



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF TASHKENT
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



*Think
Ambitious*



Welcome

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of Think Ambitious. Learning is a lifelong journey and we wanted to demystify what happens at the British School of Tashkent for our Tashkent community. We also wanted to produce something interesting and enjoyable for those interested in reading about diverse subjects in English.

In our first edition, we have picked articles from a range of our subject experts on how their topics relate to Uzbekistan today:

- Ms Audrey Go-Oon (Korean Teacher) talks about the relationship between Uzbekistan and South Korea and how to enhance business relations between these two countries. Mr Simon Lock (Head of Modern Foreign Languages) then shares his views on the importance of being multilingual and how languages can and have boosted business success.
- Mr Andrew Baldwin (Head of Physical Education) explores how the emotional intelligence and skills learned in sports can help with your approach and outlook in business. Similarly, Mr Sean England (Drama Teacher) highlights how drama can help develop important life skills that lead to achievement in different arenas.

- Mr Nouredine Tadjerout shares his perspectives on Computing, ICT and Digital Citizenship in schools and how this is having an impact on how we work and think differently. Lastly, Ms Stephanie Corbishly (Head of Humanities) reviews Uzbekistan's unique place along the Great Silk Road and how the amazing history, monuments, natural beauty, culture and arts can be promoted for a thriving tourism sector. Tourism in Uzbekistan can certainly help boost economic growth once the pandemic is over.

We hope you enjoy reading our “thought pieces” and look forward to your comments and feedback to Shagufta.Bibi@britishschool.uz. I encourage readers to get in touch if there are any topics that we have not covered yet and you would like to learn about. Finally, I would also be interested in hearing from anyone interested in contributing articles for our next edition of “Think Ambitious” in June.

Think Ambitious – Think BST.

Shagufta Bibi

Director of Admissions and Marketing



Korea and Uzbekistan

You may see many people in Tashkent, who have a similar appearance to Koreans but were born in Uzbekistan. This is due to the expulsion of thousands of Koreans from the Soviet Union to Central Asia in the late 1930s, and it is known that currently about 170,000 Uzbek-Koreans (고려인 Koryo Saram) are living in Uzbekistan.

Former president Islam Karimov made eight official visits to South Korea, in 1992, 1995, 1999, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2015. When President Moon Jae-In of Korea visited Uzbekistan in April of last year, the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said “Uzbekistan and South Korea are long-term investment partners and we are ready to continue creating the most favorable terms to expand the presence of South Korean companies in Uzbekistan.” The volume of Korean investment into Uzbekistan’s economy has so far exceeded \$7 billion. Korea National Oil Corporation, Eximbank, Kogas, Lotte Group, Samsung, Hyundai and Shindong Resources are actively involved in the implementation of priority investment

projects in Uzbekistan. South Korea is keen to continue creating the most favorable terms to expand the presence of Korean companies in Uzbekistan.

As such, the relationship between Korea and Uzbekistan is gradually strengthening politically, economically and socially. Hence, there are some important things you should consider when you meet and work with Koreans.

Here are 5 Do’s and Don’ts:

1. Receive things using two hands. For Koreans, politeness is considered important anytime, anywhere. When you receive change or pass something at a dinner table to a person older than you, you should use both your hands.
2. Never write names in red ink. This is unacceptable to many Koreans. Why? Not only because it is considered unlucky, but also because Koreans find it offensive when you write someone’s name with red ink. This is because Koreans used to write the names of deceased people in red ink. Doing the same indicates that you either wish the person were dead, or else want to do them harm. Be safe and stick to black or blue ink.
3. Don’t pour your own alcoholic drink. In South Korea, drinking is often a part of the work culture and you should never pour your own drink. You should pour someone else a drink, and they’ll return the favor. It’s also important to use both hands when you pour a drink for someone else.
4. Tipping is not required. When you visit a Korean restaurant, the price you see is the price you pay! Tipping isn’t customary for any of the service jobs in South Korea. Some cafes and restaurants may have tip jars at the register for generous patrons, but it’s certainly not a requirement.

5. Age is Important. Be prepared for complete strangers to ask you your age upon meeting. While this may be considered a rude question in your home country, it's totally normal in Korean culture as it establishes seniority in a relationship and the respect due to someone older. Also, don't forget that you're one year older than you think you are in Korean because everyone is born "one year old" in South Korea. So when you ask a Korean about their age they may respond with "my Korean or international age?"

But don't worry too much about the "don't's". If you use **안녕하세요** (An-nyung-ha-se-yo) which means hello and **감사합니다** (Gam-sa-ham-ni-da) which means thank you properly, from time to time, you'll see big smiles and a genuine appreciation of your efforts.

Ms. Audry Go-Oon
Korean Teacher



Computing, Information Technology and Digital Citizenship.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emphasised the importance of education. The Uzbekistan School Education Framework is designed to provide a shared set of quality standards and assurances that underpin the national agenda to provide world-class education. Similarly, the British School of Tashkent (BST) aims to nurture the potential of young Uzbeks to be innovative future global leaders. Here at BST, we want to help build a knowledge-based economy and to empower Uzbeks with the competencies needed to contribute to the nation's future development.

The computer science curriculum has changed in recent years, with an increased focus on the science of computing — on helping children have a good understanding of how computers work in this highly digital age. Whether a child grows up to be a programmer or not, the skills within computing are useful because many of them centre around problem-solving, which can be applied in both professional and personal life. The ICT department at BST is committed to ensuring that all students can use ICT and Computer Science confidently and safely.



Computer Science programs for BST students deepens critical thinking as they empower students to grasp complex or abstract ideas and transform them into beliefs or direct actions. Computer Sciences focus on coding and technology projects, such as computer simulation, programming languages, microcontrollers (e.g., Raspberry Pi, Arduino), scientific applications, hardware, software and web development. Additionally, students create interactive art, virtual reality or video games, and computer graphics.

At BST we also help students to be safe and engaged in the digital world. We challenge students to develop skills in logical thinking to enable problem-solving, digital literacy to ensure they can be active participants in a digital world and digital numeracy to support logic and reasoning. In addition, students benefit from an aptitude in:

- Project planning to identify and meet desired goals.
- Programming to support sequencing and problem solving.
- Creativity to foster development of the imagination.
- Enterprise to drive change and innovation.
- Communication to foster confidence and effective working relationships.

BST also highlights STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) integration, which has inspired schools, companies and organizations to create different and engaging learning experiences that capture pupils' interest. For example, creating games. Learners benefit from new development experiences that are focused on games and play mechanics. Hands-on projects provide pupils with the opportunity to build something with others and to share ideas and gain new insights through collaboration.

Recently at BST, our students in:

- Year 7 created a robot arm

- Year 8 students designed, created and built an energy house using 3D modelling - they developed architectural plans, added electricity and decorated the interior and exterior.
- Year 9 designed, developed and built a functioning wooden bridge with raw materials.

BST is confident that our students will go on to have a strong impact on the various industries and sectors in the future.

Mr. Nouredine Tadjernout

ICT, Computer Science, Virtual Teacher and STEAM Expert.



Selling History

Once vaccinations are perfected and a mass inoculation programme is underway, we will see a return to travel. Once again Uzbekistan will see tourists from across the globe visit the cities of the Great Silk Road. The beauty, history and friendliness of the Uzbek people have made Uzbekistan a top destination according to Lonely Planet and other prominent travel guides. This accolade will no doubt entice a great many



people to come and see what is on offer to a tourist.

Getting ready to accept visitors will therefore be at the forefront of many business agendas. Businesses will determine the experience of these visitors, whether it is the style of their accommodation, their experience in taxis or the food that they eat. It is inevitable that tourists will interact with many local businesses. In Business Studies we learn how to be more prepared for future engagement between businesses and customers. We know that a business can shape the quality of the tourist's experience and also greatly affect the lives of the workers within the industry.

A knowledge of how the Silk Road connected China to the Roman Empire will mean that tourism businesses are able to impart knowledge of the fascinating history of this country. Tourists love to learn about the past and will pay large sums of money for this historical information. It is crucial that this information is imparted to them in an interesting way. Therefore, History and Business can be combined to enhance the tourist's experience and hopefully result in them promoting the wonders they have encountered which will encourage a further influx of foreign visitors. It is not only tourists that have an interest in the rich history of Uzbekistan, but also domestic residents who wish to know more about the Timurid Empire. We cannot help but wonder about the people that built the architecturally exquisite Registan, the

Necropolis of Shah-I-Zinda and many many others. History reveals so much about the colourful past of this beautiful country.

Whilst looking at Uzbekistan's past we find a great need to delve into the geography of the area. It is hard to miss hearing about the great earthquake of 1966. The study of Geography helps us to understand the shifting tectonic plates and so be more prepared in the future. The changing landscapes of Uzbekistan are both beautiful and diverse. If we are to preserve the beauty of the Aral Sea, we will need to know more about Geography in order to manage this area that captivates the hearts of tourists and locals alike. Learning to understand the planet will help to produce sustainable tourism, a particular area of growth within the tourism industry. So by combining our knowledge of Geography with Business we can create a tourist product that is kind to the planet, communities and also one that makes a profit.

Tourism will increase in Uzbekistan, and through humanities education we can be hopeful that this knowledge will steer growth in the right direction. That it enhances people's lives and does not result in damage to the environment. We can make sure that we learn from the past and develop a tourism industry to be proud of in the future.

Ms. Stephanie Corbishley
Business Studies Teacher





Why Languages Can Help Business to Thrive.

Uzbekistan stands today at an economic crossroads that leads north, south, east, and west. Language teachers and students can, and must, stand there too and play their own vital role in this evolutionary process. The great cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva bear witness to the ancient Silk Road stretching for thousands of miles from east to west. Today, however, Tashkent and other Central Asian cities, find themselves at the centre of new trade routes linking China, Korea and the Far East, India, and Pakistan, to Europe and beyond.

Let's set the scene. Since coming to power, President Mirziyoyev has displayed a practive desire to improve foreign relations and initiate major economic reforms, designed to strengthen the rediscovered strategic position of Uzbekistan. During his first year in power, he undertook numerous foreign visits, allowing him to establish relations with leaders of bordering countries and some of the world's great economic powers.

A significant reform came in September 2017, when the Central Bank of Uzbekistan reunified Uzbekistan's exchange rates, and President Mirziyoyev promised freely

floating market-determined rates for the future. Simultaneously, restrictions were lifted for legal entities and individuals to convert currency. The currency reform was followed by increased activity in foreign financial markets. This included substantial deals totalling over \$1 billion with, among other, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

With ongoing reforms, Uzbekistan presents an attractive opportunity for foreign investments. In addition, the reopened negotiations for entry into the WTO, are another giant step forward as Uzbekistan attempts to find its place on the world financial stage.

So how do we, as language learners and educators, fit into this burgeoning new world? Obviously being able to communicate in a specific language allows us to do business with a person from a country where that language is it's mother tongue. The Korean speaker can communicate with native Koreans; the French speaker can more easily do business with a French CEO, a French-Canadian businesswoman, and those from a whole host of north and central African nations. Workers with the necessary language skills can help the company cut costs by reducing reliance on translators, and result in more efficient, higher-quality negotiations. Speaking to someone in their own language can help break down barriers and establish trust.

This is, however, too simplistic and is by no means the only reason for the significance of language learning to be emphasised in these times. A growing number of studies have explored the cognitive effects of bi- or multilingualism, and strongly suggest that speaking another language can benefit people's general business skills.

Firstly, Psychologists at the University of Chicago have conducted research which suggests that people make more logical decisions when using their second,

nonnative language. It is believed that using a non-native language may lead the speaker to be “systematic rather than automatic” in their decision-making, thinking things through more, and in logical steps.

Secondly, the latest research indicates that bilingual children have improved perception, which is a key skill when doing business deals. They are better able to see another person's perspective than those who speak only one language, relating better, and negotiating more successfully.

Thirdly, language skills expose speakers to different cultures and patterns of behaviour. For global businesses that deal with clients, suppliers and employees around the globe, multilingualism bridges gaps between cultures, and fosters stronger personal relationships on which great business relationships rely. Old HSBC adverts perfectly capture the differences between cultures across the globe and show that an understanding, or lack thereof, can clinch or abort a business deal. This 2002 video shows the launch of their “the world's local bank” campaign.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK_NinOmFWw

Another characteristic seen in those who speak more than one language is the ability to multi-task (Pennsylvania State University study). It is thought that switching between languages is a form of “mental exercise” that equips the speaker with mental “juggling” skills. In business, workers switch between projects constantly throughout the day, and must prioritise and re-prioritise regularly to keep all the 'plates spinning.'

These skills are just the tip of the iceberg but what is crystal clear is that as Uzbekistan carves out a new role for itself in the worlds of trade, business and finance, proficient, culturally sensitive linguists can be a key ingredient to ensuring its enduring success.



Sources:

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2. Pennsylvania State University Study. <https://news.psu.edu/story/160653/2011/02/18/research/juggling-languages-can-build-better-brains>
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Mr. Simon Lock

Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Sport in school, a subversion from the academics. Right?

For many this can be a controversial statement. I'll answer it now but read on, it might get more complicated. Yes, we do need sport in school, but sport is a very broad area and should be defined. Hence, I will discuss sport as that programme of activity that lies outside of the curriculum. Let's take a look at the role sport plays in supporting wider success in school (and life beyond).

For many years, whilst teaching in international schools, I have been involved in multi-day tournaments bringing together schools from across areas such as China, Mongolia, Macau, Taiwan and Hong Kong for both boys and girls. As an Athletics Director it's important to establish a common philosophy and build healthy numbers for the teams. This brings me to my first point, what is the 'right' philosophy and how may this impact a student in the future?

That question in itself is controversial as each school may adopt its own philosophy towards sports. However, universally I think it can be agreed that the role of sport in school is to help promote the holistic education that we are trying to provide. The notions of sportsmanship, fair-play, teamwork, commitment and selflessness are all common values at BST and with a good programme, we see these characteristics reinforced in our students. They become the social norm, and this brings a huge benefit to the culture within the school. As new students join, they will accept the social norms that are already established. This effect was first researched by the American sociologist Coleman in the 1960's. An outcome of this beyond the school years is that students become positive culture influencers within their teams as they transition through the work place and into leadership roles.

We also need to consider the effect of losing. In itself, it's not the worst scenario. A game is played at the end of a school day, the team lost, everyone's a little disappointed but then there is another game next week. However, let's consider the effect of losing after playing hard, close-fought games for two days straight and then you lose a knock-out game on the third day. It's finite, there is no game to look forward to next week. The culmination of weeks' worth of practices, evening games and sore muscles is now a



loss, nothing tangible to show for all those positive attributes already mentioned. What positive outcome can there be from this at that moment when the student-athlete only sees the loss despite all the hard work? Personally, I see these moments as both heart-breaking but also critical to helping students to see the bigger picture; focussing on successes up to this point and learning how to reflect on improvements in this disappointing moment is extremely difficult. However, when you see the anger dissipate, or the tears stop, and understanding begin to grow across students faces, you know that they are in a far better position to deal with this level of disappointment in the future, whether that is the tournament next year or the business contract not secured in decades to come.

Obviously, there are other competitive opportunities within the school environment that can help to promote the positives already stated, and their value is just as great as sport. Yet sport is the one that will help to promote a life-long interest in being active, interacting with others and generally helping an adult to live a longer and healthier life. When we promote sport as an opportunity for a student to succeed (or to fail with support) we inevitably grow school connectedness. Depending on the philosophy developed within the sports programme, this can lead to an increase in

positive norms such as supporting each other with assignments/homework and a focus on personal academic progress. That same connectedness can also translate to the staff body within the school.

So, do we need sport in schools? If it is sport for the sake of having sport, then no. We need inclusive sporting opportunities that provide every student with challenges that long-term participation in sport can bring. We need good coaching just as much as we need good teaching. We need all of this to sit under the umbrella of a strong, positive philosophy developed by the programme leader together, WITH the people involved. I'm extremely proud to work in a school with a vision like this.

Mr. Andrew Baldwin

Head of Physical Education.

Drama in Business

Every successful business in the world is built on a foundation of excellent communication skills - and drama training certainly gives you the opportunity to learn these important skills. Let's take a look at the 5 communications skills Steve Jobs' made sure he used in all his presentations:

- Steve Jobs knew exactly what he wanted to say by writing a script and making sure he spent lots of time learning his lines - every feature of what he wanted Apple to Groups have to collaborate together sell.
- In the process of continual and detailed improvement he focused a lot of time on varying the tone of his voice, to add impact to a new product that he had to convince an audience would make their lives better
- Steve Jobs knew precisely how and where to move and stand by having exact control of his body language



- Steve Jobs' use of gestures were measured to make sure he added emphasis to important features of the product he was talking about and showing
- The pace and timing of his speech, the product visuals and his movement across, and around the stage were planned and practised, aiming for perfection. Steve Jobs continually made eye-contact with his audience, showing confidence in himself and thereby transferring that feeling of believability to what he was selling - but he sold himself first! Just like every aspiring actor in every drama class and on every stage around the world is trained to do.

Business proposals are just like stage productions with teams of people working through different steps - planning, reviewing and adapting toward a successful show/finished product so that you earn the applause of your audience or the sales to your customers. Seeing through a successful production is just one of the valuable lessons in planning, developing (rehearsing) and finally pulling off a good show, exactly like a successful business project. Getting to the first night of a production you have been working hard on can often be long and tiring - business presentations are no different.

In theatre studies you learn how to appreciate, understand and effectively communicate with diverse people. Actors are required to play different roles and in business you need to do the same to ensure the bottom line. In theatre, business and life, we take on different parts and sometimes have to face difficult people and situations - drama can help you deal with that. Drama gives you the chance to study the human condition in great detail - you need to understand other characters motivations and your own to be able to play your part on stage. As actors (and audiences), our ability to understand others can help us to make sense of the world and situations we find ourselves in and respond more effectively.

Drama equips you with effective interpersonal and communication skills required for successful business interactions. Studying drama helps to build your confidence, so that you can perform in front of an audience of one or one hundred. When you learn and practise how to communicate effectively, it is possible to make the most of what little resources or time you might have and still have an entertained and engaged audience - turning them into loyal customers of your brand. The British School of Tashkent is the only school in Uzbekistan supported and partnered by the number one drama training centre in the world - The Juilliard School in New York City. Therefore, all our students benefit from lifelong confidence building, communication, presentation, and resilience skills.

Mr. Sean England
Drama Teacher.





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