



**Merry Christmas**



God Jul

Gleðileg jól

Mutlu Noeller

Merry Christmas

عيد ميلاد مجيد

圣诞节快乐

Frohe Weihnachten

Feliz Navidad

Joyeux Noël



Rysensteen Gymnasium supports the Sustainable Development Goals

#### Christmas 2017

Christmas is once again upon us, and it is therefore time to look back on the year that went by. At Rysensteen, 2017 has been a year defined by talks and debates about how to form enlightened, democratic-minded and engaged citizens.

Together with Steen Beck, who is a Professor of Pedagogics at the University of Southern Denmark, for the past two years, we have worked on adapting the Visible Learning approach to teaching, which is, at the moment, sweeping across schools and school systems all over the world, to the Danish focus on forming democratic-minded and engaged citizens. The result of this work has been the book "Tegn på dannelse" – which roughly translates into: *signs that students are being formed into knowledgeable and democratic-minded citizens*. The book contains various articles that describe concrete approaches to strengthen the students' reflections about their learning and personal development as human beings. We are extremely pleased with the boost that this project has given the teaching at Rysensteen and we hope to have contributed to spreading our experiences through, for example through a conference we hosted with formerly mentioned, Steen Beck, and Principal of Metropol College of professional studies and author, Stefan Hermann.

Another important focus of 2017 has been the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. This year our first-year students started with a course on the UN, which culminated in an excursion to the UN-city in late August. The students were transported in canal-tour boats from Rysensteen to the UN-city, where they were presented with a fantastic speech by the former president of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft. The course and excursion gave the students insight into the enormous effort it has taken to get the globe's nations to agree upon the SDG's. In general working with the SDG's provides all schools with a unique opportunity to strengthen the students' global understanding – and hence their formation into democratic-minded and engaged citizens.

At Rysensteen the 17 SDGs constitutes an academic perspective on many different subjects. To emphasize how important the SDGs are to Rysensteen, they now decorate the walls of the school, and also this Christmas Card.

Many other events could be mentioned – for example the first ever exchange trip to South Korea, the establishment of our alumni association and two wonderful alumni events. Or a visit from two formidable young women Bangladeshi women, who are fighting for women's rights and, of course, also RysMUN 2017 with all of our second-year students and 65 students from our partner-schools from all over the world participating.

So let me thank all of you, who also in 2017 have strengthened the work at Rysensteen. Let me thanks all the engaged students, the dedicated employees and the members of the board. And let me also thank all of our partner-schools and the rest of our friends and partners in Denmark and abroad.

From all of us to all of you: a merry Christmas and very happy New Year.

Gitte Harding Transbøl  
Principal

Anders Schultz  
Leader of the Global Citizenship Programme