



Dear Parents,

On Saturday 31st October, while many of us were at school watching our rugby and netball teams doing so well in the ACAMIS tournament, seven of our students attended the 2nd Annual Session of the SMICMUN Security Council. Debating was conducted in three committees based on the following topics: Securing Libya; Stabilizing Yemen and Establishing an Independent Kurdistan. Marcel Natter, Amanda Cheng, Eunice Lee, Benedicte Vestrum and Cindy Son were actively involved in the various committees as delegates. Hilary Lee and Kiesha-Marie Chong were outstanding as committee chairs, overseeing heated debates and intervening to stop the misuse of veto power by some of the permanent members of the Security Council. They are all looking forward to the next MUN conference hosted by Concordia Shanghai in January 2016.

Last Friday evening I was delighted to welcome a steady trail of buses arriving back at school, laden with students and staff who were returning, tired but happy, and full of stories to tell, from a hugely successful Project Week. All of the trips went smoothly, with any slight glitches dealt with quickly and efficiently by the staff leading the trips, in conjunction with the organisers, and it was good to have everyone back home, safe and sound.

It was also great, on Saturday evening, to see so many of you at the Bonfire Night event, enjoying the excellent entertainment, as well as the food and drink, and the company of our community.

It was a real pleasure on Tuesday morning to welcome a number of very proud parents to our IGCSE Presentation Assembly, where we gave out the IGCSE certificates from last June's examination series to over 60 awardees. It was also a pleasure on Tuesday to welcome many Year 11 students and their parents to the 'Into IB' evening, which is the first major step for these students in making those all important decisions regarding which subjects they would like to study next year as they move into our IB Academy and start to prepare for their future beyond.

Looking ahead, today our U15 squad heads off to Beijing for the FOBISIA games, and we wish them every success, and look forward to hearing how they did on their return. I hope they are packing warm clothes as I hear it has been snowing in Beijing recently!

From 18th – 27th November, our students in Years 7 – 10 will be sitting their termly assessments, which will serve as a good measure of how well they are doing, and allow their teachers to determine their progress in a more formal manner. Teachers will then use this information to inform their future planning. The results from these assessments will, unfortunately, not be ready in time for the Academic Review Evenings for Years 7,8 and 9 on 19th November (surnames A - M) and 24th November (surnames N – Z), but teachers are constantly assessing their students in a formative manner, and will be able to share with you their thoughts on the children's progress thus far. We look forward to seeing many of you at these AREs.

With the teachers and staff looking forward to a training day tomorrow, I hope that you are able to benefit from some additional family time during this 3-day weekend for the students.

With kind regards,

Dinah Hawtree
Head of Secondary