



6 March 2015

Dear Parents,

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- 9 March: PTA Meeting
- 10 March: Year 7 – Trip to meet adventure film-maker and writer, Matt Dickinson. *Details below.*
- 13 March: Year 7 – Geography & History Trip. *Details below.*
- 16 March: Year 7 lunch time Clubs start. *Details below.*
- 18 March (3.00pm to 6.00pm): Parent-Teacher conferences. *Please note that you can come on either day.*
- 19 March (3.00pm to 7.00pm): Parent-Teachers conferences. *Please note that you can come on either day.*
  - Years 1 to 6 will receive an email from their Class Teacher today with time slots
  - Year 7s will receive an email on Monday
- 19 March: Indoor Sports Day
- 20 March: World Poetry Day Performance (Year 5 parents invited)
- 20 March: Auditions for Nord Anglia Global Orchestra
- 26 March: International Day (all day)
- 27 March: Last day of term – Early finish (1pm) – Usual buses depart.

And now, for the details ...

**PARENT PORTAL - MID-YEAR REPORTS**

This week we launched our Parent Portal. This is a confidential section of our website where you can view your child's timetable, house points, contact details (and update them) and, from next Monday 9 March, your child's Mid-Year Report. A letter went home in your child's bag on Wednesday, so please let us know if you've NOT received it. It contains your unique username and password (one per family). I've just checked and fewer than 100 parents have signed into the Parent Portal so far, so please please let David Boyd ([david.boyd@nais.hk](mailto:david.boyd@nais.hk)) know if you're having any problems. [For FAQs about the Parent Portal, please see here.](#)

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – FINISH NEXT WEEK (12 MARCH) – START AGAIN IN TERM 3 (27 APRIL)**

ECAs finished next week for Term 2 (12 March), and we'll be sending out the schedule and sign-up sheets for Term 3 ECAs in the week before the Easter break (23-28 March). Term 3 ECAs will be a mix of the most popular activities from Terms 1 and 2, as well as some new fresh activities. We'll also be starting to build competitive teams in football, basketball and netball.

**GLOBAL ORCHESTRA**

Our Music Department is already reaching out to our talented musicians and singers in

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Years 5 and above to invite them to audition for our Nord Anglia Global Orchestra. If your child is interested in auditioning for the opportunity to represent their school in our Global Orchestra, and spending a week in New York practising and performing with student musicians from all our other schools, please get in touch with John Widger: [john.widger@nais.hk](mailto:john.widger@nais.hk) Auditions are taking place on 20 March.

### **'MARCH TO ATHENS'**

We had a fun-filled Assembly on Monday to launch our 'March to Athens' to support our athletes representing our school at the COBIS Olympic Games (14-16 May). Martin Pate, our Head of PE, got the children fired up by showing them photos of all their teachers and school staff taking part in sports ([see here!](#)). The children then received a 'March to Athens' form (see attached) that encourages them to record all the kilometres they do this month and to ask their families and friends to sponsor them. Together – students, parents and staff – we're aiming to cover 8,566 kilometres before we break up for the Easter break.

Please ask your child to bring their 'March to Athens' form in every Monday so that we can add up the kilometres each week and update our 'March-to-Athens-o-Meter' in our Reception! Mr Pate has also asked you to email him – [martin.pate@nais.hk](mailto:martin.pate@nais.hk) – any photos of your children (and you) hiking, running, swimming ... anything to get us a little closer to Athens!

### **GLOBAL CLASSROOM'S -- COINS FOR KIDS**

Thank you all for your support for our school's international charity – UNICEF's Syrian Refugee Fund. All the classrooms now have a large pot for the coins being collected by our pupils. We're all looking forward to the last day of term (Friday 27 March) when we'll be holding a competition in the Hall to see which class can create the longest chain of coins.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY UPDATE – 26 MARCH**

Mariam Khalik has asked me to include the following update: "Planning for International Day is in full swing and we would like to thank all the parents who are devoting their time and energy. To parents who are unable to join us on the day but would still like to be involved somehow, please contact Shigemi Standing ([jsjstanding@outlook.com](mailto:jsjstanding@outlook.com)) who will be delighted to hear from you. For example, if you have posters, photographs, a video or powerpoint of monumental places you have been to, or you would like to contribute by sending samples of a national dish or traditional clothes, please do."

### **CURRICULUM NEWSLETTERS**

A little reminder that the latest Curriculum Newsletters (showing what your child is doing in class between now and the end of term – 27 March) have been uploaded to the [website](#).

### **STAR OF THE WEEK – 'PRACTISING'**

Following on from the four core skills that we encourage in all our pupils – practising, creating, linking, thinking – we celebrated our Stars of the Week in Practising in today's

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Assembly. Mr Bishop spoke about how important it is to ‘practice’ the skills that we learn. “Practising develops speed, accuracy as well as encouraging persistence and resilience when we don’t get it right first time!” Mr Bishop told the Assembly.

Year 1: Zarif Iqbal, Rex Tsang, Matthew Yu, Serena Sui, Larisa Holt

Year 2: Natalie Kung, Abraham Lai, Arianna Muggeri, Will Loudoun, Alberto Sesana

Year 3: Tiffany Ho, Archer Voon, Niamh Mair, Catherine Zhu

Year 4: Ian Liu, Sylvia Li, Michael Deng, Jillian Ng

Year 5: Brendan Wang, Jotaro Kunitomo, Clarice Kwok

Year 6: Amber Khaira, Savannah Berry

Year 7: Selina Pan, Annie Bai

### **PARENT WORKSHOP – HOW WE TEACH MANDARIN (FOR YEARS 1 & 2)**

Our Mandarin team are really looking forward to sharing with parents how they teach Mandarin. Our first workshop, next Thursday from 8.15am to 9am, will talk about how we teach Years 1 and 2. Older years will be covered in the subsequent weeks.

### **INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL**

Next week, Primary and Secondary pupils will be taking part in an Inter-House football tournament during their regular PE lessons as follows:

- Years 1, 2 and 3 - On Monday
- Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 - On Wednesday

If your child has a House t-shirt, they can wear it to school on these days. If not, we have coloured bibs for the children to wear.

### **IDEAS FROM OUR YEAR 7s ON WHAT MAKES A GREAT SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The year is flying past, and before we know it, our Year 6s will be moving up into Secondary School! We’ve been sharing ideas with our current Year 7s about how we can develop the Secondary School and ensure that our Year 6s move up seamlessly.

One of the things that our Year 7s enjoy is a much greater level of independence, responsibility and intellectual challenge. Next week, the Year 7s have two trips that will challenge them to think and react with a stronger level of maturity. Here’s a snapshot of upcoming Secondary activities:

- 10 March: Trip to the Central Library to meet Matt Dickinson, an award-winning filmmaker and writer with more than twenty years’ experience of leading and reporting on high-risk expeditions. He’ll be telling our students about: ‘From Avalanches to Yetis! A life of Adventure’. David Robinson will be leading the trip, so please email him for details.
- 13 March: Trip to Joss House Bay & Hong Kong Museum of History. A fantastic opportunity to research the geological and historical past of Hong Kong. Our Year 7s will be investigating and recording information which will be used to further advance study in class and provide a real context for their classroom based learning. Please wear PE kit, sensible footwear and a jacket – and bring a packed lunch.

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- From 16 March: Year 7 Lunch Activities from Monday to Friday from 12.30 to 1pm. Our Year 7s have had some great ideas for lunch time clubs, so from 16 March they will be able to choose from: board games, drama, hip hop, music, debating, fitness/football, science, YouTube and art. Please note, that these Clubs will replace after-school ECAs (as requested by our Year 7s!).

Another busy week draws to a close. There must be some sunshine this weekend!

Warm regards,

Rebecca

Rebecca Merrett

Director of Marketing & Admissions

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