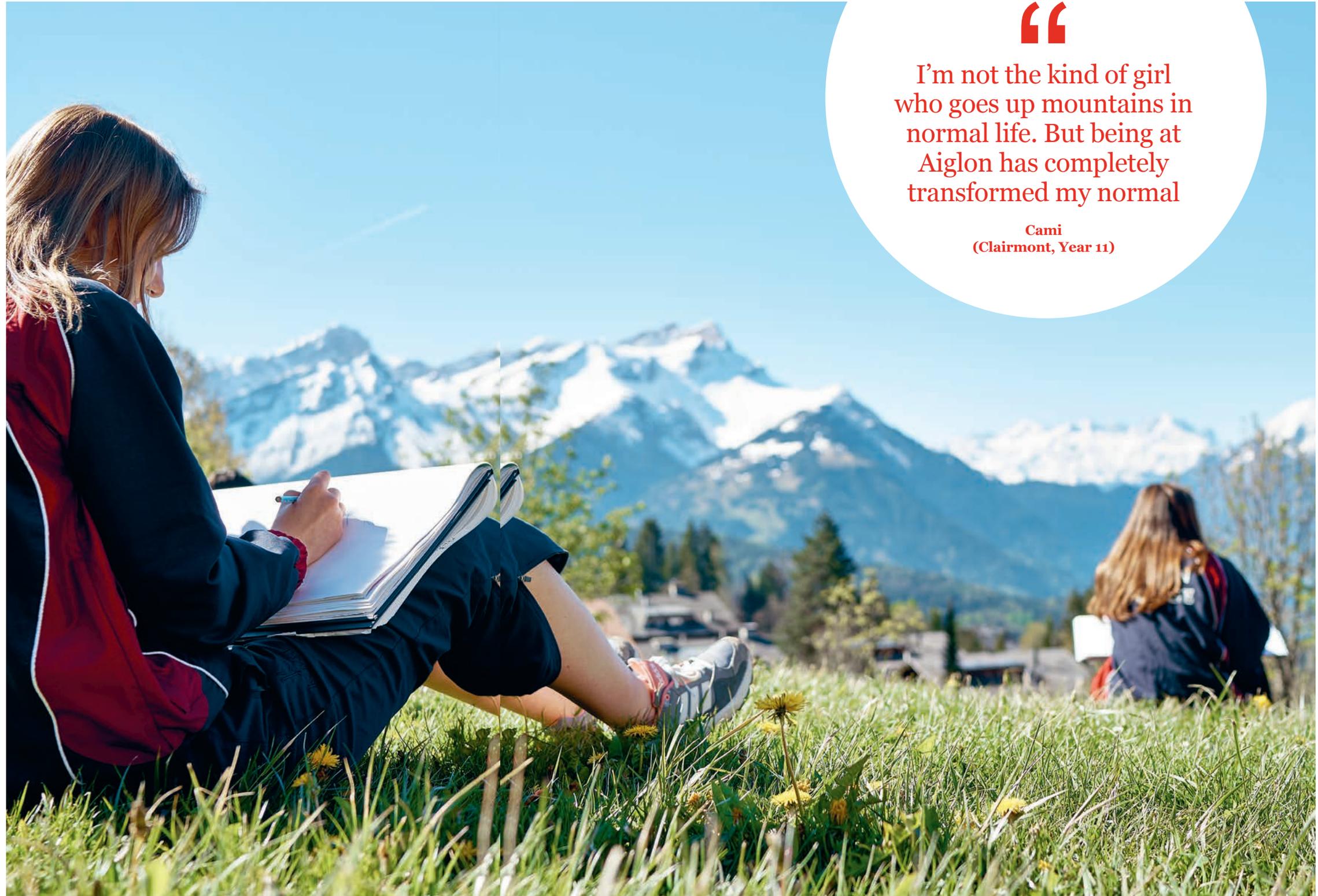
To change your perspective, climb the nearest mountain...

... or try something else you've never done before. At Aiglon, students live life to its fullest. In addition to their academic studies, all students have the opportunity to extend their interest in music, art and drama, whether they are beginners or want to perform to a professional standard.

We arrange more than 250 private music lessons a week and almost 50% of IB students study music, visual arts or theatre arts.

All students take part in cultural trips, with opportunities to learn across Europe, and many more extend their studies with Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) projects as part of the International Baccalaureate.

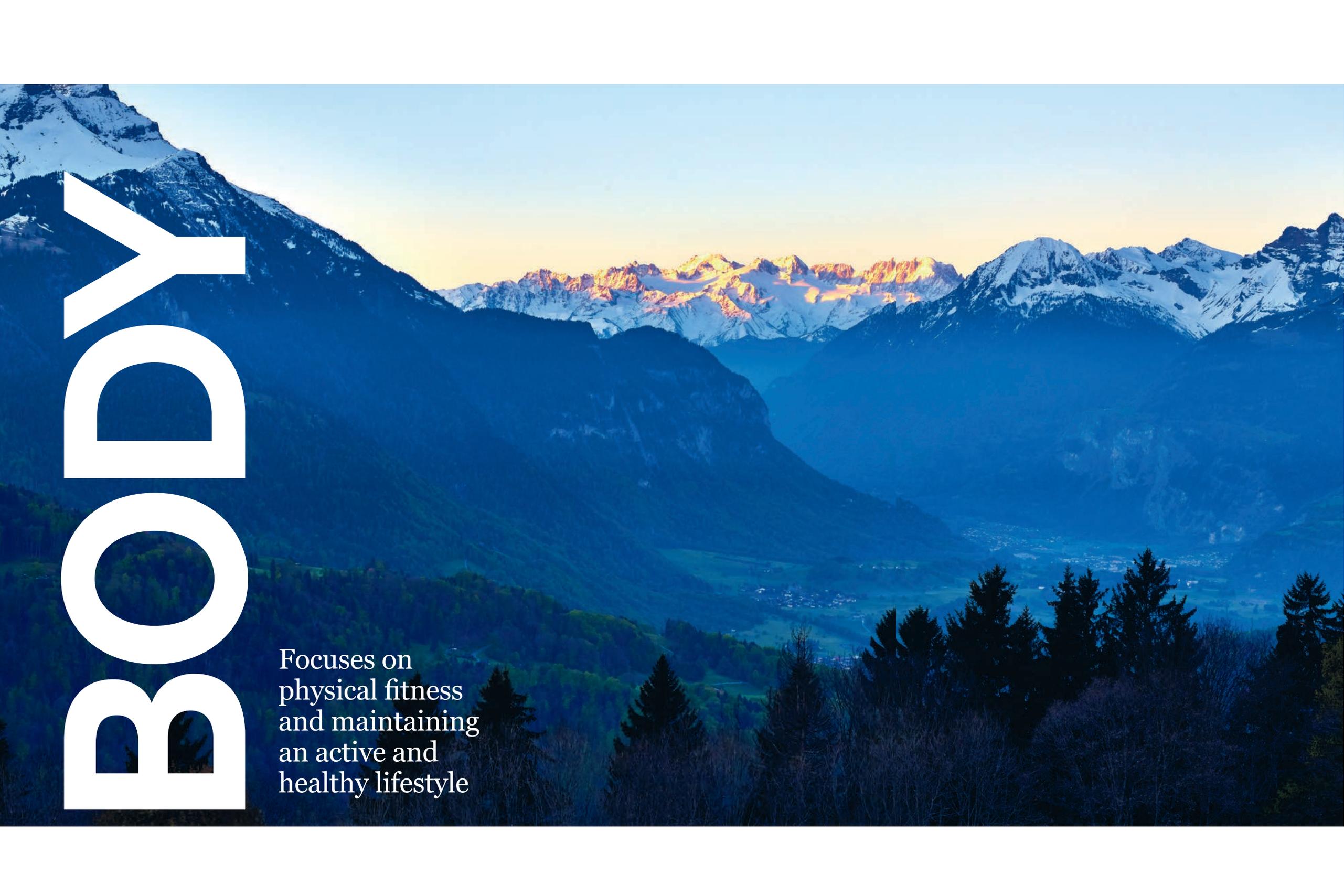
"What blew my mind was just the sheer range of opportunities – from Model UN to fashion design, to joining a rock band and learning how to fly a helicopter," says Kenta (Delaware, Year 11). "And that's just the beginning. I have had so many opportunities to try new things and expand my horizons – choices that simply don't exist at other schools."



“

I'm not the kind of girl who goes up mountains in normal life. But being at Aiglon has completely transformed my normal

Cami
(Clairmont, Year 11)



Y D O B

Focuses on
physical fitness
and maintaining
an active and
healthy lifestyle

CHALLENGE

At Aiglon it is not just about the result. It is about the challenge

While students at most schools are spending their time out of lessons relaxing, Aiglon's students can usually be found taking part in our extensive weekend programme, comprising expeditions, sport, academic, social and cultural trips. Students also make the most of the opportunity to take a break, relax and ensure they are well prepared for the rigours of the academic week.

All students are exposed to activities they have not encountered before, some of which will be both very challenging and designed to force them out of their comfort zone. Nonetheless, with encouragement and support, all our students rise to these challenges – and alumni tell us that these experiences are among the highlights of their time at Aiglon.

“You think you can't do it, but with the support of your teachers and classmates you can and you do,” says Lilian (Exeter, Year 12). “Pushing myself to do something that seemed impossible has given me real confidence in my abilities – and that confidence has had a positive impact on my schoolwork.”



SPORT

Skiing, football, yoga, athletics, swimming – and many, many more

Students at Aiglon take part in a huge range of sporting activities, from basketball and tennis to fitness and alpine running. “At Aiglon we believe that physical fitness and competition – even at a friendly level – is a vital part of a healthy life,” says Mr Michael Thompson, Head of Sport. “It’s not just about chasing a ball, but about using the safe space of sport to develop and learn.”

We take full advantage of our location. Students make extensive use of our state-of-the-art sports centre, the local athletics track, indoor swimming pool, ice-rink and, in the summer, Lac Léman.

In the winter, students alpine ski, cross-country ski, snowboard, snowshoe and train or race with our alpine racing teams. Elite ski racers can join our development squad, with extra training and a chance to compete against top-level racers.

“Learning to ski was hard. In the past, I’d have given up immediately, but I now know what can be achieved if you really try,” says Fildzah (Exeter, Year 13). “Now, in everything I do, I just remember that hard work and perseverance put you in a great position to succeed.”

Aiglon's expedition programme is the only one of its kind

“Climbing Mount Elbrus was an adventure, and I like adventures. But it was also one of the toughest things I’ve ever done in my life,” says Jack (St Louis, Year 13). “It was physically hard, but a big part of it was the mental challenge – if you could find the mental drive you could do it. And we did!”

The spirit of expedition – ‘ex’ – is central to Aiglon’s educational philosophy, requiring our students to draw on their mental, physical and spiritual strength. Students and staff prepare meticulously for all expeditions, ensuring that everyone has fun, steps out of their comfort zone – and succeeds.

Expedition activities vary according to the seasons, from via ferrata in summer to ski-touring in winter. But the most challenging form of expedition is undertaken high in the mountains – what we call ‘high ex’. Rock and ice climbing, glacier travel and the use of crampons, ice axes and carabiners are all standard on high ex. Effort is rewarded: our students get to stand on mountain summits – and the confidence and self-knowledge they acquire on high ex stands them in good stead for the rest of their lives.



“

When you get to the top knowing that, however hard it was, you made it – well, that is an incredible feeling

Mr Paul Wright
Head of Expeditions and
Chemistry teacher

24 HOURS AT AIGLON COLLEGE

Want to know what it's really like
to be an Aiglonian? Read on!



Wake up! 07:00

During the week, we are all up by 07:00. On Saturdays it's 08:00 and on Sundays we are free to sleep in!



That first night felt strange,
but kind of cool. It was the

start of a whole new adventure!

Congratulations! You've become an Aiglonian. But what happens next?

Don't worry: in your first week, housemates and the house team are here to help you.

You discussed it endlessly: what it would be like, which house you'd be in, the students you met when you visited. You packed – and then repacked. Travelled many miles from home. You said goodbye – and now, it starts. Your first day at school. For real. "I had just arrived from Guangzhou and I was worried, happy and scared all at the same time," remembers Anning (Exeter, Year 12).

"I remember lying in bed and not knowing what to do next!" Luckily, like all Aiglonians, Anning's housemates and house team – houseparents, assistant houseparent and matron – were on hand to show her the ropes. "Being new here wasn't as daunting as I thought it would be," says Zac (Class of 2017, Tufts University). "Everyone was really nice and I made friends really easily."



Breakfast
07.20

The most important meal of the day, whether it's tea and toast in your house or bacon and eggs in the School Restaurant.



Start the day
07.55 - 08.15

We start every day by coming together for either meditation, assembly, faith groups or tutor time.



Welcome to your new home!
Whether you are in Delaware or St Louis, Le Cerf or Clairmont, your new house is the perfect base.

Meditation gives me one

provoking idea to think about

throughout the day



Aiglon has nine boarding houses. Alpina, St Louis, Delaware and Belvedere are home to the senior boys; Exeter, Le Cerf and Clairmont are home to the senior girls. Our junior boys are based at La Baita, and La Casa is for junior girls. Each house has its own distinctive personality – but whichever house is yours, you will quickly become part of a warm and friendly family.

Your house is also where a lot of extracurricular activities take place, whether that's making pancakes, inter-house sports and debating competitions or annual events such as the



Periods 1 and 2
08.20 - 10.05

Time to get down to work! At Aiglon our day is split into six periods, each lasting 50 minutes.



I feel that my teachers really know

me and believe in me. That alone has

made such a difference to my confidence

Valentine's Dinner and our many talent shows.

You'll usually share your bedroom with one or two others (or with one other in Years 12 and 13) and each house has its own common room, dining room, kitchen and games room where you can hang out and get to know everyone.

At the heart of the house are your houseparents, who live on site and will help you settle in when you first arrive. And if you are not sure what your timetable is or you're missing home, your houseparents are your first port of call. They are easy to chat to and will be pleased to see you!



Break
10.05 - 10.35

A chance to take a breath before your next class – and, of course, walk up the mountain to get to it!

Friendships made on

the mountain last forever!





Periods 3 and 4
10.35 – 12.20

Aiglon has super-small classes, so you'll get to know your teachers really well – and they'll get to know you too!



Lunch
12.20 – 13.20

Lunch is always a highlight of the day! Choose from a wide range of healthy and tasty meals in the School Restaurant.



Periods 5 and 6
13.25 – 15.10

On Wednesdays and Saturdays we finish at lunchtime – afternoons are for activities, excursions and free time.



Activities 1 and 2
15.15 – 17.20

At the end of every day, we reserve time for CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) and extracurricular activities.



Prep 1 (homework)
17.30 – 18.30

This is our first prep session – a chance to order your thoughts, supported by your tutors when you need them.



I love that sport here can be ultra-competitive or not competitive at all – it's having a go that matters

Teachers here are just... different. In class, during activities or just sharing our lives, your teachers will become part of your family.

Our music and drama teachers are excellent. I've taken two music exams at school!



AIGLON ROCKS!
Wednesday
7.30pm
The Hall

You'll quickly get to know all your teachers, but one thing you'll notice straight away is that as well as being brilliant, inspiring, life-changing educators, Aiglon's teachers also have another – unique – role here as house tutors.

All members of staff take a very active role in your pastoral care and learning support. That means that your teachers will not only be with you in the classroom as you unpick a tricky science problem, and in-house when you need help with prep (homework), but they'll also be with you on expedition. You'll share your daily life with them because that's what it means

to live on the mountain and be part of the Aiglon family.

Another thing you'll notice is just how diverse we are. Students from 60 nations live and study here, making us a truly international community – and one that enjoys a very safe and secure environment.



Dinner and house meetings
18.30 – 19.10
 The Head Chef at Aiglon oversees a menu focused on fresh produce and international flavours – healthy and yummy!



Prep 2 (homework)
19.15 – 20.15
 After dinner, we settle down to prep – tutors are always around if you get stuck or just want to chat.



And then there's everything else.
 From cultural events to service activities, and from cookery to hiking, life at Aiglon is always exciting.

I love that I can get

support from my teachers

exactly when I need it.



Every Wednesday afternoon, you will get time to try an even wider range of CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) activities. From horse riding, canoeing and mountain biking to painting, theatre and debating, you can do it on the mountain. So, after you have gazed at the stars from Aiglon's own observatory (and organised your own Star Party) or cooked dinner for your house (and discovered some new recipes), maybe you'll want to start your own club. Every single student who joins us makes an impression on this place, so we can't wait to see what you do here! Service will be a vital part of your life at Aiglon. Many students



Free time and lights out
20.15 – 22.30
 Lights go out from 21.30: after a busy day on the mountain, a good night's sleep is absolutely essential for all Aiglonians!

At the weekend
 There are so many additional activities at the weekend. As well as expeditions, you could be taking part in a debate or even performing in a show!



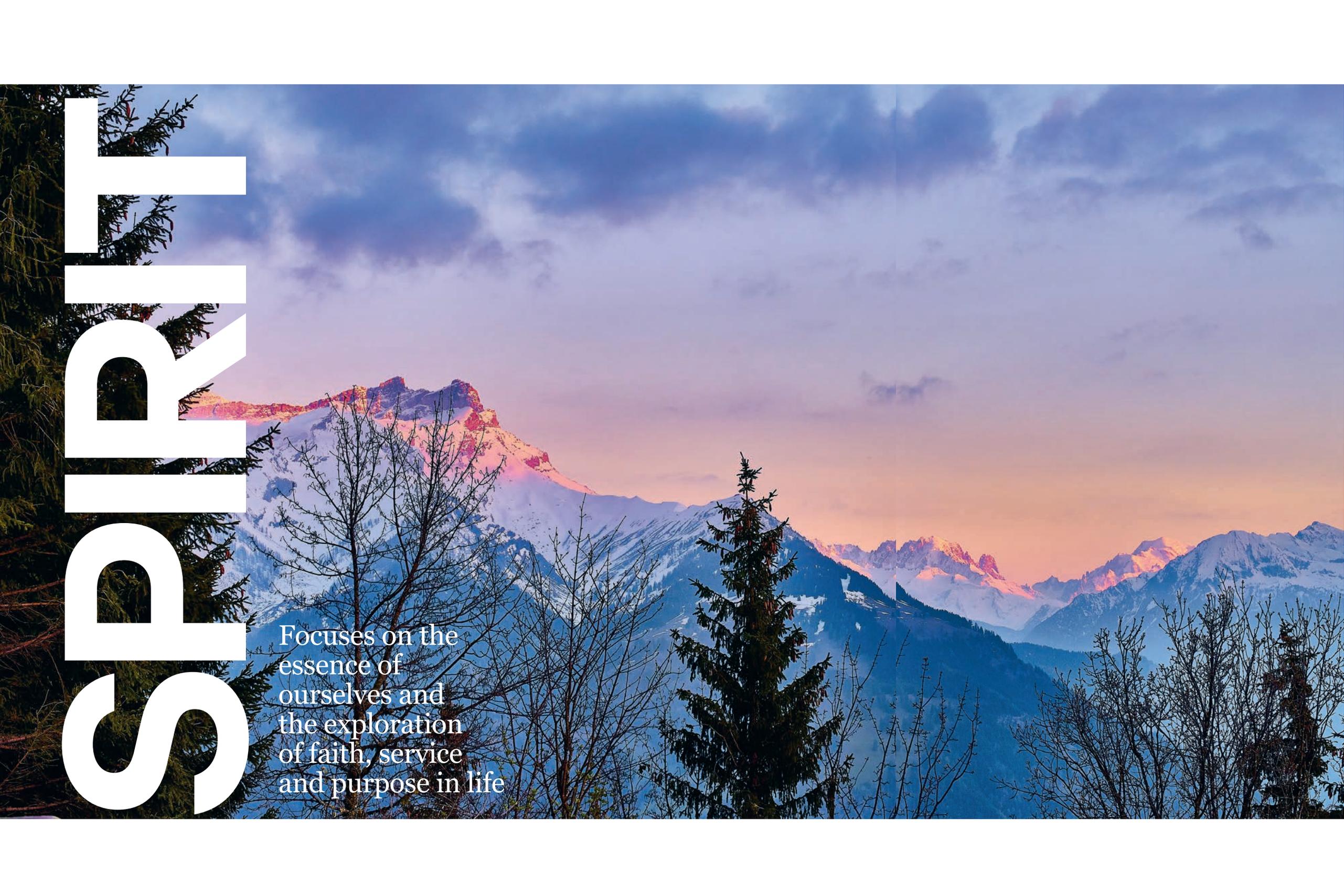
take part in service trips abroad, but there is also a lot to get done right here on the mountain. Student groups are responsible for recycling at school and organising charity baking for causes locally and globally; Senior School students also support reading programmes at the Junior School. Finally, you will get lots of opportunities to travel, especially during the weekends and at half-term. Whether you're immersing yourself in European art at La Sagrada Familia or studying history in Berlin, from Europe to America and Asia you'll travel across the globe to explore and learn.

School doesn't stop

with classes. I do so many

activities I wish there was

another day in the week!



REFRESH

Focuses on the essence of ourselves and the exploration of faith, service and purpose in life

MEDITATION

Daily meditation is at the heart of our approach to education

What do we mean by meditation? For us, it is an invitation to think differently about the world around us. Led by a teacher, student or visitor, we come together to consider a provoking idea or concept, framed around a short time of reflection.

As well as preparing us for the day ahead, meditation is a central part of our teaching programme, encouraging students to broaden their horizons and think ‘outside the box’. Indeed, meditation is part of our school’s focus on ‘spirit’: students learn to understand themselves and the importance of service, and to explore their individual sense of life purpose. It helps students understand on a deep level the need for resilience, flexibility and the strong core values required to navigate our fast-changing world.

“When you are up in the mountains, surrounded by silence, it seems natural to think about what your role in the world is going to be,” says Manon (Clairmont, Year 13), “and meditation is central to that part of our education. Whatever the topic, I go into my day with something new to think about and maybe try to apply.”



SERVICE

Aiglonians discover they can change the world for the better

Service – whether on your doorstep or on the other side of the world – is a core part of life at Aiglon.

Students, from the youngest to the oldest, are taught about the importance of service and given many opportunities to volunteer and engage with the wider community. And whether they are entertaining the elderly from our local area at the Seniors' Lunch or working in countries across the globe, they come to understand their relationship to the wider world, and the potential they have to change that world for the better.

“Service is such an important part of our lives at Aiglon. I have been lucky enough to do service projects in Rwanda and, locally, working with people with disabilities,” says Arseni (Delaware, Year 13). “They have changed me. I feel a deep sense of responsibility to the global community, but I now also really appreciate the impact that I personally can have. I have learnt so much at Aiglon, but it is these experiences that will have a lifelong effect.”



Service projects enable us to do good – but they have also taught me the importance of working as a team when faced with a big project

Leelaram
(Belvedere, Year 13)

We are a family where students and teachers work together

Family is at the heart of Aiglon life. Students feel great loyalty to their house and school and enjoy close relationships with their teachers. We welcome students from all religions as well as those who are non-believers: we are a diverse school and proud to learn about each other's traditions.

Students are encouraged to take their part in the life of our community: from leadership opportunities and helping manage our sustainability programme, to helping mentor younger and new students.

Perhaps most important to Aiglon's family atmosphere, however, is the role teaching staff play in pastoral care. Teachers are available 24/7 to students: as residential houseparents, tutors and in the classroom.

"The houseparents are very supportive. I don't actually think of them as teachers! They really get to know us and are always ready to help, which makes such a difference," says Amin (Alpina, Year 12). "Our houseparents make each of us feel we are gifted – just packaged differently!"



“
Every teacher at Aiglon is also a tutor in a boarding house. It means we can connect with students on a more personal level – it's part of what makes Aiglon such a family school

Mr Tim Haynes
Delaware houseparent and Maths teacher

This is life – lived on, and up, the mountain

Our life on the mountain is inherently healthy, invigorating and inspiring – Aiglonians climb hills and see views on their way to the next classroom that would impress seasoned hikers.

And that helps us to create an atmosphere not just of achievement, but also of challenge: we are a place where staff and students – together – push themselves physically and mentally.

“Every year, we run up the mountain together, as a school,” says Nina (Clairmont, Year 11). “It’s a really tough course and, this year, I was one of the last to come back – but I was still really proud. And that’s because the point is to challenge yourself to complete the course, get out of your comfort zone and come together in a show of shared school spirit – and we definitely did that!”

“

Our environment defines who we are. We would still be an excellent school in a different environment, but we wouldn’t be the Aiglon we are today

**Mr Richard McDonald
Head Master**



FIND OUT MORE

Would you like to become an Aiglonian?

“The amazing thing about our school is that no matter who you are, what you represent, what you look like, where you are from – it doesn’t matter,” says Mrs Valerie Scullion, Director of Admissions & Advancement. “We are all Aiglon. We are a diverse community with a unique sense of belonging that continues long after you graduate.”

Our team would love to hear from you. Please contact the Admissions Office for more information or to schedule a campus visit.



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