

DCIS Newsletter



Welcoming All Families to Term 1 at DCIS

Welcome to the 2017-2018 DCIS Academic Year and we are launching the year with many activities including ECA registration, DCA Parent Workshop, Parent Coffee Mornings, Curriculum Evening and sports trials all happening this August and September



*2017-2018
Calendar Events and
Other School Information*

Parent Essentials

Academic Calendar
2017-2018

Extra-Curricular Activities

DCA Parent Association

Lunch Menus (21 Aug - 1 Sept)

Letter from the Principal: Start of Term 1

We welcome back all our students, staff and families for another eventful year at DCIS

Dear DCIS Parents and Guardians,

It was wonderful to see so many of our families on Orientation Day and it was fantastic to have children back on campus. I hope you had an opportunity to see the various improvements we have made over the summer.

You may have noticed the displays in Cooper Hall for the new DCIS Houses. After extensive collaboration with students across the school, we agreed on using areas of Singapore for our new houses. All children and staff will be placed in houses so we can compete in sporting and non sporting competitions through the year.

DCA Class Parents are needed for classes across the school, so we have created an [online survey](#) to recruit volunteers for this critical role in our school. If you are interested in becoming a Class Parent, please take our [survey](#) or contact dca@dovercourt.edu.sg.

If parents did not get an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher or you would like more information on the teachers, then you can find [photos and profiles of all our staff on the website](#) or app. We have two

new positions this year, a swimming coach to help the PE team develop our swimming programme and a counsellor to further support our Educational Psychologist and teachers to enable the correct support arrangements for all our students.

The website and app also have details on a number of new Secondary School staff who joined us this year to help us launch the new IB programme. The IB students have already met with Mr. O'Shea, our new IB Diploma Programme Coordinator. They also saw the new base we have built for them that is a bespoke teaching space as well as giving them an area to relax in away from the hard work of the IB Diploma Programme.

By now you will have already received the information on how to log on to the new portal our catering partners are using. We are very confident that the system will work extremely well both for pre-orders for Primary School children and A la Carte for our Secondary School students. If you do experience any issues adding money to your account or making pre-orders please be reassured that we will make sure that students are fed if they haven't brought



lunches in from home. We will also be allowing cash payments in the cafeterias until 28th September.

As already mentioned we are moving to photo ID cards for parents, guardians and helpers on site. Unfortunately the production of this has been delayed. We will have this in place by the end of September. In the meantime please sign in as normal after drop off time. If you don't have an old temporary parent pass you will be issued with a visitor badge. You will have noticed the swing gates on the road up to Block E. These will close at 8.30am each morning so please drop off at the main entrance after this time and make sure your child registers with reception if they are late.

We wish all our families an excellent start to Term 1 and look forward to a new academic year.

Best wishes,

Christopher Short
Principal



Upcoming Term 1 Highlights from Ms Lebihan

Some important dates, including the DCA Family Picnic on Saturday 26th August and the Primary School Curriculum Evening Wednesday 30th August

I hope you have all had a lovely relaxing break!

It has been a delight to welcome the primary children back this week – both our returning children and our new arrivals to DCIS. There have been many smiles and much to catch up on. It always feels good to have the children back in the building and to hear the buzz of activity around the school.



Prior to the students returning, we have had a busy time in school with new staff arriving safe and sound with two days of orientation. They are all settling in well and already feel like part of our community. Following that, we had a week with all staff members in school. This provided valuable time to talk about our upcoming curriculum developments, which you will find out more about at Curriculum Evening which is on 30th August. Please put the date in your diary, more information will follow with details of times and venues.

Just some diary dates for you all. We hope you can attend our Family Picnic on Saturday 26th August; it is promising to be great fun and is a lovely settling in event. Do come along with your family to meet friends old and new. More information will follow on this event. The Primary Leadership Team also look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Parent Coffee Mornings that are happening over the term as outlined below. Please do come along to meet the team and to talk informally over coffee to other parents in your child's class and year group. This is a great way to make connections and is an opportunity to ask questions.

Nursery Coffee Morning
25 August: 8.45am – 9.30am

Reception Coffee Morning
28 August: 8.45am – 9.30am

Year 1 Coffee Morning
29 August: 8.45am – 9.30am

Year 2 Coffee Morning
4 September: 8.45am – 9.30am

Year 3 Coffee Morning
8 September: 8.45am – 9.30am

Year 4 Coffee Morning
11 September: 8.45am – 9.30am

Year 5 Coffee Morning
13 September: 8.45am – 9.30am

Year 6 Coffee Morning
15 September: 8.45am – 9.30am



Do keep an eye on the calendar which can be viewed on the school website for many more important dates and events. We will continue to send out a Weekly Roundup Email each Friday which will have details of curriculum coverage for the week and messages for the class.

If you do have any question or concerns then please do initially contact your child's class teacher. If you feel, following this, that you need to talk to somebody else then the Year Group Leader should be your next port of call, followed by one of our three primary school Deputy Heads, Mrs. Kiara Gray (Nursery to Y2), Mr. Ian Rinaldi (Y3 –Y6) and Mr. Andrew Marshall (DSE Pathways and Support). I am always happy to talk to you should you need take it to the next level.

Just a reminder about uniform, in order to ensure that we have uniformity across the school we are requesting that all backpacks/school bags that are not the official school bag are black or navy blue in colour. This will be reinforced by your child's class teacher and we will be asking that non-regulation bags are replaced. As well as this, could you please ensure that your child hair (below chin length) is tied back and that only black or blue hair accessories are used. Again, your child's class teacher will be following up on non-regulation hair styles and accessories. Finally, other than a wristwatch, we do not allow jewellery in school. This rule does include stud earrings. Please do help us out in school by ensuring your child is in full DCIS school uniform.

If we haven't met then please do introduce yourself to me when you are in school as it is always great to put a name to a face.

Wishing all our primary children a great year ahead.

Best regards,

Kara Lebihan
Head of Primary School

Upcoming Term 1 Highlights from Mrs. Rinaldi

Welcoming new staff to Secondary School, the launch of our IB Diploma Programme and the Secondary School Trips evening on 28 August

Over the two weeks we have been delighted to welcome a number of new staff to our existing team in the Secondary School in order to prepare for the eagerly anticipated return of our students on Monday.

The following teachers are joining the Secondary School:

- Joanne Long - Maths
- Ciaran Mainstone - Maths
- Nicola Bennett - English
- Olivia Eaton - English
- Adam Goold - Science
- Aidan Jones - History
- Alexandra Milton - French/ Spanish
- Annabel Hooper - Drama
- Sally Eades - History/ Geography
- Marania Gkioka - Pathway 3 Science Specialist

In the Secondary School, the majority of our new staff are not replacements but rather additions to the existing team, due to both the growth of the school and the launch of the IB Diploma Programme. I am delighted with the growth in student numbers we continue to witness and build upon.

The launch of the IB Diploma Programme this week is an exciting step in the development of the Secondary School. We are pleased to be welcoming existing DCIS students back to start the programme as well as students from a range of schools in Singapore and around the world. The IB teaching team have been working hard to put the final touches to their planning for the launch this week and we are looking forward to supporting the students as they begin this challenging but exciting journey.



The theme of challenge has been utmost in our minds as we completed our staff preparation week. We continued to work on our simple, yet highly effective, teaching and learning strategy, of which challenge is a key element. Teachers at DCIS strive to ensure that students are constantly challenged to



be the very best that they can be. We want our students to believe that, through hard work, perseverance and reflection, the sky's the limit for their experience here at DCIS.



In terms of trips, we certainly believe that there are a plethora of opportunities for students to participate in. Our Secondary School Trips evening on 28 August will outline our residential trips taking place during the period 11th to 17th March 2018:

- Year 6 - Rustic Pathways: Udon Thani, Thailand
- Year 7 - Rustic Pathways: Luang Prabang, Laos
- Year 8 & 9 - Little Planet: Tioman Island, Malaysia
- Year 10, 11 & 12 (IB) - Gapforce Education: Borneo

We will also be providing further details about our Nord Anglia Education Global Campus trip to Tanzania taking place between 17th and 25th November 2017. We look forward to welcoming as many parents as possible to hear about the amazing opportunities that these trips provide.

I look forward to working with staff, students and parents throughout this academic year and I will be delighted if you get in touch with any feedback or questions.

Kind regards,

Heather Rinaldi
Head of Secondary



DCIS Finalist at BritCham Business Awards

DCIS shortlisted for two awards in the British Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards

We are very pleased to announce that DCIS has been shortlisted for two awards in the British Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards in the following categories:

- Investing in People
- Embracing Diversity and Inclusion

The British Chamber has been running the Annual Business Awards for over a decade, making 2017 the 18th Annual Business Awards it will be organising.

When the Awards began, the Chamber wanted to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements across the various sectors where British businesses were active within the Singapore business community. Over the last 17 years the Annual Business Awards have expanded and evolved, supported and encouraged by sponsors, participants and winners.



The British Chamber of Commerce in Singapore is one of the country's leading business forums, open to executives and businesses of all nationalities. The Chamber network is an engaged and dynamic business community of more than 2,900 executives representing over 400 companies.

Thank you to everyone involved in preparing these but many thanks especially to Ian and Alison who coordinated the respective applications.

We will find out at the end of next month if we have won overall

U13 FOBISIA Games Scheduled for February 2018

The FOBISIA U13 Games to be held in Phuket, Thailand, between 21st – 25th February 2018

As you know DCIS became members of FOBISIA (Federation of British International Schools In Asia) last academic year. We are therefore very pleased to enter a team into the FOBISIA U13 Games to be held in Phuket, Thailand, between 21st – 25th February 2018.

The games will see us compete in four different sports against seven other International schools from India, Nepal, Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand.

As we are limited to the number of students we can take, we need to offer trials for each sport. Students should be able to compete in a minimum of two of the four sports to make the trip viable. As this is an overseas residential sports trip, there will be costs involved for participation fees, hotels and flights. As yet the final costings have not been released by FOBISIA but it is anticipated that the cost should be no more than \$1250.

The sports we will be competing in are:

- Football (Boys and Girls)
- Basketball (Boys and Girls)
- Swimming (Boys and Girls)
- Athletics (Boys and Girls)

Once we have selected the squad, sport specific FOBISIA training will take place each Monday, on a sport rotation basis (more details will be given at a later date).

If you are interested in your child trialing to take part in this fantastic opportunity, then please see the trial dates taking place next week, sign and return the slip to myself by Friday 25th August.

Please note that the age cut off is U13 on **1st August 2018**.



Please view the flyer at <http://bit.ly/FOBISIAflyer> for more information. Any more questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Mark Holmes
Head of Physical Education
Mark.Holmes@dovercourt.edu.sg

Is the International Baccalaureate Diploma Right for Your Child?

Choosing the right curriculum for your child can be quite a challenge. Here is a quick guide to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to help you decide if it is the right choice for your child at 16-19 years old.

1. What is the International Baccalaureate?

The International Baccalaureate, commonly referred to as the IB, is considered a comprehensive and international curriculum that takes a holistic approach to education, fostering intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills. It aims to develop 'inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are motivated to succeed'. There are 3 programmes for students aged 3 to 18 years old:

- The Primary Years Programme (PYP) for students aged 3-12
- The Middle Years Programme (MYP) for students aged 11-16
- The Diploma Programme (DP) for students aged 16-19 and grants entry to universities around the world.

Schools around the world can choose to offer all of these programmes or combine them with other curricula. For instance, many Nord Anglia Education schools follow the English National Curriculum up to 16 years old, followed by the IB Diploma.

In many ways, the IB is ideal for the expat family - with more than 4000 schools worldwide currently offering the curriculum, students can easily transition back to their home or to another country and be evaluated on a standard, universal scale. The curriculum is also popular with parents seeking a well-rounded and international education for their children.

2. What is the IB Diploma?

The IB Diploma Programme, or IBDP, is offered to students aged 16-19 and is based on the philosophy that students should always question the subjects they learn and apply critical thinking skills to real world situations. The IB Diploma offers a broad range of subjects for students to study so that students can personalise their own learning.



The IBDP Curriculum is composed of six subject groups; in general students are required to study one from each group, three at higher level and three at standard level over a two-year period:

- **Studies in Language and Literature** – often mother tongue language
- **Language Acquisition** – often a foreign language
- **Individuals & Societies** (subjects include business and management, economics, geography, global politics, history, information technology in a global society, philosophy, psychology, social and cultural anthropology, world religions)
- **Sciences** (subjects include biology, computer science, chemistry, design technology, physics and sports, exercise and health science)
- **Mathematics** (subjects include mathematical studies, mathematics, further mathematics)
- **The Arts** (subjects include dance, music, film, theatre and visual art)

In addition to the six subject groups, IB Diploma students study the IB core - three required components which broaden their experience. The three core components are:

- **Theory of knowledge (TOK)** – students reflect on knowledge and question/challenge what we know
- **The Extended Essay** – an in depth self-directed 4000 word research paper in an area of their choice
- **Creativity, activity, service (CAS)** – students participate in various purposeful and personally challenging activities related to these three subjects, with significant outcomes

3. How does the IB Diploma curriculum differ from other curriculums?

The IB Diploma curriculum offers an international focus and emphasis on self-directed, independent learning through research and applying problem-solving skills to real world issues. The certification requires students to engage in a wide variety of activities and places equal weight on learning inside the classroom as well as outside the classroom.

The IB Diploma also offers students the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, compared to say A-levels, which encourages students to become specialised in a few subjects which they study in-depth.

This also differs from the education offered in North America which varies from state to state.

4. What are the benefits of studying the IB Diploma?

- Universities around the world hold the IB Diploma in high esteem – IB Diploma students are accepted at the best colleges and universities
- Emphasizes independent and self-directed learning. Focuses on social and emotional development – for example being a world citizen with universal values
- Encourages a global perspective - for example, students are required to master a foreign language, learn about other cultures and political systems among other things.
- It's an international qualification so especially useful for students who plan to study or work abroad
- Good for expat students because they can transition to many other countries where the IB is a widely offered curriculum in international schools.

5. Why might another curriculum be a better choice for my child?

Many students describe the IB curriculum as challenging, but rewarding. Students who would prefer to focus on fewer subjects to create an area of specialism may prefer to opt for A-levels rather than the IB.

Students may also wish to consider where they would like to continue their education, for instance, if you wish to study in Switzerland the Swiss Maturité may be more appropriate or the French Baccalauréat for university in France.

Parent Workshop: DCA Transitions

DCIS Educational Psychologist leads parent workshop on transitions

Our educational psychologist, Vivienne Scott led a workshop to prepare our new and returning parents for the challenges associated with transitions.

Download presentation here: <http://bit.ly/DCAtransitionsworkshop>

Vivienne, a trained Seasons for Growth facilitator, talked about the impact of change and loss, and the ways in which parents can support their children as young expatriates.

DOVER COURT
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SINGAPORE
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

**DCA Transitions
Workshop:**

**Understanding
Change, Loss and
Grief**

Vivienne Scott, Educational Psychologist

SEASONS
FOR GROWTH



**DOVER COURT
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SINGAPORE**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL