

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Helping others to be the best that they can be

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 3

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2013



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT ... *Year 1 primary students prepare work to display on the corridor noticeboards as part of their 'Famous Landmarks' project.*

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ...

OUR PRINCIPAL WRITES

Our Principal, Kevin Foyle, writes about our membership of Nord Anglia Education, and the benefits it affords both our students and staff to be part of this global family of schools.

PTA CORNER

The PTA are busy as ever with the Welcome (Back) Party next Friday and their New Parent Outreach and Ambassador programmes. There's lots going on and we'd love you to get involved!

GOLD INTERNATIONAL AWARD ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

Last week 28 intrepid year 13 students embarked on the Gold International Award Adventurous Journey in Guangdong province, on which they undertook a host of challenges and had to fend for themselves.

SPOTLIGHT ON TOP UNIVERSITIES

Looking at the latest university league tables, we're proud to say that many of our students are heading to institutions ranked in the top 20 worldwide, including Oxford, UCL,

Imperial, Edinburgh, LSE and Warwick in the UK; Duke and Notre Dame in the US; HKIST in Hong Kong; EPFL in Switzerland and UBC in Canada.

TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Don't forget that there is no school next Monday 16 September due to a teacher training day where our staff will be learning from Professor Dylan Wiliam, world renowned expert in formative assessment strategies.



Families are a fundamental unit of society as are broader local communities like our school, and the students in our care benefit from the structure, encouragement and assurance that these two invaluable entities provide.

The British International School Shanghai Puxi Campus is also a member of a family, the Nord Anglia Education family of schools, which is the world's leading premium schools organisation. Our organisation now has 27 premium schools all over the world in the USA, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. All of the schools are distinctive, independent and unique, which is perhaps not surprising given the rich variety of locations they operate in. However the schools have the shared mission of helping others to thrive and be the best that they can be.

There are great strengths, benefits and opportunities to being part of large, well established and well-funded organisation like Nord Anglia Education.

The NAE Education Department based in Oxford UK and led Professor Deborah Eyre, an expert in the field of education for gifted and talented students, is at the core of our organisation. It provides us with academic guidance, support through quality assurance procedures and high quality professional development for staff through the Nord Anglia University and the online Global Classroom. The department also provides exciting opportunities for our students to broaden and extend their learning through the online Global Classroom, which links all of the 17,000 students in NAE schools around the globe.

We also have the benefit of expert support from our Central Services colleagues in Hong Kong who provide a wealth of experience and expertise in a variety of areas including human resources, ICT, legal and finance. A good example of the work that directly benefits our work in the classroom is the recruitment project, Outstanding Teachers for Outstanding Schools. This project, now in its second review cycle, is focussed on giving Nord Anglia Education schools the strongest recruitment processes possible to ensure we can secure the best staff available. It draws on expertise from across the family of schools.



ODIN

ODIN is the name of our system for sending emails to secondary parents every day. These emails contain a summary of the lessons that each student has been part of, and details of homework each day.

They are a great way for parents to keep in touch with what their children have been doing in school, and we encourage parents to use them as conversation starters. Ask your children about some of their lessons: getting students to talk about what they have done helps them to understand it and remember it better. If you are a secondary parent and you aren't receiving the email every day for each of your children, please get in touch with us and we'll make sure you are added to the list. Contact June Yao at j-yao@bisspuxi.com, or your son or daughter's form tutor.

We have also been very well supported in terms of capital investment which is self-evident in the on-going campus development here at BISS Puxi. The new secondary building was opened just two years ago and most of the primary school has been redeveloped and refurbished in the last two years, a project that will be completed in time for the start of the academic year 2014-15. Less self-evident is the significant on-going investment in things like IT infrastructure both on and offsite and the investment in teaching and learning resources.

Our regular interaction with colleagues from other schools is also invaluable as it allows us to draw on the wealth of knowledge and experience across the family of schools. We meet for training purposes at events such as the annual Asian Regional Conference in November. This year we are also sharing a special training opportunity with colleagues from BISS Pudong and other schools in the region when we host Professor Dylan Wiliam next week. Professor Wiliam is a world renowned expert in formative assessment strategies who we know will have a significant impact on the further development of the teaching and learning at our school.

It is a source of great strength that we are members of this premium and contemporary family of schools.

PTA CORNER

WELCOME (BACK) PARTY – In just one week, we'll be rocking out with Studio 188 in the Primary playground, come rain or shine! It's not too late to get your ticket. Send your order to school on Tuesday to receive them in time for Friday, or you can pay at the gate. Peace One Day is being celebrated in school during the day, and we invite everyone to continue the vibe at the party: show off your flower power, tie-dye, and beads. New parents will enjoy a special area to connect with each other and with the Parent Ambassadors. Snack food and beverages will be available for cash purchase, but seating is limited so bring lawn chairs or a

blanket. If you indicated that you would collect your tickets, they are waiting at primary or secondary reception. Contact PTA@bisspuxi.com if you can help tidy up at the end of the party, or if you have any questions.

NEW PARENT OUTREACH – The first monthly tea for all new BISS parents is on Monday 23 September from 8:30-10:30am in the Secondary Dining Hall. At 9:00am, Tonya Blanchford, New Parent Coordinator, will be giving lots of useful information about dentists, air purifiers, special foods, household items, etc. You'll also be able to find details and sign-up for the New Parent Tours - you don't want to miss it! Please RSVP to tblanchford@gmail.com.

THE PARENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – Our programme matches new families with a Parent Ambassador either from their country or who speaks the same language. If you have not heard from your Parent Ambassador yet, please contact Melinda Smith, Parent Ambassador Team Leader, at melindasmith30@hotmail.com. We'd like to connect all new families to our "seasoned" parents, to provide a local contact.

PRIMARY ROOM PARENT NETWORK – Most of the classes in primary now have Room Parents signed up. All parents of primary students will soon receive an email from their Room Parent, asking for confirmation of contact details. Please lend your support by responding promptly, to get the network up and running. Contact PTA@bisspuxi.com with any questions.

PRIMARY UPDATE

It has been another busy week in Primary and a delight to walk around the school and see the children so actively engaged in their learning. Teachers have been getting to



know the children in their classes and so are now able to tailor their teaching and the learning tasks to the needs of each child. Our goal is to challenge ALL children to achieve their best and so teachers are working closely with each child so they understand what their next steps in learning are and to help motivate them to engage and work hard. Parents will be issued with a “settling in report” next Friday giving an update on how your child has settled into the new school year.

We have also been focusing assembly and classroom time in helping children to understand and develop the “Behaviour and Social Graces” (BSG) we expect at BISS Puxi. We want to create an environment where all the children feel happy and safe, and to develop the social behaviours appropriate to a courteous and caring society. These behaviours do not always come naturally to young children and minor conflicts are an intrinsic part of childhood. However, teachers and LAs are always attentive to behaviour and swift to respond to situations that arise. We will work with parents where we feel there are persistent problems but do hope you can trust us to deal with the minor and everyday incidents that occur in all schools. Please do speak with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns about behaviour.

We are keen to work in partnership with parents and so will continue to run parent workshops throughout the year, helping you to get a better understanding of what we are doing in school and the teaching methods we use. Over the coming weeks we have a number of these workshops running, targeting different phases of the school and different curriculum areas. We hope to see many of you at these. Please also let us know if there is a specific workshop focus that you would like us to add to this programme.

SECONDARY UPDATE

We had our first Student-Parent-Teacher Conference of the year on Wednesday for year 11s. Some parents are surprised that we hold conferences within the first month of school being back underway but we waste no time talking to parents of year 11s and year 13s, who have a conference next Tuesday, about the importance of starting this exam year well. The conferences help lay out expectations, diagnose weaknesses where we have spotted them and encouraging organisation and dedication.

We are constantly trying to fine tune our advice to our students in all year groups and this weekend we will ask our university bound IB students to complete a short survey outlining which courses and which universities they are interested in applying to.

From year 7 through to year 13, tutor groups have continued to elect from representatives for the school council this week. A list of energetic candidates who are going to run to be school council President is also forming and the electioneering will start next week.

We encourage all students to be involved in school life. Whether you’re a year 7 enjoying our ECAs, a year 9 making a difference in the school council or a year 13 in an academic progress meeting, all these events help individuals start the year enjoying coming to school and feeling focused, supported and ready to achieve. Have a great weekend.

COMING SOON

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
Raising Awareness of Giving (RAG)
Week ends; CAS Project
9:15-15:35 IB Chinese A Trip: Y13
16:15-17:30 SISAC D1 Boys
Volleyball: Y10-13
16:15-17:30 SISAC D1 Girls
Volleyball: Y10-13

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
8:30-14:00 SISAC Rugby: Y10-13

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER
Staff Training Day

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
8:40-9:45 Parent Information
Session: Numeracy Workshop KS2
8:40-15:30 Sun Awareness Day: Y2
8:45-10:00 Primary Parent
Representative Meeting
10:30-12:00 Visit to Cafe du Village: R
Bears
13:30-15:00 Visit to Cafe du Village: R
Pandas
16:00-19:00 Student Parent Teacher
Conference: Y13
16:30-17:30 SISAC D2 Boys
Volleyball: Y10-13
16:30-17:30 SISAC D2 Girls
Volleyball: Y10-13
16:45-17:45 SISAC D1 Boys
Volleyball: Y10-13
16:45-17:45 SISAC D1 Girls
Volleyball: Y10-13

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
8:20-8:50 English Breakfast Tea Club
8:40-9:40 Parent Information
Session: Literacy Workshop KS1
8:40-15:30 Sheshan Sculpture Park and
Beach Trip: Y2
10:30-12:00 Visit to Cafe du Village: R
Leopards
13:15-13:45 Lunchtime Maths Club: Y7-8
13:30-15:00 Visit to Cafe du Village: R
Raccoons
16:30-17:30 SISAC Rugby: Y10-13

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
School Holiday



PLEASED TO MEET YOU...

Sarah Marnat Olivera

SECONDARY LIBRARIAN

- *How long have you been at BISS Puxi?* One year (two and a half living in Shanghai)

- *What do you love about being a librarian?* I love books, sharing books, and overhearing the students' comments about their reading

- *Who's your favourite author?* It changes every day! The first that comes to my mind now is Francis Scott Fitzgerald; I'm reading *The Great Gatsby* at the moment and truly enjoying it!

- *What's your favourite book?* Today, it's *The Great Gatsby*... I'm sorry I definitely can't choose only one!

- *Why do you love Shanghai?* Because it's so alive and intense and there's contrast everywhere!

GLOBAL CLASSROOM

In February 2014 there is the chance for five students from BISS Puxi to join a group from 11 other Nord Anglia Education schools around the globe in a trip to Arusha in Tanzania as part of our Global Classroom initiative.

These five students will be living, working and learning in the local community, discovering the difficulties facing the population in Tanzania and practical solutions to these challenges.

This trip is open to years 9, 10 and 12 and the closing date for applications is Friday 20 September. There will be interviews, and the five students will be selected by October 8.

Before leaving on the trip, students will be taking part in fund raising activities and preparing in school and online through the global classroom. This is a brilliant opportunity to connect with other people from around the globe and make a real difference. If you're interested please let your form tutor know.

RAG WEEK

DANIEL SHREWSBURY AND LING COONG

We had a great start to the year in terms of our charity and community events with RAG Week and our clothes donation.

All year groups (both in primary and secondary) did their part by raising awareness and donating masses of clothes for distribution by Shanghai Community Centre run organisation River of Hearts, to areas of China that have been affected by natural disasters.

The experience for all those involved has been heart-warming and knowing that we have made a difference to people who may have lost more than we can imagine has had a

We are ALWAYS KEEN to hear from QUALIFIED TEACHERS, teaching assistants and nurses who may wish to do supply work on indeed in the future more permanent

work. We are also keen to hear from parents who would be happy to help with reading and other voluntary support work.

... please write to the school s-kelly@bisspuxi.com or the PTA if you wish to get involved.



profound effect on the children. The year 6 group worked extremely hard all week at lunchtimes and break times to sort the clothes, along with the year 12 CAS students who did a fantastic job both sorting and raising awareness of their chosen charities around both campuses.

A huge thank you to all those who donated: students, parents and staff. This has been a really positive experience for us all. We hope to hold another RAG Week later in the year.

Are you a Brit Abroad?

To mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, Brits Abroad are organising a charity lunch in aid of the Breast Cancer Unit at Fudan University Hospital. The event is on Thursday 24 October at the JW Marriott, People's Square. Find out more details and sign up on their website: www.britsabroadshanghai.com

Teacher training day

Don't forget that there is no school next Monday 16 September due to a teacher training day where our staff will be learning from Professor Dylan Wiliam, world renowned expert in formative assessment strategies.

Our guidelines on publishing photos and videos of students

We publish photographs and videos of students on our website, on other parts of the internet, and in our own printed material and other promotional avenues deemed appropriate by the marketing department. The nature of the internet now is such that photos and videos are routinely shared via public sites. Students take many photos and videos themselves of each other and share these privately, semi-publically and publically. We may also publish student photos and videos for a range of educational and other purposes compatible with the school's mission. Parents/guardians who wish to know more about our policy should contact the Head of Primary or Head of Secondary.

Peace One Day

MARY FRANCIS, HEAD OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL)

Next Friday 20 September BISS Puxi will be celebrating Peace One Day (POD). Since its inception POD has gone from strength to strength and is now endorsed by the United Nations and celebrated throughout the world. The aim is to spread the word that peace can be promoted in so many different ways – through effective communication, sport, dance, music, raised awareness.

Next week, in primary and secondary, there will be a series of lessons, MFL assemblies and competitions designed to promote this message.

As we would like our efforts to have a tangible result, we also plan to raise money for Save The Children. Students and teachers are invited to release their inner peace child and dress according to the theme of "Peace 'n Love". We are asking for a voluntary contribution of RMB 10. In addition, IB students will be selling Peace wristbands, grow pots and cupcakes for charity.

As a leading international school, with representatives from over 50 different countries, what better theme to unite us all?

English Breakfast Tea Club

Chat, talk, shoot the breeze, yak, gossip, gibber, gush, prattle, mutter, tattle, chew the fat. The English Breakfast Tea Club [EBTC] is back and will start again at 8:20am on Wednesdays in room 357 for students in years 7, 8 and 9.



This is a chance for some EAL students to practise their speaking skills with other students who have already mastered this skill. So if you like chatting and munching biscuits and want to improve your speaking or help others improve, you will all be welcome.



ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

The trip started with an early morning flight to Southern China, to the city of Zhuhai, Guangdong province. Over the five day trip students were fully self-sufficient and cooked all their meals within their journey groups. They were also responsible for planning and carrying out all the navigation and route planning that was an essential part of the sea kayaking, biking and hiking they did around the island of Qiao. This year we also added another element to the journey which involved the students studying the human impact on the island. Due to bad weather at the start of the journey camping was not possible, but the students were excited to camp and enjoy the outdoors towards the latter half of the trip, with many choosing to sleep under the stars without their tents

It was a very rigorous, challenging trip, but brought us all together as a group & showed us a different way of living.

– Barbara Wildmann, Year 13 student

It was a great experience for all and you can read more about it on our website.

SPORTS REPORT

SAMUEL THORLEY, HEAD OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT.

U19 Girls' Volleyball

BISS Lions Division 1 hosted Lycée Français de Shanghai (LFS) for their third game of the season. It was a much improved performance this week, with Ayaka Izumi and Alessia Lucifora providing a strong base with excellent passing, and Maddie Rice's serves were un-returnable.

The final score BISS LIONS 3 – LFS 0

U19 Boys' Volleyball

The boys also played host to LFS and put on an impressive display of volleyball. Each player had an impact on the court with the starting 6 making few errors.

The final score BISS LIONS 3 – LFS 0

U19 Boys' Rugby

Both the Division 1 and Division 2 teams took to the field on Saturday to play two games each. Despite missing some key players, both teams put on dominant displays. The coaches have been encouraging a more intelligent style of rugby, where the aim is to dominate territory and up the intensity inside both the 22s. Both teams are taking to the new style well, earning two victories apiece and only conceding one try between them. Ryan Grant was a tackling machine and Alex Hull was very creative with the boot.

We are looking forward to the games at SAS Pudong this Saturday, I hope to see you there.



OUR IB ACADEMY



NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,
PROFESSOR DEBORAH EYRE,
OFFERS ADVICE TO OUR IB
ACADEMY STUDENTS

Professor Deborah Eyre is currently attached to St Hugh's College, Oxford University as a visiting academic, is an Honorary Professor at the University of Warwick and has a lifetime professorship from Oxford Brookes university.

When universities are looking to recruit students they have a great many candidates to choose from and all of those candidates have the requisite academic grades. So a university takes grades for granted and merely confirms them before moving on to select. What they are looking for is something more.

What they want is to see evidence of intellectual ability and confidence, with enthusiasm for the subject to be studied and that does not mean just 'enthusiastic now' but rather 'I have demonstrated that over time' by engagement in relevant activity above and beyond school lessons. Our High Performance Learning programme is systematically designed to build in students the intellectual and social behaviours that universities value and that also serve the student well in later life. This is common across all leading universities.

Succeeding at IB - An information evening for parents of Year 12 and 13 students

On Monday evening, year 12 and 13 parents met to hear a presentation about The IB programme, its structure and complexities, the opportunities it provides and how parents and the school can support students to make sure that they achieve all that they can from the programme. Our top 10 tips for anyone doing the IB are outlined below.

Ten top tips for succeeding at IB

- Students need to drive the process themselves – there is lots of support available but independent study skills and the ability to manage time and make decisions are important
- Choose the right subjects – think of your overall programme and where it will lead you – check university requirements
- Keep to deadlines – there are lots of them at IB! Stay in control of your Internal Assessments, extended essay, Theory of Knowledge presentation and the rest.
- Make good use of the opportunities to practise for your final exams – prepare carefully for end of unit tests, end of year 12 exams and mock exams in year 13.
- Use the summer holiday between year 12 and year 13 to get ahead – get your extended essay research done and visit some universities.
- Get your university applications right – take time and trouble over them but get them in as early as you can in year 13, it does make a difference. Acceptance rates for early applications are higher.
- Manage your lifestyle effectively – if you are tired at school, you need to change something!
- Keep your social life in perspective - parental help in managing this is really important.
- Come to Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences – there is one next Tuesday for year 13. Direct, open, three-way communication between student, parents and teacher is really valuable and develops a clear understanding for all of what needs to be done.
- Keep communicating – raise concerns and questions as soon as they arise.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY VISIT . Representatives from Bard College, Bard College at Simon's Rock, Rhodes College, Reed College, Washington & Jefferson College, Whitman College, University of the Puget Sound, St. Olaf College, Furman University, Pitzer College and Colorado College talk to our IB students during a visit.

SPOTLIGHT ON TOP UNIVERSITIES

Our year 13 students are working hard on their university applications. There has been a good deal in the press this week about the publication of various 'league tables' of universities, and it is good to see that our graduates from last year are heading to some of the best universities in the world. Looking at the QS and Guardian rankings, many are heading to institutions ranked in the top 20 worldwide, including Oxford, UCL, Imperial, Edinburgh, LSE and Warwick in the UK; Duke and Notre Dame in the US; HKIST in Hong Kong; EFPL in Switzerland and UBC in Canada.

Helped by the advice and support of a staff team who themselves are graduates of Cornell, Columbia and Cambridge, these are excellent achievements for our highly achieving graduates. However, our priority remains to enable every individual student to find the right university place, wherever in the world that may be.

It's also important to note that it's more than just grades that universities are looking for. Professor Deborah Eyre, Education Director at Nord Anglia Education, writes:

“What they are looking for is something more. What they want is to see evidence of intellectual ability and confidence, with enthusiasm for the subject to be studied and that does not mean just ‘enthusiastic now’ but rather ‘I have demonstrated that over time’ by engagement in relevant activity above and beyond school lessons.”

DEADLINES

YEAR 13 - 7 OCTOBER

First draft of extended essay to be completed and handed in.

★ THE ★ GLOBAL CLASSROOM EXPEDITION

Tanzania 1-9 February 2014

★ Supported by
NORDSTAR

Interested in helping others? Keen to experience different cultures? **Then be an ambassador for your school on the Global Classroom Expedition to Tanzania!**

This is your chance to explore global issues and help make a difference with students from around the world. Students who are in years 9, 10 and 12 from September 2013 can apply to take part in this expedition.



For more information about this exciting opportunity, go to your school moodle and click on

the**g**lobalclassroom 

