

PARENT UPDATE BRIEFING

Thursday 9 April 2015
Andy Puttock, Principal

2015 SO FAR

- Introduction of the IB course – great success, especially CAS programme which is viewed by many outsiders as the best in Beijing because our students engage deeply with the programme and do considerably beyond the required hours, not just the hours to collect the CAS points.
- Preparation for the new English National Curriculum – school has adopted a measured approach. More detail later.
- Academic success continues – and grows. We promised that our Secondary school would improve its academic standards to be the best in Beijing. Progress has been outstanding and this year's results will prove it (mock results are 30% better than our previous best). We are totally committed to continued improvement.
- Native language programmes – are growing following parent demand. French and Swedish native language will be offered shortly to enhance current programmes.

2015 so far (2)

- German Primary School – following parent demand, we are introducing some German provision in Reception/Kindergarten and Year 6/Klasse 5 (Maths and German lessons in German).
- Sports Programme – higher than ever participation. 2 years ago 250 student in team sport, now 579.
- Music and Performing Arts – Grease, Soiree etc. A commitment 2 years ago to really enhance music programme. Preparations started for next year's musical. Orchestras and Choirs (especially Secondary choir) their biggest ever now. Exciting news later in presentation.
- Staff recruitment for Summer 2015. Very few new staff this year – but excellent recruitment of highly qualified graduates, with a balance of UK and international experience. There is a new DEPUTY Head of Primary (Ms Corry will replace Ms Lebihan). Ms Corry has already been a Head of Primary in Taipei for 6 years and 15 years UK experience. NO OTHER SENIOR STAFF CHANGES AT ALL.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN BEIJING

- Pupil numbers situation across Beijing – there are far fewer expats than previously and some big international schools are reporting big drops in numbers. BSB numbers are remaining solid. Why? Parents tell us it's because of:
- BSB's commitments to broad international education and maintaining a strong nationality balance in the school. We almost certainly have the most international population in Beijing.
- Code of ethics and our belief in young people – we are proud to be non-selective (no admissions ability tests) because we believe that our teachers teach much better that way. Every child matters and every child is an individual who progresses in a different way to everyone else. Parents tell us that they believe this is better than 'creaming off' a percentage and teaching all children the same way with huge academic pressure.
- We are not complacent about this – we must continue to improve.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BSB?

- Extended facilities – 2016? The extension between the canteen and the theatre will happen. Landlord is currently working on building certificates. Will provide another basketball court size gym, and indoor playground for Primary, and extended canteen.
- Ongoing commitment to air quality issues – now looking at PM 0.1 and ensuring we continue to provide the best.
- Completion of Early Years project – more later.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BSB (2)

- Early Years Foundation Stage swimming pool – this summer building a special pool for our youngest. Will enable swimming all year for Early Years and more parental involvement. Will also allow less heat in main pool for older students.
- Interim refurbishment of dining room –being refurbished whilst we await the extension
- Online library but also more books – Secondary school is now purchasing a full online library but we recognise parents also want to see more books and this commitment goes on.
- The work of the Food Committee – has been excellent in ongoing improvements in catering. Students now say they are very satisfied and look forward to more developments. BSB is NUMBER ONE in terms of independent Food Hygiene and Safety inspections for all of Chartwells operations in Asia – hundreds, including ISB, Dulwich, Keystone.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION?

- 35 schools around the world – huge potential for our students and investment in our school, so continued investment in BSB. This means huge global opportunities for our children.
- Tanzania – NAE owns a bush camp where all our CAS students (and soon others) can attend to experience Africa and work with orphanage and orphans' school. We are totally committed to our local charities but, as a global school, our students need to experience global issues.
- Global Orchestra – 105 of the very best musicians from across NAE schools going to New York to perform in Global Orchestra – we have three from BSB. Amazing talent.
- Global Classroom/Global campus –being strongly developed to have more curriculum focus. BSB has done particularly well in Debating competitions against all other 34 schools, and also literature and short story writing. Further developments in Music and curriculum resources.

JUILLIARD PARTNERSHIP

- Juilliard is probably the world's most prestigious (and certainly the world's best known) music and performing arts school.
- Based in New York, has always offered graduate programmes (for example 1900 applicants for 18 places in Drama this year). Has been seeking a partner organisation to deliver K-12 education and has chosen Nord Anglia Education.
- From next year, all our schools will deliver the Juilliard K-12 curriculum. Juilliard Alumni will work with our schools, our teachers will be trained by Juilliard, and our students will have a chance to go to, and work with Juilliard in New York.

PRIMARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS

Phil Allman
Head of Primary

Primary School News

- PAWS behaviour system up and running. A new behaviour and rewards system devised by pupils and teachers and recognising ongoing success. Hugely popular with students.
- Low staff turnover for August – only 4 or 5 new staff in Primary
- Curriculum redesign – via groups so all staff involved. The school has taken a measured approach. All staff have been involved in training and are developing the adoption of the new English National Curriculum in a way that suits our students. The English NC with a strong international flavour.
- Targetted resourcing of new curriculum – to ensure all developments have high quality resources to match the new curriculum needs and our active learning approaches
- Booster groups for potential National Curriculum Level 6 (the highest level) students in Year 6. New this year. Our best students need to be given a chance to achieve even more highly, so special classes taught by Headteacher and Deputy Heads in Primary for the very best at Maths and English. Test results are astounding. In practice tests in Maths we already have 21% of the children achieving a L6 in mathematics. In England only 6% of the children passed this last year in the whole of the country.

Primary School News

- EYFS flourishing with new Teddies group starting this week. Now three Teddies classes
- Phase 2 of redevelopment planned for summer – will provide dedicated toilets next to Early Years classrooms. Current toilets will be replaced with a fantastic open plan unit for our youngest children.
- New EYFS swimming pool – lessons timetabled for Reception with specialist staff. Our youngest children will also have specialist PE lessons.
- LOTE – KS1 timetabled daily to enhance speaking and listening. The best practice in language learning is ‘little and often’ so Key Stage 1 will change its timetable to this approach.

SECONDARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS

Steve Lewis
Head of Secondary

SECONDARY NEWS AND EVENTS

- Teacher recruitment complete – very few new staff but all of high calibre, with excellent degrees and fully trained to IB level. No teacher at BSB teaches IB without full external training in the IB.
- IB Progress – CAS and academics. As explained earlier, an outstanding start by our IB students in Year 12. Nearly 50 students on the course (around 25 – 30 used to do A levels) and more than this already enrolled for next year
- Fashion Show 19th April – a truly ambitious event organised totally by our IB CAS students. Please come and support.
- University offers so far – we already have offers for 2015/16 from some of the world's top universities, including those in the world's top 5, as well as highly specialised in their field. Mr Lewis gave details.

SECONDARY NEWS AND EVENTS (2)

- IGCSE predictions for 2015 are that 90% of students will achieve 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths. This is 20 % up on last year. We also predict around 50% of all grades will be either A* or A, which is a 15% improvement on last year.
- Big Draw – “Highly Commended”. A great community events but also one that has won an award in London. Out of over 100 entries, only 18 awards were given.
- AISA Leadership conference and Maths Challenge. We have always entered Mathematics Olympiads, but now we are hosting them. Some of best Mathematicians from across Asian International schools entered our competition, which was so successful that we will be hosting again next year.
- Model United Nations in Beijing – we sent a strong team. 2 students elected to leadership roles. 900 students participated.. 2 of our students were elected to leadership roles next year (there were only 28 leadership roles – a quite amazing achievement for our talented young people)

SECONDARY NEWS AND EVENTS (3)

- Royal Society 'Top of the Bench' Chemistry competition – BSB entered a strong team who performed commendably.
- Big Jig – 23 April. A 2-week celebration of Maths culminating in a world record attempt (will be accredited by Guinness World Record if we succeed) – creating the world's biggest ever mathematical puzzle.
- Viennese Ball – our students were awesome. 20 students, dressed in beautiful formal wear, learned to waltz and performed at the event. This will now continue and be an ASA next year.
- World Scholar's Cup – debating and academics go hand in hand. BSB hosted the WSC for the first time, and entered 15 teams, all of whom qualified for the regional final in Kuala Lumpur in June! Last year, one of our teams reached the world final at Yale, and we are hoping to repeat this feat.