

# OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Helping others to be the best that they can be*

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 42

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 2013



## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ...

### LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

It's been a busy summer, both for students and the school. Our principal, Kevin Foyle, welcomes us back this week with news about our students' very successful exam results, the campus developments that have been taking place over the summer and an update on our new and current staff.

### MEET AND GREET EVENINGS

Our teaching staff are looking forward to meeting parents at our Primary and Secondary Meet and Greet evenings next week.

### PTA CORNER

From the Parent-Teacher Association, a warm welcome to all BISS students and their families! Over 100 parents started off the school year together with coffee, tea, and friendship at the annual First Day of Classes Coffee Morning on Monday, and there's plenty more to get involved with over the coming weeks.

### RESULTS

We have seen outstanding academic results in the last year and are very proud of our students who are the best

testimony to the success of our highly qualified and inspirational staff.

### IB SUCCESS STORIES

Our IB Academy is the best IB provision in the city year on year in terms of quality, quantity and variety, and our 2013 cohort have continued this success.



# OUR PRINCIPAL WRITES

BY KEVIN FOYLE



Welcome back to those of you who are returning from what sound like exciting adventurous and very enjoyable summer breaks. Welcome also to all of you who have just joined our community for the first time. My only advice to you is to ask lots of questions. There is a lot to learn and understand and people are always keen to help and guide you as you settle in.

All of our students who have taken tough externally validated public examinations have now received the results. Once again this year we have a great deal to celebrate and be proud of with regards to their individual and collective performance.

Our academic results are only one measure of our school's success but a very important one. We have high aspirations for all of our students and year on year they have produced

outstanding results. This year the average International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD) score of graduates from the IB Academy was 35.5 out of 45 (IBD worldwide average is 29) and our graduates have secured places at prestigious universities around the globe including Oxford, Duke, Notre Dame, LSE, Hong Kong and Imperial College London. In other public examination results we have seen similar success. At (I)GCSE (16+) 51% of the papers taken were graded A-A\* (the UK average is 23%) and at the end of the primary phase at age 11 our students produced results far in advance of the results produced in UK schools: in the Key Stage 2 SATs 71% attained level 5 in mathematics (UK average 35%) and in English 60% attained level 5 (UK average 29%). We will be publishing more details in due course, but it is clear that our students remain the best testimony to the success of the work of our highly qualified and inspirational staff.

## CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

The summer was also a busy period in terms of the campus development programme. It was a very ambitious programme and an enormous amount has been achieved. Outside the



expansion of the secondary playing field was completed and a new enlarged rugby grade astro turf pitch has been put in place. The primary playgrounds have been resurfaced and redesigned. We have some very high quality Swedish built play equipment on order which will arrive and be fitted just after the golden week holiday. In the secondary school the Learning and Resources Centre has been redesigned and refurbished. The bulk of the planned work has been undertaken in the primary school. All of the second floor of the building (KS1 and Lower KS2) has been refurbished and redecorated, along with the Swimming Pool and the Dining Hall which has also been enlarged. We have also had a lift built and replaced the air conditioning system in the Early Years Cubs and KS1. Time did not permit us to undertake the redevelopment of the 3rd and 4th floor this summer but this and further upgrades to the sports hall and primary theatre are planned over the course of this school year and the summer of 2014. We are all very pleased with the new learning environments that have resulted from the changes that we have made and the reaction of returning staff and parents has been very positive and complimentary.

## NEW STAFF

The highly talented and experienced new staff that have joined us have settled in well and we are looking forward to their contributions. We have not made any major changes to our structure, but you should be aware that within the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) we have a great deal of experience and knowledge and therefore you should feel comfortable taking issues to them as heads of the sub sections of the school. Head of Early Years' Cubs Mrs Ruth Hanson, Head of KS1 Ms Marie Monro, Head of KS2 Ms Eleanor Jess, Head of KS3 Mr Andy Lancaster, Head of KS4 Mr Paul Kelly and Head of IB Mrs Jane White. The other new posts I would like to draw your attention to are Deputy Head for Admissions, Transitions and Transfers a role that has been taken on by Ms Sam Rae who will be focussed on the 20% or so of students who join us and leave us each year to ensure that the processes are as smooth as possible.

It was very good to see so many parents at the PTA coffee morning on Monday morning and it was heartwarming that we have already had a number of individuals offer their help to the PTA. We have also already had parents come forward and express their interest in supporting us in our work at school. We are always keen to hear from qualified teachers and teaching assistants and qualified nurses who may wish to do supply work or indeed in the future more permanent work. We are also keen to hear from parents who have other skills or are enthusiastic amateurs who would be happy to help with reading and other voluntary support work. Please write to the school (s-kelly@bisspuxi.com) or the PTA if you wish to get involved, or talk to staff at the various upcoming social functions.

It is great have the school back in operation. I look forward to seeing you at school over the next couple of weeks.

## PTA CORNER

From the Parent-Teacher Association, a warm welcome to all BISS Puxi students and their families! Over 100 parents started off the school year together with coffee, tea, and friendship at the annual First Day of Classes Coffee Morning on Monday, and there's plenty more to get involved with over the coming weeks.

**WELCOME (BACK) PARTY** – Invitations have been sent home with the students for this fun, family event on Friday 20 September from 6 - 9pm in the Primary Courtyard. (Also on the website if you missed the paper memo - PTA Welcome Back Party.pdf.) Mark your diary and order your tickets now for a great evening. Volunteers needed: Sign up now to help process ticket orders during school hours, or to lend a hand for one hour during the party. Contact PTA@bisspuxi.com to volunteer or if you have any questions.

**PRIMARY ROOM PARENTS** – The primary room parent network is a valuable resource for teachers, parents, school, and the PTA. The Room Parent keeps a list of the class families and manages the classroom fund, composed of contributions from each class family. Their main role is forwarding messages from school and the PTA, and meeting now and then with the other parents to socialise. If your child/ren are in primary school and you have email access and one spare hour per week, why not volunteer to help out – no experience necessary (full support is provided by experienced parents). Contact your child's teacher to get involved, email PTA@bisspuxi.com for more information, or check the website for further details.

**PTA NOTICEBOARD** – You may have already seen the new PTA noticeboard in the Primary Courtyard, near the exit gate. Check here often for upcoming events and other useful information. Send your suggestions to the PTA by email. **New Parent Outreach** – If you are new to BISS Puxi this year, check out the fantastic schedule of events and activities that cater particularly to your needs as you settle in. Full details can be found on the PTA Noticeboard. If you would like to connect to a country ambassador, send an email to PTA@bisspuxi.com to be contacted by email by a BISS parent from your home country or speaking your native language. Be sure to tell us your language preference in the email and look forward to meeting another BISS parent who stands ready to reach out to help!

## PRIMARY NEWS

WELCOME FROM NIKI MEEHAN, HEAD OF PRIMARY

It has been a great week as BISS Primary has awakened after the summer break and I am delighted to have joined such a vibrant school community. It has been a delight to see the children so actively engaged in their learning as they get to know their new teachers, new classmates and explore the wonderful new facilities. There have been lots of happy faces (and just a few tears) as the children begin to settle into the





*As part of our new campus development project, we have started to decorate the school with images of famous landmarks from around the world.*

new school year, and it is heartening to see the genuine care and support given by returning children to the new students, helping them to feel welcome and to get settled.

We aim to develop positive home-school partnerships and so look forward to seeing all parents at the Meet and Greet event on Thursday 5 September. This will be a great opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher (as a class) and find out what to expect in the year ahead and how you can support your child's learning. We will be issuing Settling-In Reports on 20 September and our first Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on 15 October and 17 October. However, please do contact your child's class teacher directly if you wish to discuss a concern or issue with them before this time.

We have a very busy term ahead so I encourage parents to regularly check the school website, read your child's Year Group Newsletter, look at Moodle and register for the school newsletter, so you can keep up to date with what your child is learning and what events are happening.

## COMING SOON

### FRIDAY 30 AUGUST

8:40-15:30 Team Building: Y6  
12:00 ABRSM Exam Application  
Deadline: Practical

### SATURDAY 31 AUGUST

9:00-12:00 Gold International Award Training: Y13  
9:30-12:30 SISAC D1 Boys Volleyball: Y10-13  
9:30-12:30 SISAC D1 Girls Volleyball: Y10-13  
9:30-12:30 SISAC D2 Girls Volleyball: Y10-13

### MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

8:40-15:30 Seas and Oceans Day: Y2

### TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

16:00-17:30 SISAC D1 Boys Volleyball: Y10-13  
16:00-17:30 SISAC D1 Girls Volleyball: Y10-13  
19:30-21:00 Talk by Prof Martin Speight: Operation Wallacea: Y11-12

### WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

14:00-15:00 Visit from Northwestern/ Duke/ Georgetown/ Princeton and Columbia Universities: Y12-13  
17:00-20:00 Visit from Northwestern/ Duke/ Georgetown/ Princeton and Columbia Universities: Y12-13  
18:30-20:00 Staff and Parents Meet and Greet: Secondary Y7-13

### THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

5:30 Gold International Award Adventurous Journey departs: Y13  
13:00-14:00 Visit from Bentley University: Y12-13  
18:30-20:00 Staff and Parents Meet and Greet: Primary EYFS - Y6

### FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

Gold International Award Adventurous Journey continues: Y13

*Please check our school website for the most up to date details of all our events...*



## Reminders

Students in Reception to year 6 are expected to wear the correct school uniform, including black shoes, and to bring their PE kit and Swimming kit to school on their given days.

In the morning we ask that parents of students in years 1-6 remain outside the school building unless they require to speak with the office staff or have a scheduled appointment.

## Primary Meet and Greet Evening for Parents THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

We are looking forward to seeing parents of primary students at the 'Meet and Greet' evening next Thursday between 6:30pm and 8:00pm. This is an informal opportunity to meet our teaching team as well as other parents.

# SECONDARY NEWS

WELCOME FROM CHRIS SHARE, HEAD OF SECONDARY

A warm welcome back to our returning students and a warm welcome to all our new students who joined the BISS community this week. It has been a week where students reacquainted themselves with old friends and have started to bond with new. All students have quickly but gently been reintroduced to the routine of academic lessons, testing where necessary and the weekly expectation of homework.

As the New Head of Secondary one of the first things I am incredibly keen to see developed in the school are students being given more "voice." As it is their school they should have a say in the look, feel and day to day running of the school and even its curriculum. To start this off, in assemblies this week I have announced that there will be elected form representatives and two whole school student council leaders. I have encouraged all pupils to consider running for either the form representative posts or as the "presidential" leadership figures who will guide the student population in what they want and need. The school council representatives and leaders will have regular access to year heads, myself and the Principal to discuss areas for development and change in the school. The school council leaders will be elected by a whole school vote in 3 weeks' time. The aim is to embed in school culture a greater sense of community, democracy, awareness for others and for those that want it, a valuable chance to develop leadership. I look forward to hearing the excellent ideas from our talented student population.

Finally, it was very pleasing to see so many students and parents from year 10 and 11 at our "succeeding at (I)GCSE" evening and the partnership between the school, parents and students is a crucial one to continue to build upon the excellent IGCSE and IB results that we obtained again this

year. As we continue to build these relationships I would like to remind all parents and students that there is a Meet and Greet event for the whole of the secondary school next Wednesday from 6:30pm in the secondary dining hall. The aim of the event is to put a name and face to the teachers who will be teaching your children this year. The secondary staff looks forward to seeing you there.

## Secondary Homework, Moodle & ODIN

We will be switching on ODIN, our homework email system, at some point next week in secondary – it takes us a couple of days to get it running with everyone's new sets. This will send you details of what your son or daughter has been doing in lessons each day and details of their homework. To make sure you receive it, please fill in the data checking sheet that we gave out to all students on Wednesday so that we can make sure we have the right email address for you. If you haven't received a data checking sheet, please ask your son or daughter where it is – it might be at the bottom of their school bag. You can email Anna Yu at a-yu@bisspuxi.com and we will make sure we have you on our list. You can also find lesson summaries and homework on our Moodle system. Ask your son or daughter to show you where to look, or just try learning.bisspuxi.com with a username of moodle-guest and password bisspuxi.

## Secondary Timetables

There are many thousands of lessons each week in the secondary school, and getting students to them all, over the course of the first week, is a huge task. We've had students in years 7-10 in form groups this week in most subjects so that we can work out the right classes for them. They'll all get new timetables on Monday, and we should have finished the adjustments we've been making. As always, please contact us if there's anything you'd like to know more about or that you think might be wrong.

## Secondary Meet and Greet for Parents WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

We are looking forward to seeing parents of our secondary students at the 'Meet and Greet' evening next Wednesday between 6:30pm and 8:00pm. This is an informal opportunity to meet parents and staff as well as receive information from the teaching teams here in school.

## Top US Universities Visit BISS Puxi

Next Wednesday 4 September, Princeton, Northwestern, Duke, Georgetown and Columbia universities will be visiting to talk to years 12 and 13 and any of their parents that want to attend. This will be held in the auditorium from 2 – 3pm. If you are a parent and want to attend, please RSVP to r-iqbal@bisspuxi.com



# WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS: RESULTS

We have seen outstanding academic results in the last year and are very proud of our students who are the best testimony to the success of our highly qualified and inspirational staff. Our IB Academy is the best IB provision in the city year on year in terms of quality, quantity and variety, and our 2013 cohort have continued this success. 20% of last year's graduates

achieved 40 or more points out of a maximum 45, the mark of excellence in the IB Diploma. We are very proud of their achievements and the exciting opportunities that now lie ahead for them and for all our 2013 graduates.

Hendrik Hoelzer, Mayu Tojo and Bjorn Andersson achieved 43, 42 and 41 points respectively and deserve a special mention. They all stand out as having a real commitment and deep rooted interest in their studies and in achieving the best from themselves.

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

**44** our highest IB score



**5.5** Average subject grade

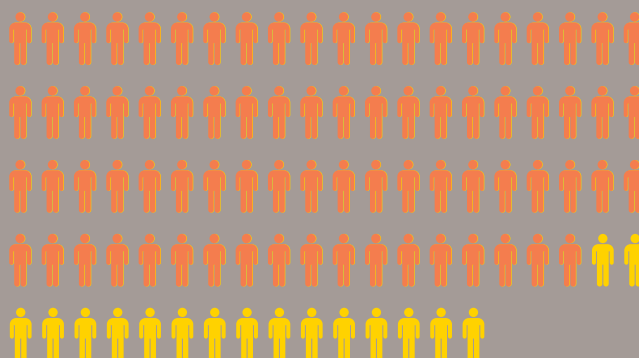
### Top universities

UK Oxford, LSE, UCL, Warwick, Lancaster, Durham, Imperial, Sussex, Bath, Edinburgh, East Anglia, Nottingham, Bristol, Kings, Newcastle, Sheffield, Royal Holloway, Queen Mary, Manchester, Liverpool, Portsmouth . US Mt. San Antonio College (Los Angeles), Pratt University (NYC), University of California (Irvine) . ASIA Hong Kong University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, KAIST (Korea), Jiaotong University, Tong Ji University, Chinese University of Hong Kong . EUROPE National University Ireland (Galway), University of Helsinki (Finland), Kolpin Kunstchule Stuttgart (Germany), Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

**35** Average diploma score (cf world average 29.7)

Our Diploma pass rate 95%

(cf Diploma pass rate world average: 78%)





# RAG WEEK - CLOTHES COLLECTION



As an introduction to our developing charitable outreach programme this year, we are holding a Raising Awareness for Giving Week (9 -13 September). Year 12 CAS students will be organising events to raise awareness of the main charities that we will be supporting this year. One of the first things we are going to do to is to organise a clothes collection.

Spanning across the week commencing 9 September we will be asking for clothes donations from all of our school community. All items will be donated to River of Hearts (<http://communitycenter.cn/riverofhearts#sthash.ARtEDjLdpuf>) a local Shanghai organisation that forwards the clothes on to areas of China that have been affected by natural disasters.

Year 6 and CAS students will be assisting with the sorting of clothes throughout the week. All you need to do is have a bit of a clean out and decide if you have any 'so last season' garments that you wish to donate. If all garments could be washed and of a fairly decent operational standard that would be appreciated and any parents who may wish to volunteer their time to assist in the sorting of the clothes would be more than welcome.

Please contact [d-shrewsbury@bisspuxi.com](mailto:d-shrewsbury@bisspuxi.com) - Daniel Shrewsbury or [l-coong@bisspuxi.com](mailto:l-coong@bisspuxi.com) - Ling Coong for any further information.

# EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PAUL KELLY, ECA COORDINATOR FOR SECONDARY  
RUTH HANSEN, ECA COORDINATOR FOR PRIMARY

Our ECA programme gives you opportunities to learn, build skills and have fun new experiences, outside of the normal classroom environment. There are lots of ECAs to choose from, including sports, arts and other creative and academic clubs. Students do not have to do an ECA, although we encourage everyone to do at least one. We find students who do a mixture of ECAs in areas that they already enjoy and ones

that are new to them get the most out of the programme. The ECA programme has a significant impact on the sporting and academic successes BISS Puxi has achieved over the last few years. The extra time with our students builds their confidence and offers the chance for them to be challenged in a safe and friendly environment.

The sign up process is well underway and we had hoped all forms would be in by Friday 30 August. However, with so many new students in the school all trying to understand our new systems we have extended the deadline until Tuesday 3rd September. Applications after that time may not be accepted. We look forward to seeing our students get the most out of this year's ECA programme and would encourage parents to get involved in the ECAs too by supporting plays, sports teams, debating societies etc.

## An Introduction to Native European Language Provision

MARY FRANCIS, HEAD OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

As our school grows, so too does our European native language provision. We recognise that for many expat families maintaining the native language of their children is an important consideration. Expat life is exciting and interesting, but also often insecure and fraught with the unexpected. In Shanghai one day, back to your home country the next day! Many families also want their children to be aware of the traditions of their home country and keeping up the level of their native language is one way of ensuring this. In Keystage 2 we offer a 3 lesson programme of 2 timetabled lessons and one after-school session on Wednesdays. All 3 sessions are delivered by qualified native language teachers. This provision is offered in French, German and Spanish. In secondary school we offer this native language provision in a different format:

- One 30 minute slot instead of morning registration – 8:20 to 8:50 am
- One 30 minute lunchtime drop-in study session
- One 60 minute after-school session

All students in primary and secondary can opt for these programmes via the ECA booklet or by contacting me ([m-francis@bisspuxi.com](mailto:m-francis@bisspuxi.com))

Please note that these programmes are designed for native –speaking students only and attendance at all 3 parts of the programme is a requirement. All students will be assessed at the commencement of the course to ensure that they have the requisite language ability to access the course.

In addition, we also host native Danish and Italian classes after school on Wednesdays. These classes are arranged privately amongst parents. Please e-mail the parents below for further information:

Danish - [jeanettaamodt@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanettaamodt@hotmail.com)  
Italian - [carmelina.iula@gmail.com](mailto:carmelina.iula@gmail.com)



# BISCAP



# UPDATE

TOM HITCHINGS, BISCAP COORDINATOR

BISCAP (British International School Community Activity Programme) is intended to augment the rich variety of extra-curricular activities already on offer with early morning, after school, evening and weekend programmes of music, sport, art and drama. Experienced coaches and professionals come to take these sessions which are at an extra cost to students. You can find information about all the programmes on offer and how to register in the BISCAP section of the website (click here).

The Autumn term BISCAP registration process is well underway and early indications show that the programme will have a record number of participants this year. Over the next week we have a few taster sessions for different age groups in different activities, details of which are listed below.

## BISCAP Football with the Ebbe Sand Soccer Academy has two free taster sessions

*Please note: There is no transport home provided after this event. Parents must make arrangements to pick up their children from the secondary football pitch at 4:45pm*

### KEY STAGE 2 (AGES 7-10)

Football taster session 3:45 – 4:45pm – Tuesday 2 September 2013 on the secondary school football pitch.

Please email [xavier@ebbesandchina.com](mailto:xavier@ebbesandchina.com) with 'SOCCER TASTER' in the subject box - to confirm you will attend.

### KEY STAGE 3 (AGES 11 – 15)

Football Taster Session 3:45 -4:45pm - Friday 6 September 2013 on the secondary school football pitch.

Please follow this link if you would like to attend: [http://www.bisspuxi.com/images/doc\\_library/letters/2013-2014/Autumn%202013/Letter\\_28\\_08\\_2013\\_BISCAP%20Football%20Taster%20Session.pdf](http://www.bisspuxi.com/images/doc_library/letters/2013-2014/Autumn%202013/Letter_28_08_2013_BISCAP%20Football%20Taster%20Session.pdf)

## BISCAP Ballet with Ting Ballet School have three free taster sessions

Beginner taster session 9:00 - 9:45am – Sunday 8 September 2013 in the primary school theatre.

Please email [biscap@bisspuxi.com](mailto:biscap@bisspuxi.com) with 'BALLET TASTER BEG' in the subject box if you would like to attend.

Intermediate taster session 10:00 - 10:45am - Sunday 8 September 2013 in the primary school theatre.

Please email [biscap@bisspuxi.com](mailto:biscap@bisspuxi.com) with 'BALLET TASTER INT' in the subject box if you would like to attend

Advanced taster session 11:00 – 11:45am - Sunday 8 September 2013 in the primary school theatre.

Please email [biscap@bisspuxi.com](mailto:biscap@bisspuxi.com) with 'BALLET TASTER ADV' in the subject box if you would like to attend

## MUSIC

A note of congratulation from Heather Brown, Head of Music Congratulations to all those who passed their ABRSM exams over the summer.

6I	Melissa Riley	Grade 5 theory distinction
6B	Lara Woo	Grade 5 theory merit
8I	Lizzie White	Grade 2 theory merit
12S	Hyo Jae Lee	Grade 5 theory pass
9S	Jason Chang	Grade 3 theory pass



FRIDAY

20 SEPTEMBER

6-9PM

# WELCOME BACK PARTY

## A PTA EVENT

You are invited to attend the first Parent Teacher Association (PTA) family event of the year. This party welcomes new and returning BISS families and teachers to our school community, with an evening of live music, food, and dance on the front playground of the Primary School. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends.



### LIVE MUSIC

The legendary Shanghai band, **Studio 188**, will play again this year. In keeping with the festival feel of the event, we encourage you to bring along a picnic.



### TICKETS

Entry is by ticket only: 60RMB per adult, and no charge for children. Primary-aged school children must be supervised throughout the evening by an accompanying adult.

# SHANGHAI INFORMATION SESSION **UNDERGRADUATE LIFE**

Northwestern University will join Columbia University, Duke University, Georgetown University, and Princeton University for an information session at The British International School Shanghai, Puxi.

This event will only cover information about undergraduate programmes.

## AFTERNOON SESSION (2PM)

Representatives will provide a brief overview of each institution, general information on admission and financial aid policies and process, and a chance to speak informally with admission representatives.



## EVENING SESSION (6PM)

If you are unable to attend the afternoon session, then the school will also be hosting an evening information session open to all members of the public. For further information on both sessions, please contact our Higher Education Counselor, Ms Roohi Iqbal (r-iqbal@bisspuxi.com).

If you are a parent and want to attend the evening session, please RSVP to [r-iqbal@bisspuxi.com](mailto:r-iqbal@bisspuxi.com)





Operation  
Wallacea  
Operational research through academic partnerships

# OPERATION WALLACEA

STUDENT  
AND PARENT  
INFORMATION  
EVENING

A BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH  
EXPEDITION TO INDONESIA

**SUMMER . 2014**

WHERE  
**SECONDARY AUDITORIUM**

WHEN  
**TUES 3 SEPTEMBER 19:00**

HOSTED BY DR MARTIN SPEIGHT

