



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 3 | 2018-19



Lots of celebrations were held across school
to welcome in the Chinese Year of the Pig!

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



BritishSchoolGZ |



bsгнае |



BSGNAE

Message from the Principal



As we start another Lunar Year, I hope that the Chinese Year of the Pig will be a safe, successful and happy one for parents, staff and students in Guangzhou.

I am pleased to report that the Nord Anglia recruitment conference in London was well attended. This was an opportunity for newly appointed teachers to learn more about the advantages of belonging to the Nord Anglia family, as well as finding out more about BSG and life in Guangzhou. We firmly believe that to ensure the future development of BSG, we need to attract quality teachers, and I can reveal that we are now fully recruited for August 2019.

For those teachers moving on at the end of this academic year, I know you will join me in wishing them well for the future. It is a source of pride at BSG that many of our teachers move onto promoted posts across the world, and this year is no exception. Wherever they go, we hope that they keep in touch with their friends here.

In 2019, our collaboration with The Juilliard School will widen to include drama. Ms Hollie Marie, who will join our school in August, will be spending part of her summer at Juilliard. This will provide Hollie with an opportunity to take part in a week of training and I am confident that she will return to us invigorated and ready to promote the benefits of drama to staff, students and parents.

I am also pleased to make you aware that we have now completed the recruitment of our school's senior leadership team. Mr. Matthew Cox will be taking on the role of Primary Head next year. Matthew is currently part of our Year 5 teaching team, but has a wealth of leadership experience and is very much looking forward to leading our Primary School next year. Matthew's son is currently in our Secondary School, where he is studying for his iGCSEs. As a proud parent, Matthew fully supports an 'ambitious' approach for all students.

At BSG we promote a 'love of Learning' to all our students. As a result, our curriculum places as much emphasis on sport, music and the performing arts as on the academic subjects. Although this focus will continue, in Primary next year we are considering ways to also achieve higher standards in reading and writing. We will continue to make language acquisition our number one priority, while introducing initiatives to maximise and celebrate achievements in this area.

Kind regards,

Mark Thomas

Learning through a lens!



Maths whizz!

Congratulations to Henny (Year 9) for achieving the highest score in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge! Henny has now qualified for the prestigious Cayley Intermediate Olympiad — one of 500 students chosen around the world.



Performing Arts continues to grow!

Over the past month, we've received two visitors from The Juilliard School, New York, and our students have attended the Nord Anglia Performing Arts China Orchestral Festival! More students than ever are taking to the stage and showing us their talents.



Year 2 Camp Outs

The camp outs are fantastic events for our young Primary students. For many, it's their first night away from home, but learning outdoors and propping up tents with their friends makes for a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Early Years

CNY with Toddlers

Nazeerah Petersen
Toddlers Teacher

The Toddler Cubs had the best time celebrating Chinese New Year we watched an amazing Lion show and had fun dancing along to the Pig dance.

We created lovely red lanterns and decorated them using gold paint. The Toddlers were excited to use the iPads to take photos of items we see during Chinese New Year. We loved dressing up in traditional clothing and looked so cute. We even had our own little Chinese restaurant in class.



Early Years

You've got a friend in me

Erika Mills

Pre-Nursery Teacher

It's in Pre-Nursery, these formative years, where the children begin to engage with others and form strong bonds and friendships. We have instilled our school's 'Core Value' of 'Respect' by teaching kindness to others and the importance of listening to one another. The children have learnt to play alongside each other and it is amazing to see the wonderful friendships blossoming in Pre-Nursery.

The children have been acting out role-plays, for example, re-enacting a mother reading a calm, night-time story to her child. There have been various restaurant dinner dates happening in the Role-Play room, where the children have been practising their table manners and charm! There has been some tender care of the doll with nappy changing and feeding times. The baby even had a visit to the 'local clinic' where our pretend nurse administered medicine to help the baby feel well. In the outdoor area, the children have worked together to build models, race trucks, push and pull each other around on the trikes and tyres on wheels. They have enjoyed sharing stories in dens and holding hands sliding down the slides. They have enjoyed balancing along beams and guiding each other by hand.

Strong empathy is also developing, and the children often rush to each other's aid in times of need, for example, offering a tissue to a tearful child or kind words of reassurance. These are precious moments, and it will be remarkable how their friendships will continue to grow throughout their time here at BSG.



Early Years

Bringing in the Year of the Pig

Catherine Valencia
Nursery Teacher

We started the 'Year of the Pig' with a bang! As part of Lakefront Foundation Stage each Nursery class performed in the Chinese New Year show. On the day of the show the children sang confidently for their loved ones and looked fabulous in their costumes. It was great to see lots of proud parents and everyone with big smiles on their faces during the performance. The Chinese New Year show was quickly followed by the display of the fabulous dragon dance performed by many of the Nursery staff. We were then all up dancing again, this time performing 'The piggy dance'. It was great to see the parents get involved as they joined in with all of the fun.

Throughout the rest of the week the Nursery children got the opportunity to talk about how they celebrate Chinese New Year and it was lovely to have some parents in to support us in making dumplings and reading stories in Chinese.



Early Years

Superheroes!

Emma Jones
Reception Teacher

Term two got off to a flying start as reception started learning about superheroes. We started by learning about different fictional superheroes and their powers and we were even lucky enough to meet a real-life superhero: Detective Superintendent Raegan Stewart from the Australian Federal Police.

It was then over to the children to design and turn themselves into superheroes. All the children were excited and motivated to think of the amazing superhero powers they could have such as invisibility, speed or the ability to shoot objects from their hands. They thought carefully about what superhero name they should have so that it matched up with their super power. With the important things decided the children set off designing their cape, mask and gadget to complete their new superhero alter ego, they even made logos so that everyone would know who they are.

The children had a super time being a superhero and we have all be amazed by their creativity and imagination throughout this topic!



Primary School

Chinese New Year

Nicole Torrens
Year 1 Learning Leader

At the start of this term, Year 1 learnt about traditional tales and traditions associated with Chinese New Year. Taking inspiration from 'Chelsea's Chinese New Year' by Lisa Bullard, each week the children learnt about a different aspect of the festival and then used this information to prepare and organize their own Temple Fair in the South Park building.

We decorated the school with handmade decorations and made hongbao invitations for each of our guests. On the day of our Temple Fair, we held an official opening ceremony; showcasing our new Chinese drumming skills with Miss Jill and preformed an impressive dragon dance, led by Miss Catia and the Year 1 PE team.

All the games at the fair were designed and created by the Year 1 children and played by visiting classes and teachers. The children loved taking ownership of their stalls and did a fantastic job of explaining how to play each game. Amazing job, Year 1! What a wonderful way to welcome in the Year of the Pig!



Getting 'Goldsworthy'!

Alfred Creissen
Year 2 Teacher

Can we become artists? What is art? Is Mr Paul an artist?

These are some of the questions we have been asked during our Cross-Curricula lessons.

We have been learning about the artist Andrew Goldsworthy. He is a Scottish artist that uses the environment to create some wonderful instillations. It is a little bit different to what we normally perceive art to be, he hasn't used pencils or paint brushes but leaves, yes that's right, leaves! We had a look at some of his work before having a go ourselves. Miss Nicola said she could not believe how talented we were, true Banksy's in the making.

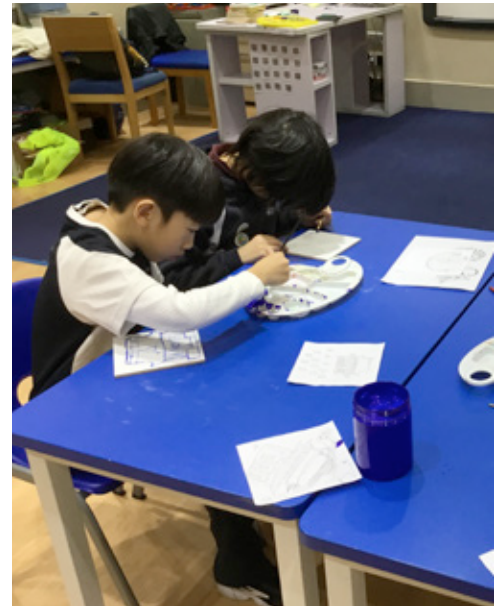
We hope you enjoy some of the amazing pictures.



Zheng He - Year 3's voyage in poetry!

Grace Huntley
Year 3 Teacher

Last half term saw year 3 flourish
As we documented Zheng He's voyage
We wanted to show this great explorer
Through paintings using water colour
Each class chose a part of his existence
To create a piece de resistance
Some depicted his time at sea
Others when he lost his family
But whether his life end or start
All of his years inspired stunning art
As well as painting, we went the extra mile
By producing our own porcelain tile
We enjoyed the story's history
And viewing relics of the Ming Dynasty
So we wanted to ourselves create
A cobalt blue, ceramic plate
To go up in our gallery
We wrote diaries to accompany
In role as the adventurer
We explored the feelings of Zheng He
Through drama we channelled his joy
Excitement, frustration and fear as a boy
Recounting tales of his journey
We never got bored of our learning
Discovering how he searched the globe
For the cobalt he wished to bring home
The unit of study has changed us you see
Because we have been Zheng He in year 3



China Week

Roshni Maher
Year 4 Teacher

The Year Four children had a wonderful time learning about China and Chinese New Year. They began by practising ink strokes using traditional Chinese paintbrushes. They painted Chinese landscapes and bamboo using different tones. They then created their own picturesque masterpieces and wrote instructions on how these can be made.

Making Beijing Opera masks was definitely a highlight during this unit. The children began researching about the beautiful colours, patterns and characters, and then went on to design their own masks. After that, they carefully selected acrylic paints and decorated their 3D masks using various paintbrushes.

At the end of the unit, the children also took part in a fantastic assembly where they acted and danced, wearing gorgeous traditional outfits. Not only did they amaze the parents but also the teachers too. As well as that, both staff and pupils had the pleasure of watching a face-changing show, attend the Temple Fair and enjoy wonderful desserts. What a delightful way to welcome the year of the pig!



Primary School

'The Firework Maker's Daughter'

Blerta Prendi
Year 5 Teacher

This term, the Year 5 children have been on a reading adventure, whilst empathizing with the characters of our intriguing class novel: 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by the famous children's author Philip Pullman. Their journey started with a quest, which took everyone on a treasure hunt around the school to find Lila's (the main character's) suitcase. The students worked brilliantly as a team, decoding information and working out clues, which led to them successfully finding the suitcase, 'surprisingly' back in their own classroom.

'This is so much fun!' exclaimed Rupert Lian, one of the 5D students, as he was trying to figure out one of the clues. A natural collaboration, as well as unexpected competition amongst the teams slowly started appearing. It was interesting to see how the items found inside the suitcase inspired such imaginative discussion, which led to some high-quality writing. As everyone embarked on Lila's adventure, they couldn't wait to discover more...this was only the beginning!



Primary School

Ahoy there, matey!

Paul Jones
Year 6 Teacher

It was all hands on deck as the Chinese New Year holiday approached! Year 6 had explored Ernest Shackleton's voyage on the Endurance. It's aim, to reach Antarctica, which in those days was no mean feat. Spoiler alert: they did not make it to their destination! However, what the pupils learnt was, in this story, adventure wins. The journey was certainly more important than the destination. With Sir Ernest's leadership, all crew members made it back ...alive!

It was then our turn, the pupils worked diligently in groups to design, re-design, build, test and re-test their own ships. This culminated in a Ship Shape, Ship Race in our very own school pool. Impressively, only a handful of ships, followed the same fate as the Endurance, with many vessels successfully carrying the 500g weights placed upon the ship. Of course, as is the case in a competition such as this, there could only be one winner and the winning ship held strong in a final head to head, crowning 6A as the winners.



Sharing good practice with the Learning Support Department

Victoria Whieldon
Speech & Language Therapist

This year we are extremely pleased that our department has grown further with the addition of two new Learning Support Assistants. This has made our enthusiasm to keep learning from each other even more of a priority so we have been engaging in monthly 'Sharing Good Practice' Team meetings. These are a chance to come together and share knowledge about something relevant to the very diverse field of Special Educational Needs (SEN).



*Find out more
about us by
clicking here!*

During our meetings, we take turns to either present on a topic, development or course that we have attended and actively encourage all team members to pursue an active role in sharing ideas. Topics explored so far this year have included:

- Understanding counseling
- Exploring social and emotional needs
- Zones of emotional regulation
- Understanding strategies to support students with Autism
- Top tips to aid learning

Some feedback from the team on the Emotional Regulation training includes the following:

"The Learning Support sharing good practice is a bonding opportunity to make connections within the department. I remember one experiential activity that Vicky planned for Zones of Emotion Regulation. It allowed me to pause for a minute, which helped to ground myself. I felt calmly relaxed as well as inspired by everyone else's sharing."

Xiaoxuan Qu; School Counsellor and Secondary Learning Support Lead

"I found the zones of regulation session really useful because it made emotions, an abstract concept, into a concrete and visual one. Some of the strategies can be used in my 1:1 sessions to help students better understand what emotion means and get to know various kinds of emotions."

Rita Huang; Learning Support/Special Educational Needs Teaching Assistant

We plan for our valuable meetings to continue into the New Year with our next meeting agenda focused around the topic of 'Social Mapping'.



Keep calm and breathe

Xiaoxuan Qu
School Counsellor

Have you ever felt under pressure because of ... anything? Maybe your grades are not satisfying, your friends are nagging, or a relationship is causing emotional strain. Sometimes we tend to take everything onto our own shoulders, and that is not always the best thing to do. Sometimes there aren't enough hours in the day to reset your brain, relax your body, and ease your mind. But even between lessons and activities, everyone needs a few minutes just to take a breather.

Focused breathing is an effective tool for stress relief. Scientifically it has been proven that the way you breathe can affect your heart rate and blood pressure, positively or negatively. Focused breathing is found to have an incredible effect on inducing a relaxed state in your mind and body.

How do you focus on breathing? Inhale through your nose and allow yourself three seconds to hold your breath before exhaling through your mouth slowly. It is also helpful to focus on words or objects that can help you relieve stress. This could be anything from a phrase to a favourite cartoon character of yours.

In stressful situations, we change our breathing to shorter, incomplete breaths. Such breaths do not allow the proper materials to flow through our body and to fuel our body systems that also depend on the respiratory system. As one complete breath can rid many toxins, focused breathing is essential for the body.

What is behind the simple '1-2-3' is incredible. Whenever you find yourself in a loop again, remember to keep calm and focus on your breathing.

Secondary School

GCSE & A Level Art

Penelope Wright
Head of Art

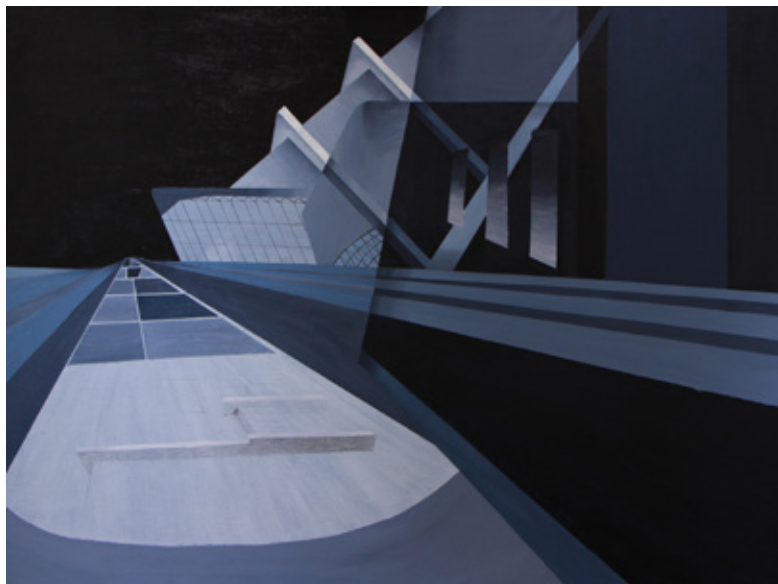
As the first term drew to a close, so did the coursework projects for our A Level and GCSE students. With themes inspired by 'Freedom and Limitations', 'Surfaces' and 'Cityscapes', our artists worked exceptionally hard to develop projects with research taken directly from the world around them. Using their own imagery, they explored and experimented with a range of ideas and media, allowing them to come up with a final design. During a 10 hour mock exam, they drew, painted, dripped, scraped, sculpted, glued and layered their work together to create a truly inspiring collection.



Alexander Cox - Y11 -
Acrylic on wood



Min Sung Kim - Y12 -
Acrylic on Wood



Justin Zhou - Y13 -
Acrylic on canvas



Claire Liang - Y12 -
Mixed Media on canvas



Nicole Wong - Y11 -
Mixed media on canvas



William Liao - Y11 -
Acrylic on canvas



Victoria Lu - Y11 -
Watercolour

Secondary School

China Week in Art

Anna Ozemoya
Art Teacher

The theme of this years' China Week was called 'Beautiful China'. The art department took part in the celebration activities, as students from Years 7, 8 and 9 designed and created individual miniature kites. Looking at Chinese opera masks for design inspiration, students also used colour symbolism to depict their personalised characters. The finished kites then took pride of place in the secondary reception, where they are currently suspended from the ceiling.



World Children's Day

Annette Owen
English Teacher

For World Children's Day students at BSG considered their responsibilities and duties as citizens. They thought about the opportunities afforded to them at BSG and compared that with the situations faced by many young people around the world. They discussed the idea of being 'Safe to Learn' and their part in making BSG a learning friendly world.

Having watched a short video by Malala the students wrote pledges; promises they made to themselves and others to make our school a safe place to learn. The pledges were written on brightly coloured card and turned into fantastic wings by the talented Ms Slaughter, wings that mirror those of Global Goal 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Here are some pictures of students celebrating their Peace and Justice at BSG and having some fun!



Creating cleaner and greener cities - China Week in Geography

Kate Rice
Geography Teacher

China is home to some of the world's most rapidly growing cities. This has meant that many have fewer green and social spaces than in the past. In geography lessons, students worked together to devise ways of making some of China's

biggest cities more environmentally and socially sustainable than ever before. One year nine group took inspiration from Copenhagen and incorporated green areas with cycle paths and fresh water pools into Beijing's urban landscape. Whilst another team added roof gardens and community farms to Shanghai's skyline. It was a great opportunity for everyone involved to take a step back and look the wonderful country that we live in and reflect on the importance of making the best of the environment around us.



U14 Volleyball

Michelle Cumíng
Head of PE



What a great season so far! Both the boys and the girls have been competing in the GZ Cup and the Peal River Conference Tournaments. The GZ Cup has offered BSG some great matches taking teams to three sets. It has been amazing to see that the squad size and the commitment has increased this year. We are seeing up to 30 boys and 30 girls regularly attending team training. This has made a massive difference to our squad taking three teams to compete in fixtures, all showing improvement and progress. Both boys' and girls' A team travelled away for the PRC Exchange on the 23rd of February it was a successful day for the A teams coming back winners of both tournaments. Well done to all players.



Beauty is in the Pi of the beholder

Stephen Dodds & George Ozemoya
Mathematics Teachers

Why do Mathematicians love Pi? The sixteenth letter of the Greek alphabet. A universally recognised symbol. 3.14159265.....and all that.

Pi (π) is a type of number known as irrational; it cannot be written as a ratio (fraction) and it goes on forever without repeating. Every number you have ever encountered from your telephone number to your birthdate to your PIN code can be found somewhere in Pi.

As a concept, it is wonderfully simple. Take any circle and measure the outside (circumference) and the width (diameter). Divide the circumference by the diameter, and there you have it: Pi. Every time.

It is this universality that makes it a fantastic opportunity for collaboration. It can be found in every area of Mathematics linking algebra, geometry, shape and data. However, there are also a myriad of ways of celebrating Pi outside of Mathematics.

Thursday 14 March 2019 is Pi Day (3/14), and we will be celebrating all the wonders of Pi (π) across Nord Anglia. Representatives in every school have been sent information about how to get involved. This could include Artistic Interpretations of the Number, Memory Games, Pi(e) Baking Competitions, Pi Music Composition, Pi Poetry, Pi Paper Chains; everyone can celebrate this number!

UKMT Intermediate Challenge

The Mathematics Department is proud to announce the successful completion of the UKMT Intermediate Challenge, which took place on Thursday 7th February. Fifty students were invited to take the hour-long test, which challenged all of their mathematical faculties. The Intermediate Challenge is open to students from Years 9 through to 11. We are pleased to announce that forty-one students achieved certification in the award, including fourteen Gold Certificates, the highest possible achievement. A special mention goes to Henny Lee in Year 9 who achieved a score of 125 out of a maximum score of 135. As a result of their outstanding achievements, twelve students have been invited to take part in the follow-on rounds of the competition, the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad and Kangaroo.

Below are two sample questions from the test (See answers below):

Q8) Three consecutive positive integers less than 20 are, in ascending order, prime, even and triangular. What is the product of these three integers?

A) 6 B) 60 C) 1786 D) 990 E) 2730

Q24) When 5655 is divided by a two-digit positive integer N , the remainder is 11. When 5879 is divided by the same positive integer N , the remainder is 14. What is the sum of the digits of N ?

A) 6 B) 80 C) 8 D) 9 E) 10

Secondary School

STEAM @BSG

George Ozemoya
Maths Teacher

On the 16th of January, four Year 9 students departed Guangzhou for the annual three-day STEAM Festival at the Nord Anglia International School in Hong Kong. The event provided an opportunity for Nord Anglia students across China to come together to develop their knowledge and skills and be challenged at the highest level in an MIT style team 'Hackathon'. We would like to congratulate Henny, Che Hon, Pan and Eric for successfully competing to win the prestigious Gold Award against eight other Nord Anglia schools at the festival.

Straight on the back of the STEAM Festival, we were fortunate to have Ms. Aimee Gillespie from MIT visit BSG. Ms. Gillespie spent the day running student workshops on Animal-Inspired Designs, challenging Year 7 students to explore the concepts of Biomimicry.

And moving full STEAM ahead! In the month of March, students will explore the work of Ms. Annette Peko Hosoi, professor of Mechanical Engineering at MIT. As part of the NAE/MIT collaboration, students in Years 7 - 9 will be able to develop their STEAM Superheroes by investigating engineering projects that draw inspiration from the animal world.



The power of student leadership

Michelle Cumming
Head of PE

Students need to have a well-rounded education and to leave school with the sense that they have made a difference to the local community. Often such a task is hard to do in an international setting due to time commitments, cultural barriers and a lack of opportunities.

At BSG we have found a great mix this year of enabling students to combine student leadership positions with their desire to support and help others in a positive way. Pupils were given the information to apply for the role of Charity Leader, we received a large number of applicants and no one was turned away with the mutual understanding that if they showed that they wanted to help and felt they could give their time, that no interview or reduction method was required. A 41-strong group of leaders have run 14 successful charity events from September to February.

The opportunity has ensured that pupils are giving time, resources and presence to local projects and not just monetary donations. The impact of the project was apparent in a recent trip to a local special needs school, half of the leaders were very shy and reserved from experiencing new emotions and situations and half were fully immersing themselves from the start. By the end of the hour, all students were fully involved and interactive with the pupils. The students asked as we left 'what can we do to help Miss?'.

There has been clear progress in the independence, growth mind set and confidence in these pupils.



BACK TO THE 80's

Back to the 80s!

Secondary School Production

Join the class of 1985 as they experience the fun and heartbreak of growing up in a totally awesome decade!

Date: 26, 27 & 28 March

Time: 7 - 9pm

Place: Nanhu Theatre, BSG

From the era that brought the world the Rubik's Cube, Max Headroom and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles comes the "totally awesome" musical Back to the 80's. In the style of movies such as Back to the Future, Ferris Bueller's Day Off and The Karate Kid, Back to the 80's is a nostalgic romp through the greatest hits of the decade.



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



Scan the
QR code
to purchase
tickets!