



DCIS Newsletter



Preparing for the DCIS Sixth Form and IB Diploma Programme Launch

After 45 years of respected preparatory education in Singapore and excellent iGCSE results, a new Sixth Form and the IB Diploma Programme* is launching at Dover Court International School in August 2017

It is an exciting time in the Secondary School as we prepare for the launch of the IB Diploma Programme* in August 2017. Dover Court International School is a candidate school* for the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) and is pursuing authorisation as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy: a commitment to a high quality, challenging, international education that we believe is important for our students in preparing them for the future.

DCIS is focused on providing a high quality, challenging, international education at all levels and this has shaped our decision to offer the IBDP. After 45 years of providing international education in Singapore, we are delighted about the prospect of being able to support students as they graduate from secondary education and move on to tertiary education from DCIS. The IBDP is an accessible and rewarding programme that provides excellent preparation for university education and employment. IBDP students are valued for their high academic standards. In addition, the IB Learner Profile helps students to be critical thinkers who are open-minded, resilient, reflective and have a greater understanding of the wider world.

Continue on page 2

*2016-2017
Calendar Events and
Other School
Information*

[Academic Calendar 2016-2017](#)

[Revised Academic Calendar
2016-2017](#)

[Lower Primary January Menu](#)

[Upper Primary/Secondary
January Menu](#)

Continue from page 1

Our highly qualified and dedicated teachers are well prepared to help students achieve at the highest levels during the IBDP. Indeed, the teachers in Secondary School have been working hard this term to lay the foundations for the launch of the programme. Mr. Cotterill, Mr. Jury, Ms Kertrestel, Ms Mahoney, Ms McKernan, Mr. O’Shea, Mrs. Rinaldi, Mr. Tuckley and Mr. Woodhall have been completing the training programmes throughout November and December. The courses have involved interacting with other educators from across the world so that our teachers are trained in the latest version of the IB Diploma programme.

Alongside the staff training, we are also planning for a range of developments to enable our IBDP students to have an outstanding learning environment to match the outstanding teaching that they will receive. These developments will include: a new science lab, an extension to the existing library provision, additional classroom space and investment in a wide range of new resources and ICT facilities.

We are now looking forward to our verification visit in January 2017. DCIS will be visited by two members of the IB world community to confirm that we meet the required standards to offer the programme. After a promising consultancy visit in November, we are positive about the verification visit and look forward to hearing their feedback on the development of the programme at DCIS.

On [Wednesday 1st February at 8.45am and 6.00pm in Cooper Hall there will be Information Sessions](#) about the launch of the IBDP programme at DCIS. The information sessions will be open to interested parents. Even if your child is in a younger year group, we would encourage you to attend the evening so that you can learn about the long-term vision of the DCIS Sixth Form and we can explain the different pathways available at DCIS from August 2017.

In the meantime, if you have any queries regarding the IBDP at DCIS, please contact our Admissions Office at admissions@dovercourt.edu.sg

Further information is also available in:

[DCIS Sixth Form and IB Diploma Programme Handbook](#) and [FAQs](#)

[DCIS IB Diploma Programme Scholarship Application Letter](#) and [Form](#)

*DCIS is a candidate school for the IB Diploma Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Dover Court International School believes is important for our students.

Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its three academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), or the Diploma Programme (and in addition the IB Career-related Certificate). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit <http://www.ibo.org>.



November news and highlights from the Principal

Carols by Candlelight and our Global Expedition to Tanzania were just some of this month's highlights

Dear DCIS Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to all the parents that attended our Year 3 and above [Carols by Candlelights](#) Christmas concert on Thursday or Friday night last week. For me this summed up what is the very best about DCIS. We had children from throughout the school community performing at the very highest levels aided and supported by a large number of students and teachers. The community feeling of the event was further manifested by a parent running the sound for us. Both evenings were delightful and the feedback from parents and guests was phenomenal. It was a very similar story with delightful concerts from our Lower Primary School classes this week.

We have had a very successful term on the sporting field. Mr Holmes gives an update to staff during our meeting each Friday and the list of success takes up most of the time! What really impresses me when I watch our teams is how they conduct themselves whether winning or losing. Further away from school 12 students had a very successful [trip to Tanzania](#) and made a huge impact on the school they supported as well as enjoying a safari. Our suite of year trips started this week with Year 5 off to Indonesia.

From an academic perspective the term started in an excellent way with recognition of 3 students who scored the highest in their

subject in EDEXCEL IGCSE examinations. Both Primary, Secondary and the DSE have made enhancements to the way they teach and assess and the feedback from students and parents was been excellent.

Several SLT members including myself were in Hanoi earlier this month at the Nord Anglia Education regional conference which was an excellent opportunity to share expertise amongst the eight schools we have in the region. I am pleased that DCIS gave two presentations, one around how we have created a curriculum and assessment model to challenge all students to achieve the very highest and one about how we structure our support needs to ensure we are ambitious for every one of our students. To be able to present on initiatives that show excellence in the complete range of what we do is extremely powerful.

It has been a very successful term and I am grateful to the DCIS community for making me feel so welcome so quickly. I have said this before so apologies for repeating myself but we have wonderful children, a fantastic staff team and supportive parents; a winning formula for any school. We have continued to make structural improvements to the school. Unfortunately we had a couple of technical setbacks to our half term projects but these will be finalised



over the Christmas holiday so we will have a functioning covered basketball court and swimming pool in January. We have two other projects to be completed shortly. One is the Sensory Room which will provide an excellent resource for students needing sensory intervention. Another is a new library IT system that we have been working on for the last two months. Shortly into next term the pieces of card will be no more as we use bar codes to manage our library system and borrowing from it.

I have also enjoyed my first few months back in Singapore. I have enjoyed meeting various members of the Singapore education community – it turns out it is a small world after all as the Principals of Dulwich College, Tanglin School and Dover Court International School all went to the same University; two of us more or less at the same time!

I wish all parents and children a very happy festive season and safe travels if you do get away.

Kind regards,

Mr. Christopher Short
Principal



November Highlights from Ms Kara Lebihan

While Lower Primary is rehearsing for their Christmas productions we look forward to the end of term and accompanying festivities

Dear DCIS Parents and Guardians,

As the end of term draws close, we continue to have a buzz of activity around the primary school. You may have noticed the Christmas trees popping up around school and decorations appearing on the campus – thanks to the DCA for helping us to get into the Christmas spirit!

As well as the usual curriculum, we have rehearsals taking place for the lower primary end of term Christmas productions - we hope you will come along to watch your children perform. Details of the show times and ticketing arrangements have been sent out to you; do ask your child's class teacher if you have any questions about the performances. Last week we were treated to a lovely [Carols by Candlelight](#), with some of our Y3 and Y4 children taking the limelight. For those who were able to come, thank you for your support and I hope you enjoyed the show as much as I did.

Year 1 and Year 3 have both enjoyed trips in the last few weeks, with Year 1 visiting Centre Stage where they prepared music, dance and drama pieces to accompany

poetry on the subject of Celebrations. The children had a lot of fun experimenting with instruments, movement and acting as part of this fun trip. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed the play 'Charlotte's Web' at the KC Arts Centre. The production was fantastic; it enthralled the children and really brought the story to life. Mr Neeson tells me there was an audible gasp from someone in the DCIS group when the inevitable demise of Charlotte occurred, proving just how well the cast were portraying the emotion of the piece. All children from both Year 1 and Year 3 were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

We are very keen to get on top of our lost property before the end of term. All lunch boxes, water bottles and unnamed property will be disposed of over the break, with unnamed uniform being donated to the school Medical Center. If you are missing anything then please do pop in this week and have a look. We will place all lost property out in the main cafeteria on Thursday 15th December, from 2.00pm-3.00pm to make it a little easier to rummage through.



One final reminder, Nursery - Year 4 will have end of term parties on Friday 16th December. I know the children are greatly looking forward to the event and thanks in advance for your support with this. Kindly remember that we are nut free school and in order to keep all our students safe, any food and treats you send in should reflect this.

I will end off by wishing you all relaxing break and for those of you who celebrate Christmas, I wish you a lovely one. We also say goodbye to some of our families this week. To those of you who are moving on, we wish you well for the future – don't forget us!

Best regards,

Ms Kara Lebihan
Head of Primary School



November Highlights from Mr John Smith

This term had a number of exciting trips for the students, from the inaugural trip to Tanzania to the Year 5 trip to Indonesia

Dear DCIS Parents and Guardians,

Time in the life of a school always seems to travel quickly and this term has been no exception. Our new teachers have settled well and everyone is continuing to work hard to ensure we are offering a curriculum of the highest quality.

The number of students continues to grow in Key Stage 3 and 4. Our Year 7 cohort has settled well and is making great progress in overcoming the different challenges they now face. They are beginning to successfully build up skills to prepare for iGCSE, IB and beyond. We have welcomed many new students in other year groups as well and all are making a huge contribution to our vibrant learning community.

There have been a number of exciting trips for the students to get involved in. Students returned from the [inaugural trip to Tanzania](#) last month and all had an amazing experience. Our Year 5 students have just returned from their 3-night trip to Telunas Beach Resort in Indonesia. They returned exhausted and I imagine spent a lot of time sleeping after they had shared the details of what they did with much excitement. These experiences give students an alternative perspective and an opportunity to discover new skills and interests. Next term we have our Thailand, Laos and Myanmar

trips where students will get involved in service based work. Finally, I am delighted to announce that we have an opportunity for our Year 8 and 9 students to participate in the Alpine Trekking Expedition in Les Martinets, Switzerland. This trip is planned to take place in June and we have recently contacted parents to ascertain levels of interest.

As well as our overseas trips we have also seen a number of trips taking place in Singapore. We were the first school to visit the new Google office where students had an unforgettable experience looking at the technologies of the future and experiencing the unique Google working culture. We have also been to the Science Centre and participated in the Canon Photography competition at Suntec City.

Thank you to those parents who attended the recent [Carols by Candlelight](#) evenings. Both nights were a great success and Year 5, 6 and the Secondary School were well represented in the orchestra, choir, rock bands and the outstanding drama performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. I was very proud to witness the amazing talent we have in the school and how confidently they all performed.



Students and staff have made an excellent start to the Year 10/11 Assertive Mentoring programme. This provides one-to-one support to all students who are undertaking their iGCSE examinations and is designed to help them maximise their levels of progress. As well as preparing for iGCSE it will also help students prepare for the demands of the IB Diploma Programme. Next term, at the end of January, we will welcome the IB organisation to DCIS for our accreditation visit. Mrs. Rinaldi has done an excellent job of preparing us and many of the teachers are currently undergoing IB training. I will provide an update on the visit at the first opportunity.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful holiday. Merry Christmas to those who celebrate this festival and Happy New Year to all. I look forward to welcoming you back in January for another exciting term.

Kind regards,

Mr. John Smith
Head of Secondary



DCA Parent Association Christmas Fayre



Gift shopping, bouncy castle, dunk tank, wet sponge toss, photo booth and delicious treats sum up a fantastic day

There was so much fun to be had at the fair on Saturday with something for everyone! The turnout was fantastic with many staying until 7pm. The bouncy castle was a huge hit as well as the dunk tank. Thanks to Ms Good for being one of the first to "test" the dunk tank and also to Mr Short who bravely volunteered for the Cubs sponge throwing game!

There were some delicious cakes and treats on sale in the canteen as well as some mulled wine and mince pies in the Cooper Hall to accompany the gift shopping. The class stalls were busy all afternoon with children enjoying the great variety of games on offer.

Thank you to everyone who came, to all the class reps and parents who organised stalls, to Leandra and Centre Stage for performing, to our 2 volunteer Santas who are now the stars of many photos, to our vendors who supported us, to Jaime Brown, Alex Johnstone, Dave Bradshaw and Adrian Jauk who all helped to create the artwork and music and to the DCA Christmas committee for their hard work in pulling it all together.

Merry Christmas everyone!!

Kind regards,

The DCA Parent Association

Dover's Got Talent (and you do too!)

Could you be the next big thing? Year 3 students and upwards are invited to be ambitious and show off their talents!

DCIS is full of talent and we are really excited to launch Dover's Got Talent, our brand new platform for students to share their talents. This project will launch in January, so students have time over the holiday to choose their performance and practise their act.

The contest is open to all students from Year 3 upwards. Talents can include – but are not limited to – singing, dancing, gymnastics, acting, comedy sketch, magic tricks or playing a musical instrument. See below for more details.

Please note the following regarding auditions:

Students must be Year 3 upwards.

Each act should not exceed three minutes in length.

Students may wear a costume but it should reflect our school's dress code. Please refer to our Parent Handbook and Student Code of Conduct for further details.

Students should have their music available on USB or burned to a CD, and ready at the time of audition.

Singers may not lip-sync or sing along with a recorded voice – please use karaoke style voiceless tracks only.

Students may audition for only one act.

Unfortunately parents are not allowed for the first round of auditions but are welcome to attend the final performance.

Timeline:

The first round of auditions will be held next term on Friday January 13th within class.

Each class will vote for their two representatives and these students will go forward to Round 2. In Round 2, students will be invited to record their performance in our TV studio. The recordings will be completed by the end of January.



These videos will then be shared and available for viewing and voting. The final winners will be announced on Friday 10th February and they will get to perform at a celebration assembly on March 3rd. Their recording will be shared and displayed on our TV screens around the school.

We encourage all students to get involved and we really look forward to celebrating the many talents we have right here at DCIS.

Please direct any questions to Ms McKernan at emilie.mckernan@dovercourt.edu.sg

Ms Eimear McKernan
Secondary School Business and L & T
Teacher
Red Dot Radio Lead

Wrap Up: Tanzania Global Expedition



Eight day Global Expedition to Tanzania included community service and a two day safari

The Global Expedition programme offers exciting opportunities that challenges students to take a new perspective on issues affecting communities the world over. This November, 11 DCIS students and other NAE classmates took part in an eight day community service expedition to Tanzania. The end goal: to build connections, develop a strong sense of sustainability and become true global citizens.

While these Year 9, 10 and 11 students were in Tanzania, we took part in a variety of sustainable service projects. We discussed in detail with the local community and the leaders of the expedition what sustainability meant to them. The aim was to be able to work independently without negative impacts on the community in the future. The

projects we participated in were building goat sheds, constructing smokeless stoves and installing solar panels for five different families. At Nazarati School we helped with laying the foundation for a new classroom and plastering the walls of a new teacher accommodation block.

After a few days of hard work, we drove off in a huge safari truck and a small 4 x 4 for a night in the bush. During the two day safari at Tarangire National Park, we were overwhelmed by the number of animals we saw including lions, wildebeests, giraffes, impalas, elephants and many more. One group even saw the stealthy and elusive leopard which is rarely spotted.

The safari was not all fun and games however. We recorded every animal spotted and noted down data including the total number, gender, age and location. We used this data to learn more about the animals and their migration patterns and how this information could potentially be used for protection of the animals against wildlife poachers. Since our base was a fenceless campsite in the middle of the park, during the night we had monkeys and wild dogs pay a visit and one group even had lions roaming nearby! All in all it was an impactful and exciting trip and we all had an amazing experience.

Erin Burk
Year 7/8 Form Tutor

Department of Supportive Education Being Ambitious for All Our Learners

Department of Supportive Education maps out future plans and programmes on offer here at DCIS

On 2nd December 2016, we had an excellent turnout for our workshop entitled **Department of Supportive Education: Being Ambitious for All Our Learners**. In our efforts to provide the best service to all students and families for those children who require additional support with their learning, we are pushing forward with new programmes and breakthrough methodologies as a means to foster an ever improving learning environment here at DCIS.

We spoke about developments in curriculum, resources and training, and all members of the team were on hand to answer questions, take feedback and suggestions from the parents who attended. Afterwards we had a chance to meet the parents in the cafeteria to give them further advice and information.

We are including a [copy of the presentation](#) here as well as all the links we brought up during the workshop.





DOVER COURT
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SINGAPORE
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL