

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Helping others to be the best that they can be

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 5

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER



Martin Brown (Head of Mathematics), Kevin Foyle (Principal) and Rebecca Burville (Mathematics Department), gather outside the secondary school to congratulate Jeong Gyeom Brian Kim who achieved a Distinction Certificate and Silver Medal in the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ...

OUR STUDENTS SHINE

In the space of just ten years the British International School Puxi has established itself as the premium school in the city and our student's outstanding results in external examinations is evidence of this success.

PTA CORNER

The PTA Welcome Back Party last Friday was a great success and BISS Puxi would like to extend a massive thank you to the PTA for organising such a great event.

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

This week the secondary students elected their new student council Presidents.

DENTAL SCREENING

A dental team from Shanghai United Family Hospital's Dental department will visit BISS Puxi on Wednesday 9 October for a dental screening for those interested.

OPERATION WALLACEA TRIP

If you are in years 11 – 13 and are interested in joining the Operation

Wallacea research expedition to Indonesia in summer 2014, please contact Mr Grocott (d-grocott@bisspuxi.com) as soon as possible to express this interest or for more information. A deposit of \$250USD is due by 11 October to confirm your place.

SPORTS REPORT

It's been another action packed week for the BISS Lions with the volleyball and swimming teams getting some great results.



OUR STUDENTS SHINE

BY KEVIN FOYLE, PRINCIPAL

“Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty...” *Theodore Roosevelt*

I am delighted that the school continues to go from strength to strength academically as evidenced by the outstanding examination results our students produced again this year. In the space of just ten years the British International School Puxi has established itself as the premium school in the city.

We have come to expect that our students will do well in important external exams but by any standards this year has been an exceptional one. As a result of some recently received re-marks the number of papers at (I)GCSE graded as A-A* has risen to 53% and the number of students scoring 40 points or more out of 45 in the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD) has risen to 25%. A score of 40 or above invariably provides our graduates with places at the world's top universities. These results are built on the success of all of our students as shown in the IBD average score of 35 and the percentage of students achieving A*-C grades at IGCSE. It is also matched by equally impressive results in the primary school, where the key stage standard assessments and pupil profiles record similarly very strong results in comparison to the results achieved in UK schools. We will be publishing a more detailed set of academic results figures after the half term holiday.

It is interesting to reflect on how this has been achieved. It is not due to a policy of narrow academic selection – far from it.



Our students' ability levels cover the full range, with baseline testing of cognitive ability showing a profile of students from the 10th percentile right the way up to the very top of the scale. Our success is built on the best of modern educational practice, including regular coaching and mentoring and the setting of aspirational targets, which are shared with students and parents. It is also based on expert and timely use of academic data to track progress and provide feedback to students and staff. It is also the result of some inspirational teaching and a school culture that embraces a realisation that nothing of real consequence can be achieved without a great deal of hard work, and that carefully directed hard work always brings high academic outcomes.

Finally, it is due to the co-factor, which is the term we use to define the collaborative and collegiate approach that we have to learning at BISS Puxi. This is best summed up in some feedback I have received via parents that their children "...love the school because the students are focussed on producing their own personal best, but even more importantly they receive support and guidance not only from staff but also from other students..." As we all know we can achieve so much more when we cooperate and collaborate with others in our work.

There is, however, no room for complacency. Another school year is up and running and we face and accept the same challenge we face each year to help others to thrive. Our commitment to on-going, cutting edge professional development is clear from our decision to bring Professor Dylan Wiliam (see Mr White's article in the newsletter 20 September 2013) in for a full day's whole school training. Our students have been very successful in recent years and we are determined that this happy state of affairs will continue. I hope you all have a happy and healthy break.

PTA CORNER

WELCOME (BACK) PARTY – The weather delivered a spectacular evening with a full moon for the 2013 Party. A sell-out crowd of nearly 1,400 enjoyed the great ambiance and entertainment by Studio 188. Approximately 50 volunteers from more than 10 countries worked one-hour shifts at the party, under the coordination of a team of parent volunteers – Young Mi, Verena, Steph, Sabrina, Olga, Margot, Linda, Ellen, and Benedict – with the support of the school staff and extra help from the PTA New Parent Programme.

If you enjoyed the event, why not join a PTA committee yourself? Listen to what this year's Committee has to say about their experiences:

"Everyone took responsibility for one area, so that no one was overwhelmed. A real team effort."

"It was fun! I wish I'd joined last year."

"It was so nice to participate 'backstage': I was impressed by the efficiency of the meetings, the open spirit of the international members of the organizing committee and the spontaneous friendship they offered me! I'll be back for sure!!"

PRIMARY ROOM PARENT NETWORK – This PTA committee is a vital communication link, connecting families both inside and outside of school. Participation is voluntary, but highly recommended. The Room Parent volunteers are working hard to update the contact lists and class funds. If you have not heard from the Room Parent in your child's class, please notify PTA@bisspuxi.com, and tell us which class. If you have not yet responded to your Room Parent, please do so now!

UPCOMING - The first New Parents Tour on 22 October will visit the Hongqiao Flower Market and the Korean Market. Contact Sabrina at galasso.sabrina68@gmail.com to reserve your place. Seating is limited and expected to sell out.

PRIMARY UPDATE

BY NIKI MEEHAN, HEAD OF PRIMARY

At BISS Puxi our goal is to help all children to thrive and to be the best they can be. This means that in addition to supporting children to achieve their academic best, we also want to help them grow and develop as well balanced and rounded individuals.

This week our Year 4 and Year 5 students have had a great opportunity to develop their sporting and team working skills as they took part in the football days hosted by SAS. They played really well against the other school teams and, while there was a range of different football abilities amongst all our students, each one of them excelled in playing as part of a team, supporting and encouraging each other. It was also great to see how well they behaved and the great social skills they demonstrated as they chatted and met with the other children from different schools. The days were also made special by the highly enthusiastic and supportive BISS parents who turned out to cheer and provide well-earned refreshments. Thanks to students, teachers and parents for making these days so enjoyable for everyone!

Our Year 5 and 6 students had a guest speaker from the environmental organisation Roots & Shoots speak to them during their weekly assembly. The purpose of this talk was to help them become more environmentally aware and to consider how they can individually and collectively be more environmentally responsible. We hope that this will be a good catalyst for positive eco action in school but we also encourage parents to talk to your children about these important issues at home.



We have also been working to deepen the parent-school partnership with further parent workshops happening this week ; looking at aspects teaching and learning in our Early Years Cubs and also Key Stage 2 Literacy. These sessions were well attended and we hope you found them useful! Please do let us know if there are specific sessions you would like us to run in the future.

The children have been working hard so I am sure will enjoy a well-earned break from school next week. While school learning will be paused, real life learning will be happening so do take this time with your child to TALK and engage them with everything going on during the week, especially if you are travelling or spending time with extended family. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all after the holiday.

POEMS FROM PRIMARY

BY AMANDA WILDE, YEAR 4

In Year 4 we have been working hard on our poetry and have enjoyed investigating a range of different styles of poem. We have also found out about how poets create images using different techniques, such as similes and repetition. We then used our new knowledge to help us write our own poem using imaginative imagery, in the style of "The Inside of things" by Brian Patten.

Inside, By 4P

Inside a raindrop there is a storm,
Inside a leaf is a forest,
Inside a bone is a skeleton,
Inside is clock is the past and the future.
Inside a heart is a super hero,
Waiting to rescue.
Inside the world is the universe,
waiting to be discovered.

Inside, By 4P

Inside a hug there is a warm sun,
Inside 4P there is kindness to be spoken;
Inside a ball there is football match finishing,
Inside the disco ball there is a whole sea of diamonds.
Inside a book there is a whole future,
Waiting for time;
Inside a balloon is a tornado,
Tearing things apart.

SECONDARY UPDATE

BY CHRIS SHARE, HEAD OF SECONDARY

We have made it through to the end of the first half term and a lot has already been achieved to start the year of in a successful fashion.

Today each parent will receive their first tracker home. This is a chance to review with your child the beginning of the school year. Trackers are an important tool for helping the school diagnose whether students are working hard enough

COMING SOON

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Tracker 1 sent home:Secondary
8:40-15:30Seaside Day:Y2
8:45-9:30Meeting for Parents of
German Speaking Students
9:45-12:50Football Fun Day:Y5
13:00-13:40Poetry Event:Y7-13
17:00-18:00SISAC Rugby:Y10-13

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

School Holiday

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

School Holiday

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER

School Holiday

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER

School Holiday

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER

School Holiday

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER

School Holiday

TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER

16:00-17:00CISSA C1 Boys
Football:Y7-9
16:00-17:00CISSA C2 A Boys
Football:Y7-9
16:00-17:00CISSA C2 B Boys
Football:Y7-9
16:00-17:00CISSA Junior 1 Boys
Football:Y5-6
16:00-17:00CISSA Junior 2 Boys
Football:Y5-6

WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER

Dental Screening
8:40-9:40Parent Information
Session:Literacy Workshop KS1
13:15-13:45Lunchtime Maths Club:Y7-8

*Please check our school website
for the most up to date details of
all our events...*



across all lessons or are having problems in one particular area. These trackers are not just for you information, the data that is produced is acted upon. Students that are seen to be struggling or underachieving will be spoken to by Heads of Department, Year Heads or Heads of Key stages. Where underperformance is diagnosed positive steps will be taken to encourage higher attainment and achievement before the next tracker is issued at the end of term at Christmas. For the highest achievers a Principal's commendation and certificates of endeavour will be issued to recognise outstanding performance. The mix of data, professional knowledge, encouragement and mentoring is an important cycle to promote the high performance of all students.

Outstanding performance is something we strive for in every level of the school and it was a special performance by our swimming team that saw for the first time in seven years, any school in the Shanghai Swim League managing to beat the SAS Puxi and Pudong school teams in the Boys 13-14 200m Freestyle relay so well done to them.

In addition I was very pleased to have such a variety of high quality and varied candidates running for the position of school council Presidents. The role of the school council is vital in promoting democracy, sharing ideas, community and leadership. This week's election showed we have plenty of potential leaders and finding the opportunities for our students to lead and develop leadership skills is a constant challenge. I am excited to see our Presidents and school council representatives take up this challenge to make the school an even better place to study, learn and receive high quality experiences that they will take with them wherever they go in life.

As a final word I would like parents, students and staff to think about what books they would recommend for our students to read. We are about to embark on a major restock of the school Learning Resource Centre. Our librarian is currently compiling a list of books you would expect to see in a modern school library, however we would like to see some suggestions from our community so that we feel we are offering a relevant and interesting mix of books for now and

the future. We will then label successful books as a student, parent or staff recommendation to give greater interest and prompt individuals to explore books more. Suggestion forms will be handed out to all students on the first day of next term so you have the whole of the golden week holidays to discuss your choices.

I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable break and I look forward to seeing parents and students next term.

STUDENT COUNCIL

This week saw the election of our new school council presidents. There were 15 students in the running, and on Monday they each presented their case for why they should be made president in front of the whole of the secondary school. We saw dances, humour and audience participation and then everyone got the chance to mark their ballot sheet and vote.

The students that were voted in as presidents were Meagan Tan from Year 10 and Brendan Loo from Year 13. Congratulations and good luck to them in their role.

From our new student presidents:

"It's a great honour to be given the role of student council president and even greater that we have been elected by our schoolmates, especially since this is our first ever school election. We hope to make big changes to our school environment and be able to say that we listened and gave the students a voice, that we made a change, that in years to come, when we have all moved on, we will be able to look back and think to ourselves: "We were the ones who started the change for the better".



UK JUNIOR MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD UPDATE

MARTIN BROWN, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

Last April saw our Year 7 and 8 mathematicians along with some outstanding Year 5 and 6 students take part in the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge. We reported at the time some excellent results, along with the news that one of our year 7 students (now year 8) had qualified to take part in the Olympiad round for his age group. This is an outstanding achievement for any student and by simply qualifying this puts him in the top 3,000 students worldwide out of about 150,000 entries (their reward being to take a longer extended written challenge!). We are now very proud to announce that Jeong Gyeom Brian Kim not only took part in the contest, but also achieved a Distinction Certificate and Silver Medal, placing him in the top 100 in the world. We would like to extend our congratulations to Brian and wish him and all our students this year even greater success in the 2013-14 UK Mathematical Challenges.

The first challenge this year will be the Senior Challenge for Year 12 and 13 students and takes place on Thursday 7th November.

We will also be taking part in a variety of other international and regional competitions and events this year, including the American Scholastic Mathematics Association contests (Y7-Y13), the American Mathematics Challenge (Y7 - Y11), the Shanghai International Mathletes Competition (Y7-Y11), the Shanghai Maths Team Challenge (Y9 only), and the North East Asia Mathematics Competition (Y7 - Y10). Students have already shown a strong commitment towards these challenges and contests through attending lunchtime clubs, after school ECAs and by learning more about using mathematics in more open ended and challenging ways. Thank you to all the teachers involved in supporting these endeavours. We look forward to a successful year!

MANDARIN TRIP

NATALIE WONG, YEAR 13 IB STUDENT

For students who take Chinese Language and Literature A in the IB diploma course, we have been learning the Literature part of the course for a year. In order to broaden our knowledge, we had a great opportunity to visit the former residences of the two authors we learnt about and one of the major Chinese writers of the 20th century, they are: Bai XianYong, Zhang Ai Ling and Lu Xun. We first visited the former residence of Lu Xun's. The house was kept the way it used to be, because it is part of Chinese cultural heritage, which is now reserved by the government. We had a house



tour and briefly took a sight of his old lifestyle. Then, we went to Bai XianYong's former residence, which is currently a very fancy restaurant, located in downtown Pan Yang Road. After the wonderful lunch we went to Zhang Ai Ling's former residence. It is now a bookstore in ChangDe Road. Other than the fact that it was a very relaxing trip, we also had a great time at grasping the kind of lifestyle those authors had, and how the tiny bits of the aspects of their lives influenced them to produce not only one, but lots of amazing classic literature pieces that are valuable for everyone to read and learn about.

(I)GCSE AND IB DRAMA SHOWCASE

JUSTIN LENDERKING, HEAD OF DRAMA

On Wednesday evening, our (I)GCSE and IB Drama students participated in a showcase performance of their coursework in progress. Although the (I)GCSE and IB differ in their requirements, they all maintain that live performance is a necessary aid to success in the course. With that in mind, our students took a collective deep breath and plunged head first, many of them for the first time, into the spotlight. With a variety of monologues and scenes, classic and modern, a group of parents, teachers and friends were treated to the frustrations of women in 19th century societies, the terrible realisation upon waking up that one has been transformed into a bug and the slow burn of realisation that one's life is nothing more than a prelude to death.

One of the great joys of Drama is that it allows our students to engage with cultural and human experiences through the eyes and words of some of our greatest shapers of language. It was a great experience to watch these students engage with not only the forms of dramatic expression, but also with the significance of the characters and situations they enacted.



PLEASED TO MEET YOU... THE GIVING TREE

LUKE LISTER, HISTORY

How long have you been teaching at BISS Puxi? 5 years

Can you speak Mandarin? I can get by. I wouldn't say I speak it well, but it's definitely much better than basic taxi Chinese!

Favourite place to visit in China? I visited Guilin on a year 7 trip and loved it, although it's hard to beat Xian and Beijing from a historical perspective.

Who's your favourite historical figure? Harriott Tubman - a black female abolitionist in America who, between 1850-80, risked her life providing safe passage for 300 plus slaves from the south to the north via the underground. A truly amazing person, often unknown or underappreciated by many people.

What's your favourite historical fact? In 1961 the US inadvertently dropped two 4 megaton hydrogen bombs over North Carolina. Luckily they didn't go off but it was a very close call, one safety switch prevented them from exploding and causing catastrophic damage, which could have had massive geo-political ramifications.

ALICIA DE BIE, DASOM KIM, JUYEON PARK AND SHARON GEHLES, YEAR 13

Later this term, BISS Puxi will again be involved in the Giving Tree charity project. This will involve the secondary school only this year, and we hope to run this as a student led project. We are hoping to fill 300 bags to be given as gifts to migrant children. The migrant school we are helping is the Fu Hang Middle School. Most of the children live in very poor conditions, often in a single room with no heating, and community showers. To help, all you need to do is to take a Giving Tree bag and fill it with a toy, gloves, hat and scarf set and an educational book. These items should cost you around 100RMB. We will also ask for a donation of 125RMB for each bag, so that we can provide a jacket, a book bag and a stationary kit for each child, at their school's request. This will make a big difference to the children and their education. BISS Puxi students will be able to distribute the bags and meet the children in a ceremony at the migrant school in late November. Further information will be given out after the golden week holiday.

If primary parents would like to be involved there are other centres in Shanghai which support this amazing cause. If you would like more information please contact Ms. Coong l-coong@bisspuxi.com.



SPORTS REPORT

Calling budding football coaches

We have been offered the opportunity to enter students from year 3-6 into a Sunday football league organised by Sport for Life. Unfortunately due to the large number of other sporting commitments in our calendar we cannot staff it. But we can facilitate budding coaches from our community. If any of you would be interested in running a football team of either U8, U9 or U10 then please contact s-thorley@bisspuxi.com so we can discuss it further.

Swimming

The BISS Lions swimming team had their first outing of the 2013/14 season on Saturday at the RSS Shanghai Swim League Time trials. Swimmers in all age groups gave their best efforts to record times which they will aim to beat over the coming competitive season. A particularly impressive performance came from the Boys 13-14 200m Freestyle relay team of Johnny Yeng, Leon Zhang, Jason Chang and Daniel Tafelski. The team finished with the fastest time of the day 1.53.68 ahead of both SAS Pudong and Puxi. We have some exciting times ahead.

U19 Boys Volleyball Match Report

On Saturday both D1 and D2 teams travelled to Suzhou to play a strong volleyball school. Our D1 boys played well at times but couldn't make the points when the pressure was on. We did come back to win one set but eventually lost 2-1. The D2 boys played their first game of the season. A very strong performance with some great serving from Lucas Marchiondo and, not to be outdone by his younger brother, Devin Marchiondo stepped up his game with very consistent setting. Rasmus Sckerl as always was a reliable performer offering good passing and making sensible decisions. The final score was BISS Lions 2-1 Suzhou Singapore International School.

On Tuesday BISS Lions hosted Shanghai Singapore International School in a competitive game. Lions started well and took the first set fairly comfortably after a great serving run from Alex Hull. Krzysztof Milaimi dominated at the net as the boys opened up a ten point lead in the second set. Over confidence became a factor and BISS Lions lost the second set 25-21. The third set was very close and could have gone either way. Unfortunately the Lions lost by three points, a valuable learning experience for the first team. Final score: BISS Lions 1-2 SSIS.

U19 Girls Volleyball Match Report

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Last Saturday both BISS Lions D1 & D2 girls played away at SSIS in Suzhou. D2 girls played first and started out with a lot of energy and enthusiasm giving them a small lead in the first set of the game. Suzhou were strong and although the players fought for one another and Hannah Peedle made some great pick-ups, they just didn't do enough to win all the sets. Final score: *BISS Lions 1 – SSIS Suzhou 2*.

The D1 girls continued this momentum. They were well organised on court and their communication was good giving them short bursts of winning points but when Suzhou came up with a more complicated play BISS struggled to keep up this momentum. Luana Eliah did a great job playing in a new position and Nayoung Jin worked hard to get the pass to the setter. Unfortunately this was not enough to beat Suzhou. Final score: BISS Lions 0 – SSIS Suzhou 3.

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

BISS Lions D2 girls played away against SSIS Shanghai. The girls were very quiet in the first set and because of this they were down by a huge gap. Once they started to communicate and organise themselves on court they picked up more points but not enough to catch SSIS. In the second set they went out to win from the start. Saga Szymisdotir served well and Norika Matsumara was attacking the ball and they went on to win the second set. The third set was then the decider and very tense towards the end. BISS held off SSIS until they got to 14-14 but SSIS took the last two points. *Final score BISS LIONS 1 – SSIS 2*

The girls D1 volleyball team played SSIS at home. The girls came out slow to start with SSIS taking a quick lead in the first game, but that lead didn't last long as soon as Madeleine Rice came up to serve for BISS. Her back spin was too much for the SSIS team and she went on a serving streak to take back a comfortable lead. Our setters, Stefanie Anus, Kumi Ho and Barbara Wildmann were hard at work looking to set up a play for our middle and outside hitters. Hannah Remde was one of those hitters and she came out swinging big! The girls pushed on and finished with a 25-15 win in the first game. In the second game BISS took the lead and Luana Ella's amazing net play meant that there were no balls hitting the floor and BISS strengthened their lead, taking the second game 25-10 and winning the match. *Lions 3 – SSIS 0*



IB ACADEMY



Students enjoy campus life on the front lawn of Johns Hopkins University, a world-class university in Baltimore, Maryland, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Higher Education Event: American Universities Visit

16 OCTOBER, 1.15-2PM

1. Johns Hopkins University
2. George Washington University
3. Tulane University
4. University of Rochester
5. Northeastern University
6. Case Western Reserve University

Spotlight on Higher Education applications

Many of our Year 13 students are working hard on their university applications at the moment. The deadline for all applications to Oxford and Cambridge, plus applications for

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science at all UK universities, is 15 October. All students wishing to apply to the UK should be getting started on their applications – acceptance rates for applications made in October are higher than for those made later on. The deadline for US Early Decision is 1 November 2013. There was a workshop for UCAS applicants on Wednesday to help students to get started on their applications. Time spent on this over the holiday week will be time very well spent!

YALE-NUS VISIT

18 OCTOBER 2013

Yale-NUS in Singapore have invited our Year 12 and Year 13 students to visit their university campus for an open day. This has been arranged specially for The British International School Shanghai.

Students are expected to pay for their own airfare and accommodation should they wish to stay in Singapore for an evening. Interested students should contact our school's Higher Education Counsellor, Ms Roohi Iqbal, for further information.

PROPOSED VISIT PROGRAMME

FOR OUR STUDENTS:

TIME	PROGRAMME
10am	Welcome refreshments
10.15am	Introduction to Yale-NUS
11.15am	Students' sharing of experiences in Yale-NUS
11.45am	Campus tour of Yale-NUS
12.30pm	Lunch
2pm	Mock seminar (topic to be discussed and confirmed)
4pm	Teabreak
4.30pm	Student application workshop
5.30pm	End of program

CAMPUS LIFE



AN INVITATION FROM
YALE-NUS

18 OCTOBER 2013

Year 12 & 13 students

are invited to attend an Open Day at Yale-NUS in Singapore. Interested parents & students are asked to contact our Higher Education Counsellor, Ms Roohi Iqbal (r-iqbal@bisspuxi.com) for further information.

Please note that students are expected to pay for the return flight to Singapore.

PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE



Solving the
world's water
problems...

the water challenge

In association with



Imperial College
London

So what's the challenge?

All around the world there are different water problems to be solved. Some countries don't have enough, some too much. Some people don't have clean water.

This is your chance to design a solution. Choose a problem. Investigate. Experiment. Create.

Become scientists and engineers and show us what a difference you can make.

Competition launches October 2013

For more information go to your school moodle and click on the
theglobalclassroom

