



## NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 - 2020/21

Learning knows no limits at BSG. In this issue, we celebrate the fact that 85% of our graduates achieved places at their first choice university in 2020, with success stories from some of our long-term students. Delving into the foundations of these achievements, you can read articles from every age group at the school, from the colourful world of Pre-Nursey to virtual Juilliard visits in Secondary.

*Find out more!*  
[bsg.org.cn](http://bsg.org.cn)



THE BRITISH  
SCHOOL  
OF GUANGZHOU

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

@BSGNAE



# Message from the Principal



It may seem strange to say it, but considering the challenges we have faced this year, this has probably been the most successful term since I joined the school in 2008. To successfully reopen the school for face to face learning for over 1100 students in the middle of a global pandemic is really impressive, and I want to thank all our parents for their continued support during this difficult time. At the moment, we have just 4 teachers who are stranded overseas, along with a small number of students. We sincerely hope that they will be able to return to Guangzhou in the near future, and that in the meantime, they stay safe.

On this note, it also gives me great pleasure to welcome Mrs Tracy Connor to BSG as the inaugural Head of Primary at the Nord Anglia International School Guangzhou (NAISGZ). Tracy is an experienced school leader and was previously the Deputy Head of Primary at the British International School in Cairo. Getting Tracy into Guangzhou has been a real challenge this year due to the border restrictions, but now that she is here, our Senior Leadership Team are working closely with her to ensure that NAIS curriculum, policies and procedures are in line with our current campus.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in organising our fabulous 'Walk for Water' event. As well as raising awareness of the challenges many children face in getting clean water, this really was a wonderful opportunity for all our students from Y1-13 to get together and enjoy a real sense of community spirit.

As we reach the end of Term 1, we are already searching for highly-qualified teachers, who share our values, to join our school for the next academic year. This year's recruitment is without doubt more complicated with the additional challenge of securing entry into China. Fortunately, staff retention is impressive this year, with many teachers preferring to renew their contracts rather than consider a move. We are also benefiting from being part of NAE, with the majority of our applicants coming from within Nord Anglia.

This term, I have been meeting and greeting students who arrive at school using their own transport. As I help the younger students to put on their backpacks, I cannot help but notice that many of the school bags are extremely heavy. There is a huge amount of research warning of the potential dangers for young children from carrying too heavy a backpack. I would encourage everyone to look closely at what is being placed into backpacks and to remove anything that is not absolutely essential. As children grow, it is important to continually promote good posture and anything that can be done to reduce strain on your children's spine is worthwhile. In this particular case, less really is more.

As a school, we are slowly getting back to normal, and in Term 2, we will make another small but significant step on this route by restarting our After-School-Activities (ASA) programme. While we are not yet able to invite outside providers to run activities, we will be sending out a comprehensive list of options for students and parents to consider. This year, we will have a higher percentage of academic activities to help mitigate the impact of school closures on the progress of our students.

As we enter December, our school is becoming decidedly festive with Christmas decorations and performances. It was lovely to see our Primary and Secondary choirs performing for the community at the Four Seasons and the Ritz Carlton. Even though choir numbers had to be trimmed to a minimum, they performed impressively and helped give the impression that the world is slowly returning to normal.

On that note, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and wherever you travel, I hope you stay safe and healthy, and that you are able to connect with family, even if it is only via video link. We look forward to seeing you all in 2021, and hopefully we will be able to invite parents into school for an event before the end of the year.

*Mark Thomas*

**“THIS HAS PROBABLY BEEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TERM SINCE I JOINED THE SCHOOL IN 2008.”**

# COMMUNITY REPORT

by Michelle Cumming



## Community Leaders

At BSG we understand that it is important for pupils to have an education that gives them the opportunity to help others and take an active role in the community. This year in the secondary school we have 44 Community Leaders they have been a main part of the community projects and events that we have run here at BSG. They gain the opportunity to lead, organise and support in all the events we run. All their hours are logged throughout the year and they will gain a certificate at the end of the year for their time. Thank you in advance for all your time.



## Feeding the Homeless

BSG have set up a community initiative to support the Homeless in Guangzhou. It involves BSG supporting with three distributions a week. A large group of staff, students and parents all help with the handouts, fund raising and goods collections. The initiative aims to offer a hot meal and useful supplies to those who have nothing and the BSG community whom help with the project have gone above and beyond to contribute to this cause. Through school events and dress up days we have been able to raise money that goes towards hot meals. As well as this, families have donated toiletries and clothing to the school which are then given out by our team of adults and children on the weekends. On the mornings of distribution, the team meets by Tianhe stadium armed with over 150 meals and any donations they have collected for that weekend. They then cover several different areas around the city, distributing these items. A lot of the men are extremely friendly, enjoy seeing us and always greet us warmly. On Thursday evenings, a group of volunteers pack and distribute 500 hundred bags that are made up of dried noodles, water and fresh fruit.

Since the project has been running for nearly two years, many of the men we regularly meet, know the group well and look forward to days when the group are distributing. The level of engagement from students and their families has substantially increased over the years and the families and staff involved are proud of being part of such an incredible cause.

## Halloween

Over Halloween the Community Partners put on three events to raise funds to purchase shoes and food for the homeless in Guangzhou. The Community Partnership team hosted a Primary and Secondary Movie Night and a dress up day. All the pupils involved enjoyed themselves and it was great to see them having so much fun for a good cause.

## Walk for Water

UNICEF World Children's Day was celebrated here at BSG with a 'Walk for Water'. The purpose of this event was to allow our students to experience what it is like to walk for 6Km without stopping. According to UNICEF statistics, this is the average distance a child could be expected to walk in developing countries just to collect clean water every day. It was a fantastic event with pupils taking time to reflect on what it would be like to be asked to complete this journey every day before school. All students took part and many completed the full distance but more importantly, they got a chance to make new friends from across the year groups. The Community Leaders were amazing supporting the year 1 and 2 classes throughout their epic walk - its a long way to go with only little legs! Well done to everyone.



# You want your child to excel. So do we.

The British School of Guangzhou offers a personalised approach to learning, enhanced with unique global opportunities that supports outstanding achievement. Our approach nurtures key life skills alongside academic achievement, enabling your child to achieve more with us than they would do at any other school in Guangzhou.

Academic results presented are fully inclusive of all students studying at the school, including new students and those receiving extra support with English language. Our results speak for themselves, significantly exceeding global and UK averages.

**“Our top 10 IGCSE students have been with us for a combined total of 70 years!”** *Mark Thomas, Principal*

This academic success is only half the story as we firmly believe that to be truly successful, students also need to be ambitious both personally and socially. That’s why we ask each and every student to embrace the school’s core values of respect, responsibility, integrity and commitment, as they develop a love of learning that will be with them for a lifetime.

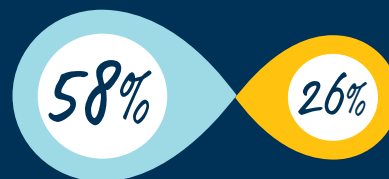
At the British School of Guangzhou, we believe that there is no limit to what your child can achieve.

[www.bsg.org.cn](http://www.bsg.org.cn)

# 14-16 years old

Our IGCSE students continue to achieve exceptional results, performing much higher than UK averages.

% of exams taken achieving A or A\* grades



The British School of Guangzhou (BSG)

UK Average

GCSE/IGCSE

% of students achieving A\* to C grades



The British School of Guangzhou

UK Average

100%  
Pass Rate



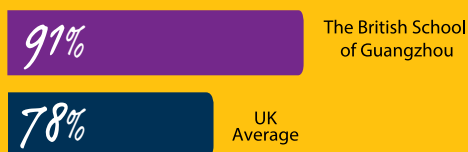
# 16-18 years old

A-Level graduates continue to top UK averages, achieving world-class results that open gateways to the finest universities across the globe.

% of exams taken achieving A or A\* grades



% of exams taken achieving A\* to C grades



99%  
Pass Rate



## Star Students



Shing Tak Lam achieved

**4 A\* Grades  
A-LEVEL**



Carl Jacob Alvez achieved

**3 A\* & 1 A Grade  
A-LEVEL**



Helen Wong achieved

**10 A\* Grades  
IGCSE**



Mabel Ng achieved

**10 A\* Grades  
IGCSE**

*2016-2020 university destinations include;*

University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, Durham University, 연세대학교, The University of California, University of Chicago, University of Texas, Melbourne University, Imperial College London, Hong Kong Poly & University of Leiden



# SHING: A SUCCESS STORY



**2007 JOINED BSG**

**2013  
OUTSTANDING  
PRIMARY STUDENT  
OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**



**2017  
BECAME A STEAM AMBASSADOR**

**2020  
A LEVEL  
MATHEMATICS  
FURTHER MATHEMATICS  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
PHYSICS**



**2019  
AS LEVEL  
BEST IN CHINA  
AWARD FOR  
COMPUTER  
SCIENCE**

**2020  
NOW STUDYING  
MATHEMATICS  
AT CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY**



**2018  
IGCSE  
6 A\*  
&  
5 A  
Grades**



# EARLY YEARS

## TODDLER-RECEPTION





# OUR COLOURFUL WORLD

by *Monika Howes*

Welcome to our wonderful and colourful world in Pre-Nursery, as we explore colours all around us. The children showed interest in colours as we were collecting leaves for our Autumn topic. We explored the different colours, sizes and textures of leaves and some children wanted to see if they could paint the leaves. We began our journey with colour, as the children painted the leaves there were so many wonderful colourful leaves that we made a large autumn tree and glued our leaves on the tree branches.

As we read our core text “The very hungry caterpillar” the children were fascinated with with life cycle of a butterfly and made their own butterflies using the folding method, they painted half the butterfly and folded the paper together making identical wings. We used different mediums with coloured paint including painting with brushes, stamps, balloons, fingers and mixing paint with shaving cream. We have really enjoyed getting messy and creative while learning about different colours.



# NURSERY LEARNING CELEBRATION

*by Nazeerah Petersen*

Our Nursery approach is to hook children into new stories and really engage and immerse the children in those stories, with the aim to motivate them to investigate, to ask questions, and to drive their own learning in and out of school. That inspired our introduction to our story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'.

In Nursery, our curriculum is built around key quality texts to really inspire and engage our children – broadening their experience of a range of stories, developing vocabulary and understanding, and giving them a stimulus to explore as they wish.

At the start of each new story we aim to have a magical moment which we describe as a 'hook'. For our hook we left tiger prints out and hid the children's toys while they were out. When they returned, they were shocked and wondered what had happened. This magical moment started off the story, we then got creative and created our own tiger masks, role- played the story, we designed menus, made invitations and then posted it so the tiger could join us for lunch. To our amazement the tiger received our invitation and joined us for a memorable lunch.

The Nursery team will continue to strive to plan those magical moments that allow our children to inhabit and become the book, giving them the opportunity and inspiration to become readers in the very fullest sense of the word.



# OUR ADVENTURES WITH ELMER

*by Matthew McLaughlin*

Reception have had lots of fun following the adventures of Elmer. Over the past few weeks the children have spent time exploring the story and using English to discuss the beautiful illustrations in the book. Elmer teaches us about diversity and how important it is to be unique. To celebrate this important message, the children in Reception have decided to design and create their very own Elmer costumes. During the design process, the children have been paying close attention to patterns and colours to make a beautiful costume and face mask. They will be showing off their unique outfits in a spectacular parade.

For a parade to be successful, the children have decided that they need a big audience! This week, they have started learning all about invitations and what information they need to share with their audience before the big day. The children will be using their oral English skills to video record an invitation for Nursery and Pre-Nursery children. This topic has given the children so many rich opportunities to practise spoken English, learn new words and learn the skills needed to send a message to a given audience. They are very excited to show off their amazing costumes and can't wait for the parade!



# PRIMARY

YEARS 1-6



# THE QUEEN'S HAT

by *Jessica Viljoen*

At the beginning of November, the children received a surprise parcel by airmail all the way from London, UK. Students from a London school sent a parcel to BSG filled with all sorts of goodies. The parcel included a letter, some souvenirs highlighting the key tourist attractions in London, their favourite book, "The Queen's Hat" by Steve Antony, and even some delicious chocolate biscuits.

The students from the London school wrote to year one to find out more about Guangzhou and China. They said that they would love to know more about the city, what to do in Guangzhou, and how Guangzhou is different from London. The children began brainstorming and thought of many exciting ideas to share with their new friends in London.

The year one classes quickly began exploring the city of London, learning about the different seasons, understanding the cultures and customs and even making food from the UK. At the end of the month, year one decided to create their own versions of the Queen's Hat, highlighting the beautiful landmarks in Guangzhou. We sent our books off to our new friends in London and cannot wait to hear back from them soon.



# YEAR 2 'LET IT SNOW'!



# ESCAPE FROM POMPEII

*by Sarah Kaye*

Year 3 had a very old diary arrive from Naples, Italy a few weeks ago. The diary was from AD 79, but it mysteriously had pages missing from the days just before and during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

We used our core text 'Escape from Pompeii' and our 'Reading Detective' skills to find out about life in Ancient Roman times and about the city of Pompeii. We asked the question "Why do volcanic eruptions occur?" We then researched the answers and labelled our own diagrams showing inside a volcano. We also investigated what is under our feet.

We made our own cut-out of the Earth for our Excellent Work books, we can show you the 4 layers of the Earth! To finish our unit 'Angry Earth' we will be moving onto making our own 3d volcanoes.



# DISCOVERING ANCIENT EGYPT

*by Rob Connolly*

This term Year 4 followed great archaeologists of the past and began to discover the wonders of Ancient Egypt. From dissecting and embalming their own mummies to creating cartographic masterpieces making their own maps, from learning a new written language with ancient hieroglyphics to immersing ourselves in our own Egyptian Cinderella story, the Ancient Egyptians have certainly demanded the children's curiosity and captured their imagination.

The relics and artefacts they are uncovering in class are all going to be used in the student's own Ancient Egyptian Museum presentations, where they'll display and discuss their own findings for children lower down in the school – and hopefully get them as excited for this topic as we have been. The students have loved learning about this ancient civilisation, and I hope we keep that curiosity going into our next topic.



*"That's a wrap!"*

Grand Priest  
Hogghotep,  
Chief Embalmer



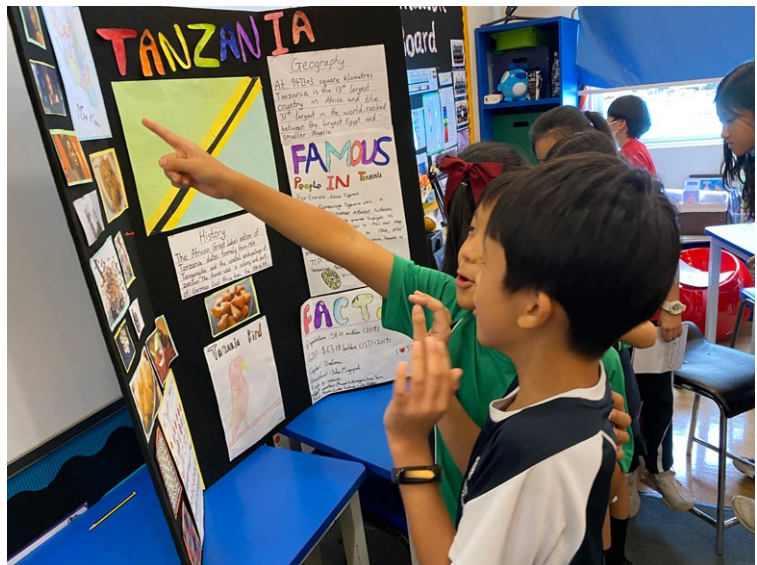
# EXPLORING AFRICA

*by Chris Rees*

Last term, Year 5 embarked on a topic which saw them explore the continent of Africa. They learnt all about the different Geographical features, with a particular focus on South Africa and Nelson Mandela. Whilst using atlases and ipads, the children began exploring, researching and delving deeper into the human and physical geography of Africa. During this time, students were learning all about Nelson Mandela and his 'Long Walk to Freedom.' They began to write a biography whilst learning the hardships and struggles that Mandela and others went through during their lives.

As part of the Topic, the students were introduced to 'Apartheid' and the racial segregation that occurred in South Africa during Nelson Mandela's life. As a result, students were taught the importance of becoming a Global Citizen. One student said: "Understanding and celebrating the differences of people from all over the world is an important life skill."

To end the unit, the children held an Africa celebration presentation where they shared research about a variety of countries from Africa, discussed their detailed biographies as well as showing off their African art and other key learning.



# YEAR 6 EXPLORE THE 'WILD WEST' OF AMERICA

*by John Allen*

Year 6 were transported back to the Wild West of America during the first half term as part of our 'Frontiers' topic. The end goal for the children was to write a historical narrative set 400 years ago when the European pioneers were first arriving in North America. The teachers began the unit with a pre-assessment where we asked the children to write a narrative to see what areas of narrative writing they were accomplished at, and the areas of narrative writing where teaching and support was required. After completing the pre-assessment, the teaching plans were adapted to ensure that all of the children could be supported and challenged with their writing ability.

The teaching of historical narrative writing began with a strong focus on grammar i.e. using the correct tense throughout a piece of writing (past simple and past continuous tense for a historical narrative), structuring sentences correctly including using co-ordinating conjunctions, and how to use dialogue in a story.

The children were then immersed in an activity where they got the chance to experience life in the American West of 400 years ago using their senses. This gave the children the creative spark to write an amazing setting description for their stories. In addition, the students spent time researching the history of the United States, placing key events such as the arrival of the Mayflower onto a timeline, as well as studying the many Native American tribes so that we could be historically accurate with the timing of our story and the characters involved. Professional authors draft and then edit their writing, and the children did exactly the same, looking at what they did well and any areas to improve before composing their final version. To go alongside their narratives, the children also made authentic Native American dreamcatchers!

We are now onto the second part of our 'Frontiers' topic where the children are following Sir Ernest Shackleton's epic journey to cross Antarctica!



## Swift Sparrow and Christine

Written by Eunice Huang

Hundreds of years ago, when Mother Nature ruled the land, there were Native Americans. The crystal, clear river peacefully flowed through the varied, untouched land. The golden, blazing sky with grey, fluffy clouds playing hide and seek as the hot, western sun began to set below the horizon. In the distance, the sound of birds chirping echoed through the majestic, orange mountains. The verdant foliage of the trees danced gracefully in the refreshing, soft breeze. The rapid, crashing waterfall roared across the grassy, vast prairie while the charred embers of the wood crackled deeply on the fire. Swift Sparrow stood proudly outside and glanced at her breath-taking surroundings.

Swift Sparrow was a young and courageous hunter. She had dark, brown eyes that sparkled in the bright sunlight and silky, braided hair as black as ebony. In her hand, she firmly held a bow that was made from the strongest tree in the forest and an arrow that she made by herself. Swift Sparrow had a straight and sensitive nose and her skin was smooth and tanned. She wore her warm deerskin shirt and leather moccasins so she barely felt the cold. As she surveyed through her surroundings, she had a look of a formidable hunter, but she also had a look of a friendly and kind teenager. Even though she had only seen 11 snowy, long winters, she'd was the best hunter in the village. Swift Sparrow smiled excitedly, she was going hunting. ....

As Swift Sparrow ran rapidly into the forest, it suddenly began to rain. "What bad luck!" murmured Swift Sparrow as she strode quickly out of the forest. As she went back to her village, she heard an ear-piercing and petrified scream. She dashed urgently to where the sound was coming from, it was from the rapids. When she arrived at the scene, she saw a terrified and peculiar looking child with hair as red as fire and skin as pale as snow. It looked like the girl hadn't eaten for a few days. Her bright blue eyes were pleading for Swift Sparrow's help. She was about to drown.

Swift Sparrow moved cautiously onto a rock overlooking the dangerous rapids and yelled eagerly, "Wait a minute! Let me find a branch!" Swift Sparrow crawled onto the ground and found the strongest and longest branch she could possibly find. "Hold onto this!" bellowed Swift Sparrow as she held the branch as far out as possible. The strange looking girl grabbed the branch almost immediately, gasping for breath. Finally, after a long time of pulling and screaming, the girl

was finally pulled onto the soft ground. "T-thank you for s-saving me!" stuttered the girl, trying to catch her breath, she was terrified and confused. "Your welcome," replied Swift Sparrow. Then, Swift Sparrow asked curiously, "Who are you? And Where do you come from?"

"My name is Christine and I am from Britain," answered Christine, "My people are trying to settle in your country."

"But where is your family?" questioned Swift Sparrow.

"My wagon broke so I ran away," replied Christine.

"But why?"

"Because I was bored, but now I'm lost."

"Do you want me to take you to my village?"

"Yes!"

And so, they went back to the village together.

Back at camp, Swift Sparrow and Christine became very good friends. They listened to each other's stories with great interest and promised that they will bring Christine home. Swift Sparrow told her tale with pride and had become a hero to all the younger ones. They spent Christine's last days in the village playing on the prairie, swimming in the river and Swift Sparrow even taught Christine how to hunt! To both of the girls, those days were unforgettable. Before Christine left, Swift Sparrow gave her a very special gift: the branch which saved Christine's life! Even though they knew they would never see each other again,

The two girls promised they will never forget each other.



## How Fighting Wolf Rescued John

Written by Branden Xu

Four hundreds of years ago, in the West of America, Mother Nature ruled the land. The rocky, majestic mountains stood proudly watching over the vast, untouched land like a soldier while the crystal-clear river meandered through the prairie. In the distance, the waterfall would crash noisily as it met the rapids. On the undulating prairie, teeming with life, the jubilant birds chirped happily while flying towards the golden sky. Beside the river, the verdant foliage of the trees swayed gracefully in the gentle breeze brushing. The wind whispered through the colossal trees like it was telling a story. Next to the charred embers of wood which often spoke to each other was the small, calm teepee... Fighting Wolf sat quietly next to the fire and gleefully admired his marvelous surroundings.

Fighting Wolf was a young, fearless warrior who was as nimble as a rabbit. He had soft hair as black as the dark night sky. He had soft had sharp focused eyes that sparkled like diamonds in the centre of his friendly face. Fighting Wolf had a straight sensitive nose and skin that was smooth and tanned.

Below his handsome face, his precious, valuable necklace hung on his neck. In his hand, he firmly held a serrated, silver spear that was razor sharp. His leather moccasins made him fast and nimble. As he surveyed the surroundings, he had the look of a formidable warrior but at the same time he also had the look of a kind, courageous teenager. Fighting wolf shivered with excitement, he was going hunting...

As Fighting Wolf arrived at his favourite hunting spot, he suddenly heard a piercing high-pitched scream followed by a deafening roar of a blood-thirsty bear! He bolted towards the sound. Fighting Wolf spotted a peculiar looking child who was frail and powerless with skin as pale as a ghost. Fighting Wolf could easily tell that the helpless boy hadn't eaten for several long days. The boy's shirt was ripped apart, while his brown trousers were covered in bright red mud. His legs were cut by needle-sharp branches as he was pinned against the mossy tree by a ferocious bear. Fighting Wolf climbed on a thick, colossal tree overlooking the standing, fierce bear and the strange, terrified, pale boy.

"Hey kid, hold onto my spear and I will pull you up!" Fighting Wolf whispered urgently

"The boy who shivered violently with fear replied, "Ok," as he held on the spear. Fighting Wolf used all of his formidable energy and pulled the pale boy away from the threatening bear.

"Thank you so much!" Exclaimed the boy who was still shivering with fear.

"Who are you ?" Asked fighting wolf.

"I am called John and I am starving!" John answered breathlessly.

"Where do you come from, John?" Fighting Wolf quizzed.

"I come from over the seas and my family journeyed to the New World to seek a better life." John replied,"but I Lost my parents a few days ago... sadly."

Without hesitation, Fighting Wolf decided to help the boy to find his parents. As the boy was determined to find his parents, he quickly trailed trailed behind Fighting Wolf merrily daydreaming about his parents...

After minutes of walking, they arrived out of the forest and saw two adults with devastated faces! John edged a bit closer, he felt like butterflies were somersaulting in his stomach while his heart bearded nervously... It was them!

"Wow!" John exclaimed jubilantly, "They are my parents." John was over the moon, he dashed to his parents and hugged them tightly.

"Bye John, I hope you have a nice time with your family!" Fighting Wolf called. "Bye!" John shouted back while he followed behind his parents...



# PRIMARY PERFORMING ARTS

*by Lindsey Elkins*

This term has seen the implementation of a number of activities to allow students to develop their performance skills throughout Performing Arts.

The Primary choir have been busy rehearsing for their debut performance in the upcoming final of BSG's Got Talent. They have been rehearsing a number of Christmas songs since September and we are looking forward to their festive performance.

Continuing the festive theme, the Upper Primary choir will perform at the festive tree lighting event at the Four Seasons hotel this term and have been busy rehearsing an entertaining and festive repertoire of songs to perform led by our primary music teachers, Mr Guerrard, Mr Shullman and Ms Hayashi.

We have a number of talented musicians within primary and this term has seen the start of our musician performances in Year 4, 5 and 6 assemblies. This has been a chance for students to perform a musical piece of their choice within the start of their year group assembly. We have seen some excellent performances on the piano, violin and drums and are excited to see this continue next term.

The primary dance club which has been regularly attended by over 40 dance enthusiasts from Year 4, 5 and 6 gave a fantastic performance of their Halloween themed piece to 'Thriller' and are now working on their contemporary dance technique, demonstrating a huge range of flexibility and natural poise.

This term has also seen the implementation of the Juilliard drama curriculum within Year 6 who are all experiencing a block of drama lessons based on the art of theatrical clowns. It has been fantastic to see the year 6 students approach these classes with energy, creativity and expression whilst developing their skills with non-verbal communication. Students have given confident performances in class and we look forward to seeing them on the BSG stage in the future.



# SECONDARY & SIXTH FORM

YEARS 7-13



# VIRTUAL JUILLIARD VISIT

*by Emily Hart*

Performing Arts students have enjoyed making music virtually with Juilliard Curriculum Music Specialist, Paul Murphy.

Although Paul could not visit BSG in person, he still arranged a visit that was interactive for BSG staff and students. The visit started with a virtual demonstration of one of the exciting new activities available in the Juilliard Creative Classroom, and continued with Paul meeting each music teacher individually to discuss how to use and facilitate the Juilliard Approach and activities into the classroom.

Paul also took the time to meet and lead a workshop with the BSG GCSE and A-level music students in a workshop about 'How to Practice', demonstrating techniques to make their instrumental practice more effective and allowing them to try out the new techniques. Although we missed seeing him face to face, we were impressed at how much we were able to achieve with Paul virtually.



# MERRY CH-RITZ-MAS!

*by Emily Hart*

The BSG KS4 choir was invited by the Ritz-Carlton to get the guests into a festive mood by singing some Christmas songs to mark the lighting of their Christmas tree lights.

BSG Year 10 and 11 students were outstanding ambassadors of the school as they entertained audiences with their stunning versions of Christmas favourites such as “Deck The Halls”, “Jingle Bell Rock” and “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”.

The pieces they performed were challenging close harmony, but were executed with style, confidence and professionalism as a result of their commitment to weekly lunchtime rehearsals. All students involved should be very proud of their achievements.



# STUDENTS ACHIEVE UKMT GOLD AWARDS

*by Fred Williamson*

Congratulations to Hanbo, Alisha, Boyuan and Xiyuan for achieving Gold Awards in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge 2020!

What is the competition?

The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK, set by the UK Mathematics Trust.

It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.





# PEER MENTORING PROGRAMME

*by Summer Sun*

BSG believes peer support is an important means of helping students develop social/emotional competencies. We started the Peer Mentoring programme with interested sixth form students from summer mitigation.

After intensive training at school with our school counsellor Ms Summer Sun and an online course on Children Protection, currently we have Ronny Chen and Helen Wong working with key stages 3 students. In the past 5 weeks, we have finished another round of training. With the essential knowledge and skills equipped, 4 more peer mentor candidates are ready to work with our younger students offering them social and emotional support.

We look forward to hearing positive feedback from students and parents.



In my opinion, I find the information I have learnt very useful and applicable to many real-life scenarios. For example, this programme allows me to prepare for a variety of situations, no matter how simple or unique they can be. In a given situation, I am required to analyse and think outside of the box and to also consider the perspective of the mentee so that we (the mentor and mentee) can come up with a solution together to resolve the issue. The trust between the mentor and the mentee is essential, hence confidentiality is a very important virtue in this programme.

This program enables me to meet and approach students who may be deemed troubled or having issues without them realising it. With this, I am able to impart my knowledge and assist them. This training allows me to see how my actions may directly or indirectly affect a person.

It gives me great joy and a sense of contentment to know that what I have learnt enables me to help and encourage others in a positive way. Overall, the whole experience is great, and I would highly recommend students to go ahead and try it for themselves.

*Brandon Jia*

**Peer Mentor**

# HOUSE EVENTS BACK WITH A BANG!

*by Tom Hart*



The Friday house lunch time events have started with a bang this year. Tug-of-War is always an enthralling and energetic event with both students and staff taking part. In the staff and sixth form competition the Normans took the top prize, in year 10 the Vikings. Whilst in KS3, Normans won the year 7 and 8 titles, with Saxons taking the win in year 9. Overall, this year's Tug-Of-War Champions are the Normans with the Vikings in 2nd, Saxons 3rd and Romans 4th. The Halloween quiz saw Romans take top spot, with Vikings 2nd, Normans 3rd and Saxons 4th. There is still plenty more to come, with the BSG House Table tennis Open in fall swing, a Christmas Hunt in the near future and the House Chess Challenge in the new year! Good luck to all the houses in the upcoming events!



The House Sports competitions have started strongly this year with Cross-country producing some outstanding performances. The Cross-country competition is a team event and this year it was closer than ever. In 4th position were the Saxons, 3rd Normans, 2nd came the Vikings, with a 1st place finish for Romans, crowning them Champions. A special mention goes to our fastest runners in each year group Sari Shinobe (9.36 year 7). Yaffa Chen (9:15 year 8), Kayui Wang (9:15 year 9) Boyuan Xu (9.18 KS4). This term we have also seen Capture the flag, Cross-fit and Badminton take place, with the winners yet to be announced. It's been a fantastic opportunity to take part in some competitive sport, thank you and well done to all participants.



*House Leaders*

**Sphoon, Boyuan, Dasha & Alisha**

# STEAM WEEK



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Rutgers University  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
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Business  
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Hospitality  
Management  
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Mechanical  
Engineering  
**NETHERLANDS**

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Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
City University of Hong Kong  
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