



BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HO CHI MINH CITY
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Spotlight

BIS HCMC Magazine

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Global Campus



Our Global Campus is the online platform that connects our 66,000+ students from NAE schools around the world. Our students are part of a global community, and through Global Campus they are able to connect, learn, and interact with their peers, and cooperate on a range of projects linked to all aspects of our curriculum, including our world-leading collaborations. Students can participate by posting their entries or thoughts to the platform, using the resources for activities offline, or taking part in the live events such as discussions led by experts from a number of fields, including STEAM, Performing Arts, and Social Impact. The platform is coordinated by members of our central team who develop resources, competitions, collaborations, and monitor activity to keep our students safe online.

The Global Campus supports our aim to develop our students' collaborative skills, creativity, courage, critical thinking, cultural awareness and communication. It is unique to NAE and allows our students to make connections and gain understanding about our other schools, as well as giving them the opportunity to join webinars and watch-talks by world-leading experts. This year so far we have already had sessions by an astrophysicist, a robotics expert, and a neuroscientist, as well as Juilliard alumni, and a workshop led by the World's Largest Lesson. These really are amazing experiences!

Every year we join a number of competitions that are linked to our Global Campus collaborations, and our students enjoy the participation. The Creative Writing Competition, Comic Book Competition, and Visual Arts

Competition are this year all linked to the Global Goals related to Climate Action, Life on Land, and Life under Water. World Children's Day encourages our students to use their voice to share their ideas around climate change, something that our students are very passionate about. Through our other collaborations students are able to explore the world around them, problem solve, try new skills, and express themselves in creative ways. This happens through virtual sports and musical events, as well as dance challenges, science experiments, and mindfulness activities, all tailored for our students. Many of these activities have been created by the talented teachers from across our schools, as well as through our partnerships with MIT, Juilliard, and UNICEF.

*Lauren Binnington
Deputy Head Teacher Enrichment
Regional NAE-UNICEF Lead for
South East Asia and the Middle East*



Virtual Learning

When we had to switch to online learning, we were really fortunate in that we were already operating in a technology-rich environment. Whilst all schools faced challenges, we were well-placed in terms of infrastructure and remote learning, as we had a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning facilitated by technology and a student-led learning environment.

A key decision that supported our community was following regular academic timetables of classes and daily routines. Every student was able to receive high-quality teaching and learning balanced with pastoral support to maintain both their progress and wellbeing.

Every day, primary students were able to attend online classes and meetings, retaining communication. Students, parents, and teachers could always support and encourage each other. Both academic progress and wellbeing are always monitored and appropriately supported. Pupils younger than four years old received an individual learning/activity material kit “SPLAT Box” (SPLAT stands for “Stay Play Learn All Together”) to aid with their online learning. Throughout these trying times we were incredibly proud of our staff, students and parents for their efforts and commitment.



Success *Stories*

Alice Lee

One of the most exciting highlights from our 2020 academic results was Alice Lee's perfect IBDP diploma score of 45, earning her the 2020 Dux Scholaris Award, which is awarded each year to the top academic performer at the IBDP level in BIS. Alice joined BIS in Y12 and showed enormous potential from day one, but that's not to say there weren't obstacles to overcome. When first joining the BIS family she had to overcome the challenges faced with a language barrier, but through the help of her friends, guidance and support of our teachers & staff, and of course, through her own self will and determination she was able to push through and excel in both her academic studies and Co-Curricular activities.

We wish Alice all the success in her future as she studies Business Administration at the National University of Singapore.

Chan Hyeok

Of course success is not just measured in the classroom, as was the case for our Year 6 student Chan Hyeok Kim, who was this year's winner of the Young Musician of the Year. Almost 100 students between BISHCMC and BVIS entered the contest, and had to go through two rounds of auditions before making it to the grand finale. The talent on display throughout the contest was magnificent and full of variety, but it was Chan Hyeok's rendition of 'Czardas' by Monti on the Violin that took home the final prize. Congratulations once again, we are already looking forward to next year's competition!

Exam Results

Despite the circumstances our class of 2020 IB Students overcame adversity to achieve our best results ever! 42% of students achieved an incredible score of 40 or more, over three times the global average, and the year finished with an average point score of 38, compared to the world average of 29.92.

Elsewhere in secondary our IGCSE results far exceeded the UK national and independent school results for another year running. 74% of all IGCSE grades obtained by BIS HCMC students were for the top grades of A* or A, over three times higher than the English national average for the 2019-20 academic year, and 99% of students' grades were A*-C.

Secondary students weren't the only

ones to yield fantastic results, as our Primary results for the GL Assessments for English and Maths were well above the average score of 100 for UK Primary State and Independent schools. KS1 achieved 104.5 in Maths and 106.4 in English, whilst KS2 earned 109.2 in Maths and 111.5 in English.

Read more about our success stories:



*"These have been **challenging** and **difficult** times for everyone around the world but achievements such as these confirm the **uniqueness** and **quality** of the BIS HCMC community."*

Anthony Rowlands, Principal



International Day

Whilst we brought the familiar spirit and fun to this year's International Day, there were of course some changes due to Covid restrictions. In true BIS style our parents, teachers and students innovated and in doing so made things even better. One such innovation was our first ever outdoor International Food Festival. Instead of our usual country rooms each parent group ran a food stall and activities celebrating their home country. The sounds, smells, tastes, laughter and dancing were stunning as our parents and teacher country groups came together to put on a wonderful array of colourful stalls. The accompanying cultural performances by parents, students and teachers made for some enchanting and energetic productions, from traditional Indian dance to Latin American Salsa - the atmosphere was palpable and captured wonderfully the BIS spirit!

This year we divided the Parade of Nations into 4 smaller groups based in the Theatre, meaning even more students had the honour of carrying their home nation's flag and receiving the welcoming cheers of their fellow students. We celebrate the meaning that a nation's flag represents, and the fact that each of these 55 individual identities come together to make our International Community.

The STEAM team raised the bar this year, with our incredible Secondary Campus Mosaic activity. Every student in Secondary made a tile representing what internationalism means to them. This was then brought together into one huge mosaic, that formed our school crest. After creating connections through building the tiles together, our students then made further connections and demonstrated their international knowledge in our International Day House Quiz set by our resident Quizmaster, Mr Gamwell.

One of my favourite parts of International Day is always the wonderful costumes that our students prepare to celebrate their national identity. This creativity was on show once again with some

amazing costumes on display in our International Day fashion show.

We were treated to a feast of performances by students from across the campus in our Culture Show, with a huge range of song and dance, from the traditional to the modern, the moving to the energetic, this year's show was a fantastic representation of our BIS identity. Our students rehearse for weeks to get ready for International Day and it shows with the simply stunning performances. Thank you to all the parents, students and staff involved in making this such a wonderful highlight of the BIS calendar.

*Sean O'Neill
Head Teacher, Secondary Campus*



Enterprise Day

Our Junior students became entrepreneurs in their own right, as they created fantastic pop up stalls for Enterprise Day.

The week began with businesses calmly preparing their products, games and services, ready for when the market was declared open. As the deadline crept closer, classrooms became a hive of activity and excitement. Children were busy collaborating to make adverts, using their creativity to ensure that what they made would attract customers. This year there seemed to be more of a variety of stalls, from dinosaur products, an assortment of sweet treats, spin the wheel and much more.

A huge thank you to our guards, cleaners and maintenance staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the venue was ready, to all teachers and our Vietnamese educators who gave the time and effort to support the children, and of course to the young entrepreneurs themselves. Their enthusiasm and positivity is what makes this event so special, and as a group they managed to raise over 58,000,000 VND in just over an hour which will be a huge help to our community partners.

Moon Festival

The Moon Festival is always one of the most anticipated annual events for our Early Years and Junior campus. At our EY&I Campus it was a riot of colour, the Dragon Dance had the children look on in amazement whilst dressed in their Ao Dai's. Afterwards the children paraded their stunning and varied homemade lanterns, followed by our Year 2 children who charmed everyone with their wonderful dance routine.

Over at the Junior Campus the children also enjoyed the spectacle of the Dragon Dance, whilst afterwards they produced a fabulous assembly, telling the story of Vietnamese lanterns and showcasing many traditions associated with Moon Festival. Students performed dances, both traditional and with modern twists added. There was comedy, tragedy, drama and more making it an assembly to remember!

A sincere thank you goes to our Vietnamese staff and to the Nho'n Nhia Duong group performers. Taking part in the traditions and festivals of our host country is such an important element of life at BIS, and all our staff involved make this such a wonderful experience.



Primary Sports Days

Our Primary students from Foundation 1, to Year 6, left it all out on the field as they took part in the annual Sports Week competitions.

Children competed house versus house in numerous running, jumping and throwing events. The PE department was blown away by the students' fantastic efforts, determination and perseverance throughout each morning, under the sun, and with strong opposition from their classmates.

Every student pushed themselves to run their fastest, throw their furthest and jump their longest distance to gain every point possible to help their house win this great event. They were true sporting competitors and should be very proud of themselves.

A big thank you to the parents who clapped, cheered, sang and danced throughout the morning, and had the children cheering for them in the much anticipated Tug-o-War with the teachers! Our prevailing overall champions across Year 3 to Year 6 were the Saigon Wolves! Congratulations Wolf pack, and a massive well done to our other 3 houses for some very well contested events.

*Simon Grimshaw
Primary PE Leader*



Performing Arts

Battle of the Bands

On the 1st October the annual Battle of the Bands competition took place. The event featured 7 bands performing their favourite songs as they tried to be named the Battle of the Bands champions 2020. As always, the standard of playing was extremely high and the bands had all prepared thoroughly. Our student hosts Tam, Zuzana and Rica did a great job hyping the crowd as they introduced the acts for the evening.

Whilst we couldn't welcome parents to the event due to the current situation we were delighted to broadcast the event live on Facebook for everyone to enjoy from the comfort of home.

As the night progressed we were witness to some haunting vocal harmonies, blistering guitar solos and up-tempo classics. Our 3 visiting guest judges had a very difficult decision to make, but eventually, 'The Boba Bois' were crowned overall BOTB champions for 2020, 'Disbanded' won the KS4/5 prize and 'Harmony Inferno' were named KS3 winners. Thank you to everyone involved in the production, all the bands and their adoring fans.

*Ian Alexander
Director of Music*

Juilliard Teacher Training

In term 1 members of the Performing Arts team at BIS have been attending online training with our wonderful counterparts at the Juilliard School in New York alongside teachers from our Nord Anglia family all over the world.

In the sessions we were able to explore some of the new material available to us and our students, as well as get a taste of what is to come and remind ourselves of the Juilliard approach to teaching that has helped us develop our own curricula. Being a part of this was not just a reminder of how lucky we and our students are to have the resources and the expertise of the Juilliard experts to help us develop and achieve the potential of every member of our community, but also how important the connections of our wider Nord Anglia family are. Things might be a little different at the moment, but that doesn't mean that they need to be any less exciting, or that we are any less connected and committed to sharing our amazing opportunities and experiences.

*Cat Molloy
Director of Performing Arts*





Young Musician

On the 6th October, a select number of students from British International School and British Vietnamese International School came together to perform and celebrate the FOBISIA Young Musician of the Year 2020. This was an amazing experience and great opportunity for some of our talented students to showcase their musical skills and develop confidence and performance style throughout the increasingly competitive rounds.



Each child had to go through two rounds of auditions to make it to the grand finale, which was held for the first time at BVIS. From the first to the last round nearly one hundred children have taken part across the two schools, however only nine made it to the final performance.



The final featured 5 BIS Students who all did incredibly well, once again congratulations to Chan Hyeok Kim, who was the overall winner, his performance on the Violin was simply breath-taking.

*Rhys Barker
Primary Assistant Music Leader*

Acoustic Lounge

It has been tradition at BIS for our students to perform in an open mic 'Acoustic Lounge' on the last Friday of every month. Last year, we moved this session from the 6th Form Common Room to our new library area; 'the Curve' on the 2nd floor. This year it has been as popular as ever with even more students signing up to take part in performances or just coming along to support and enjoy the music. Last year, these sessions obviously had to be put on hold, so it was wonderful to see this on once again at the end of September and October. There were excellent performances across all year groups and a very supportive student audience. We are excited to hear what our talented students perform in these sessions throughout the rest of this academic year!

*Emma Husband
Assistant Head of Music Secondary*

Learn more about the value of performing arts in education:



Community Service

Students and staff have displayed both agility and creativity in finding ways to ensure that our strong community links, as well as service focussed learning, were maintained this term despite the challenges faced.

Junior students who planned to participate in the Friendship and Helping Hands Thien Phuoc Foster Home Clubs have spent time with Secondary students each week developing friendships through various games and fun activities! The senior students have embraced this opportunity to mentor their younger peers, impacting not only the younger children's lives but contributing to the connectedness of the greater BIS school community.

The students of the Binh An Club embarked on an activity which would allow them to develop "distanced relationships" with the shelter children. They designed personalised birthday cards so that each of the partner children will receive a birthday greeting from them this year! As service learning is ideally a reciprocal action between the community and the school, it has been exciting to discover that the street children have also decided to decorate cards for each of the BIS children as they have responded unprompted in their desire to contribute to strengthening these relationships too.

Funds were raised during a Clothes Swap event arranged by Primary Community Service Leaders, Suzannah Breen and Shane Gallagher, along with a further contribution made from the Primary PTG, to pay towards the Thao Dien Disabled School having their very own Moon Festival Dragon Dance.

Students of CleanUp D2 club arranged a Community Clean up event for World CleanUp Day 2020. Over 130 members

of our school community joined the worldwide event as they cleaned up our local district, collecting more than 60 full bags of rubbish and plastic. Together with Precious Plastic teams, students processed the plastic with the goal of turning this waste into new items before the end of this term.

Finally, to cap off Term 1, the BIS family demonstrated their heartfelt care for our national community by opening their hearts and pockets in support of the Central Vietnam Flood Appeal, contributing an astounding amount of over VND200 Million in aid of those affected by the devastating floods and landslides in central Vietnam. Students and staff on all three campuses wore the colour green to school as a symbol of solidarity with the victims and representative of the renewal and health we wish for the region.

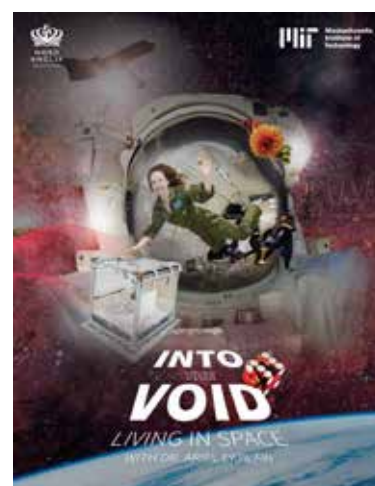


Through the unreserved kindness and thoughtful responses of parents, staff and students this term, we should feel exceedingly proud of all that we as a community have achieved!

*Tracey Brownrigg
Whole School Co-Curricular Coordinator
and Community Service Project Manager*



For this year's challenge, we're joining three MIT experts conducting out of this world research. These experts are working on advancing and enabling human exploration of space, including human travel to Mars (and, equally important, the journey home to Earth).



The first MIT Challenge for this year is looking into the work of Dr. Ariel Ekblaw at MIT's Space Exploration Initiative. They are experimenting with how common activities and items can be modified to work in a zero gravity environment like the International Space Station or a spaceship that is travelling to another planet. Dr. Ekblaw has tasked our students with designing a zero gravity method for food delivery, exercise or creating art. Our students have ideated designs and sent questions to Ariel's team and we are looking forward to what solutions they devise for this challenge.

Luke Dyer
ICT Leader/Steam Co-ordinator

STEAM

STEAM is an interdisciplinary approach to education that promotes problem solving and the development of 21st century skills. This inclusive method helps equip our students with the skills they need to join the workforce of tomorrow. The addition of the Arts into STEM to make STEAM has shown the importance of design, ergonomics and visual aesthetics in the classroom and how representing information in a non text method can help to further understanding of a problem or subject.

We are lucky to have the opportunity to collaborate within the global group of Nord Anglia schools as well as be provoked and inspired through our collaboration with MIT. We have access to current MIT research projects and professors who are able to share their understandings and provide us with opportunities to learn alongside them as they make their discoveries.

Fundinotots- BIS Baby and Toddler Group

After a period of extended closure as a result of covid-19 we were really excited to welcome back our Fundinotot families back to school at the start of September. It was great to see the children and their parents exploring and enjoying the activities set up in the Fundinotots room as well as making new friends.

Fundinotots BIS baby and toddler group offers the opportunity for young children up to the age of three years to have fun and mix with other children in a safe and friendly environment where parents can meet other parents and share and extend their early learning experiences. By working in true partnership with parents Fundinotots aims to provide a stimulating, challenging environment which is a warm, friendly extension of home. Fundinotot is a place where children and adults can explore, have fun, play, talk and learn together, developing as happy, confident and independent individuals.

Fundinotots provide an informal play environment that enables children to have opportunities to interact with other children and flourish within our creative school setting. Activities are designed to support a young child's developing skills such as communication and motor skills, for example, through messy and water activities, mark-making, board books and action songs. Sand, messy and water play, painting, story time, role play and music and movement time are just a selection of some of the activities that are offered during every Fundinotot sessions.

Fundinotots is open to all children aged from birth to three years to attend with a parent or grandparent and Fundinotot

sessions are held daily in our purpose build Fundinotots room at the following times:

- Monday 8:15 - 10:15 am*
- Tuesday 8:15 - 11:15 am*
- Wednesday 8:15 - 11:15 am*
- Thursday 8:15 - 10:15 am*
- Friday 8:15 - 10:15 am*

Sarah Bonner
Fundinotots Leader

If you and your child would like to join Fundinotots please contact the Admissions team at the Early Years Campus for further information about enrolment.





Physical Development and the EYFS

Next year in England all schools will follow the new revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Development Matters. In September 2020 some schools could become “Early Adopters” and start using the document. Here at BIS HCMC we decided to become an “Early Adopter” and this has informed our interim term reports that will be shared later this term. The revised guidance is formatted differently. Whereas children’s development was broken down into quite small bands in the previous document, it is now broken down into three larger bands:

birth to three
threes and fours
fours and fives (Reception year).

Physical development is still one of the three prime areas within the EYFS framework. Each prime area is divided into Early Learning Goals, and now for physical development these are called: Fine Motor Skills and Gross Motor Skills. But what are they and why are they important?

Fine motor skills are when a child uses precise movements using specific body parts, such as the thumb and finger to pick objects up. They will use pincer movement, when a child uses an index finger and thumb, to pick up and move objects.

Gross motor skills are when a child uses their whole body in a movement, such as jumping or running. They develop hand-eye coordination when a child’s hands and eyes are working together, for example catching a ball.

Both these skills help when a child starts to mark make. This could be anything, from a baby or child making marks with their fingers in sand, to dipping their hands or fingers in paint, to paint a picture. These changes are not new concepts and

in previous F1 Development Day these phrases have been shared with Parents with examples of Physical Development in the classroom. Parents have been able to see Gross Motor Skills in action at F2 and F3 sport days. At BIS HCMC we are lucky to have outdoor facilities to support develop Fine and Gross Motor Skills including our climbing wall on the

roof that is mainly used by F3.

However, we are mindful to recognise that learning and development in the area of physical development is an active process which occurs at different rates and stages for different children. You can also help at weekends and holidays by following:

Physical activity for early years (birth – 5 years)

Active children are healthy, happy, school ready and sleep better



BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS & SOCIAL SKILLS



MAINTAINS HEALTH & WEIGHT



CONTRIBUTES TO BRAIN DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING



IMPROVES SLEEP



DEVELOPS MUSCLES & BONES

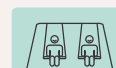


ENCOURAGES MOVEMENT & CO-ORDINATION

Every movement counts



across everyday



PLAYGROUND



JUMP



CLIMB



MESSY PLAY



THROW/CATCH



SKIP



OBJECT PLAY



DANCE



GAMES



PLAY



TUMMY TIME



SWIM



WALK



SCOOT



BIKE

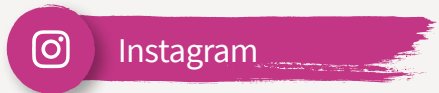
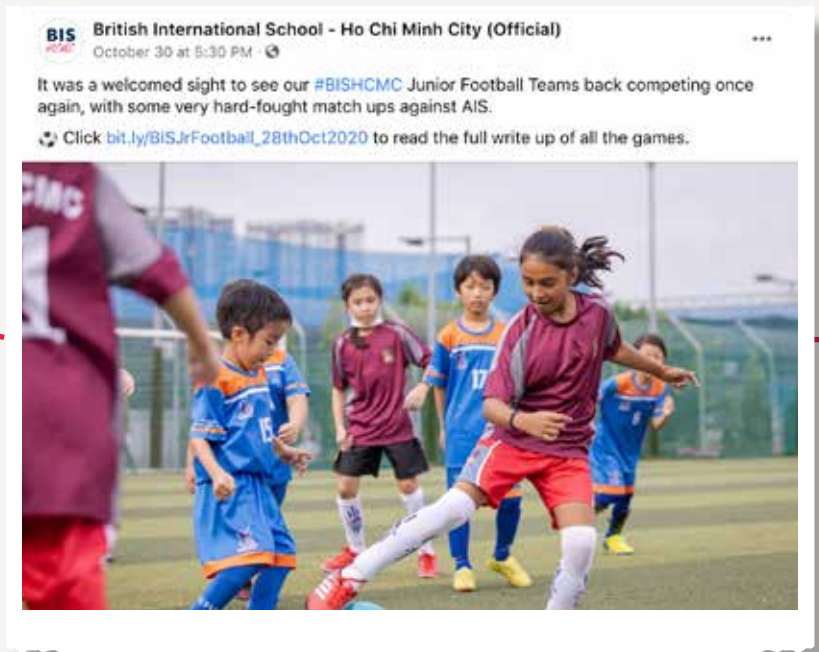
Move more. Sit less. Play together

UK Chief Medical Officers' Guidelines 2011 **Start Active, Stay Active:** www.bit.ly/startactive

Sarah Curran
Deputy Head Teacher, Early Years and Infant Campus

BE CONNECTED

Where you can find us
#BISHCMC



💬 Watching from UK while I work! Go Greg and Rhys! Love it! Miss you all! Children parents and staff! X 💬

Gary Fyles

💬 This is an absolute highlight in the calendar my kids could not stop speaking about it for days beforehand and the learning about business was excellent. I'm sure it took a lot to pull this off on the staff side thank you! 💬

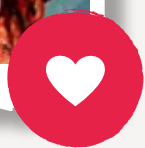
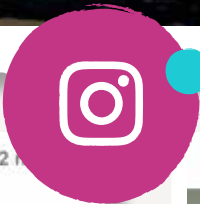
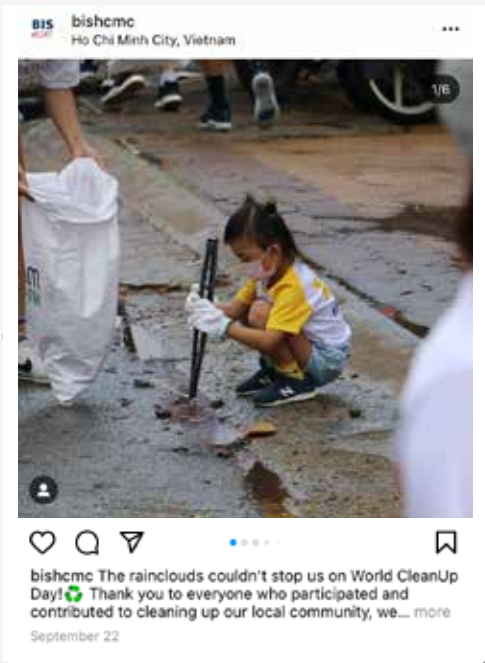
Anna Champion

💬💙 Thank you so much. Your support is going to make an enormous difference 💙💬

@bluedragonchildren on the secondary bake sale for Flood Relief

💬 Congratulations **Boba Bois** on winning **Battle of the Bands**. Terrific to see so many performers and musicians. Proud of our drumming grandson William x 💬

Grandparent



Twitter

Wonderful visit to @BISHCMC British International School in HCMC The largest international school in Vietnam, and rated 'outstanding' by government. And they even have a red telephone box on site!

Emily Hamblin
HM's Consul-General in HCMC

Incredible results! Huge congratulations to students and teachers

Susan Elizabeth Holt

Admissions Enquiries



Our *dedicated* team are here to support your family.

Contact us to set up an appointment to visit us and discover more about our school. We look forward to welcoming you at BIS HCMC.

BIS.Admission@bisvietnam.com

Early Years and Infant Campus
101 Thao Dien Street, Thao Dien Ward, District 2, HCMC
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THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
AWARDS

HOSTED BY ISC RESEARCH

BIS HCMC
have been shortlisted for the

Teaching and learning initiative

Wellbeing initiative

Digital technology in learning initiative

#IS Awards2021