



THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF GUANGZHOU  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# Newsletter

Issue 3 | 2017-18



狗

Our annual Chinese New Year celebrations provided a lot of fun for staff, students and parents. We wish everyone a very happy and prosperous Year of the Dog!

*Happy Chinese  
New Year*

To download a copy of this newsletter, please visit [www.bsg.org.cn](http://www.bsg.org.cn) |



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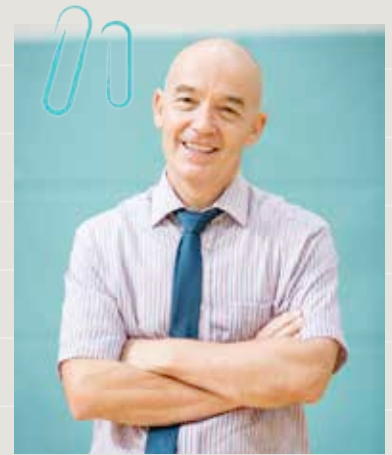


BSGNAE



# Message from the Principal

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Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the Lunar Year, I hope that the Chinese Year of the Dog will be a safe, successful and happy one for parents, staff and students at the British School of Guangzhou.

I am writing this newsletter from the Nord Anglia recruitment conference in London, where I will meet with applicants and newly appointed teachers who are currently working in the UK. This event is an opportunity for newly appointed teachers to learn more about the advantages of belonging to the growing Nord Anglia family of 55 schools, as well as finding out more about BSG and life in Guangzhou. We firmly believe that to ensure the future development of BSG, we need to attract experienced teachers from the UK or from other reputable British International Schools. With this in mind, we advertise in the UK and target the very best UK teaching applicants as we look to fill places for August 2018.

I am pleased to reveal that in August 2018, our collaboration with the Juilliard School will be widened to include dance. Lindsey Elkins, an experienced dance teacher, who will join our school in August, will be spending part of the summer at the Juilliard School, where she will have an opportunity to learn from the talented team. Lindsey will be joined on this training by Yuki, our EYFS dance specialist, and I am confident that they will return to BSG invigorated and ready to promote the benefits of dance to staff, students and parents.

I am also pleased to make you aware that we have now completed the recruitment of our School's senior leadership team. Garry Russell will be taking on the role of Vice Principal next year, and will be replaced as Head of Secondary by Paul McConnell. Paul is currently Head of Secondary at the Nord Anglia School in Qatar, and prior to this was the Deputy Head of Secondary at Regents School in Thailand. Paul will be joining us with his wife Roslyn, who is a PE teacher.

Recently, our School buses have been negatively impacted by government directives. While this situation has been frustrating, we are confident that these issues can be overcome and that pick-up and journey times will return to normal. I would like to thank all our parents for their patience as we work towards a solution and to thank those parents who stepped forward to offer their support in challenging these government regulations. We were literally overwhelmed by the level of support from parents, which demonstrates the depth of good will we have within our School community. This is an appropriate time to remind parents that the Nord Anglia parents survey will be open from 16th February. It is important to remember that a number of school initiatives and site improvements have resulted from parent suggestions in previous surveys — so please do take the time to complete the survey and help us to make our school even better.

At BSG, we continue to promote a curriculum that places as much emphasis on sport, music and the performing arts as on the academic subjects. In the future, we are planning to offer our students a wealth of sporting, language, music and performing arts opportunities, taught by BSG staff through our Weekend Academies. This development is in-line with our aim to become a community hub within Guangzhou, and to provide our students with opportunities to develop their talents beyond the confines of the school day.

We are currently advertising for additional TAs for next year, and parents who are interested in this position are encouraged to visit the website or contact the Heads of Phase. To be eligible for a working visa in China, you will need a 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.

Kind regards,

*Mark Thomas*  
School Principal

## Charity Update

*Terese Francis*  
Charity Coordinator

GIVES (Guangdong International Volunteer Expatriate Service) is an amazing charity which helps to bring about awareness and improve treatment for autism in China. GIVES has helped BSG coordinate a toy drive for autistic and special needs children in Meixian, Guangdong. Just before Christmas, Early Years, Primary and Secondary students were all extremely generous in donating a total of 15 boxes of new and used toys, books and stationery. Here are a few pictures of the children receiving our gifts.

In 2017, Hopeful Hearts broke their record by amazingly raising money to fund life-saving surgeries for 29 children from low-income Chinese families. Of which 13 of these were funded by BSG! A huge thank you to BSG's community for all their support.

Huiling Primary School, located in Baiyun, is for children aged 4-15 years with specific support needs, such as autism, downs syndrome and cerebral palsy. Currently they have approximately 43 students, most of whom board with some only going home for Chinese New Year to see their families. Their course covers sensory perception, gross and fine movement, self-care, communication, reasoning and social skills. The primary school train students with everyday tasks such as cleaning, cooking, taking public transport, buying groceries etc.

My PAWS and Me, a non-profit rescue center, is one of BSG's chosen charities. Meet a few of the characters currently residing in the shelter, waiting and longing to find their forever home.

### *Henry*

My name is Henry. I used to very unhappy and as a result I used to growl at anyone who came close to me. Since moving from my previous shelter, I feel a bit better though I am still unhappy because I am scared and feel unwanted. I am afraid that I will be left somewhere again by my owner. I am slowly learning to open up more, but I need someone to be patient with me. I am comfortable at the shelter, but soon I think I'll be able to open my heart again to someone who will never leave me!



## Darcy

Hi, I'm Darcy. Please don't tease me - I know it's a girl's name, but I am a boy. I used to be aggressive before, but I am much better now since I have been receiving a lot of love from the My PAWS and Me gang. It wasn't like this at all at the previous shelter. We fought for water, yes water! In the rare chance that someone would fill up our water, we would all run to it like it was chicken. I don't have to worry about water now. In fact, there is water everywhere and I am well fed too. I like to walk around with my buddies and just chill. I hope one day I can warm up to someone special. Just maybe....



## Floppy

Hi, I'm Floppy. I'm pretty cute, right? Not sure why I was on the 30 euthanize list. Maybe it's because I'm kind of ordinary. I'm not that aggressive and I like to do my own thing. I don't like to be in my pen all day. So, I'll take any chance to go out for a walk, since I never had that opportunity at the previous shelter. I hope that I can find a family of my own, and maybe they will help me understand how to love again.



## Gandolf

My name is Gandolf. I looked like a tangled mop when they rescued me, and they had to shave all my hair. The previous shelter put me on the euthanize list since they felt I was aggressive. It was tough living in the pen with others without food or water, and never being able to come out. After one month at My PAWS and Me, I really felt much better both physically and emotionally. I was in a pen with 3 others, but they felt I needed more space so they gave me my own pen with my very own food and water bowl. One day they discovered that I was pregnant. I gave birth to four puppies, of which one was named Simba, who has deformed legs. I appreciate everyone for giving me another chance. My puppies are well fed, happy, and I hope that they will go to great families one day. As for me, I would like to settle in with someone who will just let me be who I am, which is sometimes playful, and sometimes I just want to chill. Maybe someday soon.



## Dolly

Hi, I'm Dolly. I look quite plain, but I am actually very sweet. I'm really not sure why the previous shelter wanted to euthanize me. I guess because I am plain and no one really came to look at me. I was scared of people in the beginning, but at my new shelter, My PAWS and Me, I have begun to trust people. I come to people now rather than shy away. I'm really not that much trouble. I hope someday I can have a home of my own.



## Sushi

Hi, I'm Sushi. I used to wear this thick heavy collar around my neck left by my previous owner. He left me at a shelter where they tied me to a corner with only a foot step of room to move. I didn't even have room to do my business. It was really bad and I was kept like that for a very long time. The people from MY PAWS and Me rescued me from being euthanized, and treated my skin disease. I wasn't much to look at for the past four months. They say I'm looking great and I feel great too. I hope one day soon I will be able to have some friends join me in my pen, and then I can go home with a family and join them in their home. Hopefully someday soon.



## Rocky

Hi I'm Rocky. I used to share a pen with many dogs in my previous shelter. My teeth don't look great and they say that I am aggressive. I'm just really scared and I don't when other dogs to come close to me. At My PAWS and Me, they tell me everything is going to be ok and encourage me to come out of my cage. All the dogs go out for a walk, but I am not used to that, as they never allowed us out before at my previous shelter. But I am better now.



# China Week



# Meet the Nurses

## Meet The School Nurses!



*Monica Samtani*  
SEN Coordinator

Starting bright and early and sometimes ending their day after the sun goes down, we are fortunate to have amongst us a very dedicated team of staff who often hide behind the scenes. Miss Joanne, Miss Lydia, Miss Carrie, Miss Lynn and Miss Mabel are our lovely nurses on site and they spread their services across all campuses, from Early Years all the way up to Secondary, to provide medical support to all in need in our school community. They bring with them a radiant smile as they tend to our wounds and help keep us calm in situations that at times may seem daunting. They work diligently to ensure that the top priority at our setting is the health and safety of all our students. You may not see them but they provide support for all of our school events, often even accompanying off-site sporting fixtures and our delightful music performances, but they hide behind the scenes.

As part of introducing a very integral part of our school team, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their ongoing support in communicating and sharing essential medical information about their children with us.

**To help us maintain our high health and safety standards, please can families note the following:**

~ Please continue to provide the most updated medical information, including allergies, food restrictions, etc.

~ Any medication that parents request for our school nurses to administer on site will now require a doctor's note, along with a completed medicine approval form.

본교의 건강과 안전에 관한 기준을 유지하기 위하여 다음과 같이 협조해 주시기 바랍니다. :

~ 알레르기 및 음식 제한 등을 포함하는 자녀분의 건강상 유의 사항을 지속적으로 업데이트해 주십시오.

~ 교내 간호사 선생님께 약을 보내시어 자녀분께 복용을 요청하시는 경우, 앞으로 의사 처방전과 작성하신 'medicine approval form-약 복용 동의서', 두개의 서류를 모두 보내주셔야 합니다.

감사합니다.

为了维持我们较高的卫生和健康标准, 请家长注意以下事项:

~ 请给我们提供您孩子最新的医疗信息, 包括过敏, 食物限制等

~ 需要学生护士监督学生在校期间吃药的话, 家长须提供医生纸和签署好的药物批准表



*Ms Carrie*  
Secondary  
School Nurse



*Ms Lydia*  
Nanhu Building  
Nurse



*Ms Joanne*  
Hillside Building  
Nurse



*Ms Mabel*  
Lakefront  
Nurse

# ALPS

## Discover The ALPS Programme!

*Jenny Park, Seam Kim & Min Sung Kim*  
ALPS Students

The Accelerated Learning Programme of Study (ALPS) is a new one-year intensive English course for students aged 13-18. How is it different from the mainstream curriculum? What is it like to be on the course? Find out below!

### **An Interview with the Head of ALPS, Ms Shaila Chainani**

**By Jenny Park, ALPS Student**

Have you ever heard about ALPS? Then, have you ever seen them? The BSG Accelerated Learning Programme of Study (ALPS) is a brand-new course, just started in August, so it is only natural that not many of you know about it unless you are in secondary or sixth form. If you are, then you might wonder how it is different from the mainstream year 10 and 11.

To give you more information, we have interviewed Ms Shaila, previous head of EAL and now head of ALPS, to get the answers to frequently asked questions about ALPS!

#### **1. Can you introduce yourself?**

I am Ms Shaila, head of the ALPS. I've worked at BSG for 11 years and I was the head of EAL (English as an Additional Language) before. I am also an English teacher for ALPS.

#### **2. How are ALPS students chosen?**

Just like any other students in BSG, ALPS students took an entry test. Based on their entry test score, age (13~18), and future ambitions,



the admissions office recommends this programme, case by case, not only to new students but also to former students who wished to finish IGCSE and go into A Level in a year.

#### **3. What do ALPS students study?**

ALPS students will study IGCSE ESL and MATHS as well as other IGCSE subjects, for example, Science, Business Studies & Economics, Computer Science, Music, and P.E for a more dynamic academic life.

#### **4. Will they take IGCSE?**

Yes, they will take IGCSEs with year 11s except that they will only be taking IGCSE ESL and MATHS, two mandatory subjects in IGCSE. With a minimum score of 'C', they will successfully graduate ALPS and be ready to go.

#### **5. If they're studying IGCSE right now, why are they in year 12?**

It was for an integration purpose. This programme was created to make them ready to join the sixth form and we were worried they might be overwhelmed by the life there after graduating ALPS. If ALPS could share everything, including smart business dress and free periods, with other year 12s, it would be easier for them to integrate more quickly to the life of older students.

To sum up, ALPS is BSG's one year intensive English course, composed of a small group (max of 10 students) and currently, 7 students, taught by specialists in each subject, aiming to enhance participants' academic English to a sufficient level that will be able to meet all needs of A Level.



## ALPS & Adjusting To A New School

By Sean Kim, ALPS Student

Getting adapted to a new environment is always a hard work. But as people live their life, they will have to face a lot of situations where they will have to adjust to a new environment.

In my case, I came this school (BSG) last week so everything was unfamiliar and awkward to me. In Korea, I've adjusted pretty well to quite many new environments - I have started new schools, been to different English academies and joined activities like basketball club. And I think the reason I was able to is because Korea is my hometown and there are many people around me who were able to help me. It is easy to communicate and we are all from the same system and background. But here in Guangzhou, especially in an international school, I thought that it would be pretty hard for me to get used to it. The reason is that I don't know any people, I don't know how the system works, and I now have to consider 3 languages! So, I thought there's no one who can help me.

However, my prediction was completely wrong. My group is called ALPS and there's 7 students including me and two of them are Korean students. And they helped me a lot. Teacher told Jenny, who is one of the Korean students, to help me through the first day of my school. So, thank you to Jenny - she is the person who helped me to adjust at the first time. And also, many teachers asked me how my first few days at the school were. I feel quite thankful to everyone for caring about me and for helping me.

On the other hand, when I first came here to take the interview, my first impression of the school was that it was quite impressive. I think it's because of the school's beautiful atmosphere that can't be seen at the Korea local school. There is a lake beside the school and there are a few buildings. All schools in Korea have only one building so that was really unconventional for me. Everyone was also very friendly.

Because of these impressions, I really wanted to attend this school.

So far, I am completely satisfied with my new school, and thanks to this experience, I feel confident I can adjust better in a new environment next time.



“So far, I am completely satisfied with my new school, and thanks to this experience, I feel confident I can adjust better in a new environment next time.”

*Sean Kim*  
ALPS Student

**预科课程**

通过广州英国学校为期一年的高强度英语课程, 进入世界一流的高校。

适合14-17岁的学生

“我校去年有55%毕业生进入世界排名前50的大学, 这反映了我们的教学质量是非常高的。” — Garry Russell, Head of Secondary School

**FIND OUT MORE**  
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# Juilliard Visit

## Mike Block & Mario Gotoh



*John Wright*  
Director of Music

Soon after we got back from the holiday, we were treated to terrific and unconventional performances from Juilliard alumni Mike Bloch and Mario Gotoh on viola and cello. Mike and Mario performed everything from Beethoven to Roll Over Beethoven, as well as some of their own compositions and arrangements.

Mike made quite a visual impression by playing cello standing up and the school really got involved with whooping and gurning at suitable times as the pair played Bluegrass. Students from Year 2 to VI form had great fun learning about the viola (a new instrument to many of them) and the cello; also about the music that has been (and is still being) composed for this pairing of instruments. Our children benefit from the opportunity to learn instruments (cello among them) in groups as well as opportunities to play in orchestras and popular music groups throughout the year.

Our outstanding primary Viva Strings has two masterclasses during the day and some individual students from secondary also had the chance to get some tips to help them to improve their technique. Teachers and students are all thoroughly inspired and we can't wait for the next visit!



# Choir & Orchestra



# University Offers

## 10 Offers From The World's Top 10 Universities

Andy Hallas  
Head of Sixth Form

This year we have seen an all-time high in the number of university applications submitted by BSG students. The range of destinations has also been remarkable, with applications going off to the UK, Hong Kong, USA, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, Japan and Singapore. As many of the application windows have now closed the offers have started to flood in with over 90% of applications resulting in a positive outcome.

We are still waiting to hear back from around half of the universities, but so far the picture has been overwhelmingly positive and Year 13 students currently have 34 offers from the world's top 100 universities. This includes 10 offers from the University of Oxford, the University of Chicago, Imperial College London and UCL – all of which are in the World's Top 10!

Well done to Year 13 in securing these offers and all the very best of luck as they start preparing for the summer examinations.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

*Congratulations, Apple!*



# 65

The number of university offers for BSG students in 2018 so far.



# 10

The number of offers from universities ranked in the world's top 10.



## Imperial College London

*Yanyan Wu*  
University & Careers Counsellor

Ranked 8th in the world in the **QS World University Rankings® 2018**, Imperial College London is a one-of-a-kind institution in the UK, focusing solely on science, engineering, medicine and business.

On Thursday 18 January we welcomed Mr. Jake Ganymede, International Officer at Imperial College London, who delivered an informative yet humorous presentation to our secondary students and parents. In his presentation, Mr. Ganymede explained what make this university so unique and highly recognized. He also provided practical tips on choosing majors and writing personal statements. This was one of the many well-attended university talks at BSG this term, and it was delightful to see our students being so proactive in planning their future, by asking insightful questions during the Q&A section.

BSG sends graduates to Imperial College London almost every year. I would like to end this article with a quote from Mr. Jake Ganymede: "BSG is one of my favourite schools in China because you send excellent graduates to us and they have been performing very well in campus."



# BSG Snapshot!

## Learning Through A Lens!



### FOBISIA Maths

BSG's 'sum' worshippers went to Shanghai for the annual maths challenge against schools from across Asia.

### Global Campus Leaders

Primary GC Leaders took pride in their new badges, as they continue to support Nord Anglia initiatives throughout school.



### PSG

A huge thank you to our PSG for their continuing support. Over Christmas and CNY, they have made the school feel festive and helped raise funds for our charities.



### Grease is the word!

The costume team have been hard at work customising leather jackets for the production of Grease. The T Birds now have their group name spelled out in studs on the back of their jackets. Next challenge - Pink Lady jackets!



### MIT Winners

These students will travel to MIT in April to represent BSG at STEAMfest. This is an incredible opportunity to attend workshops led by the world's top academics.

### How to survive a...

Year 3 opened up their classrooms to teach visitors how to cope during a natural disaster. They also created special kits to help in any situation, all as part of their topic on 'What makes the Earth angry?'



### KS3 Olympiad

Students in Years 7-9 took part in the ultimate house challenge, involving competitions in many different subjects.



# Early Years

## Follow The 'Signs' To Early Years

Victoria Whieldon & Liz Hill  
Early Years Makaton Team

Last April, the students and teachers of Lakefront Campus were given a very special job; to welcome a new friend to the school. We were told some information about him. His name was Sam, he was small, had travelled all the way from England to be with us and would need his own school uniform... nothing too unusual there. There was just one thing that was a little different; his favourite way to communicate was Makaton signing! We realised that Early Years had some work to do if we were going to help Sam settle in to BSG.

**Makaton is a language programme that uses hand signs and symbols to support communication. Signs are not a replacement for speaking, they are used at the same time as speech, in spoken word order. The signs give additional visual clues, which supports understanding, learning words and expression.**

As you can imagine, all students and staff could not wait to have 'Signing Sam' visit their classroom so Miss Kathy set us a challenge of learning and using as many signs as possible to make Sam feel welcome.





### Miss Kathy's challenge:

- Every Monday, staff and students learn some new signs.
- Then some mysteriously dressed characters known as 'Signing Detectives' will carry out a weekly investigation to spot the class who know the most signs.
- The winning class get presented with a certificate in assembly and get to keep Sam in their classroom for the whole week!

So far Sam has visited every classroom. We are certainly continuing to see the benefits of using Makaton with all students to help create a positive, fun and communicative atmosphere.

Staff at the Early Years Campus have been gradually implementing the use of Makaton for several years now and the arrival of Sam inspired us to become more advanced signers. A series of three one-hour workshops lead by Vicky Whieldon and Liz Hill were offered to those teachers who wanted to boost their signing skills. Over 20 members of staff attended. Workshops involved learning new signs, gaining confidence to sign in full sentences and using signs in practical school related situations.

Feedback from the training was very positive with many staff reporting that their signing competency had increased. Requests for future refresher courses have been made so watch this space!

Finally, here is a personal message from Sam for all of the staff and students at the Lakefront Campus:

"Thank you Early Years for being Signing Superheroes! You have made my first year at BSG a very happy one and I have decided to make Guangzhou my permanent home – keep signing everyone!"



# Early Years

## Moo! Cluck! Neigh!

Iwona Krasa  
Pre-Nursery Teacher

We kicked off Term Two with a lovely topic called 'On the Farm,' which brought much fun and excitement to our Pre-Nursery unit.

As always the team provided many fantastic opportunities for the children to explore the topic in their own way, be it hands-on activities, art and craft, interactive online games, small world or role-play. Such variety of choices enhanced by interesting provisions kept the Monkeys, Wombats and Ladybirds busy and well entertained. The children were able to learn about farm animals, their babies and the sounds they make, at their own pace. It was great to see the children enjoying the topic so much, 'mooring' or 'oinking' away as they were learning.

The unquestionable highlight of the topic was a pretend day out on a farm where the PN children were able to experience, in the comfort of their classroom, with some amazing things. This included milking the paper cow, watching the real-looking hen lay hard-boiled eggs, and even shearing the woolly sheep. What an eventful imaginary outing that was! The hidden aim behind it was to help the children realise that milk does not come from a bottle, eggs from a carton or woolly jumpers from a shop, but that they are actual products of nature. Not surprisingly all that brought an element of bewilderment and discovery, and left some of our children with a priceless, amazed look on their faces.

The 'On the Farm' topic seems to be an winner every time and this year was no different. It is one of the topics that truly ignites the love of learning and appreciates inquisitive minds as long as the interest is sparked. Luckily for the PN children the interest was well sparked indeed!



## Nativity Sparks Special Santa Sighting

*Katie Corrigan*  
Reception Teacher

So the end of last term was a very busy time of year indeed! The Early Years campus was full of Christmas spirit and the elves had been working hard to get Lakefront ready for lots of Christmas festivities. The sounds of Christmas could be heard when walking through the halls as the Early Years children prepared for the big performance of our Christmas show 'A Little Bird Told Me'. The show was a fantastic success; the children looked incredible in their costumes and they sang so beautifully to tell a special Christmas story to all of the adults and children who came to join us. We were so incredibly proud of all of the children's efforts and hard work. The performances certainly helped get everyone into the festive spirit but it didn't stop there.

The children enjoyed lots of Christmas crafts and messy activities involving glitter and paint. They also listened to a number of Christmas stories such as 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson and 'The Snowman and the Snowdog' by Raymond Briggs. However, the most exciting day of all had to be when the children had a special visitor. Santa had travelled all the way from the North Pole to see all of the boys and girls at BSG and brought each of them a present. The children were so happy to see Santa with his sleigh, reindeer and his little elves. There were lots of smiles and happy faces as each of the children said hello to Santa and were given a Christmas present filled with goodies to take home. We also had a Nursery Christmas party to round off the celebrations. We hope everyone had a fantastic and restful holiday. We are happy to welcome the children back and I'm sure they're ready for the exciting new term ahead.



## Hour Of Code

Melanie Andre  
Reception Teacher

At the end of last term, even with all of the hustle and bustle of Christmas and everything it brings; we still had time for the children to participate in the worldwide 'Hour of Code' event. This is a global movement reaching millions of students in over 180 countries. In 2017 there were 152,052 registered events around the globe and we were one of them! Here at BSG, the whole school participated in this one hour introduction to computer science designed to show that anyone can learn the basics- even in the Early Years! The goal of the 'Hour of Code' is not to teach everybody to become an expert computer scientist in one hour but more for children to build an understanding of what coding actually is and provide opportunities for the children to be creative. The 'Hour of Code' event is designed so that it is accessible at all ages, for all students, regardless of background.

In Reception the children had a great time using the Tinker app on the iPads; directing their chosen characters to collect gems and space guns, making sure to avoid aliens and other space dangers! It was great to see the children working so independently in this area of the curriculum. Silence fell over the classrooms and all you could hear were the gentle taps of little fingers setting to work to unlock new levels. Here in Reception the children were so engaged in the activity that it stretched far beyond the hour, with many of our children choosing to explore the games further during continuous provision. The children were so excited to receive their coding certificates at the end of the hour but above all else every child had a sense of achievement and a new interest in the world of computers and how they work.

If you would like to find out more about this event then visit <https://hourofcode.com> for tips and ideas of apps and games you could download at home to help your child delve deeper into the exciting world of computer coding!



## Beegu Phone Home

Alfred Creissen  
Year 1 Teacher

On the first day back after our winter break the Year 1 students were having an interesting assembly with Mr Chris. He welcomed us back and showed us photos of his holidays, enjoying the cold weather in the UK. All of a sudden, we were shocked to hear a loud CRASH!

Miss Nicole ran in to tell us a spaceship had crash-landed in the playground. We had no idea what was going on so we took it in turns to go outside and investigate the crash site. We knew we had to be extra careful, as we had no idea where the spaceship had come from.

Following on from this, we received a letter in class, in an alien language, however we had been left a decoder to help figure out what the letter was saying. We managed to decode the letter and realized it was from an Alien called Beegu and it was her that had crashed the spaceship. She must have been lost, lonely and a little bit scared. We have been discussing and thinking about how it would feel to be lost on a strange planet. We discussed how we could help someone when they are lonely and how we could be kind to Beegu. Year 1 came up with some wonderful ideas.

“We can buy her presents” “We can talk to her and ask her to play games with us”

“We can tell her she is beautiful” “We can help her build her spaceship”



We have been thinking about how Beegu’s planet could be different from ours and we have been designing Beegu a friend and drawing pictures of what we think Beegu’s planet could look like.

We know she is still lost and a little scared as she keeps leaving little clues around the classrooms. She must have been in school last week trying to learn English, as she left all the books scattered around the classroom and it wouldn’t have been any of the children as they always tidy up after themselves.

We are planning to visit the science museum to find out more about rockets and space travel so that by the end of the unit we have done enough research on space and spaceships to help Beegu rebuild her rocket, so she can safely return to her home planet. Year 1 are ambitious and determined to succeed.



# Primary School

## 5, 4, 3, 2, 1! Blast Off!

Nichola Arnott  
Year 2 Teacher

Year 2's new project blasted off with 'Space Ranger 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. Shaun thought the zero gravity food was "so yummy" but Alysa thought it was "a bit hard to eat."

Next, during the medical school the children had to complete tests to check their reflexes and measurements were fit enough to be an astronaut. Then the children were challenged into spacecraft exploration using NASA's very own Space Craft 3D app!

The students 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. The teachers were so impressed with their commitment and perseverance they thought they were all "super stars!" The children all enjoyed their space training, Justin thought it was the "best lesson ever." The children are now working hard on their mission.



## Imaginary Walls And Invisible Barriers

*Sunik Jogi*  
Year 3 Teacher

“Attention!” Mr Connolly roared. “Eyes this way!” commanded Mrs Webb. On the first day of term, 180 Year 3 students and teachers were enthralled with a captivating assembly, hosted by two Year 3 teachers dressed in full army uniform. The theatre was full of excitement and intrigue as students discussed the launch of our new topic ‘What makes the Great Wall so great?’.

Our topic explores the significance of real historical events, conflicts surrounding invaders and settlers, and evaluating the impact of the Great Wall on various people’s lives (amongst other learning objectives). As the construction of the Great Wall began during the Ming Dynasty (shortly before some teachers were born), what better way to connect with these events than to create our own imaginary walls and invisible boundaries at BSG! For one day, students in each house were restricted to several areas in the playground, could only use certain toilets and had various other privileges or restrictions ranging from wearing full winter uniform, to wearing PE kit or home clothes to name a few!

“That’s not fair,” one Year 3 student complained. “I wish I was a Norman!” protested another. The launch for this topic ignited several interesting conversations and questions from the students, mostly from the Romans who had the most to complain about! Since then, Year 3 have embarked on various fun-filled activities including researching and creating timelines, reading about legends, soon building up to a debate and writing diary entries from various points of view.

Where will this topic take us next? An afternoon of traditional Chinese games where the students correct Mr Hogg’s terrible pronunciation of Chinese words? Or another assembly where Mr Marwood dresses up in yet another ridiculous outfit? I’m sure the students are looking forward to other highlights that include our end goals of celebrating with traditional Chinese games, enjoying a feast and creating a graffiti wall to show off our knowledge.

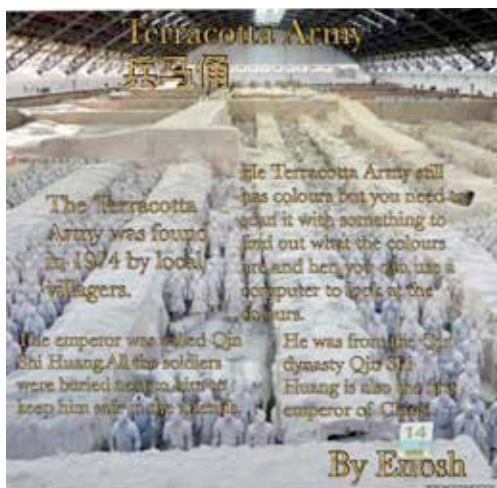


# China And The World Of Art

Andrew Cunliffe  
Year 4 Teacher

We are probably the luckiest school in the world as we have children bursting with excitement and wanting to learn about their host country. "What is the most famous art in China?" Luca asked, while Isabella ambitiously stated, "I want to know everything about Chinese art history." As we approach Chinese New Year, children in Year 4 have been investigating art around the world so as to begin constructing an essential reference point and framework of understanding as they begin their journey in learning about art in China. Some already knew about The Willow Pattern as an early example of globalization as the British embraced Chinese motifs back in the 1750s.

As China is the home of porcelain, lacquer ware, the Terracotta Army and Chinese Opera, children already have a fantastic local knowledge of many aspects of art. As they progress through their discovery of the incredible marvels of this amazing country, children will begin creating their own art using traditional brushes and inks. Let's hope that the Year 4 children's enthusiasm for the subject continues throughout their lives!





## Smart Streets

*Chris Thomas*  
Year 5 Teacher

Choo choooooo! It was full STEAM ahead in Year 5 this week as the students took part in another challenge from MIT. This time our friends from America tasked the students with imagining the roads of the future in a challenge called Smart Streets.

We first discussed the idea of Smart Streets, what we thought cars might be like in 10 years time and considered some of the benefits and problems that self-driving cars may create. The students in 5E really enjoyed discussing the moral dilemmas that may arise from self-driving cars, while other classes focused on how they might look or be controlled.

Afterwards, all the students were challenged to use scratch, Lego Wedo or Makey Makeys to design and code their own Smart Streets. The students were free to interpret the challenge as they saw fit and it was great to see so many of them thinking creatively and outside of the box.

The whole of Year 5 was a hive of activity as children worked together to design, invent, code and create. One of the most impressive inventions was a speed camera made out of a Makey Makey, a paper clip and some aluminum foil. Whenever the toy car drove over the foil road it completed the circuit which instructed the Makey Makey to take a snap of the speeding car. What an incredibly creative design. Someone had better call MIT and tell them about our Smart Streets and even Smarter Students!



## Discovering Maths In People

Robert Walsh  
Year 6 Teacher

During Maths week we had the chance to apply our learning to a real challenge: There is no maths in people. Well, we proved there is. Class 6A used statistics to analyze the population of China and well as what China produces for the world; Class 6B looked at The Golden Ratio; Class 6C concentrated on percentages, applying it to what makes up the human body; and Class 6D applied weights and measures, even going so far as to measure the amount of blood in a human body. All very exciting!

Our wonderful photographic exhibition captured our learning about the Pearl River. We wanted to give representations of water, migration, economic growth as well as pollution. The children learned about the themes through geography and were also taught about both photography and editing, going on to curate an exhibition, making a very powerful statement about how the Pearl River has come to be one of the most important water ways in the world.

The Year 6 team cannot help but marvel at the dedication of the children, leaving us with such a sense of pride when we look back and reflect of the quality of work they have produced in their journey so far.



## The Science Of Transition

Marc Tillotson  
Head of Science

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, we started a transition programme between the Science department and students in Year 6. For the next couple of months Year 6 classes will be joining Year 7 on a Monday afternoon to take part in Science activities.

Every fortnight each Year 6 class will take part in a Science lesson lead by Mr. Starkey or Mr. Howell. The lessons will allow students to experience a lesson of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Chemistry lesson will involve some practical work and an introduction to working with chemicals, while the Physics lesson will focus on some experiments concerning light.

The Biology lesson will allow students to take part in a dissection of an eyeball and a chance to gain some understanding of anatomy and develop some fine motor skills. The transition activities will culminate with a joint Year 6 & 7 trip to Guangzhou zoo in April and we hope this will help students prepare for their move to Secondary in August.



## A Celebration Of Art Coursework

*Hollie Slaughter*  
Head of Art

December sees the GCSE coursework come to a finale as students sit their two-day art examination. The students' aim for this part of the coursework was to complete a ten-hour timed painting around the theme "Underwater". Many paintings showed carefully composed underwater life studies or human form connected with water distortion. These pieces now conclude their course work, which is 60% of their overall GCSE grade. There are some stunning paintings that we cannot wait to showcase at the summer exhibition!

The preparatory work for the exam will begin in the first week of February and will continue until the final exam in April. We are excited to see what the students will do, so watch this space!

### **A-Level Art Coursework Final Pieces**

Our A Level students hit the ground running with their coursework mock examination on the first and second day of term two. Up until the examination, Year 12 students had been exploring the theme 'Surfaces', which saw them gathering visual research, experimenting with materials and processes and exploring existing work by artists. 'Surfaces' is the introductory project, which forms part of their coursework. They will begin to explore their own determined theme in February, which will be their main coursework project

Our Year 13 Art students had the grueling task of a three-day exam, totaling at fifteen-hours of sustained focus. This painting concludes their coursework, which they started in Year 12. This is the first cohort to be part of the Linear A Level, which is a two year-long course. Students chose their own theme to work with and explored it using a wide range of media and techniques within their interests. They will begin preparing for their exam in February and complete all work in April ready for the exhibition in May.





*Eunis Cheung, Year 11*  
Underwater Figure

*Marlie Greenhill, Year 11*  
Underwater Figure



# Secondary School

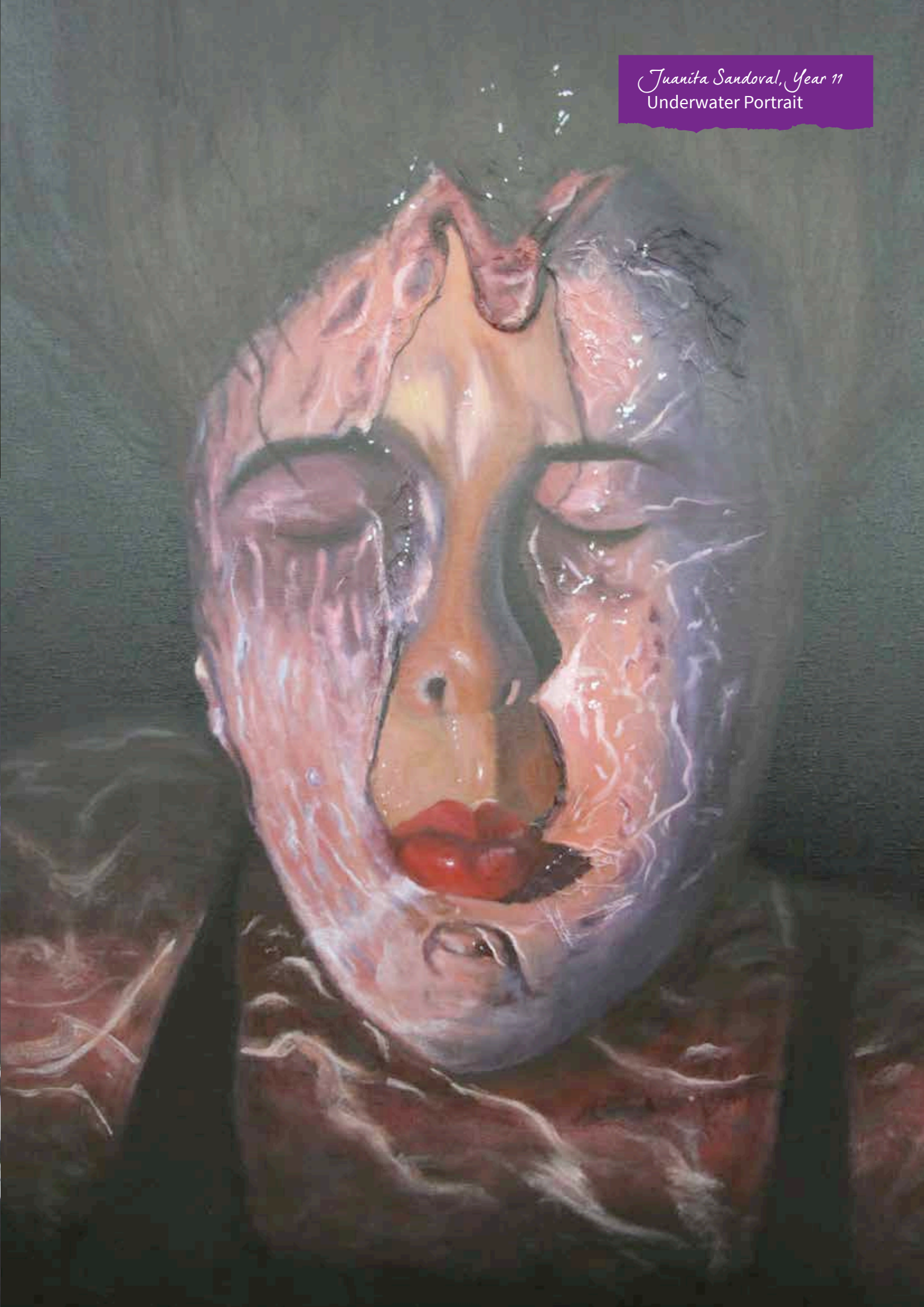


*Karina Chiang, Year 11*  
Studies of Fish

*Shania Leuthner, Year 11*  
Study of Fish



*Juanita Sandoval, Year 11*  
Underwater Portrait





*Justin Ng, Year 12*

**'Rust' Mixed media  
on canvas**

This piece was inspired by the rust forming on the famous Nanhu rollercoaster that stands outside the Secondary building.





*Evelyn Wang, Year 13*

'Dog' acrylic on canvas

Evelyn explored ideas of animal cruelty and the domestic vs. farmed animal in this visually powerful representation of her own pet dog.

*Tim Huang, Year 13*

Acrylic on canvas

This piece concluded Tim's in-depth and independent coursework project based around ideas of pareidolia, a phenomenon of seeing faces in objects and compositions.



## Ask The Artist

Nicholas McGauley  
Head of Music



The Juilliard 'Ask the Artist' is launched!

It is now possible through Global Campus Online (available through the Moodle account) for students to interact with the exceptionally talented Juilliard performers in Dance, Drama and Music to further understand their life, career and work!

The first opportunity comes with the Juilliard dancer and choreographer Riley O'Flynn, who will be answering questions by video on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Check out his biography and some of his performances at <http://globalcampus.nae.school/module/view.php?id=7973>. Students can submit their questions to him through the Global Campus account by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

If you're a keen dancer, or just interested in the life and work of a Juilliard performer, don't miss this opportunity!

## Computer Science With Bean Bags

Nicolas Ng  
Computer Science Teacher

Who would have thought bean bags and shuttle runs could be beneficial in learning Computer Science? Our Year 10s recently had the pleasure of finding out exactly this. In order to distinguish between various methods of data transmission, our pupils became data nodes and the bean bags became packets of data. After considerable running and bean bag launching on the all-weather field, they gained first-hand experience as to why parallel transmission was far superior in speed compared to serial transmission. Yet the world's most common connector (USB) is only serial...



## It's The One That We Want!

Alex Hughes  
Head of Drama

Grease is the one that we want!  
... said a group of year 9 students two years ago within a week of me arriving at BSG. Fast forward two and a half years and those same students and many more are in full flow of rehearsals for their all-time dream show.

It's understandable why performing in the musical Grease is the dream of so many drama students, probably for the same reasons it's the most produced show on earth! Great characters, a fun plot, and timeless sing-along numbers are guaranteed in this year's show. It's hard to believe that Grease has never been performed here in our school and I am thrilled to be directing it in my third year at BSG.

Grease begins by introducing the audience to the romance that has begun between Sandy (Leiah Alvez) and Danny (Monica Mok), who met at the beach over the summer and fell in love. The show opens at the start of the school year at Rydell High School where Danny and Sandy's paths cross once more. The 'Burger Palace Boys', or, more famously, 'T Birds' (Boyuan Xu, Aaryan Jhangiani, Zarius Gazder, and Nick Schneider) pressurize Danny into maintaining his cool 'greaser'

attitude and not succumbing to his romantic side, while Sandy faces resistance from the 'Pink Ladies' (Eunis Cheung, Jazzie Greenhill, Hinata Koizumi and Phoenix Zhou), who don't appear to be open to fully accepting Sandy into their group. The show maps Danny and Sandy's journey to realizing that they are made for each other, despite the peer pressure that they both face.

It's true to say that the music is seriously catchy and infectious. The staff band are busy rehearsing away so that we can perform with a live band on the night of the show and enjoy famous numbers such as 'Summer Nights', 'Greased Lightnin'', 'Hopelessly Devoted to You' and 'Born to Hand Jive'. Grease is an upbeat, fun, energetic show that celebrates love, friendship and rock n roll.

Producing a musical is no easy feat and this one has involved, as always, a massive team of people, all working together to make the magic happen. Over 100 students and staff make up the Production cast and crew with an on stage cast of over 60!

Grease will be performed in the Nanhu Theatre on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. It is bound to be a sellout so get your tickets as fast as you can! Tickets are on sale.



## Swimmers Scoop Medals And Ribbons At FOBISIA, Bangkok

Denica Howell  
PE Teacher

The BSG Swimmers set off on Friday morning, for what was going to be an exhausting but rewarding two days of swimming. They were competing against 22 other schools from across Asia in the FOBISIA Swimming Championships hosted by Patana School, Bangkok.

BSG took 15 wonderful students to this meet from Years 4-9. The team was Schumi Chen, Tiger Zhu, Akimi Liu, Alex Ling, Haoya Pan, Homi Pan, Ryan Chin, Thomas Van Pul, Minnie Yeung, Deborah Chin, Chloris Huang, Rachel Van Pul, Rou Yu Yap, Christine Chen and Yaffa Chen.

Saturday morning, the students were excited and nervous to get the meet under way. Students dove into the 50m pool at 5.45am under floodlights for their warm up working hard knowing that they wanted to do the best that they can.

The meet started with two tough endurance races. First to dive into the pool for BSG were Rou Yu and Thomas in the 400m Freestyle. Both students paced themselves exceptionally well with ribbons for 7<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in their age category. Next was the 200IM with Tiger, Schumi, Akimi and Minnie competing. Our first medal of the meet was won by Minnie who came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in her category. The races continued to flow as the temperature rose and determination in each student grew with it. Before we broke for lunch the freestyle relays were underway, and with the crowd behind them our younger students of Rachel, Yaffa, Chloris and Deborah managed to finish 8<sup>th</sup> overall in their category. After lunch came the 100 Free, 100 Breaststroke and finally the 50 Fly. What an afternoon this proved to be with many students breaking their personal bests and taking seconds off their time. This was the case for both Haoya and Alex. Ribbons for Thomas, Christine, Yaffa, and medals for Minnie and Akimi who both came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50m Fly. Schumi won his first medal of the meet coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100m Breaststroke.

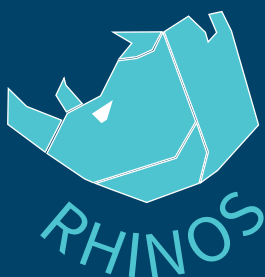
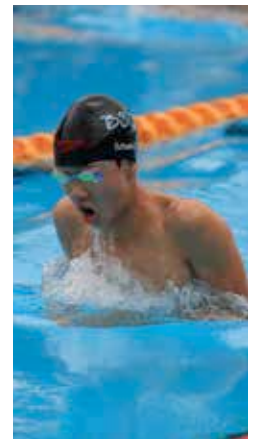
As day one concluded, with dinner consumed, the students got a good night's rest to get themselves ready for another early start and a full day of competition.

Day two and the BSG Rhinos were off to a flying start. The 50m Breaststroke was first with 11 of our students competing in this event. Schumi dominated this event winning gold in his age category with a time of 35.75 s. Next there were courageous performances in the 100m Back with many PBs being broken. Before the lunch break was the Medley relay. Our younger girls managed to get an excellent heat win and come 5<sup>th</sup> within their category. Exhaustion and tiredness was beginning to set in after the lunch break with 50m freestyle, 100m Butterfly and 200m Breaststroke still to come. However, this did not stop our swimmers with ribbons and medals still up for the taking. The 100m Fly saw an excellent performance from Yaffa, while Akimi scooped up a bronze medal and Minnie a silver showing excellent strength and determination. The 200m Breaststroke was the last event of the day with Schumi being the last swimmer. With the crowd behind him the atmosphere was electric. A heat win and a bronze medal was a truly amazing race to finish on.

# Secondary School

The students truly did themselves proud with 7 medals won and every student being placed in the top 12 for at least one event. Exceptional performances across the events from Schumi Chen who took Bronze, Silver and Gold in the 200m, 100m and 50m Breaststroke respectively. Thomas Van Pal managed to be placed in the top 10 for 7 out of 8 of his individual races. Akimi Liu came away with 2 bronze medals in the 50m and 100m fly and was placed in the top 10 for all of her events. Minnie Yeung also came away with three medals, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100m Fly and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50m Fly and 200m IM as well as being placed in the top 10 in her events in her category.

Well done to all our swimmers as we look forward to building on this success in our training programme at BSG and future meets.



## Come on you Rhinos!

[www.bsg.org.cn](http://www.bsg.org.cn) [www.facebook.com/bsgnae](http://www.facebook.com/bsgnae) #BSGRhinos #COYR

## iPads In P.E.

Lucy Broad  
PE Teacher

How do elite athletes analyse their performance to keep improving? There are various ways this happens. For example: football players have several coaches reviewing their heart rate and how many kilometers they have travelled during the game; swimming coaches will scrutinize reaction time at the start of the race; nutritionists ensure athletes' diet is optimal for training and performance. However, arguably the most used analytic in the modern day is the use of video playback of athletes' performances. This allows coaches and their athletes to break down skills into the most minute of details to ensure they are executed efficiently. Also, in terms of a team, to review players' movement on the pitch to check they are utilizing the space and supporting each other. So why are we not doing this at all levels of sports?

As technology becomes a bigger part of our lives, and especially for students at BSG, I wanted to start incorporating the use of iPads into PE lessons on a more regular basis. It is important to note that this is not an essential item for every PE lesson, but they are used when iPads would enhance the learning and understanding of elements in PE. Over the past term, the PE team have been including more use of iPads during lessons. For example, some students in Years 5 and 6 have used video playback to look at their batting technique in Teeball, checking the angle of the bat when contacting the ball is correct. Students in Year 8 have looked at their long jump and shot putt technique, peer assessing each other to improve their understanding of performing those skills. It has also proved useful for students to see how elite athletes perform certain skills, like sprinting technique.



There are also exciting developments in Primary PE where we are starting to trial the use of Sesame to record and evidence students performing certain skills in PE – so watch this space!

It is something in PE we are trying to include more of, where appropriate, to enhance the assessment, learning and understanding of students. Student feedback has been very positive: "It is great to actually see myself perform so I can really understand what to improve...I like having examples of the pros to remind me of how the skill should look like at my fingertips!"

## Primary Languages

*MFL Department*



Our Year 6 students are now fully immersed in the study of their third language (for some students it's language number 4 or 5). After the first term's carousel of French, German and Spanish, the students have now selected their preferred language, which they will continue to study for the remainder of the academic year. This will be in addition to their Chinese classes and their continued use of English in the curriculum. As a truly international school, with students of 56 different nationalities, developing international awareness and life-long skills is key to our students' success. The MFL department is delighted to start this next stage of our students' language learning journey. Let's go Year 6! - Allez! Los! ¡Vamos!

## Toyota Visit

*Francine Hearn*  
Business Teacher

Immediately before breaking up for the Christmas holiday, Year 11 Economics, Geography and Business Studies students finished the term by visiting the Toyota car factory in Nansha to learn about lean manufacturing and operations management in support of the topics currently being taught for IGCSE.

The students were introduced to Toyota through a presentation and a tour of the exhibition hall where they learnt about Toyota's policies and procedures and their aim of zero defects.

Students were then guided through two workshops, the fittings shop and the assembly line where they learnt about the production process, location decisions and methods used to increase efficiency.

The Year 11 students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the knowledge gained will benefit them greatly as they progress through their Economics, Geography and Business Studies IGCSEs.





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