



ISSUE ONE NEWSLETTER 2021/22

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THE BRITISH
SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

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Message from the Principal

As I write this message, I can hear some of our Early Years students singing Christmas songs in preparation for their forthcoming performance. The Christmas tree has been decorated by our Parent Support Group and is helping to create a very festive atmosphere. This is a busy time of the year, with rehearsals underway for our Winter Festival, but we are very much looking forward to having parents join us for the festivities.

At this time, we are also very busy with recruitment for next academic year. At BSG, recruitment is led by the SLT, but also involves lots of Heads of Department and Middle Leaders. The process is very thorough and time consuming, with online interviews and numerous background checks.



The COVID-related border restrictions have added an additional challenge to recruitment for international schools in China, but we recently organised an Open Day for teachers, who are interested in joining BSG and are already working in Guangzhou. This was a very successful day, and we were able to appoint a number of experienced teachers who are very excited at the prospect of joining BSG.

I would like to thank the parents who have been involved in the interviews for our new Principal. This process began three months ago and involved the international recruitment firm, Perrett and Laver, who were responsible for finding suitable candidates. This week, our staff, student and parent panels are holding online meetings with the shortlisted candidates, and final interviews will take place soon. Once the feedback has been considered from all the panels, a decision will be made and hopefully Nord Anglia should be in a position to announce my successor before the end of the term.

I am also very excited to announce that in January 2022, our first class will be opening at our new NAIS campus in Huangpu. The NAIS students will literally be making history as our founding families, and I am looking forward to welcoming them on their first day. We will also be commemorating the first 100 founding families with a permanent display that will have pride of place in the new campus coffee shop.

At BSG, our Secondary students consistently achieve examination results at IGCSE and A-level that are in line with the very best schools in the world. Every year, we also have a number of students whose individual performance is noted as exceptional by the Cambridge Examination board. I would like to once again congratulate the following students for their impressive individual achievements:

- For the best World Literature IGCSE score in China, our congratulations go to Sophia Mok
- For the best Global Perspectives IGCSE score in China, our congratulations go to Kohen Heng
- For a High Achievement Award in Physical Education, our congratulations go to Ross Flower

Finally, I would like to ask that all parents take the time to complete the Parent Satisfaction Survey. This annual survey provides parents with an opportunity to provide us with feedback on what is working well at BSG, as well as noting areas for improvement.

We believe that parents have an essential role in deciding the future direction of education at the British School, and we take your opinions very seriously. I really do believe that this is a valuable process and urge each and every one of you to make your voices heard. By completing the survey, you are demonstrating your care for BSG and helping to ensure that we remain accountable to our parent community.

Best regards,

Mark Thomas



**Scan the QR code
to complete the
Parent Survey**

Year 2 have a lot to hoot about!

Linked to our previous learning on owl research and non-fiction texts, the Year 2 children spent time learning about the different features of a non-chronological report (NCR).

We learned about features, such as heading, sub-heading, introduction, pictures, diagrams and captions. Whilst comparing various NCRs about animals we learned that they were set differently. Some books use diagrams and labels whilst others use pictures and captions.

In some NCRs, facts were written in the form of a paragraph, whilst in others they were written as bullet points. Did you know that an NCR is a piece of text that is not written in time order and is mostly written in the present tense? Using our research on owls, we will be planning and writing our own 'Owl' non-chronological reports, and we are really looking forward to it!



Early Years' 'Walk For Wellness'

Our Nursery children enjoyed participating in our World Children's Day celebrations. We were very excited to be invited to our South Lake campus to 'Walk for Wellness' joining the rest of the 'big' Primary and Secondary students walking to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing. Everyone was dressed in blue.

There were lots of blue faces and plenty of smiles by the end of the walk and the benefits of being active are so important to promote at this young age.

Walking is a great way as a family to explore the outdoors together and we are very lucky that Guangzhou has some beautiful parks to visit during the weekend. Research shows that a healthy body will lead to a healthy mind and overall, a happy child. Go on, make the most of this cooler weather and keep walking!

Developing Early Relationships

Wombats class have shown a new interest in copying their friends. There is now a strong focus of the group to imitate each other and work together, demonstrating a greater awareness of each other. This is a good way for our youngest members of BSG to learn from each other. They are enjoying exploring the sand together to look for hidden objects and during outdoor time, they like to go driving in their cars.

It has been fun for them to drive in the same direction as each other. A further example of developing awareness of others was when one student started to build a train set and was very quickly joined by other children who were also interested in trains. During library time, our children enjoy choosing their own book but then sitting near to each other to look at them. Wombats class are developing their sharing skills and knowing that it is ok to wait and take turns to use a toy.



Book-Sorting Experts!

In Year 2, a friendly alien came for a visit during our English lesson with a pile of books about animals. They had heard that Year 2 were experts in differentiating between fiction and non-fiction books!

To help the alien, we sorted a pile of books into fiction and non-fiction. We then wrote our own definitions for what fiction and non-fiction mean. We hope that the friendly alien remembers the differences as well as we do.

Here is an example of the definitions we produced: Nikita said, "Fiction books include made-up stories with talking characters and exciting plots created from the authors' imaginations." Jung-Hu said, "Non-fiction books include information about true events, real people, and animals that we can learn about."



Pupil Voice

Our focus for this cycle was 'Fundraising'. The cycle began with each class discussing their ideas they would like to see BSG develop. Then our class representatives met to share their top ideas from each phase. There were TWO big ideas that everyone agreed with:

- ~ a bake sale
- ~ collecting items that people need.

Student Council have agreed to launch fundraising with collecting men's gloves. We would like to introduce you to our donation monster, 'Feed Me Fred'. He will be in the reception area of South lake ready for pupils to feed him donations.

A big thank you to Iguanas class in South Park for designing and making Fred. It is great to see our younger students getting involved in the process.



Halloween Reading Competition

Some amazing Y1 & Y2 Halloween Reading competition photographs that show the children have truly benefited from taking their learning into 'real' situations.

The imagination runs wild when we actually 'get in a witch's cauldron' like Ashley, 'fly on a broom' like Nawoo or even 'eat delicious pumpkin soup' like Owen and Clarence. Wonderful.



Residential Trips

Years 3-5 have been 'stepping out of their comfort zones' during their residential trips. All students have overcome their fears, tried something new and acquired valuable skills in leadership and team-building.

Year 4 went to Huadu, where they improved their orienteering skills, engaged in a range of team-building games and overcame their fears on the high ropes course. They also acquired some impressive camp-making and cooking skills.

Year 5 went to Conghua, where they learnt to kayak and build impressive outdoor shelters. They have also had the opportunity to view the stunning countryside whilst hiking and orienteering.

Year 3 also went to Huadu for their 'Camp Out' experience, and have enjoyed getting to know other students in the year group through a range of team-building games. They have acquired some impressive camp skills and are experts in erecting tents.

Year 6 students and teachers took their trip to a new level with kayaking, an eco-river study, fan painting and much more! It has been an incredible experience for all year groups, and one that I am sure has provided some wonderful memories.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt!

In Reception classes, we have been enjoying the story “We’re going on a Bear Hunt” by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.

The story had us going through long wavy grass, a deep cold river, thick oozy mud, a big dark forest, a swirling, whirling snowstorm and a narrow, gloomy cave! The story has been very engaging and the children have enjoyed learning it off by heart.

Our activities around the story have included using a sensory circuit in the class, going on a real bear hunt outdoors, using the green screen to put ourselves into the story and making a den for a bear using objects from the classroom. It has been so much fun seeing the children get really into the story.



Maths is Fun!

Year 2 students have been exploring a range of mathematical vocabulary related to addition and subtraction. In our first lesson on Addition and Subtraction, the children worked very hard on the concept of ‘Fact Families’.

What are Fact Families? These are a group of equations created using the same set of numbers. Using three numbers, students worked out the four corresponding addition and subtraction number sentences.

We also completed addition tasks by adding 1- digit and 2-digit numbers together. To encourage the children to represent their thinking and understanding visually, students used Maths equipment of their choice to show their calculations and explain their answers. As always, like all hands-on learning activities, this was a Maths activity that all the students thoroughly enjoyed!

Calling All Ornithologists

Year 2 children became bird experts — more specifically, owls. In our English and cross-curricular lessons, we learnt all we could about the diet, appearance, habitat and life cycle of different owls. We then gathered our information into fact files. We can’t wait to be able to show our friends our knowledge and get to present our fact files to the rest of the classes.



Y1 Enjoy a British Tea Party

A brilliant day for a British tea party! Year One have been learning all about the UK, exploring the similarities and differences between British culture, Chinese culture and the others we share in our school.

Through our core text, we have followed The Queen's Hat all around London, discovering its important landmarks. Our classrooms are abuzz with imagination and creativity as we become the Queen's Guard, London bus drivers and engineers innovating new ways to build some of London's most recognisable structures.

Britain has a history of multicultural foods from all over the world. The most famous food tradition from the British Isles, however, must be the afternoon tea. We could not pass up the opportunity of a beautiful afternoon to make cucumber sandwiches and have tea outside together, enjoying this wonderful tradition, sharing cultures and appreciating the differences that make our world such an amazing place.



Primary Four-Square House Tournament

Over the past few weeks, Year 2-6 have been competing within their year group to find the ultimate four-square champion. Four-square is a popular outdoor game played by four players inside a square-shaped court.

The goal is to bounce a ball back and forth within the court, and if a player misses the ball or it lands on a line, they are out and a new player comes in. Players need to be quick and swift on their feet to return the ball and out-play their competitors.

We then held the much-anticipated year levels finals. Finalists battled for the top honour of CHAMPION.

Congratulations to the following year level winners:

- ~ Anthony 2B (Romans)
- ~ Taein 3E (Normans)
- ~ Adam 4D (Normans)
- ~ Eason Su 5C (Normans)
- ~ Leo 6E (Vikings)



Acting Academy

The children are having an awesome time performing and developing their confidence, communication, collaboration, as well as their presentation skills in front of an audience. In the last few weeks, they have focused on miming; using their facial expressions, body language and effective use of space to communicate without words. Some true actors in the making!



Halloween Movie Night

On Wednesday 27th October, BSG's Community Partnership held a movie night in Primary to celebrate Halloween! A chorus of both screams and giggles emerged as students in Year 4 and 5 gathered for a spooky screening of "Hotel Transylvania", while volunteers from Secondary raised funds for charity by selling chips and drinks. Overall, we have raised a total of over 3000RMB — an excellent effort!

The same spooky volunteers reappeared later on Friday, where students from EY to Secondary came to school dressed in their favourite horror costumes... A colossal thank you to those who dressed up, as well as to our Community Partnership Ambassadors who collected donations in support of BSG Community Partnership's chosen charities. Keep on being amazing everyone!

STEAM Professional Development for Teachers

Led by our STEAM leaders, Mr. Smigelsky and Mr. McLaughlin, teachers were introduced to 4 new and innovative technologies that can be used in the classroom. In a practical session, the staff enjoyed learning how to program Dash robots, build and code with Lego Wedo, invent with MakeyMakeys and use AR (augmented reality) technology in lessons with Osmos.

In Primary, our CPD sessions are not just one-off events! The teachers will now spend time using what they have learnt, discussing and reflecting on it with colleagues and even observing each other teaching with the new technologies. We will meet again to reflect as a school staff on what we have learned and how we could best embed these modern and innovative resources in our curriculum going forward.



United Nations Assembly

We may not be able to celebrate an International Day this year, but the Model United Nations Club ensured that Secondary students recognised the important work of all the different bodies of the U.N. in their assembly.

Members of the Club guided the students through the host of acronyms, from ECOSOC through UNHCR, WHO, UNEP and UNICEF, and of course, the peacekeeping forces. Global problems are more prominent than ever, and the work of these organisations is more important than ever.



Extended Project Qualification Presentations

All of these A-Level students have successfully completed an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) dissertation, in addition to their A level studies. The EPQ, which is worth an additional AS Level, is highly regarded by top Universities around the world, including Oxford and Cambridge, because it teaches the students some of the research skills that they will need in their future studies. Each student chose their own topic and research question, related to their academic passions, and wrote an in-depth dissertation on it.

The final part was a presentation evaluating the project, analysing their methodology and interpretations and drawing conclusions about the research process — in front of an audience of teachers and fellow sixth formers. The audience were eager to ask questions of the Year 13 experts, who all presented with poise, confidence and clarity.

The topics researched by the students were diverse, reflecting their increasing focus on specialisations that they intend to pursue at University. Hugh explored how much the Standard Model contributes to the formation of our universe. Sohoon investigated the extent to which Stealth Technology has changed modern aerial warfare. Helen asked if cellulose-based plastics can replace petroleum-based plastics. Darya wanted to know if autonomous vehicles can ever be 100% safe.

Am evaluated how successful ASEAN has been in meeting its political, economic and social aims over the last 50 years. Sandra hypothesised on whether transferring the Finnish education policies and models could remedy educational inequity in the global north in the 21st century.



Brandon examined the extent to which environmental factors affect the chances of getting Alzheimer's. Keya sought answers to the extent to which dreaming plays a part in the consolidation of memory. Hanbo wanted to know how practical Artificial Intelligence Visual Recognition Technology is in medical imaging and Jed wondered whether concrete and carbon fibre composites can be improved to benefit the environment.

All the students are congratulated on the achievement of completing their dissertation and presentation and inspiring many of the Year 12 students to think about what EPQ topic they could choose.

Thank you to the teachers who came along to the presentations and particularly to Mr Fisher for assisting with the assessment process.

GISES Football Tournaments

U9 Mixed Football Teams

12 teams mixed gender teams participated.

BSG 1 – 1st Place!!

BSG 2 – 7th Place

Coaches' awards – Calie and Sabina

U11 Boys and Girls Football Teams

8 Boys teams and 4 girls teams participated.

BSG Girls – 2nd Place

BSG Boys 1 – 3rd Place

BSG Boys 2 – 5th Place

Coaches' awards – Alice, Ian and Ayden

A huge congratulations to all the students who took participated, and we look forward to the upcoming GISSES competitions in Cross Country and Swimming in November.



Year 9 Field Work

Year 9 students have just started a unit of work on Rivers in Geography, so this was a great opportunity for a local field trip to measure a river.

The students were taken to the Huanggeba kengchong, a pretty little river on the North side of Maofeng Mountain; a short ride out from the school.

The students enthusiastically waded into the river to measure the dimensions of the river channel, the velocity and discharge of the flow and the size and shape of the bedload of the river.

Back in school the students will crunch the data to investigate the changes in the river as it goes downstream.



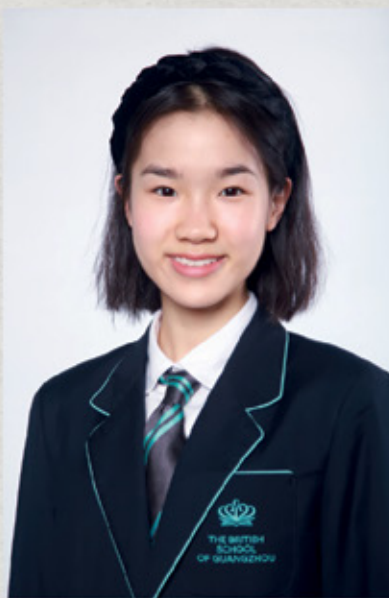
IGCSE



ALISHA

A*
GRADES

11
SUBJECTS



SOPHIA

A*
GRADES

10
SUBJECTS



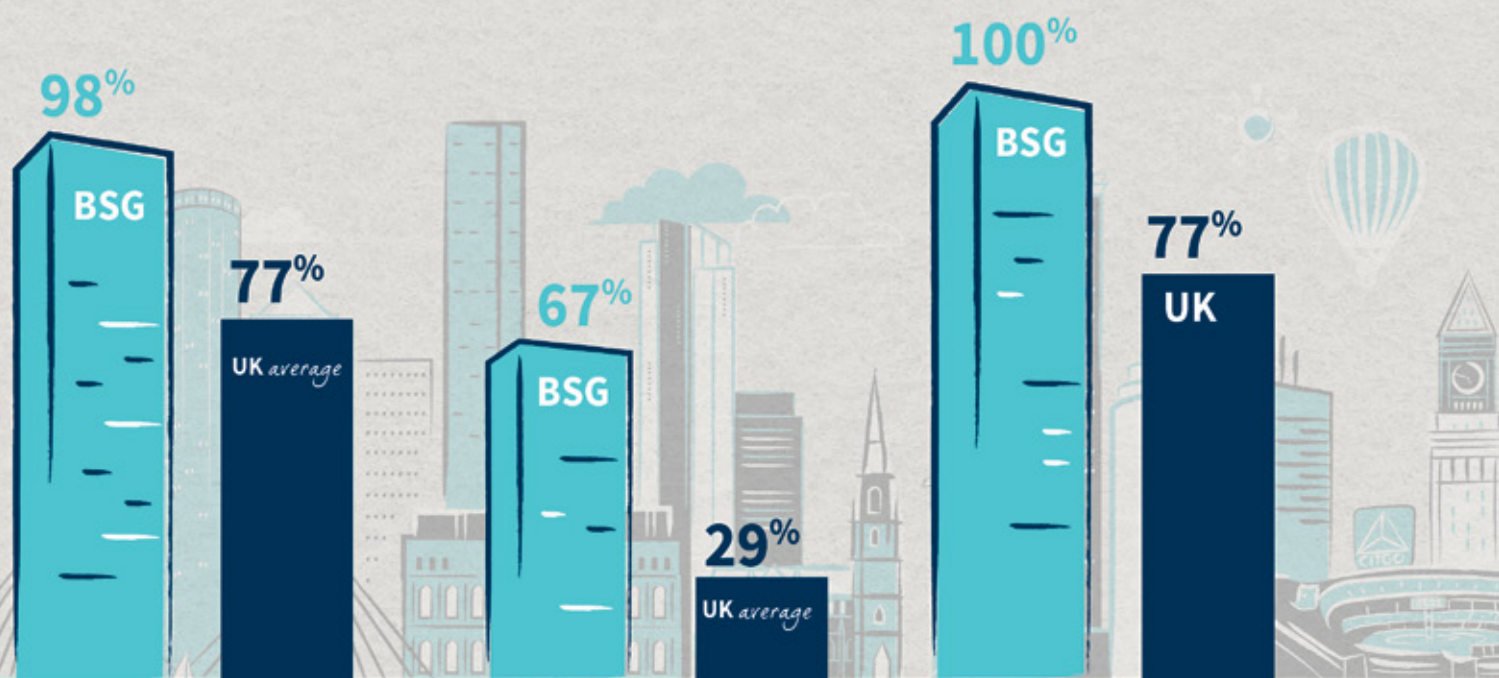
NICOLE

A*
GRADES

10
SUBJECTS

33

YEARS OF EDUCATION
BETWEEN THEM
AT BSG



IGCSE Grades A* to C

IGCSE Grades A* to A

IGCSE Pass Rate



DICKSON

2A*
1A

*Economics, Mathematics
& Computer Science*

NOW STUDYING SOCIAL SCIENCES
@UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



CHRISTINA

3A*

*Economics, Mathematics
& Psychology*

NOW STUDYING MANAGEMENT
@LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



KRISH

3A*
1A

*Economics, Psychology,
Mathematics & Geography*

NOW STUDYING ECONOMICS
@UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



A-Level Grades A* to B

A-Level Grades A* to A

A-Level Pass Rate

Science ASA making Air-Propelled Rockets

Amid much excitement, the Science Club members made their air propelled paper rockets and tested them. They had to stamp on the empty bottle, which increased the pressure inside the bottle. This forces air along the plastic tubing, into the rocket. The air then forces the rocket upwards.

Some of them reached about 10m high, whilst others travelled along a projectory of about 15m. The sixth form judges, Jimmy and Sohoon, made decisions of whose was the best, and Santi in Year 7 was definitely the best made and flew the furthest.

Perhaps a future Jeff Bezos in the making!



Year 12 & 13 Enrichment Opportunities - Developing our Oldest Students by Supporting our Youngest

This academic year, we have introduced an enrichment programme for all Year 12 and 13 students. For one hour per week, our sixth form students support a range of activities across the school.

As a few examples, this might be a computing lesson in Primary, reading to young learners in Year 2, supporting the Early Years teaching team, assisting a Key Stage 3 PE lessons, or working with a member of Secondary staff in their department.

It has been wonderful to see our students really engaging in their new roles, and the 6th form staff have received lots of positive feedback about the students' commitment and attitude.

By supporting students to engage in these activities, we are hoping to develop them with skills to enhance future college and university applications.



House Chess Challenge

The House Chess Challenge had nearly 200 entries and 100 chess matches taking place across 14 locations at lunch time.

It was fantastic to see the students getting involved, competing and creating a lovely atmosphere in the Secondary building.

Well done to all those who entered.

Student House Captains

This year's Senior House Captains are Dhruv Daryani (Normans), Daria Aleksandrova (Romans), RouYu Yap (Saxons) and Karan Adhrit (Vikings), who will be working alongside our new Head Students, representing the student body as members of the Student Leadership Committee.

Junior House Captains are Kyra Garabedian (Romans), Geneve Png (Romans), Adlan Adnan (Normans), Xavier Xu (Normans), Hyun Kim (Saxons), Isabela Rincon (Saxons) Sari Shinobe (Vikings) and Reva Devani (Vikings)!

We had a large number of students apply this year, which was fantastic, and thanks to all the candidates for their efforts — their exceptional applications made the selection decision supremely difficult. Also, thank you to the Staff Heads of House: Mr Connolly (Normans), Ms Heron (Romans), Mr Jemli (Saxons) and Mr Fisher (Vikings) for their continued commitment and for leading the selection process for their Houses.



BSG's Ski Team Trials take to the Slopes

We had a group of 30 students with a passion for snow sport attend the very first BSG ski and snowboard team trials. This was held at the Sunac Snow World, and it found the students who attended the Summer Ski School, back on the slopes as they looked to secure a place in the race team.

The successful students will then begin a programme of race training sponsored by the Chinese Ski Association, as part of their Snowsport development initiative linked to the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

It's great to be collaborating with our friends at Sunac Snow World, as BSG becomes the first international school in Southern China to have a ski team. Well done BSG's Skiing Rhinos!



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REFER A FRIEND REWARD

*Parents are our
greatest ambassadors!*



Our Refer A Friend Reward is designed to say thank you for your continued support in the growth of our schools.

When a British School of Guangzhou (BSG) parent refers a new student to either BSG or Nord Anglia International School Guangzhou, we will extend a Refer A Friend Reward towards your next Tuition Fee invoice.

This reward is cumulative, meaning the more students you refer, the more reward you receive!

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