



Dear Parents,

What a fantastic and truly inspirational week this has been for us all at NAIS Pudong! With the eagerly awaited arrival of Andrea Lee to the Spotlight on Music event and the high quality performances that took part.

Andrea arrived early on Monday morning and was quickly very impressed with the facilities and students we have at NAIS Pudong. Andrea dropped in to see some of our Year 1-9 lessons during the day and the students in Year 3 were so fortunate to be able to hear her perform on her Cello and to hear about her background as a professional performing artist - having the ability to work with experts from Juilliard is one of the greatest benefits of our collaboration. Our Year 9s were able to work with Andrea and receive constructive assistance; students relished this opportunity. Later on, she popped into Orchestra to hear the first steps of Beethoven Symphony No 5 (one of the core Juilliard Works). Students really did rise to this challenge well and they were able to show a huge improvement over the 40 minutes rehearsal time.

The evening Spotlight on Music event was simply a joy to be part of. Here the parents were informed of the amazing collaboration we have with Juilliard and what it actually means for all pupils from Reception to Year 9, and they were treated to four performances of real quality. Joungh Jin Kim performed a Bach Prelude and Fugue and it's clear to me the rate of improvement during the last 2 months. Next we had a beautiful performance by Jason Shi, a member of our school community who is taking a year to study music before returning to his studies later in the year. Jason played a Chaconne by Bach (nicely keeping with the theme for the evening). Finally, we had a chance to hear Andrea play a movement from Bach's cello suite. This, for those present, was a joy to listen to - perfect control of her instrument and the tone she produced was silky smooth. To finish, we had a true collaboration with JiWoo Han from Year 9 performing two duets with Andrea. To see the delight on JiWoo's face as she played will always stay with me and I am sure it will also remain with her for many years to come.

This collaboration will benefit all of our students in some way; it isn't about making professional musicians but more about giving all students a real understanding, appreciation and interest in Music. I hope that in time that begins to be apparent. Andrea's next visit will be in the new year.

Phil Bailey
Director of Music and The Arts