



BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
HANOI
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

ESPRIT

December 2017



*Celebrating Our Achievements
and Successes*



**BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**

HANOI

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Did you know?

At BIS Hanoi, we help our students achieve their very best

Our approach to teaching and learning supports our students to achieve success across all areas of the curriculum, and creates an environment where they thrive and love learning. Combining personalised attention with small class sizes, we create a nurturing environment in which your child will excel academically, socially and personally.

www.bishanoi.com



Be Ambitious



Dear Parents and friends,

This term, BIS Hanoi has certainly shown that it is a school where integrity, care and respect lie at its core. Last year we listened to parent feedback about health and safety and got to work over the summer, resulting in the following improvements: a new canteen provider and a new healthier menu, safer and more stimulating playground areas in the EYC, and the introduction of a new Chill Out Chamber for our secondary student well-being. I also mustn't forget the introduction of our new residents - free range hens - which can be found in BISCoop, behind our Sports Hall.

Academically, we are aiming high to make excellence a habit as we are now offering the IB Diploma to those in Year 12 and 13. Our students certainly have been working hard this term, not just on academic areas -- the IB Diploma also includes a Creativity, Action and Service element and many students chose to take part in activities which focus on the needs of others.

Global citizenship has also featured high on our list of priorities: a visit to the UN in New York for our student ambassadors, involvement in the FOBISIA Model United Nations forum in Bangkok, and Tanzania fundraising in preparation for the forthcoming visit to Africa are just some of the events held this term. As we become more diverse in nationalities, our annual International Festival takes on new exciting dimensions. The International Costume Parade and truly amazing international buffet offered by our wonderful community of parents were testament to this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our BIS community for supporting our parent workshops, Saturday parent coffee mornings and recent parent and staff festive social. Partnerships between home and school are very important to us and with this in mind, I look forward to meeting you soon in our newly opened community coffee shop!

Sue Hill

Ms. Sue Hill
Principal



NEW EYC PLAYGROUNDS *welcome* OUR YOUNG LEARNERS AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAY

During the summer holiday, both EYC playgrounds were redesigned and transformed, receiving a new child-friendly rubber surface to allow the children to feel safe and secure whilst out in the playground.

The F1 and F2 teachers designed their playground with the children in mind, making it a colourful and active place to learn. Grass was added so that the children can feel the textures under their toes and have a place to relax. They now have a race track for the cars which encourages them to control their speed and direction. A rocket has been included to help the children with counting and some different shapes were painted so that they could learn their names and play games at the same time.

Over in F3 and Y1, the teachers decided to lay grass around the climbing frame to add more colour and textures to the playground. The grass is also a place where the children can complete quiet activities and read some books. A giant sandpit was also added and has been one of the busiest areas to play since the children have returned to school.





There is a race track where the children can use the cars and bikes to circulate around in different directions. Inside the race track is a Phonics Frog in which the children can practice their phonics by learning different sounds or just play a game using colours. Also in the middle, there is a snakes and ladders game for the children to enjoy. There are 2 large areas where the children can use the construction materials or play ball games.



It has been a wonderful transformation allowing our children to take their learning outdoors. We have many happy young learners enjoying their new playgrounds.

Ms. Cat Passmore
Phase 1 Leader



Mystery BOOKS

and scavenger hunts: what's been happening in the library



As the new librarian at BIS Hanoi, it has been a pleasure to see how enthusiastic our students are when it comes to the library. One of the best things about our library is how versatile it is -- this year it has already been host to a whole range of learning. Book Week was a huge event for Primary and Secondary in September, and lots was happening in the library. In Secondary, the whole of Year 8 were excited to take part in the 'Mystery Book' event, and in Primary students wrote 'The World's Silliest Poem' (which you can find on the next pages), while parents joined classes in the library for story time sessions.

But it's not just about Book Week: students in both Primary and Secondary have been taking part in information skills lessons, learning to use the library independently and effectively. In the coming year both will have the chance to take part in reading challenges, book groups, cross-school reading initiatives and more.

The library at BIS Hanoi is a space where students can pursue their individual and academic interests and build their enquiry skills. To better reflect the dynamic and challenging environment in which our students learn, some exciting changes will be happening soon.

The space will be refurbished to become more flexible and creative – students will be able to work in different ways, depending on their task. Working in this way supports learning and lets students get the most from the library's many resources. I look forward to seeing our library develop!

Mr. Annie Hull
Librarian





The World's



Scan this QR Code
to listen
to the poem



There once was a school in Hanoi,
Whose children were so full of joy,
When out of the blue, a dragon did flew,
And everyone it did annoy. **4S**

It started to break every rule,
Breathing fire all over the school,
Miss Hill gave a terrible scream,
Wishing everything was just a dream. **5S**

As the dragon glided around the school,
Mr. Labelle - he was no fool.
"Give me your gold or I'll burn your
school down!"
Mr. Labelle hid the treasure in town. **5L**

The dragon soared to the second floor,
Breathing fire at 4I's door,
Mr. Wild's water bottle saved the day,
The dripping dragon stomped away. **4B**

Mr. Callan came out to fight,
But his height was not quite right,
Ms. Crombie, as tall as a tree,
Threw the dragon to Year Three. **6B**

Silliest Poem



Ms. Tong shouted, "Stop right there!
The way you're acting isn't fair.
Come on dragon, don't be a monkey,
I think I'll have to call your mummy." 3I

Mr. Holmes threw his shoe,
The dragon didn't know WHAT to do,
Its fiery temper grew and grew:
"I think I will devour Year 2." 6H

Year Two were playing outside at break,
The dragon made a big mistake,
He chose the sandpit for a bed,
They buried him up to his head! 2B

Oscar dug the dragon out,
Mr. Kevin gave a shout,
He ran into the chicken shed,
And threw eggs at the dragon's head. 6S

Smelly breath came out of his jaws,
2S decided to put mints in his claws,
After he ate them, his breath smelled nice,
Until they threw at him some sticky rice! 2S

"Oh no!" moaned Dragon, "I've been seen -
Why do people think I am mean?
All I want is to read a book.
Please Ms. Hull - can I take a look?" 6I

"You like reading?" gasped Miss Hull,
"I like to read after I'm full -
Can I train to be a library guard?
I promise to work very hard." 5B

The dragon splashed into the pool,
He was just trying to keep cool,
"Get out of here dragon!" screamed Ms. Wild,
But the dragon only smiled. 2I

Next it dashed to the library,
Where who was reading? Class 3B.
It hid behind a comfy chair,
Then Ms. Watts shouted, "Over there!" 3B

Now the dragon guards the books,
Defending them from any crooks,
Now BIS is safe from harm,
Teachers and students feel happy and calm. 4I





Egg-citing News at BIS Hanoi



Community Services are a very important part of our curriculum and are offered both within our school day and as optional extra-curricular activities. Through community service projects we hope to provide opportunities for students to develop respect for others who may be different from themselves, learn how to care for our environment and animals and to learn more about local communities outside the BIS.

Caring for animals took on a whole new focus at BIS this year when ten very lucky hens arrived to take up residence in the BISCoop. Students across the school have been visiting with their class teachers to learn more about how to care for the hens in their new free range enclosure.

The hens are now happily eating seed from our student's hands and have even started laying some wonderful free range eggs. The eggs are in great demand and all donations to purchase them will go towards the upkeep of our beautiful new chickens.

The links of the BISCoop with our curriculum have also been made. The children in Early Years will be learning how to care for animals and, once our hens have settled in and are well trained, the children will take turns to visit our hens. Many of our Secondary and Primary students and teachers are linking class subjects to this fabulous new learning area and our happy free range hens!

Mr. Kevin Halpin
Community Service Manager



From Chill Out CHAMBERS TO THERAPEUTIC CHICKENS: STUDENT WELFARE IS OUR TOP CONCERN



So often, schools are created with extroverts in mind – common rooms with games, classrooms oriented to group work, lots of interactive space. At BIS Hanoi, we recognized that we should create places for introverts to recharge and re-energise. Based on student feedback, the Chill Out Chamber (named by students) was created. It is a room that students can use during break times to meditate, practice mindfulness, or just quietly relax.

The best thing about it is the fact that students recognize the value of having that quiet time in their day and they're using it. Muted lighting, yoga mats, bean bags, or regular chairs greet our students as they walk in, immediately inviting a sense of peace and calm. Teachers can also access this room throughout the day to either recharge themselves or bring classes for a mindfulness practice or yoga session.



We still have plenty of interactive spaces providing for group exchanges, from foosball in the Sixth Form common room, to comfortable areas where our younger students can have some quality social interactions during their free time.



Therapeutic chickens are our newest initiative to help students with their overall wellbeing. Students who need help navigating the complexities of social interactions, family dynamics and a rigorous academic program can find help. Sometimes it is a private conversation in the counsellor's office, or it can be moved outside to a quiet grassy secluded area where one can choose to either feed the chickens or just watch their antics while discussing with the counsellor areas in which they could use guidance.

As we move forward, our students' welfare is a top priority and we're thinking outside of the box to get it right. We're excited to be focusing on this area in a time where mindfulness and wellness are being discussed by top schools, organisations and even sports teams throughout the world.

Mr. Lori Fairbairn
Counsellor



*Exciting choices of healthy, fresh food
with our new*

CATERING *provision*

One of the great changes at BIS Hanoi in 2017-2018 was our new catering provision. Epicure Catering, a company based in Thailand which provides high quality lunches in a number of international schools in Thailand and Cambodia, is now taking care of our school canteen.

Epicure believes that healthy eating is the requirement for children's energy needs for growth, activity and development and they are striving to offer a varied menu to expose children of all ages to food choices they can enjoy.

Lowered serving counters, the addition of healthy, hygienic salad and fruit serving areas and an adapted menu offering two Asian & two Western choices for lunch in addition to noodle soup options are some of the improvements. Our new school lunches have been very well-received so far by staff and students alike.



The first BIS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

BIS Hanoi was rocking to the sounds of student music on October 6th as the Battle of the Bands raged. The auditorium was filled with an air of excitement, suspense and energy - it was the first BIS Battle of the Bands. Our new stadium seating provided a legendary atmosphere and set the perfect stage for our talented guitarists, singers and drummers.

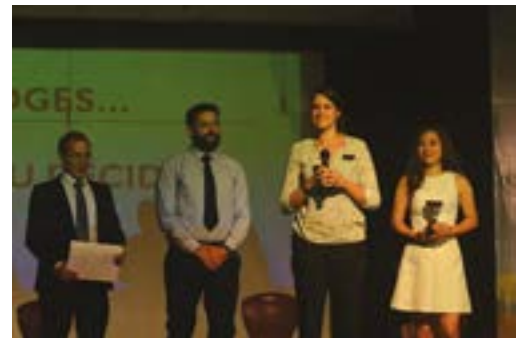
Whilst our six competitor bands took their places, we were fortunate to experience an electric performance by the wonderful My Dung with her creative presentation of the classic 'I Believe I Can Fly' and it was fantastic!

Then six well-rehearsed and dedicated bands stepped onto the stage: from an indie band to a 10-piece pop dedication, to a rock band and even a Music Technology Performance on the LaunchPads, the audience was even lucky to see a debut composition by one of our year 8 students.

The variety of performances was exceptional and all bands did a fabulous job but the creativity, the accuracy, the energy and the skill of 'The Smiling Criminals' saw them swinging into 1st place. Their elaborate performance of a mash up, finishing with an exquisite Smooth Criminal arrangement on the electric violin made them very deserving winners.



The Smiling Criminals



*Congratulations to
The Smiling Criminals for
winning our first ever
Battle of the Bands!*





MOON

Festival

**The way
we celebrate
and educate different
cultures at BIS Hanoi**

On October 4th we presented our Moon Festival assembly - an annual event celebrating a remarkable festival in Vietnam. Traditionally, the Moon Festival was a time when parents returned from the harvest fields and enjoyed time playing with their children. Consequently, the festival is sometimes known as the Mid-harvest or Children's Festival.

It was very fitting, therefore, that so many of our busy working parents were able to take the time to come and celebrate with their children. For our new international staff, the experience was an extraordinary one. Often, when two or more cultures



come together, something new and wonderful is created. This is one of the great advantages of belonging to an international school community.

Staff and students at school were encouraged to wear Ao Dai and other traditional dress which made the event even more special and colourful.

During the assembly, our students gave impressive and outstanding performances such as: Lantern parade and poem recitation “Trang oi tu dau den”, “Viet Nam oi”, “Len tham chu Cui”, “Bac Kim Thang”, “Taekwondo”, and “Banh troi nuoc”.

As the performances went on stage, the whole auditorium was filled with excitement and joy and the attendance of so many supportive parents this year was truly a great encouragement.

We were extremely proud of our students and their fabulous performances – a combination of tradition and modernity. The standards are getting higher each year and our students are truly being ambitious.





Another spectacular visit from *Juilliard* artists



On Wednesday, November 22nd, we had the honour of welcoming our Visiting Artists from Juilliard. Dr. Kimberly Patterson and Dr. Patrick Sutton travelled from the USA to share their passion for the cello and guitar, inspiring everyone with their talent and obvious joy for music.

The trailblazing cello and guitar duo formed in 2011 as doctoral students at the University of Colorado in Boulder. In addition to being featured artists at the 2016 Guitar Foundation of America Convention, their collaboration has led to recitals, residencies and lectures throughout the United States and abroad.



The Patterson/Sutton Duo are strong believers in the transformative power of educational outreach and our music students were fortunate to participate in several strings and guitar workshops throughout the day. The focus of the workshops was technique, tone, sound production and ensemble skills. During the second half of the workshops, our students rehearsed the song 'Romance' with the aim of preparing for a big finale performance.

At the end of the day, our students and parents were invited to a magical concert by Patterson/ Sutton. Those students who participated in the workshops finally had the chance to take the stage and perform alongside our Visiting Artists -- an incredible opportunity which turned out to be a great success!



The Nord Anglia collaboration with the Juilliard School is really having an incredibly positive impact on learning at our school. The Juilliard embedded curriculum has been taught at BIS Hanoi for two years and one term now, and we are seeing an amazing rise in standards across both Primary and Secondary. We look to the future development of this collaboration with great enthusiasm and cannot wait to see what's in store for our young musicians!

Ms. Laura Rea
Performing Arts Leader



BIS HANOI

collaborates with **ABRSM**



In September 2017 we were officially accredited by The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and became an ABRSM exam centre in Vietnam.

ABRSM is the UK's largest music education body, one of its largest music publishers and the world's leading provider of music exams. Following the partnership with ABRSM in the academic year 2017-18, BIS Hanoi students are officially placed in a professional Individual Music lessons programme at school. The programme is based on the ABRSM syllabus and allows BIS Hanoi students to master their musical skills in a variety of instruments such as piano, violin, guitar, saxophone, flute, clarinet, cello, drums and vocals.

The ABRSM curriculum is divided into different levels from Grade 1 to Grade 8 which is set to help children build up their knowledge and skills gradually from basic to advanced.

When taking part in ABRSM exams, students will be tested in both Theory and Practical sections. Together with the ABRSM certificate students will receive a transcript with details of the assessment from their examiners. ABRSM is recognised as the top music education provider and accredited by the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF), therefore, students who have obtained ABRSM certificates from Grade 6 upwards will also receive credit points from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which is advantageous when applying to colleges or universities throughout the United Kingdom.

The partnership with ABRSM represents a strong enhancement in the Performing Arts curriculum at BIS Hanoi. It also reflects the huge efforts of the school in continuously upgrading teaching quality and maximising opportunities for the students' development.



"They would be trekking along the trails of the Nakdong Jeongmaek Mountain Ridge, a chain of peaks that feature strongly in Korean folklore and popular history"



The Duke **OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD - GOLD STANDARD**





At the start of July 2017, four boys from BIS Hanoi set off on the adventure of a lifetime. Their expedition was to South Korea, a country that only some of them had visited, and then only briefly many years ago. Pham Phuong Long, Nguyen Anh Huy, Pham Duy Minh and Nguyen Anh Minh were taking part in the Adventurous Journey for the Gold Standard of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. This is the ultimate standard in the renowned youth leadership programme, and these boys were the first from Hanoi to be taking part in this incredible challenge.

For Phuong Long, Anh Huy and Duy Minh this was the culmination of a journey that began when they were Year 10 students starting off in the Bronze Award, trudging along the sun-blasted paths of Mai Chau and sliding down the rain-drenched hills of Sapa. Now, with their Silver Awards complete (or nearing completion), they were our very first committed participants in the Gold Standard - quite an achievement in a school as young as ours. Anh Minh, who had participated in the Bronze Award briefly, was now here as a Direct Entrant into the Gold Award - a position that requires him to make an even greater time commitment.

The expedition, led by Roger Shepherd of Hike Korea, an incredibly experienced explorer of both South and North Korea, took the boys to a little-visited region five hours drive southeast of Seoul. They would be trekking along the trails of the Nakdong Jeongmaek Mountain Ridge, a chain of peaks that feature strongly in Korean folklore and popular history. Throughout the expedition the only other signs of human life came when the boys camped in two of their sites on the outskirts of local villages, otherwise it was just them, the mountains, forest and the occasional irate wild boar.

The boys navigated themselves, with reference to maps, compasses and GPS (with Anh Minh being the primary GPS expert). Each boy fell into their own particular niche, either of leadership or support, all forming a close-knit and positive team. As the boys themselves said in their presentation following the expedition, they felt afterwards as if they each had three new brothers.

Through Roger and the driver, Fred, the boys gained a greater understanding of Korean culture, especially food, with freshly barbecued pork belly on the night following the expedition being a particular favourite.

The trek itself was gruelling, testing the boys as they had not been before. During the first two days the going could be slow, the challenging nature of the terrain making them exhausted and anxious. However, by day three they were stronger than ever, collaborating well, verbally and otherwise encouraging each other (and their suffering teacher) and making extraordinary progress. Roger himself commented on how impressed he was by their determination and sheer strength of character.

Whether on the trail, at the campsite, meeting curious local villagers or dignitaries (including a very exciting meeting for Anh Huy with Hello Kitty in Seoul), the boys proved to be exceptional ambassadors for our school and Vietnam in general.

We wish them all the best as they complete their other sections of the Gold Award and look beyond Vietnam to their future studies.

Mr. Robert Airdrie
 Maths Teacher
 Head of Sixth Form

Rhythm & RHYME

Book Week 2017 was a fantastic success! Phase 1 trekked through the Jurassic wilderness as they focused on dinosaurs whilst Phase 2 delved into a world of imaginary creatures. Meanwhile, Phase 3 investigated villains and monsters.

We were lucky enough to be joined by world famous author and illustrator Liz Million. Her class workshops inspired and challenged our children.

Each class participated in a **Book Week Quizathon** as they battled it out against their classmates. It was wonderful to see our pupils showcase their understanding and support their classmates so well.

Our wonderful librarian Miss Hull invited each class to help her write **The World's Silliest Poem**. The poem was so successful that will soon become a permanent display within the school itself.

We enlisted the help of our very own Music department as our children learnt the Michael Rosen poem **Hand on the Bridge**. It was an absolute delight to see the whole school come together and perform the poem in our Book Week assembly.

To celebrate our love of reading we invited children and staff to enter our **Radical Reading** competition. It would seem our children not only enjoy reading but relish the prospect of doing so in many a dangerous and incredible place.

Finally, each class was set the task of planning, writing and performing their very own **picture book**. It was a delight to see and hear how the children's written skills are matched by their speaking and listening.

Staff, pupils and parents alike are to be congratulated on the breadth, depth and scale of their achievements.

Mr. Craig Driver
Literacy Coordinator



*Book Week
2017 was
a fantastic
success*



Unplug with a **BOOK!**



In the Secondary English Department, we really want to encourage students to unplug those electronic devices and experience the benefits of reading! With that in mind, this year's Book Week was used as an opportunity to push the variety of skills that can be used through regularly delving into a good book!

We had a number of activities running throughout the week, including 'Drop Everything and Read!' and peer reading to Primary students. These were important in promoting our philosophy of perseverance. Children need to build up their reading resilience gradually: by reading for 15 minutes each day or night, students will eventually be able to concentrate on reading texts for longer periods of time and improve their overall concentration and focus. The students also enjoyed events such as

'Blind Date with a Book'- promoting the philosophy of not judging a book by its cover - and lessons in our magnificent library!

We had an extremely positive and rewarding week and the atmosphere in the school was incredible. However, we don't want reading to be a one-week celebration. We have introduced a variety of initiatives to ensure that students always feel supported and encouraged to read.

We have two students who, on a weekly basis, will be acting as 'Reading Doctors'. Lots of teenagers struggle to find the motivation to read with so many distractions around them: social media, computer games, homework. Our 'Doctors' will help to 'diagnose' reluctant readers with a book. We also have 'Novel Knockout' coming up and recommended reading lists for all our classes and abilities!

Reading really is the most worthwhile thing a student can do. It offers them the opportunity to experience different worlds that they never thought were possible. The benefits of reading are endless and extensive research shows it improves grades, heightens emotional intelligence and creative thinking skills, and improves social skills.

Psychologists have said that we are the average of the five people we choose to spend the most time with. By reading, these people could be successful scientists, brilliant mathematicians, heroic teenage characters or inspirational sports stars, and imagine the impact that that could have!

Ms. Kate Wilson
English Leader



BIS STUDENTS

jet off

TO NEW YORK TO WORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

During the summer holiday, three of our students took the trip of a lifetime as they arrived in sunny New York City to work with the UN on promoting the Global Goals. Nord Anglia Education has been collaborating closely with the UN in recent months and ensuring that our students all around the world are aware of the Global Goals and have begun to take action in their local communities to help ensure the Goals are achieved by 2030.

The students took part in a range of activities:

- Presenting at the UN's 'High-level Political Forum' meeting to describe what action they have been taking around school, and explain why young people are so important if we are to achieve the Global Goals by 2030
- Attending seminars at UNICEF to learn more about what is being done around the world to improve the lives of children
- Enjoying a guided tour of the UN's Headquarters and learning more about the history and work of the UN
- Taking part in a 'Model United Nations' debate in order to practise their critical thinking skills and give an insight into how diplomats at the UN work together

Mr. James Forster
Geography Teacher



So was the trip a success?

During secondary school life, there are unforgettable experiences and the New York trip to the UN headquarters was one of them. At first, the fact that I was chosen to be one of the BIS 'Global Goals' ambassadors overwhelmed me because it was so unexpected. To me, this was a remarkable step that proved to me that if I am determined and willing to achieve something, I can do it. It wasn't the first time I travelled abroad, but this time was so special and enjoyable because of all the incredible people I met. Nord Anglia's students from all over the world gathered and

spent time working together. I didn't just make friends with talented people, I also had a chance to associate with incredible UN representatives. The trip gave me a lot of memories and lessons about how can an individual like me take part in changing the world. I saw myself become more responsible with the environment as well as my study because I realised there are tons of talented people out there and the only solution to make our country and our world better is education.

Tran Hong Phuc
Student Ambassador







BIS SPORTING CULTURE

Our sports programme allows students to participate in, and be enthused by, a wide range of engaging and stimulating physical activities prior to pursuing more structured and competitive sporting activity at local, national and international levels.

Our Primary and Secondary students compete locally in a variety of sports in the Hanoi Activities Conference, and a number of our teams compete in international events across Southeast Asia, including the FOBISIA Games, the Nord Anglia Education Asia Games and the Phuket 7's International Football Tournament.

Our Under 11 and Under 13 teams are currently preparing for the FOBISIA Games, which will be held in Thailand in March and May 2018 respectively. Both teams are aiming to repeat last year's heroics which consisted of 7 team golds and over 200 individual medals in total.

All levels of participation promote sportsmanship and key sporting values whilst supporting students in fulfilling our school's vision in becoming global citizens.

Our sporting provision enables our students to develop a number of transferrable skills such as resilience, commitment and perseverance, all of which can be applied to other areas of their student life, such as academic achievement or personal wellbeing.

Whilst our students and teams have achieved a lot of success and won multiple local and international events in recent years, the most rewarding outcome has to be the high level of team spirit that brings our school members together, resulting in a positive culture throughout our whole community.

Mr. Mark Atkinson
PE Teacher

Learning TO EXCEL



We are proud of our multicultural identity at BIS Hanoi. Our students navigate across the range of cultures influencing the school with great agility, sensitivity and humanity. The result is a vibrant and strong community that is self-confident, welcoming and outward-looking.

The high academic standards promoted by the school are beginning to influence the outcomes of our students. In the last academic year, we won 7 globally-recognised awards for outstanding achievement. The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards were presented by Cambridge Assessment International Education to BIS Hanoi students for becoming the highest achieving students in Vietnam in the following external examinations: A Level Mathematics, A Level Chemistry, A Level English Literature, A level Business, A level History and IGCSE Spanish as a foreign language. The 7th award was for the highest aggregate score across three A Levels. Some of our students are brilliant but we promote consistency, too!

Our growing reputation was further enhanced by the graduating class of 2017 after they secured university places at Ivy League and British Russell Group Universities (Top 24 Universities in the UK) including Stanford, Columbia and University College London. In addition to this, students secured places at Monash University (Australia) and Waseda University in Japan.



We have moved on from A Levels and now offer the premium post-16 qualification in the world - the IB Diploma. It is a broad and transformative programme that challenges children to find solutions to complex problems. I can't think of a better way of preparing our children for university and the wonderful life that follows than giving them the chance to study the IBDP.

Mr. Tim Webb
Head of Secondary



Mrs. Rebecca Carroll

OUR NEW HEAD OF PRIMARY

talks about our vision and her plans for the school



What are your thoughts having completed your first term at BIS Hanoi?

It has been an incredible first term. Having joined the Primary School in August (from BIS Bratislava), it has been lovely getting to know the students, staff and parents. Hanoi is an exciting city and we are enjoying exploring Vietnam in our holidays.

It is a testament to our welcoming school community how quickly my family and I have settled; this was our first move with a young family and it is lovely seeing our children enjoy life here and making new friends in the EYC.

What has impressed you most about our school since your arrival?

At the heart of our school is our Aide-Memoire which are the attributes we are nurturing in our students as they become Global Citizens. Among the many celebrations of learning, International Week was a fantastic testament to how we all learn together and from each other every day.

Over the course of the week we saw a wide range of activities: the colourful parade of nations, Russian parents teaching Year 5 students how to make borscht, Korean traditional games being played at our Cultural Exchange and Le Grand Depart race for Year 2

who were taking part in their own Tour de France. These enriching experiences gave all our students the opportunity to learn more about each other and where we come from. Listening to the reflections of students talking about how we need to understand each other and be kind was incredibly powerful.

Please tell us about one new initiative that your team has implemented across the Primary school since you have arrived.

This term across Phase 2 and Phase 3 we have been developing opportunities for Young Leaders. Setting up new roles and giving students the responsibility in school supports their development in a variety of ways.

In addition to the already established roles of House and Vice-House Captain, and Student Council Representative, the new roles of Waste Warriors, Playground Buddies and Library Monitors have come into effect. Students who put themselves forward for these roles get the opportunity to make new friends, take a lead and solve problems.

Educating children is no doubt without its challenges. How do you make learning engaging for our young learners?



Academic rigour and ensuring the best learning opportunities is central to teaching and learning in our school but engaging and exciting our young learners using the International Primary Curriculum for topic subjects such as History and Geography really brings learning to life. Our topics have entry and exit points which lead into and celebrate the end of a unit of work.

Recently, both Year 2 and 3 have showcased their learning through assemblies. Year 2 re-told the film Toy Story and taught the audience about Toys and Dinosaurs using songs and Talk4Writing.

Year 6 students invited parents into a 'time tunnel' this term to showcase their historical investigations of Vikings, Tudors, Victorians and Maori. They demonstrated their understanding of chronology using e-timelines focussing on the culture and influences of these different periods of time.

How do you ensure that parents stay involved with their children's learning?

Communication with our parents is very important: sharing what is happening in school, how we teach and ideas of how parents can support their children at home have been the focus of our workshops this term.

A variety of workshops this term have been well attended across the Primary Phase including Magic Maths, Reading workshops and Assessment and Reporting. It was wonderful to see so many parents coming along and finding out more about what we do and ideas that they could take away.

The Phase 2 Exhibition also saw many parents from Year 2, 3 and 4 come into school for the morning to share in their children's learning.

What are you looking forward to for the rest of the academic year?

At the heart of the Primary School are our students. We believe that everyone can be successful and it is our job to nurture, encourage and support all students to develop their skills and talents.

Seeing the students' progress and develop academically but also through activities such as our residential visits, community service projects, sports and performing arts opportunities is an exciting prospect. It has been an amazing first term and I can't wait to see what success 2018 bring for our BIS Hanoi Community.





Around the WORLD IN 6 DAYS



This year's International Week was jam-packed with a host of exciting events for our children at BIS Hanoi Primary.

We kicked off with our Parade of Nations where children and staff modeled their national costumes to their own anthems.



During the week, we travelled around the world to 24 countries and experienced an array of festivals, languages, arts, food and traditions. With the overwhelming support of our school community, our students received a multicultural celebration around the world.

We were immersed in first-hand experiences of salt tea drinking in Bhutan, constructed Icelandic Viking helmets replicas, and ate hot borscht from Russia and dumplings from China. Year 2 went on a trip to the American Embassy and learnt about Thanksgiving traditions; Year 1 practiced Taekwondo and made their own Merlions from Singapore, whilst our youngest children in F1 savored the tastes of Thailand with at the Bow Thai Restaurant at Almaz. The Year 3's had a chance to bash piñatas for treats Costa Rican Style and prepare gyoza and sushi for a traditional Japanese Hanami garden party while trying out some Sumo moves. Students got to learn about the wildlife in Tanzania as well as Bollywood dancing in India.

As if this was not enough, the school community enjoyed a spectacular feast at our International Buffet, prepared by our parents and staff. Our taste buds were enticed by new and exciting foods from around the world.

Our Russian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Bulgarian and Malawian communities exhibited traditional games, arts and traditions for our children to enjoy.

We were truly immersed into different cultures this year – we can't wait for next year!

Ms. Sally Tong
Year 3 teacher





Celebrates the Value of Diversity

We show empathy and respect for those who are different, whilst retaining pride in our own identities.

We are proud to present our new Global Citizenship character Mr. G.C.! Mr. G.C. embodies the key characteristics of a Global Citizen: he celebrates diversity, is adaptable, shows balance, thinks critically and takes action.

Mr. G.C. was designed by our competition winner - Arthur Do in class 3B. The multitude of flags on Mr G.C.'s outfit celebrate the coming together of nations, working in unison towards the same goal. This goal, as seen on Mr G.C.'s own flag, is 'Making Our World A Better Place'.



Takes Action

We contribute to local and global communities, understanding the shared responsibility of creating a positive impact within these communities.



Thinks Critically

We enquire open-mindedly and think critically about the issues affecting our world.



Demonstrates Balance

We achieve intellectual, physical and emotional balance for the well-being of ourselves and others.



Is Adaptable

We understand that change is dynamic and constant, and possess the mental toughness to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Each half term, Mr G.C. will support our students in developing the key characteristics of Global Citizenship. Through the development of these characteristics, we believe that we too can work together to make our world a better place.

Each half term, we will also be focusing on a different strand of Global Citizenship. To develop the specific skills related to this strand, we will be completing curricular and extra-curricular Global Citizenship challenges.

Students will be able to contribute photos and videos of these challenges to our Year Group blogs, allowing us to celebrate our achievements as Global Citizens together.

Ms. Molly Hill
Year 2 teacher

International Festival CELEBRATES CULTURE AND CHARITY IN HANOI



The annual BIS Hanoi Festival has become a much-anticipated event among the capital's culture-loving community. This year marked the 6th successful festival at the BIS Hanoi campus on November 18th.

The event aimed to educate visitors about cultures from all over the world through traditional games, costumes, food and other activities, and to inform them about their responsibility to community service projects.

This year, over 60 vendors presented an array of goods, featuring diverse cuisines and specialties, stunning products and exciting games which truly delivered a fun day out for friends and families. Visitors could not hide their excitement at the wide range on offer from renowned local restaurants such as O'Leary's, Ky Y, Little India, Rasa Malaysia and Royal Dim Sum, as well as amazing



The BIS Hanoi International Festival 2017 raised approximately VND 153 million for our school's charity projects

products from Maison Marou Chocolate, Quilts and Art and Ekoko Cosmetics, among others. There were also impressive live performances which offered an opportunity to learn more about cultural identities and admire traditional dress from various countries. The stage welcomed BIS Hanoi students, the Hanoi Freude Choir, students from the Russian Embassy School and the Korean Samul Nori Team.

Over the years, BIS Hanoi has worked closely with many community partners including KOTO, Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, School on the Boat, Education for Nature Vietnam and Asia Animal Foundation, and has shown enthusiastic engagement in these organisations' projects. At this year's festival, the school's partners were on hand to raise public awareness of their work and to call on support for their upcoming activities.

The International Festival received considerable donations from generous visitors during a special auction that offered beautiful pieces of art created by BIS Hanoi students for the Big Draw 2017. The VND153 million (\$6,725) raised will go towards BIS Hanoi's charity activities as well as materials and community service projects that BIS Hanoi students will be working on when they travel to Tanzania early next year.

Our Principal, Ms. Sue Hill, said it best in her closing remarks: "It was truly lovely to see how the school's event connected people in such a cultural celebration. We are delighted to welcome our visitors who came to enjoy the event with us as well as to extend a hand to support the community."



MUN *trip* TO BANGKOK

On December 8th, six BIS Hanoi students travelled to Bangkok for the FORBISIA Model United Nations (MUN) conference. Acting as delegates of Algeria, Canada, DPRK, Italy and Spain in committees such as the Security Council (SC), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Human Rights Council (HRC), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the attendees had the opportunity to showcase their knowledge of global politics.

The first day witnessed students deliver their individual opening speeches in their respective committee before deliberating and debating some of the world's most challenging problems. The task was difficult but embraced fully by students who strove to create resolutions through robust debate and negotiation. The day concluded with a gala dinner which allowed students the opportunity to network with other delegates as well as forge new friendships with children from across Thailand, Malaysia and China.





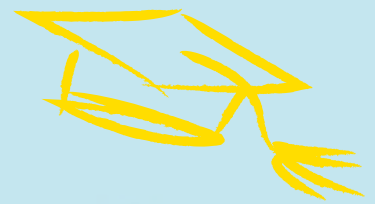
Our students have gained invaluable experience and diplomacy skills

A General Assembly was called on the second day which entailed delegates responding to an emergency crisis. This is an event which students cannot plan for and requires them to be judicious researchers, articulate speech writers and confident speakers. All six students either delivered a speech or asked a question in front of an audience of more than 150 delegates, chairs and advisers. Beaming with confidence, the students returned with a new vigor for MUN, having gained invaluable experience and diplomacy skills.

Ms. Marie Price
English Teacher



Letters from Our Alumni



BIS Hanoi is a young school -- we have only had two graduating classes to date! However, the school still holds a special place in the hearts of our graduates and it is important for us to maintain strong relationships with them. Here, some of our alumni from the graduating classes of 2016 and 2017 share the ways in which their time here at BIS has helped them achieve success.



Le Tran Thu Thao

Class of 2016

Temple University, United States

At BIS Hanoi, I was surrounded with people of potential: my mentors, classmates, friends, the girls on the varsity teams. And simply recognizing this fact has molded my perception of new people that I meet - that is, to give them the benefit of the doubt of their abilities until proven otherwise. BIS was the blacksmith who continued to chisel my moral compass - presenting me with opportunities to practice the values that we all stand for. The value that resonated most with me was to live each day where you are of help to someone else, where you give back, where the happiness you've created in someone else can be used as motivation to keep going.

Hoang Khoi Nguyen

Class of 2016

International Hotel and Tourism Training Institute, Switzerland

Studying at BIS Hanoi has boosted my confidence, presentation and public speaking skills, all of which are important elements for success at university. The DoE award is also something very special - some interviewers have asked me about it during the interviews for my internship; it shines and stands out on my CV.

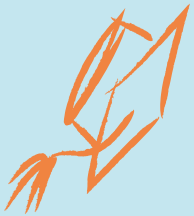


Ha Quoc Huy

Class of 2017

Columbia University, United States

The strong STEM background I received at BIS Hanoi has equipped me allows me to perform well in my classes and still explore the city, the people, and fields which I haven't had as much exposure to as I'd hoped.



Pham Hien Minh

Class of 2017

University of Leeds, United Kingdom

I owe our University Counsellor at BIS Hanoi - Ms Fairbairn - for all of the wonderful experiences that I have had in Leeds, because she had given a lot of support for me in terms of writing my personal statement as well as maintain my university choices from my parents' initial disapproval. It was an honor for me to have her as my counsellor and, in my opinion, Ms Fairbairn has done a great job.



Nguyen Ngoc Minh

Class of 2017

Stanford University, United States

If I could say anything about my application process to university, it is that my teachers were extremely supportive. Even though my recommendation letters were both from teachers that were no longer part of the staff, they were always willing to help me. And when I got stuck with my essays, I knew I could rely on the current BIS teachers to help iron out the kinks in my writing. I am so grateful for all of the members of staff that helped me during applications - the teachers, our guidance counselor, and even Mr. Rowlands. I couldn't have been luckier to have had the support that I had at BIS.



Vo Truong Giang

Class of 2016

British University Vietnam

Studying A-Level at BIS was a blessing for me. I would not have been prepared for university if I had not studied A-Level. BIS has taught me how to manage my time with my studies and my hobbies as well as the studying methods to prepare for exams and assignments.



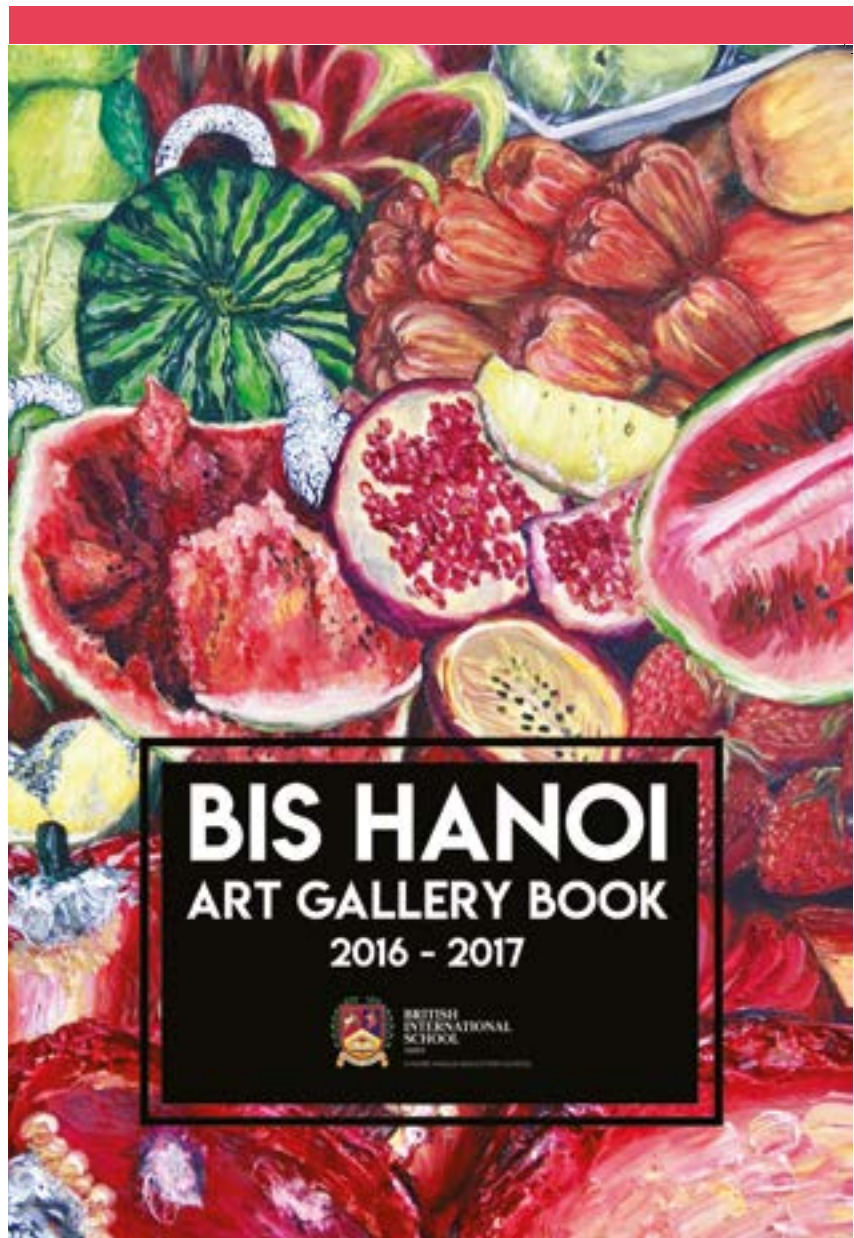
Art Gallery Book

The Artwork students produce at BIS Hanoi keeps getting better and better. Throughout the previous academic year students exhibited a range of works in the library and the school's reception. This included a variety of outcomes using different media and techniques as well as sketchbook work to show the processes students have gone through to develop their ideas.

To bring this all together the school have created an Art book to celebrate the outstanding work our students produce. We hope to make this an annual tradition in the department as a way of showcasing the incredible talent of our students. This book has been a fantastic way of inspiring students in lessons and is regularly used to show examples when starting each project.

Students have already produced some incredibly detailed and exciting work this term which will make a great addition to the next Art Department gallery book.

Mr. Richard Harrison
Art Leader





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Be Ambitious

...and so, the adventure begins!

Congratulations BIS Hanoi Class of 2017! We wish you continued success!

UNIVERSITY OFFERS 2017

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Brown University
Boston University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Drexel University
Georgia Institute of Technology
John Hopkins University
Lesley University
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Merrimack College
Newbury College
New York University (Stern)
Northeastern University
Pace University
Princeton University
Rhode Island School of Design

Rutgers University
Seattle University
Stanford University
Temple University
Tulane University
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of Washington
University of Colorado (Boulder)

UK UNIVERSITIES

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
University of Birmingham
University of Bath
University of the Arts London

University College London (UCL)
University of East Anglia
University of Exeter
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Reading
University of Sheffield
University of St Andrews

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Simon Fraser (Business School) (Canada)
York University (Canada)
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