

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Helping others to be the best that they can be

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 7

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2013



On Friday 18 October, the Year 2 children at our school were very excited to take part in the first fund-raising event of this term for their Rainforest project - 'The Rainforest Fun Run.'

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ...

OUR PRINCIPAL WRITES

Our Principal Kevin Foyle and Vice-Principal Stuart White, were in Switzerland last week attending the Nord Anglia Education Senior Leadership Team Meeting and Principals' Day. Mr Foyle tells us what was discussed and shared, as well as more about the benefits of being part of the Nord Anglia Education family of schools.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY UPDATES

Our Heads of Primary and Secondary update us on what has happened in

school this week. Niki Meehan, Head of Primary, specifically reminds parents that now the weather is becoming cooler, children need to come to school with appropriate school clothing and footwear for outdoor play.

PTA CORNER

The PTA has some extra seats for next Tuesday's market tour, there is another New Parent Tea Time next Friday morning, they are looking for volunteers to help support the CAS students' Giving Tree project.

PASTRIES FOR WORKING PARENTS

It's time for another Pastries for Working Parents. Come and join us on Friday 1 November to have breakfast with your child before the working day.

SPORTS REPORT

The BISS Lions have had another very busy week with some great results. Read our newsletter for an overview of all the games played.



OUR PRINCIPAL WRITES BY KEVIN FOYLE

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about the benefits of being part of the Nord Anglia Education (NAE) family of schools. Another of the great benefits is the opportunity it affords our team to meet with colleagues from our schools around the world on a regular basis to share good practice and discuss and develop the work that we do.

Last week Mr White and I attended the Nord Anglia Education Senior Leadership Team Meeting and Principals' Day in Switzerland. This year, as a result of the growth of our organisation, we welcomed a variety of newcomers including a number of very experienced and successful principals who have joined our team from other high quality international

schools like The British School of Paris, Harrow School Beijing and one of the UK's leading independent girls' schools Roedean. As ever the meeting was impactful and uplifting. We looked at a broad range of topics including the use of technology in our schools, the development of student voice and student leadership, how our schools are achieving success in helping others to thrive and further conversations about the development of High Performance Learning (HPL) in our schools.

As is so often the case a great deal was learned from the informal and semi-formal conversations that took place over the course of the four days we spent together as well as all that we picked up from the formal sessions.

Another benefit of our membership of the NAE family of schools is our students' participation in the Global Classroom (GC) which is the online learning community available to all of our student that links them formally and informally with all of the 15,000+ students in NAE schools around the world.



Through this medium students can study together, chat and discuss important international and domestic issues and it also provides competition; last year we entered and won the GC Dance Unites Competition supported by the famous Pineapple Dance Studio in London. This year our students will be competing in a science competition “The Water Challenge” which is supported by the staff and researchers at one of the world’s leading universities Imperial College London. (You can see more details on the GC website which you can access via the BISS Puxi Moodle). I am also delighted to announce that seven of our students have been selected to take part in the Global Classroom Tanzania Experience which is a trip to Tanzania and Zanzibar in February next year. This expedition is an adventurous journey that will provide a wonderful educational experience including a safari, trekking and some cultural elements that will give our students a unique insight into East African life in the company of students from NAE schools from all over the globe. The bush camp facilities in Tanzania and an outdoor education centre “Les Martinets” in the Swiss Alps which belong to another of our family of schools College Alpin Beau Soleil will also be available for us to use for trips for the foreseeable future.

It is good to be back in school and it was great to be able to go online and read about all of the interesting things that have been taking place in our absence. The extraordinarily adverse weather conditions at the beginning of last week were very testing and I would like to thank the staff for the way in which they responded, as we did our best to continue to operate as fully as possible and to thank those of you who took the time to feedback to us, most very positively, about the way we responded and communicated as the challenge unfolded.

On a different note, this week we are looking for help from parents with some training for our security guards. We will be sharpening up our security procedures over the course of this term and part of this process requires that we build up the English language skills of our team of security guards. Therefore if you have time and a good level of spoken English and it certainly does not need to be native level English, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Finally, I was very pleased to present the first Principals’ Commendations of the year this week. These are awarded to students who have stood out and achieved something outstanding. Congratulations go to Jimin Joon 13S, Ella Baker, Abigail Banks-Hekenberger, Maja Fleck-Baustain, Arabella McCausland, Ezgi Turkman all from 8B.

PRIMARY UPDATE

NIKI MEEHAN, HEAD OF PRIMARY

A week in a young child’s life can feel like a long time and so our goal is to ensure that we are stimulating and motivating children to be active and engaged learners, every day and every week. One way that we are doing this is through our “Themed Learning” approach where we help children to find and exploit links across the different areas of their learning, in and out of school. This week we have had Year 1 visit the Zoo where they had a great time learning and talking all about the animals. Now this visit will be linked to their Literacy lessons where they will be supported to write a recount from an exciting visit to the Zoo. Year 4 were able to further develop their learning around the theme of “Habitats” with a fun and interesting visit to the Aquarium. Meanwhile, Year 6 were problem solving and bringing to life their “World War 2” Themed Learning by building air-raid shelters in the playground and testing how safe they were by having their teachers bomb them from the roof!

We have also had lots of positive parent-school contact this week via the Parent-Teacher Conferences and the Reception Phonics Showcase. Thanks for such a strong parent turnout to these sessions and we do hope they have been useful in helping you to better understand your child’s learning progress at school.

Just a reminder that now the weather is becoming cooler, all children need to come with appropriate school clothing and footwear for outdoor play and sports. Can I please also ask that you are following the uniform code! Thanks your continued support and engagement.

SECONDARY UPDATE

CHRIS SHARE, HEAD OF SECONDARY

At BISS Puxi we have a range of opportunities for parents to get involved in school life, and we are looking to add to that by introducing secondary room parents. In the coming weeks we will ask parents who are interested, to volunteer to become secondary room parents. This is a similar role to room parents in the primary school. The role of room parents will be to help distribute information to other parents specifically related to a form or year group. Room Parents will be a point of contact to answer simple questions



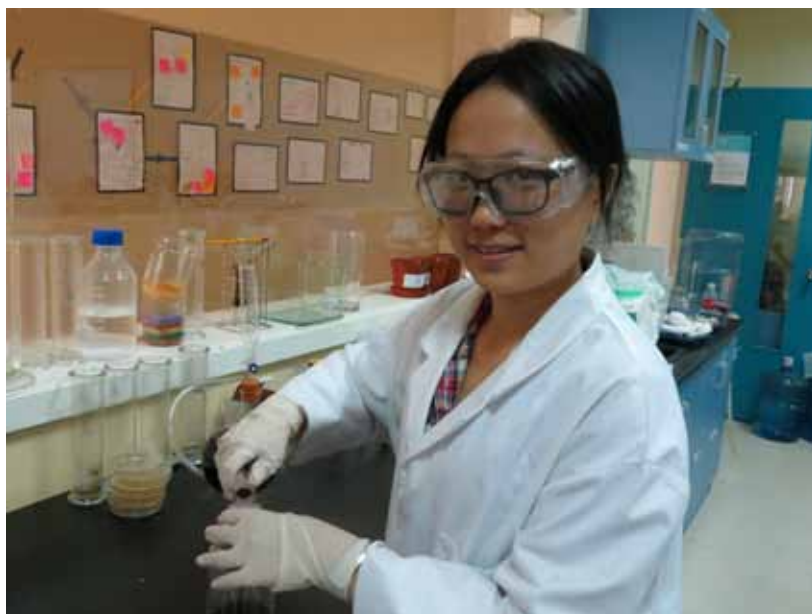
or, if need be, refer those questions to the room parent co-ordinator. The Room Parent network will also act as a social opportunity for parents to have contact with other parents of children of the same age. For now I would just like you to think about if you would be interested in being a room parent and an email/letter will be sent next week explaining more and asking people to officially volunteer.

We have already had many suggestions come in from students, parents and staff for more new books for the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). We are placing a new order this term and are looking for recommendations from the BISS Puxi community to include. These can be English language or foreign language, fiction or non-fiction. If you have not yet submitted your recommendations, please email them through to LRCrecommendations@bisspuxi.com with a brief explanation of why you recommend it. If the book is chosen by our librarian we may use the recommendation on the outside of the book when it is placed in the LRC.

Having a well-stocked LRC that engages students is vital in developing literacy, creativity, research skills and interest in the world past and present. I look forward to seeing more of your suggestions.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU...

KELLY ZHANG, SCIENCE TECHNICIAN



How long have you been at BISS Puxi? **Two years.**

What is your favourite science experiment? **Elephant toothpaste, which reacts very fast (Google it!)**

What do you enjoy most about your job? **Every day's work is different; there are always a lot of interesting practicals.**

Who is your favourite scientific figure? **Leonardo Da Vinci, as he was actually a very talented biologist.**

What is your favourite place in Shanghai? **Shanghai Wild Life Park**

COMING SOON

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

ACAMIS Volleyball continues:Y10-13

8:40-15:30 Habitats Trip:Y4

9:00-13:00 Save The Rainforest Run:Y2

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

ACAMIS Volleyball continues:Y10-13

9:00-14:00 SISAC Rugby:Y10-13

9:00-15:00 SISAC D1 Boys Tennis:Y10-13

13:00-16:00 ABRSM Theory Exam

SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

ACAMIS Volleyball returns:Y10-13

10:00-13:30 Soloists Recital

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

16:00-17:00 CISSA C1 Boys

Football:Y7-9

16:00-17:00 CISSA C2 A Boys

Football:Y7-9

16:00-17:00 CISSA C2 B Boys

Football:Y7-9

16:00-17:00 CISSA Junior 1 Boys

Football:Y5-6

16:00-17:00 CISSA Junior 2 Boys

Football:Y5-6

WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER

8:30-10:00 PTA News and Views

13:15-13:45 Lunchtime Maths Club:Y7-8

THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER

13:00-14:00 Visit from the University

of British Columbia:Y12-13

14:30-15:30 Visit from Imperial

University:Y12-13

16:00-17:00 CISSA C1 Girls

Football:Y7-9

16:00-17:00 CISSA C2 A Girls

Football:Y7-9

16:00-17:00 CISSA C2 B Girls

Football:Y7-9

16:00-17:00 CISSA Junior Girls

Football:Y5-6

16:00-19:00 Student Parent Teacher

Conference:Y10

FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER

8:45-10:30 PTA New Parent Tea Time*

10:30-11:00 Visit from Ecole Hotelier

Lausanne:Y12-13



STUDENT VOICE

THE GIVING TREE

Thank you for all who have sponsored a Giving Tree bag so far. There are still bags available! Remember 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. If you would like to donate money towards a bag instead, then please enclose 250RMB in a sealed envelope, clearly labelled "Giving Tree Bags", your child/daughters name, tutor group and return it to secondary reception. Many thanks for all your support for this wonderful cause.



SCIENCE WEEK LECTURE

TOBIAS BATE, HEAD OF SCIENCE

BISS Puxi Biology and Environmental Systems and Society (ESS) year 12 students were in the unique position of being able to take part in a 24 hour lecture delivered by Professor Adam Hart, a lecturer from the University of Gloucester and a member of the Society of Biology. This was an initiative set up by the Society of Biology to promote world-wide Biology learning. The Professor lectured for one hour to our students out of his continuous 24 hour lecture and was able to impart his extensive knowledge on social insects, specifically ants, bees and termites. He explained how important they are for our food production, engineering theories and even some of the ideas behind the internet. It was a wonderful experience for our students to receive a University level lecture from an outstanding researcher in the field of Biology without even having to leave the school auditorium.

WORLD WAR II

DAN SHREWSBURY, YEAR 6 TEACHER

On Thursday afternoon, the Year 6 cohort experienced a little of what it was like to be on the Home Front during World War II. First, they were asked to become Bletchley Park code breakers and crack a rather difficult code in order to gain access to some important materials. The materials would allow them to construct a model Anderson shelter. The catch...an air raid would be imminent so the children were under pressure to construct shelters that would withstand impact from highly explosive tennis balls. Alongside this, there would only be a minimal amount of glue for the entire year group to use so they needed to work together in order to ensure the whole 'Home Front Community' were able to construct their shelters.

The children had a fantastic time discussing the best ways to approach this challenge and were extremely successful when operating as a WWII-esque community. Well done everyone.



YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

BRENT JONES, HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

On Friday 60 intrepid Geography students and 8 brave members of staff set off on their residential fieldtrip providing a very valuable opportunity to learn field skills and techniques and reinforce work done on rivers in the class.

This year we headed to Mount Tianmushan, a popular and picturesque location in rural Zhejiang province. Our timing was perfect this year. Having narrowly missed typhoon Fitow the weekend before, we were treated to beautiful warm and sunny weather which makes getting in cold rivers a lot easier! The students spent the first two and a half days carrying out a river study in small groups measuring various aspects such as width, depth and velocity. Then we travelled to the water town of Wuzhen for a tourism study involving questionnaires, pedestrian counts, traffic counts and environmental quality surveys.

This was further complemented by follow up work completed each evening. Overall the students worked very hard all weekend and co-operated well in their groups making the trip a very successful one and certainly benefitting them greatly in terms of improving their Geographical knowledge.

“ It was a great experience, it was educational and prepared me for paper

4. - Ethan Tien

I did things I have never done before. Now the things I've learnt in books make more sense. It was a unique experience. - Jason





SILVER INTERNATIONAL AWARD TRAINING

JOB MAGER, INTERNATIONAL AWARD SILVER MEDAL CO-ORDINATOR

During the night of Friday 11 October, our secondary quad was turned into a campsite. On what was going to be one of the last warm summer nights, our International Award silver medal candidates had training for their adventurous journey, which will take place the first weekend of November. In order to make it a successful journey, students must have training in technical skills and the broader aims of this activity.

We set up different training areas that were similar to the ones covered in the bronze award, but this time we tested the students more profoundly. We made them aware of their skills and how to use these independently and as a group in an unfamiliar environment. There were three areas the students visited: a navigation session led by Ms. Makin, erecting tents and thinking about clothing according to different weather conditions with Ms. Smith and teambuilding and planning food options with Mr. Mager. All participants showed great enthusiasm and effort to ensure they qualified and had a lot of fun at the same time. Who wouldn't have, camping and cooking outside their own school. We're all looking forward to a fantastic three days of hiking, navigating and camping in the mountains around Ninghai, Zhejiang province.



YEAR 1 TAKE A TRIP TO THE ZOO

THE YEAR 1 TEAM

On Wednesday, Year 1 enjoyed a fun filled day at Hongqiao Zoo. The weather was excellent so we grabbed our lunches and made our way onto the buses. We wanted to see lots of different animals so that we could write a recount about our special day. First we saw the baboons and the huge gorillas. We were very lucky to see the baby gorilla too! We got so close to the zebras and giraffes that we could nearly touch them. We stopped for lunch in one of the parks; it was great to eat lunch outside! Then we set off again to see the fierce lions and tigers and ended our tour with the gigantic hippopotamus. We had lots of fun and are looking forward to writing our recounts in class next week! The children were extremely well behaved and were a credit to the school.

“FUN RUN” FUN

EMMA WAKELIN, YEAR 2 LEADER

Year 2 will be learning all about the rainforest in our last term at school. We will look at what happens to the plants, people





and animals when the trees are chopped down. So, to do our part and to help save some trees, Year 2 decided to carry out fund raising activities to raise some money. Our first event was a one mile sponsored fun run, to get ourselves motivated and fighting fit! So on Friday, Year 2 children at BISS were very excited because it was finally time for the much anticipated Fun Run!

After a fabulous and very energetic dancing warm up to Eye of the Tiger, led by Mr Ian Broadbent, the children got ready at the start line and waited patiently for the whistle. Some of the children raced around with speed with the more sporty Year 2 teachers, while other children walked briskly round the laps of the field and playground.

Every single child in Year 2 completed the five laps around the school playground and were very proud that they had managed to run a whole mile to help save the rainforest.

The Fun Run ended with a much needed rest, lots of drinks of water and a whole year group photograph to help us to remember our fabulous achievement.

We will add this money to the other money that we hope to raise throughout the year as Year 2 continue their work to SAVE THE RAINFOREST!

PASTRIES FOR WORKING PARENTS

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER, SECONDARY DINING HALL, 7:30 UNTIL 8:30AM

We would like to invite our working parents to join their children for breakfast at school on Friday 1 November from 7:30am until 8:30am in the secondary dining hall. This is an opportunity for parents who cannot usually come to school, to be part of their children's morning routine and meet informally with other working parents, Mr Foyle and other senior staff as well as members of the PTA. The breakfast menu will include assorted pastries, bacon butties, bacon-and-egg or egg muffins, coffee, tea, and juice. For catering purpose, could you please RSVP to m-chapman@bisspuxi.com with your preferred choice of muffin.



PTA CORNER

NEW PARENT PROGRAM – EXTRA SEATS ADDED for Tuesday’s market tour, all BISS Puxi parents are invited. Registration closes on Monday 21 October. All forms and fees must be received by 8:30am at the reception desks. Contact Sabrina Galasso at galasso.sabrina68@gmail.com to get a registration form or for more information.

The next NEW PARENT TEA is on Friday, 25 October at 8:45am in the Secondary Dining Hall. The Community Center Shanghai has great information to help you and your family transition more smoothly into Chinese culture. Reserve your seat today, email Tonya Blanchford, tblanchford@gmail.com.

GIVING TREE CAS STUDENT PROJECT – Giving Tree bags are available for purchase now. No time to shop? Make a cash donation and let the CAS students fill the bag. Your contribution makes a meaningful difference to a Chinese child in need. Contact Sandra Khoo, sandrakhoo@gmail.com, if you can lend an hour or more to support the project.

CAS-PTA JOINT CHRISTMAS EVENT – SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, 7-December-13. This year, the PTA and a group of IB students are working together on the BISS annual holiday celebration. Expect to find Christmas tastes, sounds, crafts, games, and fun! All proceeds will be donated to the CAS charities and to Mifan Mama. If you or your business is interested in sponsoring the event, please send an e-mail to PTA@bisspuxi.com. Keep your eye on the backpacks; invitations with full details will be sent home in early

IB HALLOWEEN SCREENING

RUS EKKELE, IB FILM TEACHER

Staff, parents and students from Year 10 upwards are invited to IB Film’s Halloween film screening ‘13 Tales of Terror’! Each Year 13 IB Film student has made their own horror-themed short film, which we will present as an anthology on 31 October in our Secondary Auditorium. The screening will start at 3:40pm and end at 4:30pm.

The screening is open to students from Year 10 to Year 13 - while our focus is on creating tension and not showing anything too gory, we don’t want our younger students having nightmares!

This is a new event for the school and our Film students are hoping for a big audience to start off Halloween with a bang! Join us if you dare!

SPORTS REPORT

SAMUEL THORLEY, HEAD OF EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORT

The BISS Lions are rounded off another successful week across a range of sports and are looking forward to an extremely busy week ahead.

Last weekend saw the Swimming team, D1 and D2 rugby teams and the U19 Netball team in action, with CISSA football also taking place during the week.

Swimming

On Saturday, sixty five BISS Lions swimmers went to SCIS to compete against the rest of the Shanghai Swim League in their first competitive race of the season. Led by senior captains, Margot Jacobs and Til Hoelzer the secondary team had a busy morning schedule. Many personal best times were laid down by the Lions with heat and event winners coming thick and fast across the day. The swimmers total points tally was four hundred and forty which placed them into a creditable third overall – well done to everyone involved!

Rugby

The rugby teams demonstrated that they are continuing to improve as individuals and as a unit, with both teams running up good score lines against the BISS Tigers from Pudong. The D1 dominated up front and were able to secure a 24-0 victory (despite not displaying the best passing) and will be looking to carry this momentum forward to the upcoming ACAMIS tournament.

Final score: BISS Puxi 24 – 0 BISS Pudong

The D2 team are starting to look like a superb rugby outfit who could compete anywhere. They beat their opposition 79-10, with Sean Hughes, Nils Voegtli and Ryan Grant setting the standard for the others.

Final score: BISS Puxi 79 – 10 BISS Pudong

Football

There has been a lot of CISSA football over the past week with 9 teams taking to the field. Below are reports from three of our teams.

The C2B boys started the season with three wins out of three. They played an SASI team and won narrowly 1-0 thanks to a goal from Remi. The next game was more emphatic with Alard scoring a hat trick before George scored a goal late on. The last game was also close until right at the end when Alex came up with two late goals. Throughout the three games



On Saturday, sixty five BISS Lions swimmers went to SCIS to compete against the rest of the Shanghai Swim League in their first competitive race of the season.

the defence had little to do but they did it well, the midfield attacked at pace and were supported by Nicholas in a holding midfield role. Luis and Guilherme also had a big influence on the games as they provided the fire power for Alex and Alard Schroeder.

The C1 boys endured the long journey to Suzhou to play a very strong SSIS team on a large field in a strong wind. It took the boys a while to get settled and so they quickly found themselves 2-0 down. However, Morten Eh and Max Dyckerhoff were calming influences who allowed the boys to dominate possession and go into the break 3-2 up. The second half was played into the wind, which made it more difficult, but the boys kept trying to work the ball along the ground and thanks to an Edi Bodea goal secured a 4-4 draw.

The girls' Junior Lions football team took on a strong SAS team on Wednesday evening. The girls played some great football with keen performances from Harmony Charles and Leila Mackenzie. Emmie Crawford took on more responsibility as captain, leading the warm-up and directing play during the 20 minute battle. The girls met SAS's strength with equal resilience and didn't let their heads drop after going 2-0 down. Sabrina and Mansi worked a solid counter

attack during the last 2 minutes which allowed Jae Yeon to score a brave consolation goal for the Lions.

In total teams from BISS Puxi achieved 12 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat.

Netball

Our under 19's had a bright start to the first game against BISS Pudong. Our attacking play in particular was fast, strong and effective. The game finished with a win, 14-2. The second game had periods of very positive and energetic play, particularly in the second half. But with too much to do at half time, it was a loss 14-7. The final game was extremely competitive and with only 2 minutes to go, it was tied 11-11. A few lapses in concentration resulted in a well fought loss, 14-11.

This weekend sees the girls D2 volleyballers, the D1 volleyballers and the D2 rugby players compete in end of season tournaments, so it's no rest for the BISS Lions!

EYFC

EARLY YEARS CUBS



PRE-NURSERY · Pre-Nursery have been exploring the story of 'Rainbow Fish' and 'Commotion in the Ocean', which is all about friendships and being kind to each other. They created an underwater scene, they have been learning about sea creatures with real live shrimps and fish in the class, as well as making their own sea creatures.

NURSERY · Nursery have been exploring the story 'Mr Gumpy's Boat', their theme this term is transport and they

have been involved in lots of fun and exciting activities to re-create the story in class. Making their own boat, going on exciting 'journeys' and making all of the animals that sail in his boat.

RECEPTION · Reception have been looking at traditional stories: 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'The Three Little Pigs' They have been making houses, bridges and taking part in re-enacting the stories.



IB ACADEMY

YEAR 12 STUDENT PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE

Year 12 parents came into the school with their sons and daughters on Wednesday evening to meet with teachers and assess progress so far in the early weeks of the IB course. These three-way meetings are immensely valuable as part of developing the supportive triangle of communication between student, home and school.

If any parents were unable to come on Wednesday and would like some more information or to raise any queries or concerns, please contact Jane White, Head of the IB Academy (j-white@bisspuxi.com).

University visits

Representatives from six US universities – George Washington, Tulane, Northeastern, Johns Hopkins, University of Rochester and Case Western Reserve - visited BISS on Wednesday, to tell interested students more about their colleges and the process of applying to them. This is part of an on-going programme to bring top universities into the school to make sure that our students are as well prepared as they can be for their university applications. It's worth noting that they saw the display of our IB results as they came through the door into reception – and were very impressed!

As part of the same programme, we also welcomed the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on Monday, Les Roches and Glion from Switzerland on Thursday, and we are looking forward to a visit from Imperial College London, one of the top UK universities with a particular specialism in science and engineering, at the end of the month.

Personal statement workshop

Year 13 students who are applying to UK universities attended a workshop on writing personal statements on Friday. The personal statement is the hardest part of the UCAS application process. Applicants have 4,000 characters to fill with writing about themselves, their academic experiences

and interests, their chosen course at university and any career aspirations they have. They received advice on structure, content and the right kind of language to use to make a good impression. The workshop was run by Jane White, Head of IB, who has a wealth of experience of helping students in the UK to win places at a wide variety of universities, including the best in the country.

CAS update

Year 12 and 13 CAS students are getting to work on two major projects under the guidance of CAS coordinator Ling Coong. They are organising the annual Giving Tree venture, and requests to sponsor bags are coming in. As the weather turns colder, it's a timely reminder that Christmas is on the way, and CAS students are also taking a bigger role this year in preparations for the Christmas Fayre. Please get in touch if you are interested in further information or would like to sponsor a Giving Tree bag (l-coong@bisspuxi.com).