

Robin overcomes the odds



A student who has been blind from birth has achieved his dream of graduating from the IB Diploma Programme. Robin Kipp, a student at International School Rheintal (ISR) in Switzerland, received 33 points, having already completed the MYP.

Robin's disability – and his status as the school's first visually impaired student – meant ISR faculty had to rethink their

teaching methods. "We came to realize how much we as teachers rely upon visual examples," says Steve Bavaro, Diploma Programme Coordinator. All texts and exams had to be transcribed to allow Robin to read them on his Braille Wave device.

"Robin worked extremely hard, poring over the many texts with his Braille Wave," says Steve. "A seeing person can hardly imagine what an arduous task that is."

Robin says his years at ISR have been "successful and enjoyable... I've been able to enjoy many new experiences, deal with various challenges and achieve many things I never would have thought of before." He is now on a gap year before deciding which challenge to take on next.

Robin is the latest disabled student to complete the Diploma Programme. Isaac Malter, a student with quadriplegic cerebral palsy who featured in September's *IBWorld*, has now enrolled at the UK's University of Nottingham, studying environmental science.