



*Our Guide to...*

Key Stage 3

2017-18



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
SHANGHAI, PUXI  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

*Our students are inspired to be innovative and ambitious in all endeavours.*





## About Our School

The British International School Puxi is a vibrant learning community offering an outstanding education to a truly international student body. With over 11 years of history offering the English National Curriculum & the IB Diploma Programme, our students achieve at the highest academic levels and access the most prestigious universities worldwide. Our modern campus is ideally situated within a very popular expatriate residential area and provides great facilities for great learning, in and beyond the curriculum. We develop students who understand and display internationalism, leadership and concern for others, through an innovative academic programme coupled with first rate extra-curricular and pastoral provision.

“ British International School of Shanghai is building a strong, well-rounded curriculum, and where other schools have pulled budgets and time away from PE, Art, Music and general learning, BISS strengthened these areas. ”

— BISS Parent



## Contact Us

Please get in touch with any of our staff if you have any questions about your chosen subjects.

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# Contents

## INTRODUCTION

A Note to our Parents	6
Welcome to the Key Stage 1&2	8
Communication with Parents	10
Our Beliefs & Values	12
Rewards & Achievements	15

## KEY STAGES 1&2

English	14
Mathematics	16
Science	17
Art	18
Mandarin	31
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	31
Modern Foreign Languages	27
Humanities	29
Digital Literacy and Computer Programming	31
Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	32
Music	33
Physical Education (PE)	35

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Extra Curricular Activities(ECAs)	37
The Arts	39
Field Trips	41
Team Sports	42
Our House System	43

## Welcome to Our School

### *A Note to our Parents*

The style in which we've written this guide is to address everything directly to your son or daughter. The transition from primary to secondary education is a really important one, and we want to make sure that they understand it as much as possible.

Knowing what to expect is a major part of settling in, and we hope that this curriculum guide will help them to settle quickly and to thrive in the secondary school.

We very much hope that you will read this guide with your son or daughter and talk it through with him or her. We understand that you'll want to be reassured about the experiences your son or daughter will have in the secondary school, and we're very happy to

talk about them at any point. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns at any time, please don't hesitate to contact us and we'll do what we can to help.



*Dr Neil Hopkin*  
Principal



## *Welcome to the Secondary School*

Welcome to the Key Stage 3 course guide. We expect that you'll have many questions about what happens next in your education, and we've written this guide to try to answer as many as possible.



What you see in this guide are the subjects we offer at the moment. If you don't see what you are looking for here, then please tell us and we'll do our best to allow you to study the subjects you need to.

Here at the British International School, we follow the UK education system, although we change it in places to make sure it is right for people living and working in Shanghai. The UK system divides your time at school into sections, called 'Key Stages' (KS for short), and if you're in Year 6 you've been working your way through the last year of KS2. You're about to start KS3, which is the name given to Years 7, 8 and 9. Most people are 11 at the start of Year 7, and 14 by the end of Year 9, although many students are a little younger or older.

KS3 is a really important time as it involves a new start in the secondary school. As a Year 7 student you'll be the youngest in this part of the school, and Year 9 students are on their way to becoming responsible adults. In the secondary school we'll teach you in a way that you might find different to your previous experiences. You'll be taught by lots of different teachers – all experts in their subjects – and you'll move from classroom to classroom to go to your lessons. We'll make sure you know where to go at every point, and you'll have friends with you to help you get to the right places at the right times.

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“ KS4 is probably the first time you've had much choice in the subjects you'll study. ”



## Overview

In KS3, you'll basically study everything. We want you to get to grips with a wide range of subjects, to see what they are like when you study them as separate courses, taught by specialist teachers who are real enthusiasts for their own subjects.



We teach a number of our subjects in sets, where you'll be with other people who have about the same ability as you. We'll keep an eye on whether or not you're in the right set and move you if necessary. In some subjects, such as Computer Science, Art, PSHE, Drama and Music, where there are no sets, you will be taught alongside all the other members of your tutor group. We find that this balance of set classes and mixed classes works well, as it gives you the opportunity to progress as fast as possible and to mix with lots of different people.

You'll have time to study languages too. Nearly all students study Mandarin, and we also offer a choice of French, German or Spanish to those who study mainstream English. If you aren't a native or fluent English speaker, and you find working in English

difficult, you will follow the English as an Additional Language (EAL) programme instead of your European language option.

All of the subjects you'll study are described in this curriculum guide, but please ask us if you'd like to know more about any of them.

# Art

**Art will give you the freedom to express yourself in an exciting visual manner. Through the work you produce, you'll gain confidence and an appreciation of the world around you.**

You'll learn to analyse the work of artists, craftspeople and designers in order to inspire your own art. You will discover that art is a form of communication and that using our individual cultures and beliefs helps us to connect with others.

We believe strongly in celebrating and exhibiting the work you produce, whether it's your individual work, or produced as part of a group project. As artists we celebrate whole school events and collaboratively produce artwork that shows we are a united school.

In KS3, you'll go on an exciting journey, experimenting with a wide variety of media, materials, techniques and processes. Your confidence, creativity and imagination will develop and you'll be able to make informed choices about the media and techniques that you use.

Each year, you will complete three major projects, each starting with the new term. Within the year, you will learn a wide range of skills and

explore various media, materials and technology. At the end of every project you will submit a piece of artwork that will be displayed in the KS3 Art exhibition.

Art is exciting and an opportunity to express yourself and communicate. At the end of KS3, you'll be well equipped with a wide range of skills and experiences that will enable you to go on to study GCSE Fine Art in KS4.

# Computing Science

**Computer Science will give students an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. Through this study of computer programming, students will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. For many, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop skills that can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.**

It is a fact that information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If you want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science, they will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone. Developing the essential skills necessary to connect with today's digital world is at the heart of the modern curriculum.

Computer Science is about creating the future, learning to make (rather than just use) technology. You'll learn how to program a digital computer whilst discovering that

computers can be very good at doing what you tell them to do, rather than what you want them to do. Learning to be precise in the instructions you give will help you in lots of other parts of your life too. If you're the kind of person who likes solving puzzles and taking on challenges, you'll find Computer Science a very exciting subject to learn.

You'll use a programming language such as Python to allow you to learn the fundamentals of programming, and have fun creating models and animations at the same time.

# Drama

**Drama at KS3 is about allowing you to grow in confidence, develop team building skills and learn how drama can hold an important place in any society.**

It will help you to develop your ability to use voice, movement, gesture and facial expression, in acting, mime, dance drama and improvisation. You'll learn to express and manage your thoughts and feelings, sharing them with other people, while working in a safe and controlled environment. Through practising and developing these skills, you'll gain both self-confidence and self-awareness.

Drama is a great way of promoting the development of you as an individual in a group context. You'll have to discuss and agree roles and ideas with other students, and you'll have to solve problems and make decisions together. There will be opportunities for working on scripted and unscripted performance pieces, and you'll have to be able to look carefully and critically at your own work and that of other students.

Throughout KS3 Drama, you will study many different styles of theatre including Commedia

dell'arte, Greek theatre, Shakespearean theatre, comedy sketches and melodramas. You will also study set plays, look at the skills needed to create an effective advertisement, and even learn the skills of slapstick stage fighting.

You don't have to be a great actor to take part in Drama lessons, but you do need to be willing to throw yourself into lessons. With Drama, what you get out depends critically on what you put in; enthusiasm and interest are always rewarded with a sense of having been part of something big. Drama often leads to performance for a wider audience, in small plays or as part of a production. Those who particularly love Drama lessons may wish to develop their skills further by taking part in the KS3 Drama club, auditioning for the KS3 production and, in Year 9, the senior school production.

## Dutch/Nederlands

**Volg je Nederlandse lessen op BISS? Dan behoort je tot een bijzonder gezelschap. Alleen leerlingen die dit kunnen lezen maken kans om bij één van de twee docenten die onze fantastische taal onderwijzen in de klas te komen. En kies je voor Nederlands, dan krijg je ook de vakken geschiedenis en aardrijkskunde in het Nederlands aangeboden. Drie vliegen in een klap!**

Uiteraard leren we je de Nederlandse taal te spreken, nog beter dan je al kunt. Maar alleen het spreken van een taal is niet voldoende, dus schenken we veel aandacht aan schrijven en lezen en er moet ook geluisterd worden. Om al die vaardigheden te verkrijgen moet je een schat aan woorden kennen, daarom zal je ook veel nieuwe, gekke, moeilijke en leuke woorden leren. Weet jij bijvoorbeeld wat een harenbank is, of heb je wel eens gehoord van een tiggerpunt of een belastingbelg?

Naast al die nieuwe woorden is er natuurlijk ook aandacht voor spreekwoorden en uitdrukkingen. En omdat je met al die woorden leuke spelletjes kunt doen, heb je niet eens altijd door dat je aan het leren bent.

Nieuwsbegrip is waarschijnlijk geen nieuwe term voor je. In alle jaren maken wij graag gebruik hiervan, het is een goede manier om je tekstbegrip te trainen. Iedere week behandelen we de Nieuwsbegripteekst waarin je leest over een veelbesproken onderwerp in Nederland. Zo blijf je betrokken bij de gebeurtenissen in je vaderland. De andere vorm van lezen waar we veel mee aan de slag gaan is fictie: alle boeken en verhalen die je leest in romanvorm en ook poëzie. Er wordt veel aandacht besteed aan het onderdeel schrijven. Via het taalprogramma BruutTAAL leer je verschillende soorten teksten schrijven.

Als je dit allemaal leest, zou je bijna denken dat we tijd te kort komen, toch kunnen we je ook nog leren hoe je correct moet spellen, schrijven, ontleden, studeren, presenteren, debatteren, informeren en nog veel meer. Al die vaardigheden keren de komende jaren steeds terug en iedere keer breid je je kunde en kennis verder uit, tot je aan het einde van year 9 klaargestoomd bent voor de IGCSE-fase in Key Stage vier. Daar komen weer andere belangrijke zaken aan de orde, eerst moet je de basisvaardigheden grondig beheersen.

Naast de Nederlandse taallessen, bieden we je ook aardrijkskunde en geschiedenis aan in het Nederlands. Deze vakken vertellen je alles over het ontstaan van Nederland en België en de rest van de wereld. Heb je wel eens een virtuele tour gemaakt door bergdalen in China? Of heb je zelf wel eens een rondleiding ontworpen door een middeleeuws kasteel? Zo niet, dan ligt die kans nu voor het grijpen!

Door het volgen van lessen aardrijkskunde en geschiedenis in het Nederlands, vergroot je veel van de eerdergenoemde vaardigheden en kennis. We passen veel strategieën uit de taallessen toe op deze vakken. Je kennis van de betekenis van een groot aantal woorden zal erdoor toenemen, waardoor je je moedertaal niet teveel uit het oog verliest. Wanneer je bovendien binnen enkele jaren terugkeert naar Nederland of België, zul je bij deze vakken heel gemakkelijk kunnen aansluiten.

Met een combinatie van Nederlandse taal-, geschiedenis- en aardrijkskundelessen heb je dus drie prachtige vakken in je programma. Reken maar dat je daar nu en in de toekomst heel veel plezier van zult beleven!

# English

**English will be one of your most important and enjoyable subjects. It is about stories and imagination; the world you live in and every world before and after that one. C.S. Lewis once said, “Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it.”**

By studying English, you will develop your own ideas, understand how your own ideas are influenced by society and consider the ideas of others about many of the big issues we face in life.

Throughout KS3, you'll be presented with challenging and stimulating material taught by teachers who love their subject. The English department encourages creativity and independent thought, so we have lots of competitions such as The BISS Short Story competition, Hong Kong Young Writers' Competition, The Spelling Bee, Dystopiafest, Poetry Slam and Youth Speaks, which are just some of the activities you can get involved in to demonstrate your talent.

You will also participate in the brand new and exciting reading scheme, entitled 'The 100', created in response to student feedback and launched in 2015. Each year, you will be given a new reading list

full of amazing texts from across different time periods, authors and genres. This list comprises brand new titles as well as ones recommended by staff, parents and students; many texts are also recommended on international young person reading lists and awards. You set your own reading challenge for the year and use the list to inspire and vary your reading choices. The accompanying reading log is also full of activities to help you use your own reading to develop your reading skills in and out of class.

In English you will encounter a whole new range of literature. Our novels, poetry, drama and non-fiction texts will develop your skills and inspire you to be an excellent English student. You will also have the opportunity to learn about the media and even make some films. You will have the opportunity to work individually and collaboratively and will be given the opportunity to express your ideas in many different written, verbal and artistic ways.

We passionately believe in developing our students into confident, articulate individuals; we achieve this through our speaking and listening tasks, as well as making sure you ask and answer

lots of questions in the classroom. You will not only develop your understanding of how language is used to influence you, but you will also be taught how to craft your own language and use it to influence others.

We will measure your progress by evaluating how you complete tasks – considering whether you can do them with support, whether you are developing the ability to do them alone, whether you are independently able to do them or whether you are confidently able to apply your English skills across various pieces of work. To do this, we will regularly collect pieces of your work in a 'best work' file and chart your progress in your Independent Learning Record each half term. So, bring your enthusiasm and passion to English and you'll have a great learning experience.

# English as an Additional Language

**There are more users of English as a second language than there are those whose first language is English. Learning English and improving your English level is essential in becoming a world citizen.**

You will take EAL lessons if we feel that you need extra help with English. You will be placed in a class with other students of a similar level to you and you will work towards passing the English assessments set by Cambridge University, which are increasingly being used around the world. These English assessments are for speakers of other languages and they support and encourage positive learning, ensuring that you have the communication skills you need to use English effectively.

There are three different levels of Cambridge English for our KS3 students, each ending with a formal exam. The Key for Schools (KET), at A2 level on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for Languages, is the most basic qualification, which focuses on the general everyday language that you need to participate in an English speaking school. A pass at KET shows that you are able to deal with everyday written and spoken English at a basic or elementary level.

The Preliminary for Schools (PET), at B1 level on CEFR, is the second level qualification and will help you to access the curriculum fully in your other subjects. It will look at specific language used in textbooks and needed for written homework. A good PET score shows that you are an intermediate level student and will allow you to choose from a full range of IGCSE subjects when you get to KS4.

If your progress is fast enough, you will be able to sit the higher level First for Schools (FCE), which is at B2 level on CEFR.

If you arrive at the school in Year 7 with an elementary or KET level you can generally get to intermediate level within four to six terms. You could then pass the PET exam with 160 points on the Cambridge English scale in Year 8 and have a chance to join mainstream English classes in Year 9.

# French

**Learning a Modern Foreign Language is both fun and practical. You will learn French which is based on real-life situations. As you progress, you will learn to communicate on a wide range of topics.**

French is a beautiful language that has attracted the world for centuries. By learning it, you will be able to communicate in one of the most popular languages in the world.

From introducing yourself to a young French person to learning how to cope in a tourist office, you will gain invaluable skills which will prove immensely useful in later life. Learning French will help you understand your own language better and you will find many opportunities to experiment with what you have learnt in lessons in the real world. By focusing on the main four language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - you will be prepared to deal with a wide range of situations with confidence.

By the end of KS3, as you prepare to start your IGCSE courses, you will have learnt to talk about events in the past, present and future. You will also have learnt about other cultures around the world and about how important

it is to be tolerant towards people from different countries. Our aim is that, like us, you will also have developed a life-long passion for learning Modern Foreign Languages and exploring other cultures. As you become more proficient in French, you will use ICT and board games to practise the language you have learnt in class. When the weather is good, you might even play some traditional French games outside.

Classroom teaching is supplemented with many opportunities to explore cultural life in French-speaking countries throughout the world. Every year in March, we dedicate a day to celebrate a particular aspect of the French-speaking culture on “La Journée de la Francophonie” and you will take part in a special event. Throughout KS3, you will also have other extra-curricular opportunities to immerse yourself in the language.

# Games and Physical Education

**Physical Education will develop your competence and confidence in physical activities – and hopefully these will become an important part of your life, both in and out of school.**

During lessons, and through extra-curricular activities (ECAs), you'll gain a wide range of skills and develop your ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. A key aspect of PE lessons is to learn to analyse your own performance and the performance of other players, thus developing both your analytical and verbal skills. In addition, you'll learn the value and benefits of living a healthy, active lifestyle.

Physical Education will help to develop personal and social skills, working as an individual, in groups, and in teams with different roles and responsibilities. Each lesson will offer you a different challenge; you'll discover how to be effective in competitive, creative and challenging situations.

Throughout Years 7, 8 and 9, PE lessons cover a number of activities including invasion games, striking and fielding activities, net and wall games,

swimming and water activities, dance, gymnastics, health-related fitness and athletic activities. You'll learn the importance of warm-ups and cool downs, along with an understanding of the effect of exercise on your body. You will also develop your ability as a leader when taking on additional roles such as captain, coach or official.

Throughout your time at BISS, you'll have the opportunity to represent the school in a range of sporting activities. You'll need to demonstrate a strong commitment in lessons and during training sessions. At Key Stage 3, teams are entered into CISSA competitions which involve playing other international schools in Shanghai. If you are an exceptional performer and are achieving a high performance level in a variety of sports, you will also have the opportunity to represent the school in the annual FOBISIA sports tournament.

By the end of Key Stage 3, many activities will have been covered during your Physical Education lessons, and you'll be able to make an informed decision about whether you want to proceed with the subject as an IGCSE course, or just continue with sport for fun and as part of a healthy lifestyle.

# Geography

**Geography provides a remarkable and important opportunity to learn about the world in which you live. It will develop your understanding and make you more aware of existing events locally and globally, developing your geographical skills for the future.**

It will also help to develop your literacy, numeracy, ICT, team work, thinking skills and enquiry skills. You'll learn to make concise reports, handle data, ask questions, find answers, make decisions about issues and research material. You'll learn to think more creatively and independently. You'll be an excellent communicator; you'll also be aware of what is happening around you socially, economically and environmentally. Geography will help you to become a problem solver, team player and a well-rounded flexible thinker.

Throughout KS3, you'll learn a great deal about physical, human and environmental geography. Topics you'll study include earthquakes and volcanoes, tourism, weather and globalisation. Learning won't just happen in the classroom; you'll also enjoy opportunities for fieldwork, where you can explore places first hand,

looking at environments and human behaviour. You'll find that Geography values your views when making decisions about difficult issues. What can or should you do about global warming? Is it really taking place, and can you really afford to sit back and not take any action? The choice is yours, but studying Geography will help you find your own answers.

# German

**Learning a Modern Foreign Language is both fun and practical. You will learn German that is based on real-life situations. As you progress, you will learn to communicate on a wide range of topics.**

German is a really useful language to learn: it is important in business and scientific environments, and being able to speak it will be a great advantage in the future.

From introducing yourself to a young German person to learning how to cope in a tourist office, you will gain invaluable skills which will prove immensely useful in later life. Learning German will help you understand your own language better and you will find many opportunities to experiment with what you have learnt in lessons in the real world. By focusing on the main four language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - you will be prepared to deal with a wide range of situations with confidence.

Classroom teaching is supplemented with many opportunities to explore cultural life in German speaking countries throughout the world. For instance in Year 7 you will learn how Christmas is celebrated in German speaking countries and

you will take part in a special event. Throughout the year, you will also learn about other German customs, such as Fasching in the spring. As you become more proficient in German, you will use ICT and board games to practise and extend the language you have learnt in class. You will also use your German in role-play situations and have the opportunity to write and perform short plays.

By the end of KS3, as you prepare to start your IGCSE courses, you will have learnt to talk about events in the past, present and future. You will also have learnt about other German speaking cultures around the world and about how important it is to be tolerant towards people from different countries. Our aim is that, like us, you will have developed a life-long passion for learning Modern Foreign Languages and exploring other cultures.



# History

**History is essentially about people and the lives they lived. Some people were successful, some failed. There were heroes, villains, cowards and fools. They were just like the people of today - the people you know; your neighbours, your friends, your relatives and you yourself.**

By studying History you'll learn to decide what you like or dislike, and what you approve or disapprove of, about the people you meet, have met or will meet either personally or via television, films, newspapers or the Internet. You will learn to make judgments and give sensible reasons for your opinions and decisions. In the future, you'll have the chance to copy the successes and avoid the mistakes of people from the past.

Throughout KS3, you'll develop special History skills that will let you research and present information in different and logical ways (e.g. writing, diagrams and charts); compare people and events from the past with those of the present; discover whether life has changed or not; and think like people in the past. You will use different types of evidence such as pictures, photographs, diaries, letters, maps and diagrams. All of these skills will help you find out

about the amazing, interesting and sometimes boring people from the past.

In Year 7, you'll study the most famous battle in English history, live in medieval times and travel to and fight in the Crusades. You'll visit ancient China and experience what it was like to live under the country's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. In Year 8, your teachers will take you to a time when new inventions shaped the world; then on to investigate a trade in people, and finally to modern China during the rule of Mao Zedong. In Year 9, you'll investigate how millions of families were terribly affected by war during the 20th century and then try to gain a deeper understanding of terrorism - an issue all too apparent in the 21st century.

## Korean (Year 9 only)

“한류”라는 이름으로  
전 세계로 뻗어 나가는 ‘  
한국어!!’  
해외에 있는 한국인으로서의  
큰 자부심을 갖게 하는  
원동력!!

그러나... 우리 학생들은  
오히려 한국어와 점차 멀어지고,  
한국어를 배울 수 있는 기회조차  
잃어버리곤 합니다. 이는 곧 그  
언어 속에 담겨 있는 우리의  
문화와 역사, 시대적 현실에 대한  
이해가 부족해지기도 합니다.  
여기에 우리 한국 학생들이  
Korean을 배우는 데 큰 의의가  
있다고 할 수 있겠습니다.

중학교 과정은 모든 면에서  
기초가 가장 중요한 시기라고 할  
수 있습니다. 이 시기에 국어의  
기초를 잡아주지 못한다면,  
아무리 모국어라 할지라도 글  
또는 문학을 이해하는 데에  
어려움이 있을 수 있습니다.

Y9 Korean에서는 한국의  
교육과정과 국제 학교에서의  
생활을 충족시켜 줄 수 있는  
수업이 진행될 것입니다. 그  
내용을 구체적으로 살펴보면,  
첫째 Y9 Korean 수업에서는  
한국의 중학교 2학년과 3  
학년에 해당하는 ‘생활 국어’  
가 진행됩니다. 생활국어는 일상  
생활에서 쓰이는 국어 문법,  
표준어, 맞춤법, 띄어쓰기 등의

기초적인 언어(말하기와 쓰기)  
생활입니다. 따라서 이 수업을  
통해 Y9 학생들은 정확한 표현을  
익히고, 이를 실생활 또는  
글쓰기에 적용할 수 있는 능력을  
키울 것입니다. 둘째, 전국 국어  
교사 모임에서 제작한 ‘우리말  
우리글’의 교재를 통해, 다음과  
같은 다양한 활동을 할 것입니다.  
‘나의 미래, 성, 음식, 민주주의,  
생명’ 등 우리 삶의 중요한  
문제들을 만나면서 우리 주변의  
세상을 좀 더 깊이 이해하게 될  
것이고, 나아가 어떻게 살아야  
하는지에 대해서도 확신을 갖게  
될 것입니다. 더불어서 여러  
장르의 글을 읽고, ‘보고서  
만들기, 선언문 쓰기, 신문  
만들기, 광고 제작하기’ 등의 창작  
활동도 하면서 학생들의 생각을  
자유롭게 펼쳐 나갈 것입니다.

# Mandarin

**Mandarin Chinese is spoken by 873 million speakers, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world. Through studying the Chinese language, you'll learn to understand Chinese people and their culture.**

Learning Mandarin will make you a better thinker because the written script of the language is a pictographic system that is different from a spelling language. You'll need to use many different learning styles to master the language. You'll get better at speaking and listening, but you'll also improve your visual memory and your coordination as you learn to read and write Chinese. You'll gain a great deal from studying Mandarin, but we hope you'll also see that it is a fun and worthwhile experience. We'll put you in a class to suit your level when you start the course. This means you'll be able to make as much progress as you can throughout KS3.

If you have never learned Mandarin before joining the school, or have a basic knowledge, you will join our beginners' programme. This will equip you with practical language to use to help you get around Shanghai, and you will complete a series of tasks outside

the classroom to earn your BISS Shanghai Passport. You'll be able to introduce yourself and talk about your family, your nationality and jobs. You'll also be able to read and understand texts and be able to use Pinyin to support your learning.

If you have a greater knowledge of Mandarin, you will join one of our intermediate programmes, where you will strengthen your knowledge of practical Mandarin to help you in your everyday life in Shanghai. You will also learn how to speak and write to describe things such as school life, clothing and going to the doctor's surgery.

If you have a more extensive knowledge of Mandarin, you will join one of our advanced programmes. These include studying Mandarin as a second language, where you will learn not only how to cope with a range of real-life situations, but will also be able to think critically and express your opinions on a variety of topics. If you're a native speaker of Mandarin, you will develop your knowledge of literary vocabulary, rhetoric devices and literary appreciation skills. You will study a range of historical stories, descriptive articles, fables and poetry, and will learn how to write for a variety of purposes.

At BISS Puxi, we'll develop your ability to use your Mandarin effectively inside and outside the classroom. We'll also engage you in cultural and project activities that will engage you on a deeper level and help you appreciate Chinese culture; this will enable you to make the most of your time here. Living in Shanghai provides a special opportunity to learn and improve your command of this fascinating, historic and living language; by taking on the challenge of Mandarin, you'll be gaining an invaluable skill.

# Mathematics

**Mathematics gives you the tools to discover and describe the world around you. You'll already have a sense of how important numbers and shapes are to our everyday lives and you'll begin to learn that mathematical thinking can help to solve many different kinds of problems.**

You will see how mathematics can be creative, through exploring patterns which we find all around us. If you enjoy science you'll use what you learn to gain a better understanding of how scientific ideas work. If you have a passion for music or art you'll start to see and explain different types of mathematical structures that have impacted both of these subjects; for example the geometric patterns in Islamic art or the repeating patterns seen in drum beats.

Your Mathematics lessons will be with one teacher who will help you to further your understanding of the main concepts in mathematics: number and algebra, geometry and measures, and statistics. Mathematics becomes more than solving problems at this stage and your teacher will help you to understand many new ideas, including how to communicate

mathematically and how to explain your discoveries effectively.

During KS3, you'll also get plenty of opportunities to discover new technologies and how these can be used in many everyday situations. You'll work on spreadsheets, learn to use a scientific calculator, use software to graph lines and curves, and explore concepts such as reflection, rotation and enlargement.

You'll challenge each other with online games and puzzles, and complete hands-on team challenges such as designing a paper aeroplane that will fly the furthest or the most accurately. By the end of Year 9, you'll have a deeper understanding of how to approach many different problems and, most importantly, you'll be able to choose which mathematical tools will solve and explain these problems most effectively.

# Music

**Music can play a transformational role in children's education. The Juilliard-Nord Anglia Performing Arts Programme has been designed to give students a deep engagement with performing arts - promoting cultural literacy, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration.**

Throughout KS3, you will follow an innovative embedded arts curriculum created in collaboration with The Juilliard School, a world leader in performing arts education. It enriches the high-quality teaching and learning offered in our school with the artistic values, traditions and expertise of Juilliard. The keyboard acts as an entry point for music theory learning in our school. There is no better way for you to understand musical concepts than from first-hand experience. You will actively use the keyboard to explore the fundamentals of music and notation. Engaging activities developed by Juilliard will also help you understand the language of music and develop creative skills such as improvisation and composition.

You will be connected to Juilliard's worldwide network of performers, teaching artists and curriculum

specialists, regularly interacting with them through workshops, masterclasses and performances in our school. You will have the opportunity to develop your creativity through the use of music technology, using programmes such as Garage Band and Acid.

You will be drawn into a Juilliard-curated repertoire comprising twelve core categories that encompass a wide range of genres, styles and cultures. Each of the twelve categories is exemplified by an iconic work supplemented with carefully curated extension works, enabling you to explore different elements of music and its role in our society. The works have been carefully chosen based on their iconic quality, teachable moments and to give breadth to your child's musical learning. You will study these works throughout KS3 to give you a deep engagement and appreciation with each piece. Interactive activities will allow you to engage with the works and key concepts while developing connections between the pieces, as well as other subjects.

# Physical Education

**Physical Education will develop your competence and confidence in physical activities – and hopefully these will become an important part of your life, both in and out of school.**

During lessons, and through extra-curricular activities (ECAs), you'll gain a wide range of skills and develop your ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. A key aspect of PE lessons is to learn to analyse your own performance and the performance of other players, thus developing both your analytical and verbal skills. In addition, you'll learn the value and benefits of living a healthy, active lifestyle.

Physical Education will help to develop personal and social skills, working as an individual, in groups, and in teams with different roles and responsibilities. Each lesson will offer you a different challenge; you'll discover how to be effective in competitive, creative and challenging situations.

Throughout Years 7, 8 and 9, PE lessons cover a number of activities including invasion games, striking and fielding activities, net and wall games,

swimming and water activities, dance, gymnastics, health-related fitness and athletic activities. You'll learn the importance of warm-ups and cool downs, along with an understanding of the effect of exercise on your body. You will also develop your ability as a leader when taking on additional roles such as captain, coach or official.

Throughout your time at BISS, you'll have the opportunity to represent the school in a range of sporting activities. You'll need to demonstrate a strong commitment in lessons and during training sessions. At Key Stage 3, teams are entered into CISSA competitions which involve playing other international schools in Shanghai. If you are an exceptional performer and are achieving a high performance level in a variety of sports, you will also have the opportunity to represent the school in the annual FOBISIA sports tournament.

By the end of Key Stage 3, many activities will have been covered during your Physical Education lessons, and you'll be able to make an informed decision about whether you want to proceed with the subject as an IGCSE course, or just continue with sport for fun and as part of a healthy lifestyle.

# Personal Social and Health Education



**PSHE stands for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education. This will be where you consider ideas and look at topics that will support you in making informed decisions about your life, now and in the future.**

It is a carefully planned part of the curriculum that contributes to your quality of life by developing your knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes in some very important areas.

We'll promote healthy and positive lifestyles as part of our school culture, and we'll help you to become healthier, more independent, more responsible and a more active member of your community. You'll learn and appreciate what it means to be a positive part of a multicultural school and society.

The course includes aspects of citizenship, where you'll learn how you can make a positive contribution to society. The dual focus on you as an individual and you as a member of a society will reappear throughout the course, and you'll have plenty of opportunities to look at both aspects of PSHE.

You'll explore topics such as bullying, healthy lifestyles, dealing with stress and emotions, alcohol and drugs, friendships and relationships, global issues, the environment, dealing with racism and prejudice, becoming a responsible citizen, careers, coping with pressure and managing learning. There is also a focus on wellbeing throughout the course. This list should have convinced you that you'll be dealing with important themes, and we'll give you plenty of chances to contemplate, absorb, discuss and challenge them all.

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

We do, of course, tackle all the topics here carefully and sensitively. If you would like to talk with us about what we cover and how we cover it, please get in touch. We're always happy to talk about what we do.

# Science

**Science is an essential part of everyday life and our course will fire your curiosity about how the world around you works, and offer you opportunities to find explanations and answers.**

You'll connect your own practical experience with scientific ideas as you experiment in Biology, Chemistry and Physics labs, and you'll have fun learning that all our knowledge of science is based on what scientists have discovered from their own experimentation.

You'll see how scientific ideas help to develop our world – affecting industry, business and medicine, and improving everyone's quality of life. You'll study the development of science worldwide and you'll see the impacts it has had on different cultures. In your Science lessons, you'll learn to question and discuss issues that will affect your own life and the future of the world.

During KS3, your Science lessons will be with one teacher who will work with you in the three main aspects of Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You'll start to see what each branch of Science is about, but you'll also see that there are skills and ideas they all share.

By the end of KS3, as you prepare to start your IGCSE courses, you'll have learnt about energy, electricity and forces. You'll have discovered that atoms and their chemical reactions allow us to understand how the world is made, and you'll know what keeps us alive. You'll also learn some more direct things about you and your world: health and growing up, and the way we affect the environment around us. Finally, you'll be able to look away from our home planet and start to explore the mysteries of the planets, stars and the universe itself.

# Spanish

**Learning a Modern Foreign Language is both fun and practical. In your lessons, you will learn Spanish, which is based on real-life situations. As you progress, you will be able to communicate on a wide range of topics.**

Spanish is the third most spoken language in the world, after Chinese and English. Learning Spanish will provide you with endless opportunities, intriguing experiences and exciting challenges.

From introducing yourself to a young Spanish person to learning how to cope in a tourist office, you will gain invaluable skills that will prove immensely useful in later life. Learning Spanish will help you understand your own language better and you will find many opportunities to experiment with what you have learnt in lessons in the real world. By focusing on the main four language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - you will be prepared to deal with a wide range of situations with confidence.

As you become more proficient in Spanish, you will use ICT and board games to practise and extend the language you have learnt in class. You will also use your Spanish in

many practical real-life situations and have the opportunity to write and perform short plays.

By the end of KS3, as you prepare to start your IGCSE courses, you will have learnt to talk about events in the past, present and future. You will also have learnt about globalisation and about how important it is to be tolerant towards people from other countries. Our aim is that, like us, you will have developed a life-long passion for learning Modern Foreign Languages and experiencing other cultures.

Classroom teaching is supplemented with many opportunities to explore cultural life in the many Spanish speaking countries throughout the world. Every year in spring, we dedicate a day to celebrate a particular aspect of the Spanish speaking culture with a special event that takes place in school. Throughout KS3, you will also have other extra-curricular opportunities to immerse yourself in the language.

# Activities Week

**Some of the most exciting times you'll have at school won't actually be on the school site. Visits to far flung parts of China and beyond will give you opportunities to work in a completely different environment and with different groups of people.**

In each of the three years you'll spend in KS3, you'll spend a week out of the classroom, facing the challenges and new experiences that each trip provides. In each year, you'll visit a different part of China and do different activities. These could include interacting with local people in remote and exotic locations, sleeping under canvas, or participating in adrenaline surging adventure activities. The exact locations and activities vary from year to year, but recent trips have featured kayaking, white water rafting, beach-based water sports, rock climbing, desert-based activities, sleeping in a traditional yurt and a range of cultural and team building activities. Because you'll be doing these things with your peers, you'll learn to take on challenges where you and your friends need

to support each other. All these activities will support, enhance and extend everything you do at school.

Activities Week takes place towards the end of the summer term and allows friendships forged during the school year to strengthen and flourish.

# Extra Curricular Activities

**What goes on in lessons in the classroom is very important, and we hope you'll enjoy classes and be highly successful in them. However, to achieve your full potential, you need to do more than just study academic subjects.**

We'll encourage you to take on some extra-curricular activities (ECAs) to add to what you are doing in your lessons. ECAs are led by our staff members and are free of charge, and you'll find a wide range of activities on offer. You might consider developing your interest in sport by representing one of the BISS Lions teams in competitions, or you might just want to play a sport in a non-competitive way.

The arts are well represented, with opportunities to dance, paint and draw; to learn digital skills; to play in the orchestra or ensembles; or to rehearse for school productions. If you want a more cerebral challenge, you may decide to improve your chess, learn cryptology, further develop a foreign language, join a Science club or take part in the Model United Nations. Or you might take advantage of being in Shanghai and choose to learn to cook or knit in a Chinese style. The precise mix of activities varies from term to term,

but you'll find plenty to broaden your mind and develop your skills.



## **A note about our activity programme**

BISCAP (British International School Community Activity Programme) provides additional opportunities for our students and the wider community, to focus on skill development in a number of areas. BISCAP brings external, high quality coaches and organisations into our school, so that our students do not have to travel to other Shanghai locations.



*We believe that no-one  
has a limit to their  
potential or ability*

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