



Water is Life Conference 2026 Information Pack 4

Dear friends of Water is Life,

We are now counting down to the Water is Life Conference 2026, from June 8 to June 12. We are excited and ready to welcome you to what promises to be a truly inspiring and memorable event.

This is our final Information Package before we meet. In this edition, you will find the latest essential updates to help you prepare for your journey. For more detailed information about the conference and preparations, we kindly refer you back to the previous Info Pack editions, also available on our website: www.waterisliveschools.com

Here at Maurick College, everything is coming together. Like water finding its way, all preparations are flowing into place, from the final touches on the programme to the warm readiness of our host families and student teams.

Excited to discover who's joining the conference? Watch the compilation of your amazing introduction videos now!



Before we begin, a quick note: you will find several links and QR codes throughout this document. We promise it's not a digital treasure hunt, just a few short forms to help us tailor the conference to you.

Thank you for your cooperation we really appreciate it!

This Information Pack 4 contains the following:

1. Timeline
2. Conference Programme and Timetable
3. Transportation Information
4. Participants, Project Titles and categories
5. Important Notices
6. Checklist on What to Bring
7. Chic & Shine Gala & Cultural Event
8. Media Release Form

Timeline

April 2025	Information Pack 1
September 2025	Information Pack 2
October 10 th , 2025	Deadline Full registration
January, 2026	Information Pack 3
January 31 st , 2026	Deadline Payment Conference Fee
March 10 th , 2026	Deadline abstracts / Send Flight details
April, 2026	Publication of abstracts on Website
May 10 th , 2026	Deadline research papers
May, 2026	Information Pack 4
June 6 th 7 th	Arrival of (overseas) participants from abroad
June 8–12, 2026	Water is Life Conference
June 13 th , 2026	Departure of participants from abroad

Conference Programme & Timetable

Maybe subject to sudden necessary changes.

Saturday June 6, 2026 Arrival overseas delegations	Sunday June 7, 2026 Arrival overseas and remaining delegations
Monday June 8, 2026 09:30 Welcome all delegates and guests (Maurick College) 10:00 Conference opening 10:30 Keynote Speaker 1: drs. Teresa Fogelberg 11:15 Dialogue Session with panel members 12:30 Lunch at host family 14:00 Ice-breaking activities (De IJzeren Man, Vught) 17:30 BBQ 19:15 End of day 1	Tuesday June 9, 2026 08:30 Welcome all delegates (Maurick College) 08:50 Opening Day 2 09:00 Keynote Speaker 2: prof.dr.ir. Wim Uijtewaal 09:40 Presentations of research-teams 11:00 Keynote Speaker 3: drs. Merijn Tinga 11:30 Presentations of research-teams 12:30 Testing equipment Cultural Event (by students) 12:30 Lunch (students: be provided by the host family) 13:15 Transport to Bossche Broek 14:00 Outdoor activity at Bossche Broek 17:00 End of day 2 (Dinner at host family)
Wednesday June 10, 2026 06:45 Welcome all delegates (Maurick College) 07:00 Departure by private buses to (lunch will be served on the bus): o The University of Delft, Waterlab o Deltapark Neeltje Jans 17:45 Return to Vught 19:30 End of day 3 (Dinner at host family) 20:00 Teachers' dinner (Van der Valk Hotel Vught)	Thursday June 11, 2026 08:15 Welcome all delegates (Maurick College) 08:30 Opening Day 4 08:45 Keynote Speaker 4: dr.ir. Simon Vroemen 09:45 Departure by private buses to excursions (lunch will be served on the bus): o Biesbosch o Deltares o Maeslantkering o Kinderdijk o Migradome 16:00 Amsterdam canal cruise 17:00 Tourist experience (free time) 19:30 Return to Vught 21:00 End of day 4
Friday June 12, 2026 08:15 Welcome all delegates (Maurick College) 08:30 Opening Day 5 08:45 Preparations for poster presentations 09:15 Poster presentations 10:15 Workshops 12:45 Lunch (students: be provided by the host family) 14:00 Preparations for cultural presentations 16:00 Delegates to host family (dinner at host family) 19:00 Prize ceremony & cultural presentations 19:30 'Chic & Shine' Gala 22:15 End of day 5	Saturday June 13, 2026 Departure of all delegations

Transportation Information

Upon both arrival and departure, members of the organizing team will be present to assist you. We will welcome you in the arrivals hall at Schiphol Airport, or at the train station in Vught if you are travelling by train. You will recognize us by our big smiles and a sign displaying your school's name.

In case of any significant changes to your arrival or departure time, we kindly ask you to inform us via the WhatsApp channel, so we are aware of earlier or delayed arrivals. Where possible, we will combine delegations arriving around the same time and transport them together by bus.

Upon arrival, all participants will receive a welcome package to start the week off right.

Arrival by Plane – Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam)

On the day of arrival and day of departure, transportation will be arranged between Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) and Maurick College. Our team will ensure a smooth transfer to and from the airport.

Arrival by Train

For those travelling by train: if possible, we kindly ask you to plan your journey to Vught train station (www.ns.nl). Please inform us of your scheduled arrival time in advance, so that one of our colleagues can welcome you at the station.

Accommodation and Daily Transport

Supervisors and accompanying teachers will stay at Van der Valk Hotel Vught, where you have already arranged your own booking. The hotel is located **3.9 km** from Maurick College.

In The Netherlands, it is very common to travel short distances by bicycle. To make transportation convenient between the hotel, the school, and nearby places, we have reserved bicycles for you. These are available at the hotel.

Each morning, a staff member from Maurick College will guide you by bicycle to the school. This colleague will be waiting at the entrance of the hotel.

You are free to visit nearby places during your free time or in the evenings, such as the city of 's-Hertogenbosch, which is only 1 km away. You are welcome to use the bicycles for these trips as well.

Alternative Transport Option

If you are unable or prefer not to use a bicycle, please let us know. We have a passenger van available (up to 8 persons) to transport you between school, hotel and activities.

Bicycle Parking at School

At the school, you can park your bicycle in the designated parking area along with approximately 2,000 other bicycles. To make it easier to find your bicycle again, you are allowed to park in the designated teachers' bicycle parking area.

Participants, Project Titles and categories

We are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming no fewer than 122 participants to our conference, representing 16 different schools from 13 countries. Together, they have submitted an impressive total of 27 research projects.

In addition, many students from Maurick College are actively involved in the conference. From dedicated Student Team Coaches who will guide visiting schools, to host students welcoming international guests, and numerous others participating in various parts of the programme, it is truly something to be proud of.

To get a preview of the inspiring topics that will be presented, you can now explore the *Book of Abstracts* on the Water is Life website: www.waterisliveschools.com.

Participating schools

Oak Bay High School – Canada
 Colegio Claustro Moderno – Colombia
 Vespucci College – Curaçao
 Tallina Saksa Gümnaasium – Estonia
 Dillmann-Gymnasium – Germany
 KGS Waldschule Schwanewede – Germany
 Center for Young Scientists – Indonesia
 Liceo Antonio Rosmini – Italy
 Makuhari Senior High School – Japan
 Shibuya Senior High School – Japan
 Gulbenes Novada Vidusskola – Latvia
 Mahidol Wittayanusorn School – Thailand
 Yasar Acar Fen Lisesi – Türkiye
 Gymnasium Beekvliet – The Netherlands
 Escola Virolai Barcelona – Spain
 Maurick College – The Netherlands

Book of Abstracts



Research Categories

These are the three different categories, they contain the updated titles.

Category 1 – “Nature & Aquatic Life”

Focus: aquatic and marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecological responses to environmental and human stressors

1. How does thermal heat stress affect giant kelp growth
2. Trait – Environment Relationships and Morphological Variation in the Endemic Andean catfish *Trichomycterus bogotensis*
3. The impact of tourism on water and marine ecosystems in Curaçao
4. Tourism in The Wadden Sea
5. Microplastic in the Wadden Sea
6. Utilizing Game Theory to Determine the Grounds for Marine Cooperation
7. Detecting Newly Emerging Floating Vegetation Using Sentinel-2: The Novel Remote Sensing WARN for Monitoring Alligator Weed
8. Assessment of Water Quality in Bowker Creek for Implementation of a Salmon Egg Box to Restore Salmon Population
9. Chemical analyses of Gulbene city ponds

Category 2 – “Clean Water, Smart Science & Health”

Focus: water quality, monitoring, purification technologies, and nature-based or technical solutions

1. A Mangrove-Inspired Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring System
2. The Biofiltration Efficacy of Tanjung Pasir Mangroves in Mitigating Nitrate Loading and Stabilizing pH from the Cisadane River
3. Water is Life, Sustainability is Future: Green Photocatalyst from Rubberwood Biochar–TiO₂ for Wastewater Purification
4. Smart Water Monitoring: Automated Detection of Microplastics in Water Using Polarization Imaging and Machine Learning
5. Assessment of olive stone-derived biochar as a sustainable solution for reducing pharmaceutical pollution in wastewater
6. Hydro Credit Project
7. Microbial Contamination of Reusable Water Bottles Among Students of Different Age Groups
8. The mechanism of dehydration in the mouth, airway and lungs caused by vaping
9. Awareness of Estonian Companies Using Marine Raw Materials Regarding Environmental Impact Assessment and Data Availability

Category 3 – “Water, Cities & Society”

Focus: governance, urban water management, social dimensions, policy, and human impacts

1. Sponge city strategies in Stuttgart: identifying opportunities for improved urban rainwater management
2. Installation of Rain Gardens in Shibuya and Their Sustainable Maintenance System
3. Rainwater infiltration in city centres of Dutch cities
4. The Catalan Sponge; Potential measures to tackle a drought in Catalonia in 2040
5. Political participation in regional water management
6. Assessing Governance Model in Mangrove Management: A Case Study of State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) – Community Collaboration in Tanjung Pasir, Indonesia
7. Synergies. The Case of the Vanoi Torrent Dam.
8. Temporary Abstract title: The 1629 conquering of 's-Hertogenbosch
9. Water Waste in Agricultural Practice

Important Notices

1. WhatsApp – Water is Life 2026

We have created a WhatsApp group for all accompanying **teachers**. You can use this group for direct comments and questions. It will be used to share updates regarding travel arrangements (such as delays), and during the conference we will use this group chat to provide important information when necessary. Click the link or use the QR code to get access to this group. We advise all guiding teachers activate this link on your smartphone.

https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ksgi0YyZkUE7Dkl6G8ccS3?mode=gi_t



2. Guidance & Safety

The safety and well-being of all participants is our top priority. During all visits to locations in The Netherlands, a member of the organizing team and/or Maurick College will be present.

Accompanying teachers from visiting schools are required to remain with their group at all times and take primary responsibility for their own student supervision. We ask teachers to maintain close contact with their students and ensure continuous awareness of their well-being and conduct. To support this, it is recommended that accompanying teachers set up a group chat with their students (for example via WhatsApp, Signal, or a similar messaging service), enabling clear and direct communication at all times.

Any incidents, irregularities, or inappropriate behaviour must be reported immediately to the Water is Life organizing team. By working together in this way, we aim to ensure a safe environment and provide the best possible experience for all participants.

3. Oral Presentations

On Tuesday June 9th all students will be giving their oral presentation. They will be assigned to a room at a specific time. Each presentation will be 25 minutes in total (5 minutes preparation, 12 minutes presentation, 8 minutes questions).

Each presentation room is equipped with an Apple MacBook and/ or iPad, TV Screen and speakers. Apple MacBook's will have Microsoft PowerPoint and Internet connection for presentations.

Students must bring their presentation on a drive or stored in an accessible cloud.

Students preferring to use different types of computers (laptop / Chromebook) must bring their own device with HDMI connection.

4. Competition details & Jury

The various water research projects will be carefully reviewed by our panel of experts, consisting of teachers and professionals. They provide constructive feedback, after which the submissions are discussed collectively. Based on this, a ranking is established, and a winner is selected for each category.

Poster presentations will be evaluated by our audience jury, our own students from the Maurick College. From this evaluation, a Public Choice Award will be presented.

All abstracts (The Book of Abstracts) are now available to read on the website:

www.waterisliveschools.com

5. Accommodations: host families

We are pleased to inform you that we have successfully found a host family for every participating student, matching them as well as possible based on individual preferences. Most host families have children in the same age range as the visiting students. Where possible, these children will act as buddies during the conference programme. Staying with a host family allows participants to experience everyday Dutch life and customs first-hand.

6. Notification of assignment of host families

We will inform each school of the assignment of host families one week prior to the conference.

7. Media Release Form

During the Water is Life Conference, photographs and video recordings will be taken for documentation and promotional purposes. These materials may be used by Water is Life Schools and/ or Maurick College in communications such as the website, social media channels, newsletters and other informational or promotional materials. All participants (teachers and students) are required to read, complete, and sign this media release form. For student participants, this form must be signed by both the student and their parent or legal guardian. Schools are kindly requested to collect all completed forms, scan them, and submit them as one combined PDF file to: waterisliveschools@maurickcollege.nl

8. Student Team Coaches

During the Water is Life Conference, we work with Student Team Coaches. Students from Maurick College assist visiting participants throughout the conference.

9. Our most talked about topic in The Netherlands: the Weather!

Nothing is quite as unpredictable as the Dutch weather. In June, conditions can vary greatly: one day may be warm and sunny, while the next could be cool and rainy. To stay comfortable, we recommend being prepared for all possibilities when it comes to clothing. Bringing layers and a light rain jacket is always a good idea. And just to be safe, check the weather forecast!

10. WIFI while at the conference

SSID: Maurick Gast
Password: MCgastwifi

11. Excursions and activities outside the school

Some excursions and activities will take place outside the school building.

Monday: Ice-breaker activities will take place at a location near the school. Please bring sportswear. The activities are not physically demanding, and everyone will be able to participate. Please note that some activities involve water; however, it is not required to go into the water to take part.

Tuesday afternoon, there will be an excursion to a nearby nature reserve. Good walking shoes are required for this activity.

On **Wednesday and Thursday,** activities will take place at locations that we will travel to by bus. Casual clothing is sufficient for this day.

On **Thursday,** the group will be split up and visit different locations. In the afternoon, everyone will come together in Amsterdam. The organisation will assign students to the various excursions and groups.

12. Meals

Students will be staying with a host family. Meals such as breakfast, as well as some lunches and some dinners will be provided by the host families. On excursion days, lunch will be provided by the school. On Monday evening there will be a barbecue. For teachers we will provide lunch every day.

13. Teachers Dinner on Wednesday

Guiding teachers are invited to indicate their preferences for the teachers' dinner, which will take place on Wednesday 10 June at Van der Valk Hotel Vught. A three-course menu will be served, and you are kindly asked to select your preferred options in advance. Please submit your choices via the link below:

[Teachers' Dinner - Wednesday June 10th. - Form](#)



Checklist on What to Bring

1. Dress code for the conference

All participants, students and adults, are expected to see the Water is Life 2026 conference as a professional school trip. Students are expected to wear casual to slightly formal school or business attire. Students may wear their school uniforms and are encouraged to wear this at the opening and closing ceremonies.

A conference T-shirt will be provided for each participant which should be worn during outdoor activities.

2. EU Plug

Power plug and adapter information (EU/The Netherlands). In the Netherlands, the standard power plug is Type C or Type F, featuring two round pins. The standard voltage is 230V with a frequency of 50Hz. If you are travelling from outside the EU, please make sure to bring a suitable EU power adapter so you can use your electronic devices safely.

3. Other items you may want to bring:

- Passport or ID card
- Insurance card or paperwork
- Medication
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Hat
- Sportswear
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Rain jacket
- A small gift for your host family

4. Presentations preparations

A0 Posters need to be printed PRIOR to the conference and brought with the team to the conference. (Please find poster details in our previous Info Packages.) Note: all formats (landscape or portrait) are accepted!

Please send your **Digital (PowerPoint) presentations** to support your oral presentation to waterslifeschools@maurickcollege.nl. Also bring the digital file on a USB drive and/ or use a cloud to store.

For the Poster Presentations you may wish to bring:

- Your poster for the Poster Presentation
- Brochures about your school
- Pamphlets summarizing your research
- A flag of the school or country. (Not necessary)

Chic & Shine Gala and Cultural Event

As part of the conference programme, we invite each participating school to contribute to our International Ceremony, also known as the Cultural Event. This special event celebrates diversity and cultural exchange, giving students the opportunity to showcase something unique from their country or region. Contributions may include a traditional dance, a song, a short film about daily life in your country or city, or the presentation of special customs and traditions.

Participation is not mandatory; however, we would very much appreciate it if each delegation could share something that represents their culture. Each contribution should last no longer than 5 minutes. If you would like to make use of audiovisual equipment and/or a microphone, we kindly ask you to test this in advance. This testing session will take place on Tuesday afternoon at Maurick College. Please make sure to bring your materials with you at that time.

We ask you to provide us the information we need regarding the cultural presentation. Please use the Forms-link or QR-code below to submit the necessary details.

Water is Life Conference: Cultural Event



Chic & Shine Gala

After the cultural performances we will then conclude the evening in a festive way with the Chic & Shine Gala! Dress code is black with a touch of gold or silver.