THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Puxi, Shanghai



25 September 2014

AUTUMN TERM TRACKER 1

Dear Parents

It has been a very busy and productive first few weeks of the school year. The short but intense sprint to Golden Week is a good settling in period. Our new exam group students in years 10 and 12 and new students in all year groups are able to find their feet in the school with the help of new friends.

We now look to build on this start with exciting experiences and encouraging all forms of achievement from academic to performing arts and sporting success. We have a cast assembled for our school production later in the year; we have won recent fixtures against local international schools in volleyball and in rugby, and our swimmers are training hard. Our international award students have been away cycling, hiking and camping on the Gold Adventurous Journey in Hainan. Our IB students continue to lead great work in the community with Raising Awareness and Giving (RAG) Week and students from across the school have joined them in teaching local migrant children. We have two new student Presidents and a new Student Council which all make for a successful and busy first few weeks in all areas of school life.

This is now a good time of year to take stock for our exam groups. Years 11 and 13 have mocks in November and they should already be starting to think about revision strategies and timetables. For our IB students there are important deadlines approaching for Oxbridge and Ivy League University entry and final decisions need to be thought about for many University choices throughout the world.

This first tracker therefore reflects a great deal of hard work across the whole of the school. We will be following up concerns and areas for improvement with individual students after the break, so that we can support all students in achieving the highest possible level of success. Those who have done well will be recognized with Certificates of Endeavor and Principal's Commendations to congratulate them. Please discuss with your children how they think they have done so far.

On a final point, in the past the school has reported on student progress using UK National Curriculum levels. In Britain this reporting is no longer used as it was seen to be too confusing for parents and too widely interpreted to be accurate. We have therefore followed suit and stopped using this recording method. The next tracker will be at Christmas and will give you comments from teachers about progress as well as the grading you are seeing on your reports today. English, Maths and Science will trial a new statement based reporting system that will give you an accurate reflection of how much your child has progressed and what they still need to do.

I wish you a happy and relaxing break.

Chris Share Head of Secondary