



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 3 | 2016/17



What better way to welcome in the *Chinese New Year* than a traditional Dragon dance. Wishing you happiness and prosperity in the year of the Rooster.



To download a copy of this newsletter, please visit www.bsg.org.cn |  BritishSchoolGZ |  bsgnae

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone enjoyed a relaxing Chinese New Year and found time to catch up with family and friends. I hope that the year of the Rooster will be a fortunate one for parents, staff and students at the British School of Guangzhou.

With CNY behind us staff and students are busily preparing for the next round of examinations. In the last 4 years our students have achieved some of the best results amongst the 43 Nord Anglia schools and we have high expectations for the year of the rooster too. Our Year 13 students have already begun to receive offers from top universities around the world and are determined to ensure that their results match the target grades of the individual universities.

As a company Nord Anglia are ambitious to make year on year improvements in all their schools. I would encourage everyone to take the time to complete the parental satisfaction survey, which can be accessed from:

<http://parentsurvey.nordanglia.com/survey/selfserve/5a0/160104?wave=y2017>

The survey will be open from the 6th until 20th February and is available in various languages. From past experience we have found your constructive feedback can help us to improve the educational offering for our students, so do take the time to give us the benefit of your feedback.

Over the course of the last term we have set out our new strategic development plan, based around the targets highlighted in the recent CIS accreditation report. This plan clearly sets out our direction for the next 3 years and this term staff will add further details to this plan. If you are also interested in contributing please come along to future PSG meetings where opportunities will be provided for parents to make their contributions. Our school has been incredibly successful over the last 3 years but we remain as ambitious as ever and are determined to ensure that BSG achieves its aim to be seen as the number one international school in China.

A growing number of our students are now becoming involved in online learning opportunities and taking part in educational debates through Global Campus. For those who have not yet taken advantage of this valuable resource you are encouraged to get involved in the future. The benefits are potentially huge as four of our students found when they were awarded places on an exciting new initiative at the world-renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Well done to Sabrina Chu, Rou Yu Yap, Siena Piggott, William Su, Alton Chu and Mable Ng who will be travelling to MIT in April. We really do hope that their success will encourage even more students to make the most of Global Campus opportunities in the future. In the summer we also have members of our staff heading off to MIT for a unique professional development opportunity that is only available to Nord Anglia teachers.

At BSG we continue to promote a curriculum that puts as much emphasis on sport, music and the performing arts as on the more academic subjects. This is resulting in an increasing number of students being involved in extra curricular activities and team training. Our thanks to our Directors of Sport and Music as well as to all teachers, parents and TAs who give up their free time to promote a wide variety of opportunities for our students. The results of their efforts are clear to see as our sports teams continue to excel and our orchestras and

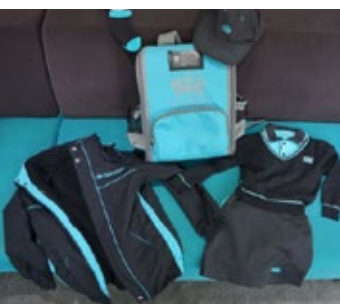
choirs continue to expand their musical repertoire.

As always at this time of the year we are busy with the recruitment of new teachers to replace those moving on and to meet our expansion needs. At the end of this year we are also saying goodbye to Edward Pearce, our Head of Primary, who will be moving on to new challenges next year. We will have time for goodbyes in the future but in the meantime I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success in the next stage of his career and thank him for his leadership of our Primary School over the last two years. In January, I was in London at the Nord Anglia recruitment fair and was impressed to hear that Nord Anglia received over 9,000 applications for 386 vacancies. There is no doubt that the benefits of working for a global organization teaching over 37,000 students in 43 schools across 15 different countries helped to attract this impressive number of applicants. As a growing number of international schools compete to recruit the very best teachers, I am extremely pleased of the benefits of belonging to a truly global organisation such as Nord Anglia Education. Many of our new teachers are currently working in the UK so this event was an opportunity for them to learn more about the advantages of joining the Nord Anglia family of schools as well as to hear more about our school and life in Guangzhou.

I would also like to congratulate Shane Leaning who will be taking on a role as Head of EAL within the Primary department in August. Mr. Leaning has had a major impact on the way we teach EAL in Key Stage 1 since joining BSG and we are confident that he will have a positive impact across the rest of Primary. It has been a very busy year for Shane who was fortunate enough to be offered one of the limited places on the highly regarded Executive Masters Programme in International Education with King's College London.

As we look to finalise recruitment for next year, we will also be advertising for additional Teaching Assistants (TAs). Parents who may be interested in a position are encouraged to visit the school's website or contact the relevant Head of Phase directly. Do kindly note that to be eligible for a working visa in China you will need at least a bachelor's degree, 2 years work experience, an excellent level of English and a TEFL certificate. More importantly you will need to understand that fun, laughter and smiles are the essential foundations of our success.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Thomas



Uniform shop is open

For any enquiries regarding uniform, please check the 'Parent Essentials' section of our website for the most up to date contact details, or you can email them via bsguniform@163.com.



Important information is often sent via email.

If you are not receiving emails, please contact our receptionist, Lily Huang at lily@bsg.org.cn

Charity Report

Target: 250,000 RMB

Money Raised: 200,669 RMB

Hopeful Hearts

183,209.8 RMB

Hopeful Hearts is a non-profit charity based in Nanjing, Chengdu and Guangzhou. Their mission is to raise money and fund life-saving heart surgery for children of low-income Chinese families. They donate a maximum of 30,000 RMB to each family based on the level of financial support required. With the amount raised so far we are able to fund the surgery of a minimum of 5 children. <https://hopefulheartsguangzhou.shutterfly.com/>

What have we done?

4515 RMB - Primary “Spooky Movie Week”

Primary students were able to pay a donation of 10 RMB to watch a spooky cartoon throughout the week leading up to Halloween.

2194 RMB – Early Years Foundation Stage “Halloween Dress Up Day”

EYFS students donated 10 RMB to come to school wearing a costume for Halloween.

1748 RMB – Secondary “Halloween Dress Up Day”

Secondary students donated 10 RMB to come to school wearing a costume for Halloween.

163,000 RMB – “International Day 2016”

International Day is held each year as a celebration of the multiculturalism within our school community. Its aim is to offer guests a relaxing day of fun activities, music, prizes and great food & drink! The event is aimed not only at our school community, but locals and other expatriates who are all invited to attend.

1252.7 RMB – Primary Parent Support Group “Christmas Stall”

Parents joined forces and sold various Christmas novelties to students and staff.

4983 RMB – Primary and Secondary “Christmas Non-Uniform Day”

Students donated 10 RMB to come to school wearing their own clothes for the last day of term.

1694 RMB - Early Years Foundation Stage “Christmas Non-Uniform Day”

EYFS students donated 10 RMB to come to school wearing their own clothes for the last day of term.

1000.10 RMB – Secondary Student Christmas Card Sales

Secondary students sent in a number of Christmas card designs and 2 were selected to go on sale in the lead up to Christmas.

2823 RMB - Early Years Foundation Stage “Christmas Charity Stall”

Various Christmas items were on sale in the lead up to Christmas.

British Legion - Poppy Appeal

1065 RMB

The British Consulate sent in a number of poppies to go on sale at school for students, staff and parents to purchase. Various donations were made in exchange for a red poppy in the month of November. All money raised helps to provide thousands of modern veterans, Service men, women and their families with vital advice and support.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/story-behind-the-poppy/>

November – Prostate Cancer UK

16,394.2 RMB

Members of staff grew their facial hair or gave something up throughout the month of November. Various students versus staff sports events were organised e.g. netball, football, basketball and badminton in order to raise funds and awareness for this worthwhile cause.

Giving Back To The Community...

On Tuesday 10th January, students joined the Hopeful Hearts team to visit the children who will be staying on the wards over the Chinese New Year period. They arrived baring gifts including baby crib mobiles and teddy bears.

In an entirely student-led initiative, Grace Xie, Chair of the student Charity Committee, liaised with the hospital and together with the committee decided upon what gifts to take with them. It was lovely to see faces light up when the children and families on the ward were greeted with gifts. The students absolutely loved the opportunity to see the hospital associated with Hopeful Hearts. The school would like to recognise and thank Grace, Michelle, Kitty, Amy, Haerin and Lynn for their continuous dedication and support with various charitable initiatives.

Let's continue to work together to help keep young hearts beating!



6 Questions With Dr Chilvers

By: Gemma Campbell

Meet Dr Christopher Chilvers, an Oxford PhD who speaks 6 languages, currently a teacher of Physics at The British School of Guangzhou. His genuine passion and love of learning is truly an inspiration to all students. We sat down for a quick interview about his experiences as an expat teacher living in Guangzhou.

What was your first reaction when you first arrived to Guangzhou?

I noticed the extreme between the technological modernity of the city and the cultural traditionalism of much of the population. Places like Tonghe seem to comprise many village like communities but with 21st century metropolis features. The transport system shows this with starkness through enviable technology and deeply chaotic behavior. There is a strong element of a population with newly acquired urbanism trying to navigate a combination of old and new ways of living. Coming from an old urban population in London, I find it fascinating and exciting.

What is the most challenging thing about being a teacher?

Looking for ways to motivate students and give them confidence. I find that whenever I teach students, independent research skills in particular, they come back with the most extraordinary information. I often learn from the students and I really enjoy that. Looking for new ways to motivate and enthuse students means that you are constantly researching, not just what you know but what you don't know and how you can find ways to help students further. It's very challenging and obviously takes up time but it's very exciting.

How does BSG compare to other schools you've taught at?

BSG's a fantastic school in terms of behaviour. The



students are close to impeccable. I find the level of respect that students have for teachers and the level of respect teachers are encouraged to give to students quite astonishing. It encourages the best in all of us. In my previous school, there was a lot of emphasis on behaviour management but I don't feel it is necessary here in the same way. The other thing that I really notice at BSG is the sense in which we are encouraged to feel like a large family. That works really well for me, both in terms of teaching staff and students. I feel that the atmosphere is a far happier and less stressful environment than other places I have taught, which I really enjoy.

Who was your role model growing up and why?

I have a huge passion for music and immerse myself constantly so my role models were mostly musical. Immediately, Jerry Dammers springs to mind. He put together a band called The Specials from Coventry in England. They were the first musical band that I was really interested in, combining Jamaican reggae, ska and punk-like energy. They were also fervently anti-racist, something very close to my heart because I grew up in an area of London where there was a lot of racism, which I detest. I have always strongly believed in the importance of cultural diversity as a means of education

and encouraging people to act with humanity towards each other. Jerry Dammers became even more of an inspiration to me when he penned a song called “Free Nelson Mandela” which went on to achieve iconic status, becoming one of the international anthems of the struggle against South African Apartheid. It is amazing and shows the power of cultural influence in shaping the world. I believe quite passionately in attempting to change the world for the better, a reason why I teach physics, so my role models have always been people that have been socially responsible and activists in some way. I have a maxim that “its better to try and fail then never to try at all” that is the reason why I choose Jerry Dammers. He spoke up and helped change the world.

What is the one lesson that you want your students to take away with them at the end of the academic year?

Everything in my teaching philosophy is about giving students the confidence to believe that they have the ability in their minds to be ambitious and shape and reshape the world they meet. I encourage students to follow their passions and understand that there is no problem that they cannot solve. They can always, throughout their lives, use their brains to acquire knowledge that can help them in some way. It always has an application that can help themselves and others. That confidence, in the ability to change using your learning skills and thinking, is really the key element in education for teenagers.

What inspired your love of learning?

I came from a poor, very rough background and had experiences as a child that I would have preferred to avoid. A large part of my motivation to learn was to give myself options in life that many people I grew up with never had. No member of my family had ever been to university or continued beyond secondary school. Whenever I went to school, I felt safer in school than outside and quickly found I really enjoyed learning and was extremely good at understanding. I increasingly recognized I was able to change and affect my world personally through learning and it changed

how people approached me. One of the many things that I enjoy is learning different languages. This is drawn from travelling a lot throughout my life; I found that I could learn from and communicate with different cultures well. It became self-defining and a constant challenge which I enjoyed. Now I view reading books, understanding issues and ideas and learning in general as my life’s breath itself. If I don’t do it, I am simply not going to function as a human being in the way I wish. A large part of me would be dead. The other part of the inspiration is my father, a very quiet man who always has a book. From my earliest childhood, I recollect his love of books and seeing him always reading. I acquired that love so this bookishness has driven my dreams ever since.

Name: Dr Christopher Chilvers

Country of Residence: China

Country of Origin: England

Subjects I teach: Physics, Biology, History, History of Science, History of Technology, Urban History, Cultural History and Politics

Grades I teach: Year 9-13

Places I’ve lived: London, Leeds, Oxford, Manchester, United States of America and Copenhagen.



MIT STEAM Festival Challenge

By: Natasha Wildy

Late in the autumn term our students found out about an amazing opportunity; as part of our schools partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 4 of our students have the opportunity to travel to MIT to participate in the MIT STEAM Festival. The Festival is a week-long program, which provides unique learning opportunities specifically for our students at one of the world's leading educational institutions.

During the festival students will have the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and participate in exciting workshops and activities delivered by leading MIT academics, as well as visiting the campuses of two of the best universities in the world (MIT and Harvard University).

To be considered for the opportunity the students needed to create an amazing and original creation from something as simple as a deck of playing cards. They had to not only design and make the item but also to make a one-minute video to impress our esteemed judges.

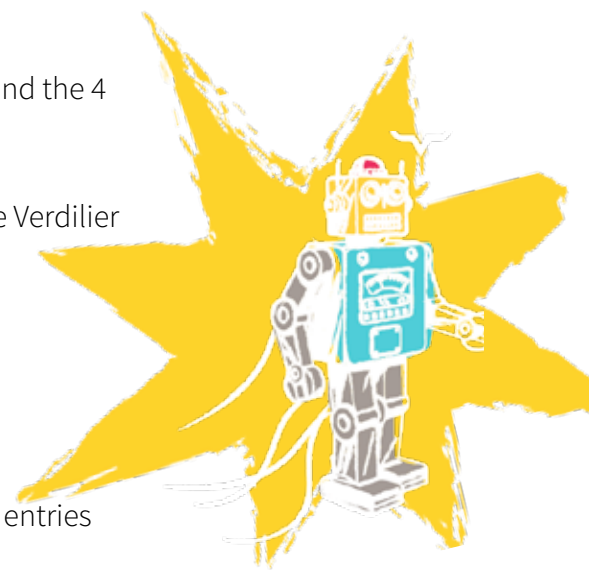
The 10 finalists were Alton Chu 6B, Ellery Wu 6A, Enni Chen 6B, Mabel Ng 8C, Rou yu Yap 5B, Sabrina Chu 8B, Sandra Ho 8C, Siena Piggott 8B, William Su 8C and Shaan Nankani 5C. All of the students amazed the judging panel with their maturity, inventiveness and confidence at such a daunting task. We had everything from self-supporting bridges, verdiliers (a chandelier with plants), Mayan temples, buildings, boats, solar powered light, cars and works of art!

After a lot of discussion we came to our final decision and the 4 students who will be travelling to MIT are:

- Sabrina Chu with her amazing and useful invention the Verdilier
- Rou Yu Yap with her beautiful and amazing 3D Heart
- Siena Piggott with her technical self-supporting bridge
- Mabel Ng with her illuminating solar paneled light box
- William Su with his MIT building model
- Alton Chu with his rubber band powered boat

Well done to all of you and thanks to all of the amazing entries to the competition

Full STEAM ahead!



Congratulations to the winners...



...and everyone who took part!



3 Key Moments From Tanzania

From service work to safari, it was an incredible eye-opening journey for our students who take great pride in what they achieved through this Global Campus Worldwide initiative.



Goat Shed

We were split into groups and taken to different households where we built our very own goat shed. We were told that the goat shed will be part of the service works in the Tanzania Expedition and will greatly help families to support themselves financially.

As the goat shed was built from scratch by our very own hands, it was an intriguing yet exciting experience. We received guidance, instructions and help from an instructor, and piece-by-piece the goat shed slowly took shape. Some of us were busy hammering while some had seemed to take a liking to specific jobs like sawing planks of wood or hitting nails.

It was a long process but as all students and instructors started to work together, it seemed we had formed a whole new community – through service and the act of working for a good cause and helping families. Though the day and weather was hot and exhausting, I believe all of us can proudly brag that our goat shed looked perfect!

By: Hui Ying Chan



2

Service Work

The construction work undertaken by students at a local Tanzanian Primary School was definitely very physically challenging for some of us, yet it provided a sense of satisfaction, knowing that we were making a difference to the sustainable development of the local community by improving their education.

At first, students were asked to reflect on the differences between our lives and the Tanzanian students': although there was common awareness of the educational disadvantage in the continent, many of our anticipations were still overwhelmed by the harsh reality we faced when we arrived at the local Primary School. We found that students had to learn in large groups, in overcrowded and poorly equipped classrooms, and many even refused to go to school due to the occasional lack of lunch. The reality we experienced forms a tremendous and distinct comparison to the conditions of our own school, which reminds us that there is still much to be improved in this world.



Throughout the two days, students rotated around different stages of the construction of a new classroom: cement mixing, digging and wheel-barrowing raw materials such as pebbles, and paving the floor with cement. The tremendous workload was made easier by dividing it, collaborating with others in small groups – along with the opportunities to mingle and connect with students from the British School of Beijing (BSB). Although the construction of the classroom only lasted for two short days, the connection that BSG students were able to make with both Tanzanian students and BSB students undoubtedly endowed us a wider global perspective. Besides temporarily undertaking work, we also learnt the development of empathy, communicating different perspectives and global responsibilities as crucial to making a difference in helping the less fortunate. Naturally, the Tanzania expedition had certainly shown us a whole new world, as many students returned to Guangzhou with their minds more committed to charity and more open-minded towards global visions.

By: Angie Wong



BSG FOCUS

3

The Safari

The safari was the most unique activity in our entire trip, as it allowed us to unwind after the strenuous physical exertion of building schools and goat sheds. After standing in the Tanzanian heat for four days, having the option to sit down for hours was a welcome change.

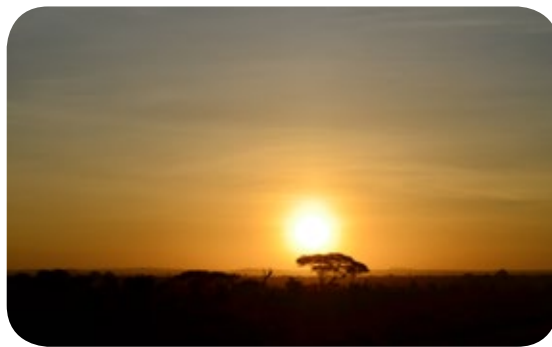
Our group was halved and we boarded our respective safari trucks. The car ride was long but not unpleasant. It was interesting to be able to experience Tanzania away from the camp in which we were mostly confined to. We stopped for some well needed bathroom breaks, and when we finally arrived at the national park, it was around lunchtime. Whilst eating our packed lunches, we already began to see signs of animals; several monkeys surrounded us and attempted to steal our lunches!

After that amusing experience and taking a few pictures, we got in our trucks and thus began our safari. We were also given a sheet for us to complete — we had to mark down all the types of animals we saw. The purpose of this was that the people in Nord Anglia can create an estimate of the composition of animals that make up the national park, and how this changes after a period of time. We were also supplied with a file with interesting facts, for example, an elephant's trunk can hold up to 5 litres of water! This really helped us understand the wilderness that the students, living in a city, don't have many opportunities to encounter. The first animals we saw were a group of elephants. At first there weren't many animals and when there was, they were too far away for us to take a good photo of. Then we began to see several up close, ranging from giraffes to caribous to baboons.

After countless photos and an exciting day traversing the landscape of the national park, we retired to the campsite. The tents were surprisingly accommodating and large, and dinner was beef stew. Despite being in the middle of nowhere, the range of foods given to us were huge, including hot soup and dessert. The next day we woke up at around 5am to see the sunrise and continued our exploration of the park. The undisputed highlight of our trip was when we saw three adult lions.

At last it was time to depart from the base camp, but not before we bought souvenirs at the local store where we had to polish our bartering skills. In summation, the safari was an experience that seldom can be replicated elsewhere other than Africa, and for this reason it was the most interesting and fun activity of the entire trip.

By: Sum Yi Yiu



Happy New Year from Nursery

By: Liz Hill

The Nursery children have all been very excitedly getting ready to celebrate Chinese New Year. To help bring our learning to life we invited some lovely parents and family members into school. Our days have been filled with all kinds of Chinese activities including dragon dancing, reading stories, Chinese calligraphy, making lanterns with sparkly gold decorations and using our beautiful singing voices to perform Chinese New Year songs.

The Nursery children and some very clever parents put on their chef hats and showed off their jiǎo zi making skills, creating their own delicious Chinese dumplings filled with tasty vegetables. Making the jiǎo zi was lots of fun but we were even more excited to taste our own handmade snacks and share them with our friends. As we will soon be beginning the year of the rooster, some parents also helped us to make rooster hats, even adding real feathers to finish their masterpieces. The Nursery children loved getting creative with the help of our rooster hat experts. As an extra special treat, we had a visit from Miss Nora who performed some amazing Chinese dancing. The children watched in awe as she showed us how to spin special handkerchiefs and perform some incredible moves. Some of the children even had a try for themselves!

The Nursery Butterflies, Hedgehogs, Dolphins, Caterpillars and Bumblebees all had a fantastic time celebrating the wonderful country that we live in. We would all like to say a huge thank you to all of the lovely parents who came into school to help make our day so special.

Xīn Nián Kuài Lè
Happy New Year



Classroom Transformations

By: Kirti Mukri

Each morning we start the day the singing the 'Good Morning Train' song to the children in a circle on the carpet. The song includes saying hello to each child, followed by a Choo, choo. It is a great way to start my morning as it acknowledges each child, gives me a chance to make eye contact, and a quick visual assessment of each and every child in my class. It also reiterates the children's names for their peers, and when the children begin to anticipate their turn, it is an early indicator of their growing awareness to space and time, and their developing social awareness.

After a couple of weeks the children began singing along with me adding in the Choo, choo. So then I began pausing before I said each child's name, and sure enough my more vocal children began to call out their friend's names. The look on the child's face as their peers said their name was of pure surprise. They were shocked that the children in the class, who they have been sharing this space with, actually know their name. The children felt acknowledged and important. Each subsequent morning more and more children began to join in.

The biggest change my team noticed was at playtime, the children stopped playing alongside each other and had begun to play with each other. They initiated games and attempted to communicate with each other. They would beckon each other over during circle time, to come sit by them. It was wonderful to witness. I was curious about this phenomenon and decided to do a bit of research. It turns out, that once a person uses your name, you instantly feel a familiarity with them. Using a person's name invites you into their world and forms a connection, a bond if you may. Armed with this knowledge we will continue to encourage the children to use each other's names and watch the special friendships, that can last a lifetime, form.



Santa Claus is coming to town...

By: Prerna Nankani

Last month, it was all about Christmas at Lakefront! The holiday season was here and the children were looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled month. Of course the month of December wouldn't be complete without a visit from The Man in Red! Ms. Kathy had been in contact with Santa Claus and he said that he had a little break in his schedule, and he would love to come to our school because the children and teachers at Lakefront were definitely on his nice list this year.

Just days before Christmas, Santa hopped in his sleigh and came to visit the children in an effort to spread some holiday cheer before the holiday break. Every child from Toddlers to Reception had their picture taken with Santa and also received a surprise gift from Santa's sack. Of course, he had some help in the form of teachers-turned-elves.

"We are very excited to have Santa here," said Ambrose from the Penguins class. "We all wrote our letters to Santa and we have all been very good this year."

The students loved their special visit with Santa and can't wait for him to come again. See you next year, Dear Santa!



PRIMARY

Nuts About Numicon

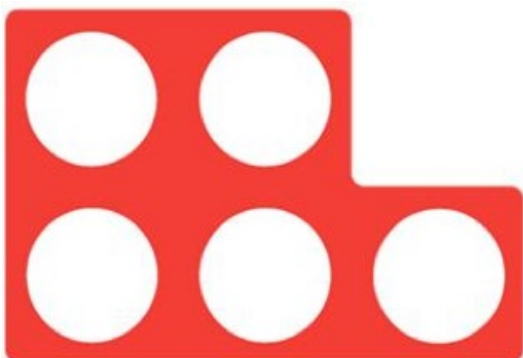
By: Triona Heskin

The Year 1 pupils love number crunching and since term 1 the students have got their teeth stuck into Numicon. It has helped us with all aspects of maths.

Numicon uses different coloured tiles to represent each of the numbers 1 to 10. It helps give the children a clear concept of what each number is. They can see that '5': is a red tile with five holes, has an odd number of holes, is smaller than ten but larger than 1... this image helps with so many of the basic facts about number.

When the children were learning about addition they fitted the tiles together to find the total. The Year 1s got to experience lots of creative ways to do this. They went fishing for tiles and added up their catch, matched the tiles to a number sentence in a glittery frog pond and found the toadal....I mean total. We used the tiles to create Numicon play dough cookies which were then added together to make a cookie cake. Not only that, but the Big Bad Wolf got in on the act. It seems he lost his taste for pigs and developed an appetite for numbers! Luckily, his number sentence was big so hopefully we won't be seeing him for a while.

We all know that cash and stamps are legal tender, but did you know in Hillside that Numicon is the new dough....not play dough....but money! The Year 1s shopped up a storm at the Hillside fruit market and paid for the fruit using Numicon.



$$2x + \frac{1}{4} = 8x^2$$
$$\equiv 79x + 4\frac{1}{x} = x^2$$
$$y^3 + 9x + 2 = \frac{7}{x}$$

Out of This World Learning in Y2!

By: Sarah Brewster

Year 2's new project blasted off with a visit from Kevin the astronaut. They were set a spacetastic mission but first; astronaut training!

It was tricky at times but all of the children launched into the new challenge. In the space kitchen the children learnt about the difficulties of cooking and eating in space. Luca thought the zero gravity food was "so yummy" but Sheba thought it was "a bit hard to eat."

Next, during the fitness test the children had to complete tests to check they were fit enough to be an astronaut. Then the children were challenged to use junk modeling to create their own space ship. They were buzzing with excitement and showed their commitment and creativity by designing some rockets that could go to infinity and beyond!

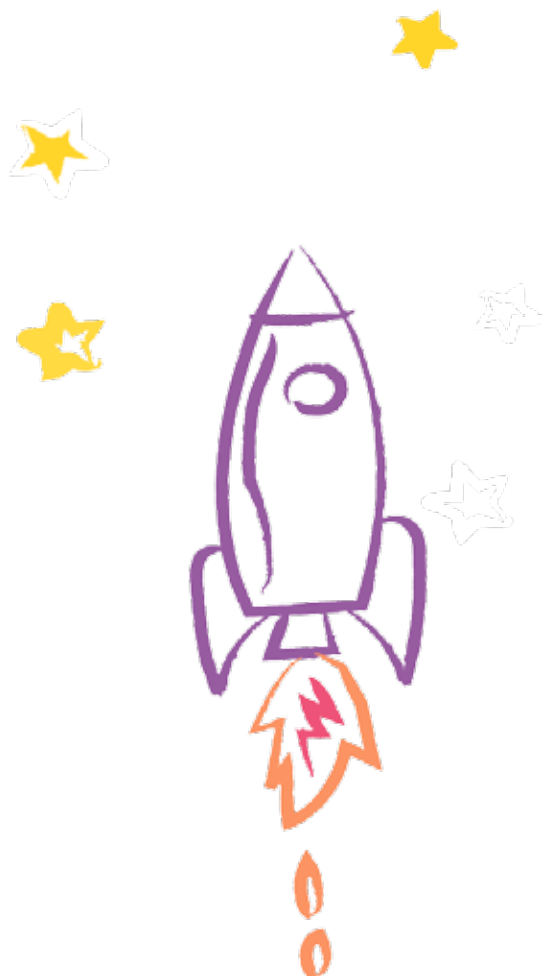
Finally the children went to exercise camp where they showed their teamwork and problem solving skills. Kevin the astronaut was so impressed with their commitment and perseverance he thought they were all "super stars!" The children all enjoyed their space training, Leila thought it was the "best lesson ever." The children are now working hard on their mission.



We look forward to telling you about the end of our project too but in the meantime here's a joke...

How do you organise a space party?

You PLANET!



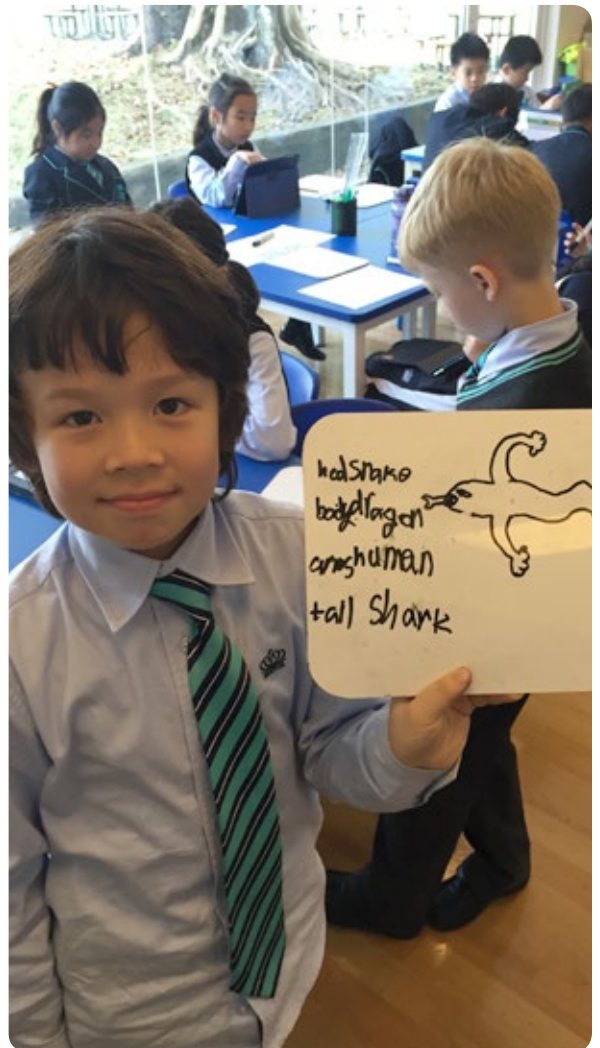
Mythical Creature Invasion!

By: Ben Burgess

Year 3 returned from the winter break with a bang as the year group was taken over by mythical creatures. As part of the new Myths and Monsters topic, the classes studied traditional mythical beasts and then used the most ferocious parts of real animals to design their own terrifying creations. The classrooms were invaded by all manner of terrific creatures sporting the teeth of sharks, wings of bats, claws of lions and tails of scorpions amongst others. These amazing creatures all had their own strengths and weaknesses based on real mythical creatures with unique magical powers and different ways to be defeated.

Not content with researching and designing the beasts, these mythical monsters then sprang off the page as the children used recycled materials to create models for display in the classroom. The tables were covered with tails, scales, wings and other appendages and accessories as their creations were brought to life.

This amazing selection of crazy creations is now on display to inspire the children's work as we continue our work on the topic!



GZ CITYSCAPES

By: Erin Webb

So much talent has been discovered in Year 4 during our latest project. We have been studying the work of UK artist Jennifer Simon and have created our own cityscapes in her style.

On Friday 6th January to kick-start our project Year 4 took a trip into the city. We arrived and were instantly amazed by the magnificent structures we could see. In the distance Canton Tower rose into the clouds and to our left the ultramodern Guangzhou Museum stood like a 3D puzzle. As the weather cleared we photographed and sketched some outstanding examples of architecture in a beautiful part of the city.

Back in school we have used our sketches and photos as inspiration for our own artwork. We started by composing our cityscape then moved onto colour mixing and using complementary colours. We painted our background and water then finally added our Guangzhou landmarks.

Look out for Year 4 GZ CITYSCAPES around the school and in our classrooms. We are very proud of our masterpieces!



The Science of Poetry

By: David Healey

Combining subjects to bring context to learning is part and parcel of what we do here at BSG and it's a brilliant way to keep our lessons fluid and exciting. In Year 5 English lessons we've been learning all about performance poetry, so we thought we'd drop some of our science learning in there too, in the hopes that we'd be able to create something epic.

We weren't disappointed! With a healthy mix of scientific knowledge and poetic know-how, we were able to put together some fantastic pieces of poetry. Blending rhyme with rhythm, onomatopoeia and personification, Year 5 students produced a stunning plethora of space science in a wide variety of poetic forms, ranging from rhyming couplets to the ballad stanza! Check out one of our poems below!

Our Solar System

There are 8 planets that orbit the Sun
The planet with the oxygen is the third one!

And that is the Earth! Earth, oh yeah!

Made of 75% water, this planet is a paradise,
With giant hills and cloudy skies.

But don't just talk about Earth, talk about me!
I'm the Sun, filled with boiling gas seas.
I'm billions of years old; can you believe that?
Plus I'm a star, boiling hot and fat.

Hey! You forgot me!
I'm the Moon!

I suffer a lot because I get hit!
With hundreds of asteroids making deep pits.
I usually get a visit every 10 years,
Normally they come along in 2 pairs.

My very first person was called Neil Armstrong,
wow! He looked amazed, oh no, an asteroid...
DOW!



By Thomas van Pul (5C)

This is just one of many truly great examples of how humour, talent and a love of learning have merged to produce a genuinely commendable piece of work. They'll definitely be more examples of our great poetry around the school; so do keep a look out over the next few weeks!

Outside On Hillside

By: Stephen Follows

On the last Thursday before the Christmas holidays Year 6 went up to visit the Hillside campus to take part in a morning of crazy Christmas fun! They had been given the challenge of preparing a variety of different Christmas themed activities, which they would independently run, for groups of Year 1 students.



This challenge was not as straight forward as they may have thought; the students went through the process of mind-mapping their different ideas before agreeing, as a group, which activity they thought would be most suitable for Year 1 students. They then needed to present their idea to the class teacher who would decide whether or not the idea was viable. Once this was sorted, the cutting, making, programming and a variety of other activities could take place in order to prepare for the big day.

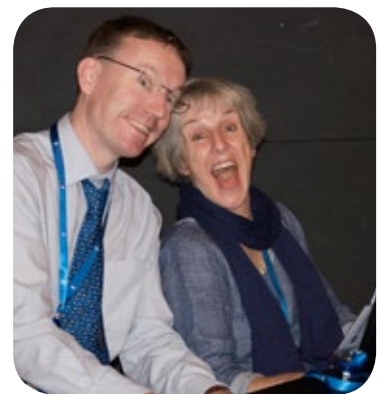
When Thursday arrived all the students from both Year 1 and 6 were really excited for their morning of Christmas fun. For their part, the Year 6s displayed the core values of responsibility, integrity and commitment as they ran, with very little help, an amazing range of activities: board games, computer quizzes, reading corners, arts and crafts activities and many more! The Year 1s were brilliant as well, showing a fantastic love of learning as they took part in the games prepared for them.

The feedback from students and staff was incredibly good and has opened the way for future collaborations between the two year groups. What could possibly be next, an Easter Extravaganza or Summer Spectacular?!



PRIMARY

Y2 Christmas Show



PRIMARY

Y2 Dinosaur Museum



SECONDARY

Year 11 & 12 Mock Exam

By: Hollie Slaughter

On the 12th and 13th of December 2016, Year 11 IGCSE & Year 12 A Level students picked up their paintbrushes and set out to complete an eight hour painting and drawing exam.

Year 12 worked on completing a piece for a mini-project based around the work by visiting British artist Ian Murphy and the Year 11 students' aim was to complete their coursework project with a coherent final piece linking with their underwater theme that began in Chimelong Ocean Kingdom back in May.

Students worked incredibly hard and produced some excellent results. Their work will be exhibited in April before being sent to the UK to be assessed by Cambridge International Education.

Year 11

Coco Shi 'Jellyfish' 86 x 56cm, acrylic on canvas

Emma Mo 'Fish on Ice' 100 x 100cm, acrylic on canvas

Kianah Habos 'Underwater Scene' 50 x 68cm acrylic on canvas

Atirut Rueang 'Bird' 86 x 56cm, mixed media on paper



Handmade Paper Peonies to Celebrate Chinese New Year

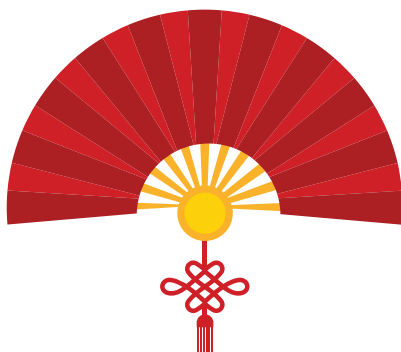
By: Hollie Slaughter

Guangzhou is famously known as ‘Flower City’ due to its green landscapes and flower markets and flowers and plants can be seen lining the streets in the days, or even weeks, leading up to Chinese New Year.

To celebrate, Years 5 – 10 have been making paper peonies in their art lessons as part of our ‘Made in China’ themed China Week. The peony was chosen because it represents China as its national flower and due to its complex petal structure and textures. It is a symbol of richness, opulence, beauty, honor and high social status. Red peonies are the most desired and valuable.

Influenced by Documentary filmmaker and photographer Wang Jiuliang from the surrounding areas of Beijing, students made their peonies out of old magazines and school publications to highlight the growing problem of waste management in China and to share our responsibility to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The flowers are on exhibition in the Secondary School foyer.



All The World's A Stage...

By: Charlotte Giles

The costume and make up ASA has just started its second term and inspiration is already overflowing! The team has been working on sourcing clothes and sketching out the looks they want to showcase in the production, with notes to explain their vision.

Nihal Nagandran (Year 10), part of the wardrobe team, explains her vision for Beedle Bamford, one of the main characters in Sweeney Todd:

'The Beedle is a bad character that I want to look good doing it! I see him in dark colours, with leather trim to his outfit. Overall, he needs to give out a sinister vibe, which I think will be shown through his dismal, slightly macabre look'.

The costume and make up team will continue working on the looks for the show this term, including a secret special make up effect that will be the biggest thing the team has taken on yet!



English For University Entrance

By: Donal Crawford

Students who hope to study at University in an English-speaking country (or on a degree taught in English) need to prove to the universities that their English language proficiency is of a suitable standard. For non-native-speaking students at BSG the most widely accepted way to do this is to take the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) examination. Several sixth form students have been working hard to prepare for this difficult and high-stakes international exam, which tests listening, speaking, academic reading and academic writing. Either through timetabled classes or in ASA time, BSG Head of EAL and experienced IELTS examiner, Mr. Crawford, has been working with students to help them improve their academic English, practice the examination skills, and get ready for the test.

Results last year and in Term 1 were very positive, so let's wish all those planning and preparing now good luck! Keep working hard!



China Week Challenge

By: Claire Walsh

KS3 students have been throwing themselves into the English Department's 'China Week Challenge', in celebration of the upcoming Chinese New Year. In their houses, each year group has been assigned a form of presentation media and an environmental subject focus, which they must use to present the theme of 'Made in China'. Year 7s are creating News Exposés, year 8s, TV public service announcement/adverts and year 9s, a piece of social drama. Students will explore the progress and innovative approaches China is making towards the issues of coal use, the ban on ivory, clean air and environmentally friendly power sources. The winning work will be shown in a whole school assembly and posted on the www.bsgtimes.com website.



China Week Activities

By: Garry Russell

We had a brilliant China Week to celebrate the New Year. It was a real celebration of all things Chinese with staff and students getting involved both inside and outside of the classroom. On Monday we welcomed Bian Lian and his face-changing dancing. Because of the wet weather we held this in the canteen and the students were wowed by Bian's incredible ability to change faces at high speed.



We also had traditional knot-making taking place with students and staff getting involved. On Tuesday, the sugar-painter proved extremely popular with amazing sugar work being given out to our eager students to taste – the unanimous decision was 'delicious'! We also had dough-fiddling taking place with beautiful flower sculptures created.



Wednesday it was the turn for ink painting in the Art Room. Despite being a new experience for most, the artwork produced was extremely creative. Yesterday saw big smiles from many, especially Mr. Joyce and Mr. Dodds, as we welcomed dumpling making into the Secondary School. Much like the sugar painting, everyone who got to try a dumpling was very satisfied! The week concluded with our celebration assembly that highlighted all of the great activities that took place throughout week. Everyone looked amazing in their Chinese costumes and it was a fitting end to a brilliant week.

Thanks must go to Mrs. Wang and Mr. Joyce for organising such an incredible variety of interesting activities.



BSG Shopping Channel!

By: Nicholas Ng

What better way to show off products made in China than for our Key Stage 3 pupils to produce and shoot their very own commercials featuring popular products manufactured right here in our host country. After gathering inspiration from The Shopping Channel, pupils proceeded to plan and prepare a storyboard to detail what their final commercial would look like before the main recording event. After many takes, bloopers and fluffs, the groups concluded with some ingenious ways to advertise their product! A huge well done to all Key Stage 3 pupils for meeting stringent deadlines to complete such a big task within the lesson.



A Year In The Life Of The Secondary Library

By: Xiaoting Xie

The Secondary library at the British School of Guangzhou has been up and running for only one short year, but what a busy and action-packed year it has been. I can still remember the time when our secondary library was an empty shell with only tables and bare book shelves.

Those sad and empty book shelves now have been filled with lots of interesting books and magazines, but best of all, the library is now full of keen young learners.



SECONDARY

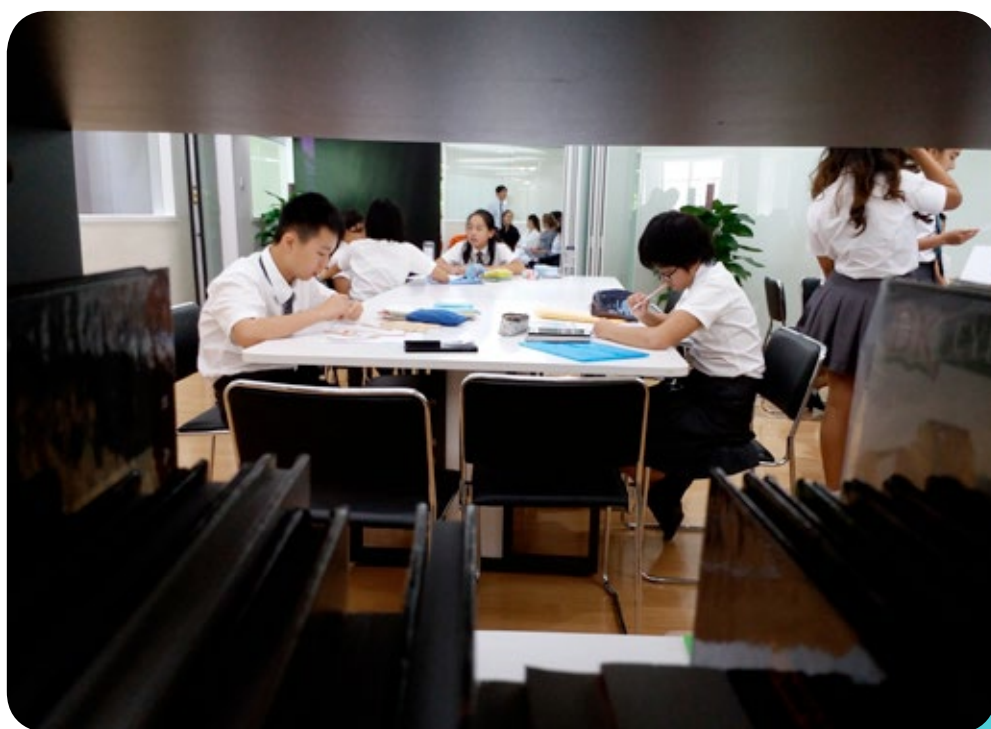
2016 was a productive year for the library; we have updated the library management systems and launched the new digital library, giving students access to eBooks. The eBook system brings a book to your fingertips. All the Accelerated Reader program (AR) books have been labeled with book level, reading points and age suitability levels. This information helps the students select the right book and supports the AR program introduced by the English teachers. Now the students, parents and the teachers can monitor and clearly see the progress being made in reading.



New books keep coming every month. The library keeps growing and it is getting harder to find empty spaces on the crowded shelves.

As the librarian I want to take this opportunity to thank the students who have made very good use of our library and shown respect towards the books. Also I would like to say thank you to the staff that have been supportive of the library. Staff have spent time talking to the students about books and inspiring their reading. Thank-you especially to the teachers who have supported the 'Guest Reading' sessions. Volunteers come to read to the students once a week, Let us know if you would like to help with this and share a piece of writing that you love with the students. These events motivate students' love of reading and curiosity about learning in general. The library looks forward to your continuing support.

2017 brings a new year and I look forward to continuing collaboration with my colleagues' development of a love of reading and reading with purpose.



Inter-House Sports | Results

By: Rachael Troughton

At the end of the last term, years 3-13 took part in inter-house sports competitions in various different sports to see which house would be the ultimate champions in their year group. Inter-house sports games are fiercely competitive and popular with the students and all take part with enthusiasm. The higher the place, the more points the house gets to go towards the prestigious overall house trophy at the end of the year.

Here are the results:

Year 3 Football

- 1st Vikings
- 2nd Saxons
- 3rd Romans
- 4th Normans

Year 4 Girls Handball

- 1st Romans
- 2nd Normans
- 3rd Vikings
- 4th Saxons

Year 6 Boys Football

- 1st Vikings
- 2nd Saxons
- 3rd Romans
- 4th Normans

Year 3 Capture the Flag

- 1st Normans
- 2nd Romans
- 3rd Saxons
- 4th Vikings

Year 5 Boys Football

- 1st Vikings
- 2nd Romans
- 3rd Saxons
- 4th Normans

Year 6 Boys Handball

- 1st Vikings
- 2nd Romans
- 3rd Normans
- 4th Saxons

Year 4 Boys Football

- 1st Normans
- 2nd Romans
- 3rd Saxons
- 4th Vikings

Year 5 Boys Handball

- 1st Saxons
- 2nd Romans
- 3rd Normans
- 4th Vikings

Year 6 Girls Football

- 1st Normans
- 2nd Saxons
- 3rd Romans
- 4th Vikings

Year 4 Boys Handball

- 1st Saxons
- 2nd Romans
- 3rd Vikings
- 4th Normans

Year 5 Girls Football

- 1st Romans
- 2nd Saxons
- 3rd Normans
- 4th Vikings

Year 6 Girls Handball

- 1st Normans
- 2nd Saxons
- 3rd Romans
- 4th Vikings

Year 4 Girls Football

- 1st Normans
- 2nd Romans
- 3rd Saxons
- 4th Vikings

Year 5 Girls Handball

- 1st Saxons
- 2nd Normans
- 3rd Vikings
- 4th Romans

Year 7 Boys Football

- 1st Vikings
- 2nd Normans
- 3rd Romans
- 4th Saxons



SPORT

Year 7 Boys Rugby
1st Normans
2nd Vikings
3rd Romans
4th Saxons

Year 7 Girls Football
1st Romans
2nd Saxons
3rd Vikings
4th Normans

Year 7 Girls Rugby
1st Vikings
2nd Romans
3rd Normans
4th Saxons

Year 8 Boys Football
1st Vikings
2nd Saxons
3rd Romans
4th Normans

Year 8 Boys Rugby
1st Romans
2nd Saxons
3rd Vikings
4th Normans

Year 8 Girls Football
1st Vikings
2nd Normans
3rd Saxons
4th Romans

Year 8 Girls Rugby
1st Normans
2nd Vikings
3rd Saxons
4th Romans

Year 9 Boys Football
1st Saxons
2nd Romans
3rd Normans
4th Vikings

Year 9 Boys Touch Rugby
1st Saxons
2nd Romans
3rd Normans
4th Vikings

Year 9 Girls Football
1st Saxons
2nd Vikings
3rd Normans
4th Romans

Year 9 Girls Touch Rugby
1st Normans
2nd Vikings
3rd Saxons
4th Romans

KS4/5 Boys Volleyball
1st Normans
2nd Saxons
3rd Vikings
4th Romans

KS4/5 Boys Basketball
1st Saxons
2nd Normans
3rd Vikings
4th Romans

KS4/5 Girls Volleyball
1st Saxons
2nd Romans
3rd Normans
4th Vikings

KS4/5 Girls Basketball
1st Romans
2nd Saxons
3rd Normans
4th Vikings



SPORT

Year 1 and 2 Sports Day



MUSIC

Christmas Celebrations

By: John Wright

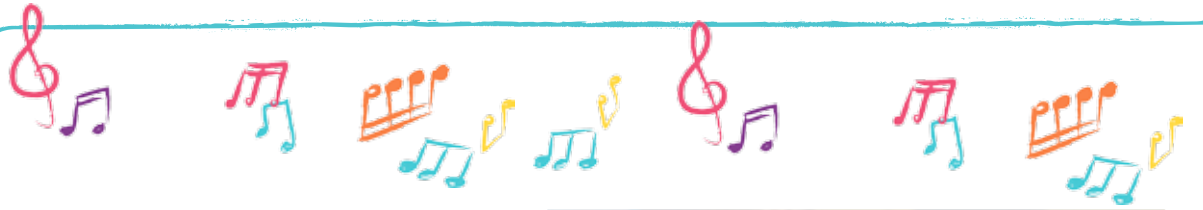
Last month, Secondary School musicians joined their fellow students in the primary phase in a spectacular celebration of Christmas at Tai Koo Hui.

At the start of this academic year, we started a full 4-part choir. Students who joined showed commitment, responsibility and love of learning to a remarkable degree over the previous four months in preparation for singing a difficult repertoire to a large audience. This group was joined by the pre-existing ASA Choir and together they sang new carols by Bob Chilcott and Michael Clawson as well as traditional favourites like Ding Dong Merrily on High!

The orchestra has grown and it was great to have this opportunity to show how the group developed over the term. Thanks again to the fact that more senior students are becoming involved. Senior students are strongly encouraged to join both the choir and the orchestra as a deeply rewarding extra curricular commitment that is highly valued by the best universities.



MUSIC



MUSIC



MUSIC

Winter Celebration

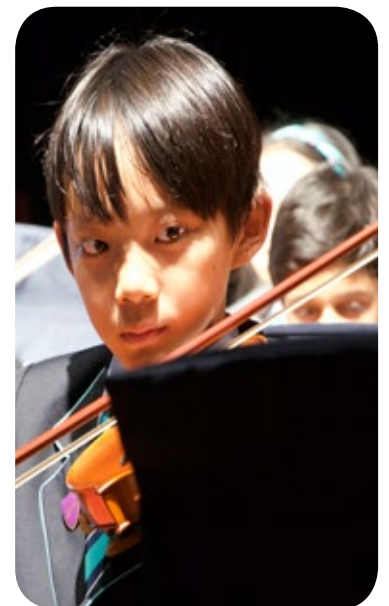
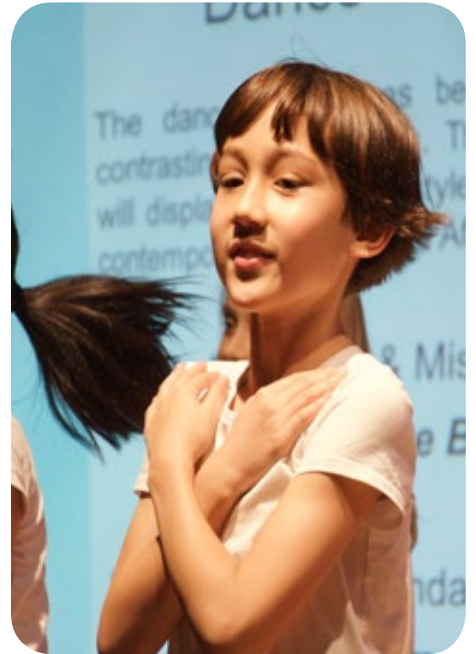
BSG's Winter Celebration concert highlighted the growth of our choirs and orchestras, as well as those stepping up to perform poetry, dance and solo instrumentals.

Over 200 parents were delighted to see their children on stage, some for the first time, as we celebrated the Christmas season with an evening of carols and music.

We're used to seeing brilliant performances at The British School of Guangzhou, but this showcase demonstrated an inspiring growth of confidence in our young musicians.

Through the Juilliard-Nord Anglia Performing Arts Programme, students are becoming more and more engaged with music, and many are realising hidden talents that are being given the chance to shine. In turn, this creates a love of learning for music and a significant increase in life skills such as risk-taking, confidence and resilience.

Also, parents joining in with the festive sing-song created a fantastic atmosphere in the Nanhu Theatre, showing that an innovative embedded arts curriculum can bring out the ambitious performer in all of us.



CHINESE NEW YEAR



CHINESE NEW YEAR



CHINESE NEW YEAR



CHINESE NEW YEAR



CHINESE NEW YEAR

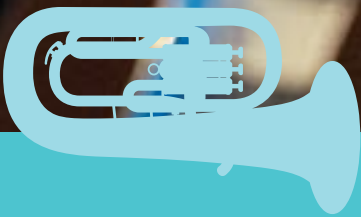


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