



THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF GUANGZHOU  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# Newsletter

Issue 5 | 2017-18



Another highly successful year at The British School of Guangzhou.  
The 2017/18 Yearbook is available to download inside!

To download a copy of this newsletter, please visit [www.bsg.org.cn](http://www.bsg.org.cn) |



BritishSchoolGZ |



bsгнае |



BSGNAE

# Message from the Principal



Dear Parents,

While staff retention has been above average this year, it is important to note that we are saying goodbye to some of our most influential members of staff. Iain Ruck (Vice Principal), Kathy Weir-Davis (Head of Early Years) and Aidan Edmanson (Deputy Head of Secondary) have contributed a total of 24 years of service to BSG. I am sure that parents, staff and students you will join me thanking them for their impressive commitment and wish them all the best for their future careers.

Iain Ruck joined our school 8 years ago, as Deputy Head of Secondary. Iain served in this position for 2 years before taking over the Head of Secondary role where he oversaw 4 years of graduating students. Over the last 2 years, Iain has held the role of Vice Principal and has overseen our school improvement plan and curriculum development across all phases. Iain will be replaced internally by Garry Russell, our current Head of Secondary. Garry's successor is currently Head of Secondary in one of the NAE schools in Qatar and before this was Deputy Head at Regents School in Thailand.

Interestingly, Kathy Weir-Davis was my first appointment to BSG when I joined in 2008 and has led our Early Years department for 10 years. Kathy and her family will be moving to Shanghai and will be replaced by Danielle McKenna who joins us from the Nord Anglia school in Beijing, where she is a part of the leadership team at the Sanlitun school.

Iain and Kathy are also key members of our Senior Leadership Team and have helped to define the vision and values that have underpinned the success of our school. I really cannot thank them enough for their impressive contribution to our school or for the support they have given me as colleagues and friends.

Aidan Edmanson, is another key member who has played such an instrumental part in the development of our Secondary school. Aidan is moving to the Nord Anglia school in Kuala Lumpur and we wish Aidan and his wife Amanda Bobby the very best in their new positions and will look forward to hearing of their successes. Aidan will be replaced by Sarah Wadsworth an experienced Deputy Head who joins us from a successful international school in Egypt.

We also say goodbye to Andy Dean who has dedicated himself to developing our sports programme over the last 4 years. Andy is moving to another Director of Sport role in NAE's school in Yangon and I am sure he will make an immediate impact on their sports programme. Andy will be replaced internally by Michelle Cuming who will continue to promote sporting opportunities for our students.

As well as saying goodbye to key members of staff I would like to recognise the exceptional first year of Chris Wathern, our Head of Primary. Chris joined us from a relatively small school in the UK and has adapted remarkably well to lead a team of over 40 teachers, who deliver an impressive curriculum to our Primary students. Chris and Selina, his wife, deserve a relaxing summer break.

The British School has come a long way since it was founded in 2005 and is now considered by many to be the number one international school in Guangzhou. We remain committed to making year on year improvements to facilities as we continue to work towards our stated goal of becoming the number one international school in China. I am proud to announce that in August we will open a new building that will provide our Year 1 students with dedicated facilities. This building represents another important step in providing our students with excellent educational opportunities.

As I write this article I am aware that one of our graduating students has received an unconditional offer from Chicago, one of the world's top 5 universities, and that another graduate has been offered a conditional place at Oxford University. Amongst this year's graduates are 6 students who are in their 7th or 8th year, while, Lynn Ma and Bianca Chainani are completing their 9th year. Unbelievably Bethany is now in her 10th year, and has been a credit to our school throughout this time. We wish all our graduating students the best of luck in achieving positions at their first-choice universities and will look forward to hearing news of their examination results during the summer holidays.

I would like to wish all parents and staff a relaxing and safe summer holiday, wherever you are travelling. I will be spending part of the summer holiday attending the wedding of my son Christopher who will be marrying Miss Barbara, one of our Y2 teachers. As you can imagine I am absolutely thrilled for them both and am very much looking forward to this event. I will return to Guangzhou in August in time to welcome our new teachers for their induction programme, on 7th August. We will look forward to seeing new students on Friday 17th August for their orientation day and to seeing all other students on Monday 20th August for the start of the new term.

Kind regards,

*Mark Thomas*  
School Principal

“BSG is now considered by many  
to be the number one international  
school in Guangzhou.”



# BSG Snapshot!

## Learning Through A Lens!



### *Global Campus Winner*

Audrey Lee, Year 5, became a finalist in the Visual Arts Competition with her artwork representing the pollution of our seas. Her painting will appear in an anthology later this year. Well done, Audrey!

### *2018 Bangkok International Model United Nations*

This is a prestigious annual debate and attracts competitors from many other parts of Asia, Oceania, North and South America, and Europe.



### *PSG*

A huge thank you to our PSG for their incredible support over the academic year. They put so much time and energy into helping the school, and it's very much appreciated!





### *UKMT Success*

The Mathematics Department would like to share and celebrate the achievements of a large number of our students who have excelled in recent months.

The recent UKMT Junior Award yielded superb results, and the school achieved a phenomenal 15 Gold Certificates in this year's event. Out of 48 entrants, 41 of the pupils received either Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates, an achievement that the department is very proud of.

The challenge is an internationally recognised paper that tests pupils in Years 7-8. The examination is a grueling combination of problem solving, geometric reasoning, algebraic ingenuity and higher-level numerical skills.

Two students have achieved so highly on these tests that they have been invited to participate in the International Olympiad Tests. Hyungwan Joo from Year 8 and Calvin Yap from Year 7 will participate in this prestigious challenge in the upcoming weeks. Only 1200 students from around the world are invited to sit this test, so congratulations to them, and to the Maths Department.



### *2017/18 Yearbook*

Scan the QR code to view and download the yearbook. Every family also receives a free printed copy.



## Charity Update

*Terese Francis*  
Charity Coordinator

**Target: 250,000 RMB**  
**Money Raised: 200,207.01 RMB**

**Hopeful Hearts**  
**143,532.71 RMB**

9,217.00 RMB – Monthly EYFS Bake Sales

4,142.70 RMB – Term 1 & Term 2 Staff Training Bake Sale

3,362.00 RMB – Secondary Spooky Movie Night & Halloween Dress Up day

3,108.8 RMB – EYFS 1 RMB Coin Trail

104,884.50 RMB – International Day 2017

4,163 RMB – Second Hand Uniform Sales

10,333.50 RMB – Christmas Decorations sales

1,335 RMB – Secondary Student Christmas Card Sales

775.21 RMB – Term 1 Hopeful Hearts Donation Boxes

450 RMB – Angkor Wat Half Marathon

1,661 RMB – Valentine's Day Cards and Chocolates Sales

100 RMB – Secondary Book Week Bake Sale



**My PAWS and Me**  
**29,887.20 RMB**

1,050.00 RMB – PAWS for Zumba

7,767.00 RMB – Primary House Bake Sale - Part 1 Term 1

9,590.50 RMB – Primary House Bake Sale 2- Part 2 Term 2

2,821 RMB – Secondary Christmas Movie Night

8,658.70 RMB – EYFS, Primary and Secondary “Christmas Non-Uniform Day”

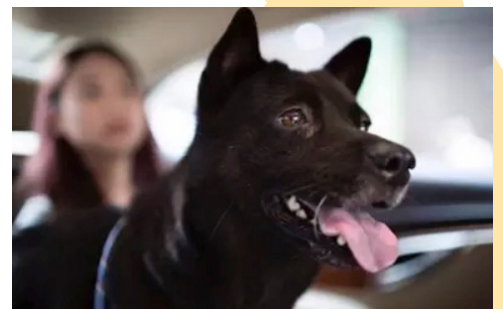
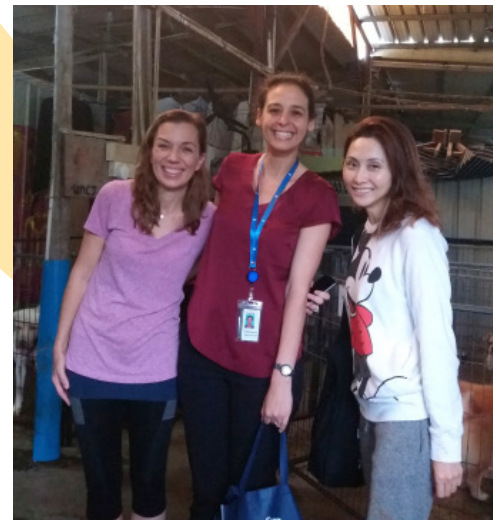
**Huiling – Home for Persons with mental disabilities**  
**26,334.2 RMB**

460 RMB – Anonymous donation

4,351.60 RMB – Chinese New Year Bake Sale

9,123.20 RMB – EYFS, Primary and Secondary “Easter/Spring Non-Uniform Day”

12,399.40 RMB – Teddy Bears’ Picnic



BSG Charity Charter





## The Huiling Shoebox Appeal

Leading up to Chinese New Year and with the gift of giving in the air, our Primary school were involved in the Huiling Shoebox Appeal. Each class in Primary were given the task of personalising a shoebox and filling it up with gifts for a child from the Huiling Primary School.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, coincidentally World Down Syndrome Day, members of our Charity Committee along with a number of parents and Secondary students were privileged to deliver those shoeboxes and two donated wheelchairs. Our Secondary charity leaders had a great time playing a variety of games which they organised... musical chairs was particularly popular!



## Poppy Appeal for the British Legion

**452.90 RMB**

The British Consulate sent in a number of poppies to go on sale at school for students, staff and parents to purchase. Various donations were made in exchange for a red poppy in the month of November. All money raised helps to provide thousands of modern veterans, Service men, women and their families with vital advice and support.



## GIVES

GIVES (Guangdong International Volunteer Expatriate Service) is an amazing charity which helps to bring about awareness and improve treatment for autism in China. Just before Christmas, Early Years, Primary and Secondary students have all been extremely generous in donating a total of 15 boxes of new and used toys, books and stationery to autistic and special needs children in rural Meixian, Guangdong.



*Thank you, Terese!*

We'd like to thank our charity coordinator, Terese Francis, for all her hard work this year in making BSG one of the most charitable schools in Guangzhou. The community has really come together to support different causes and change the lives of those in need.



# Community

## Fun Run & Children's Day Hospital Visit



## Hopeful Hearts Hospital Visit

Money raised from charity events like the Fun Run goes towards fantastic organisations like Hopeful Hearts — helping towards the provision of life-saving operations for young children. As well as this, BSG staff and students visit hospitals to bring smiles to families on special occasions, such as Children's Day.





# STEAM Week @ MIT

## STEAM Week @ MIT

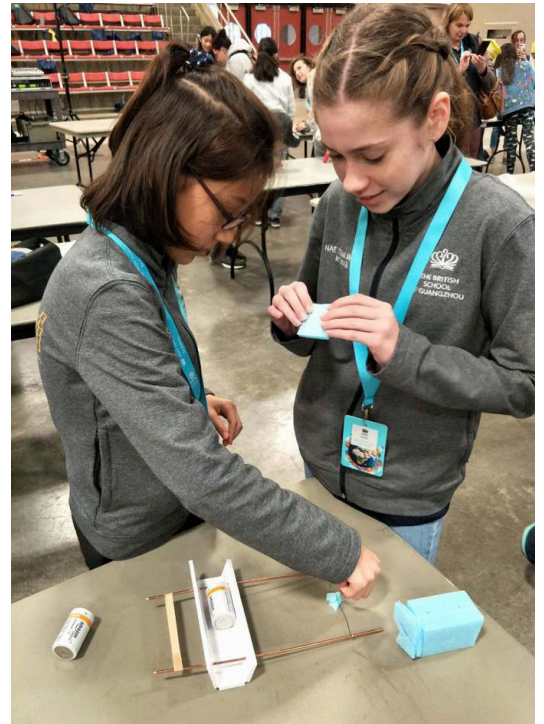
*Alisha Lowe & Scarlet Corr*  
Students

Back in December, 4 students were selected to travel to Boston and take part in the annual STEAMfest. We were lucky enough to be chosen, and we were very excited to be able to get the chance to visit such a prestigious university and take part in the event they had organised for us.

Fast forward to May, in the Hong Kong airport, a few hours left before departure: We had said goodbye to our families, and had already met some new friends from the other schools. After 16 hours of travelling, we finally arrived at the hotel. We were all exhausted and fell asleep right away.

The week whizzed by! Some of the highlights of the trip were lunch in the Maseeh Hall (which had 6 different flavours of ice cream every day!); making hot wire cutters using nichrome wire; Boda Borg - real life "questing", without the use of VR technology: we moved from room to room and completed challenges, collecting "stamps" as we won them. There were many mental and physical challenges, but it was an extremely fun experience; "The Women Who Mapped the Stars", a compelling performance that showed how people were prejudiced against women. They often found out theories, but were not celebrated for their achievements; and the Duck Tour, where we went on land and water to tour the city of Boston. Say no more ... it was amazing!

This trip is strongly recommended for students who are interested in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Science) and want to make friends from all over the world. Take it from us: this is a life-changing opportunity you don't want to miss!



# 4th FOBISIA Games

## FOBISIA Games

*Andy Dean*

Director of Sport

Four years in the making and a lot of hard work has led the Primary FOBISIA team to their most successful games ever. In 2014, all those years ago, I think there were only one or two football trophies in the cabinet. The following year in KL (against a very tough division) saw us get 2nd in Athletics only but significant improvements across other sports. Last year in 2018 the total was 5 trophies across tee ball, football and athletics. This year ... a maximum 10 out of 10 trophies!

The improvements made by the students at BSG has been nothing short of phenomenal and they deserve every possible plaudit they receive. The hours spent training, be it in the pool, at track and field events, football sessions or tee ball hitting and throwing and catching, paid off to produce the ultimate tournament!

Students who were only one-trick ponies in January became competent all-rounders by the time the games came around. It proved that hard work and commitment pays off.

However, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Like all good organisations, we now have to train even harder to maintain this position and aim for even better results next year. There was a fine line this year making the difference between 2nd and 3rd place. With more controlled and specific practice I'm sure next year it will be 1st place all round! I can't wait!

Well done to the forty students involved and also to all the students back at school who competed against, challenged and pushed our students all the way to the success that they had. It was a real team effort!









## Inspiring A Love Of Reading

*Lisa Davall*

Pre-Nursery Teacher

Here in Pre Nursery we always encourage our students to love books, so Book Week was a perfect opportunity to celebrate this passion. It was a wonderful and busy week packed with many activities for our children to take part in. This year the author 'in residence' at Lakefront was Kathryn White, and she ran some rather engaging sessions for the children throughout the week in the library. There was much excitement when Year 6 students came over from the Primary school to read and chat to the children about the books they were showing them, and it was a real treat to be able to invite some parent readers in to the classroom to share some of their favourite stories with the children too. Thank you to all concerned.

To the bemusement of our very young students, the 'drop everything and read' element every day, proved to be very entertaining and great fun! Every time the bell randomly sounded, we had to stop what we were doing and read a book for 5 minutes! On Thursday all children and staff had the chance to dress up in their chosen 'book character' outfit and parade during our weekly assembly. Typically, there were some fantastic costumes on show, proving once again here at EYFS what talented and enthusiastic parents and teachers we have! On Friday, to round off an amazing week, it was time to 'snuggle up and read', where the children came to school in their pyjamas and had cookies, marshmallows and warm 'hot chocolate', yummy!



## Fossils Fuel Our Love Of Learning

Chris Eales

Nursery Teacher

For our second school trip of the academic year the Nursery children were lucky enough to visit the Guangzhou Museum. This was to further explore our exciting animal topic, Under the Sea. We had been looking at different animals that live under the sea and exploring their different attributes, learning that some fish have fins, some fish have teeth (just like us) and that some fish have no bones or eyes! We also posed the question “Why are some animals able to stay under water for so long, when we cannot?” This provoked some comical responses, with some children coming to the consensus that it was probably because we don’t have tails! Regardless of the outcome, it was great to see the children debate back and forth as to why we are unable to breathe under water.

When the day to visit the museum finally arrived the children were brimming with excitement! After an initial run down of what lay ahead, the children were ushered onto the buses by the teachers and our fantastic parent volunteers. As soon as the last buckle was fastened the buses were off, with the sound of Slippery Fish reverberating around the bus as if sung by the Upper Primary Choir! This was of course complimented with the occasional outburst of Baby Shark, and who could omit Disney’s Under the Sea, from the all time list of water related classics? The museum staff welcomed us with a thorough safety check on arrival and then we were off to explore in our small groups. There was a wealth of animals to see and the children were extremely excited to see the huge dinosaur bones that ascended skywards from the main exhibit hall floor. A sizable blue whale could also be seen dangling from the ceiling amongst other large whales. Our highlight however was the engrossing Under the Sea exhibit, consisting of rays, orcas, dolphins, and the children’s personal favourite, sharks!

The frenetic pace of the day took its toll on many of our under the sea adventurers however, and the buses home bore a distant resemblance from the outgoing journey just a few hours earlier. The parents, teachers and bus drivers were accompanied by only the occasional snore, along with that Early Years stranger; silence! Overall it was an exciting day out for the children, and we all can’t wait for the next outing that awaits us in Term 3.





## Reception Hit The Catwalk

*Alfie Creissen*  
Reception Teacher

This term, Reception have been learning about clothing. To start off our topic we had a fashion parade. All the children came to school wearing their very best and most fashionable clothing. The teachers started the show, dressed as characters from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", and I personally felt that the poison apple stole the show! However our 'Ambitious' and confident children soon took center stage, strutting their contemporary, yet stylish outfits. It was so much fun and as the old saying goes, 'a picture is worth a thousand words', so here are a few photos.





## Meet The Toymakers!

*Selina Wathern*  
Year 1 Teacher

At BSG we believe that anything is possible. Our latest 'Meet the Toymaker' project was testament to the belief that given the right opportunities and experiences all children can achieve amazing things.

Our imaginations were sparked when the Year 1 teachers made a discovery...an old chest full of toys from the past. Many of these toys were different to the toys we play with now especially in their design and the materials they were made from. This discovery led us to investigate how toys have changed over the past 100 years. Although many had changed over time, one had not - the teddy bear. We realized that we love playing with soft toys as much as our parents and grandparents would have also. We then began to wonder if we could make our own soft toy. What skills would we need to do this? It was time to train as a toymaker!

Over the following 5 weeks we learned, practiced and documented our acquisition of skills in drawing, designing, cutting, stitching, threading needles and sewing buttons. Many of these skills were new to us and at times challenging but we never gave up and found that we could do it! So, training complete and newly qualified in toy making we set about making our very own soft toy. We were so proud of our finished toys and the effort they represented that we couldn't wait to share them with others.

On Friday 18th May we invited our families as well as the Reception children to our 'Meet the Toymaker' workshop. It was a truly memorable event where not only were we able to share what we had made but it also gave us the opportunity to teach our families and friends how to sew. Sharing our knowledge not only allowed us to inspire others but also deepened our own understanding of what we had done. We had in fact learned an important life lesson that knowledge is infinitely more powerful when shared with others.

Who'd have thought that at 6 years old we would already be qualified toymakers. Wonder where our next learning journey will take us?



## It's Showtime!

*Natalie Watson*  
Year 2 Teacher

Over the past few weeks, several Year 2 classes have shown off their amazing learning with fun-filled, creative and informative assemblies for their parents. 2G kicked this off with an awesome 'Under the Sea' themed assembly where a funny little fish named Squiglet Pig was extremely upset to find that his habitat was being destroyed by plastic.

Continuing the theme of the seaside, 2B's fantastic assembly told the story of a few of the sea creatures found beneath the clear, blue waves. They even managed to squeeze in some jokes about the teachers, the children found it very funny!!

2A's Helpful Hero's modelled the values that all students at BSG display and it was great to see them working together and showing what a great place school is when we all help and look out for each other.

The children have shown great commitment and enthusiasm in learning their words, using expression and projecting their voice, and working collaboratively to produce super awesome assemblies which entertain, engage and inform.





# Year 3 Get Healthy!

Timothy Hogg  
Year 3 Teacher

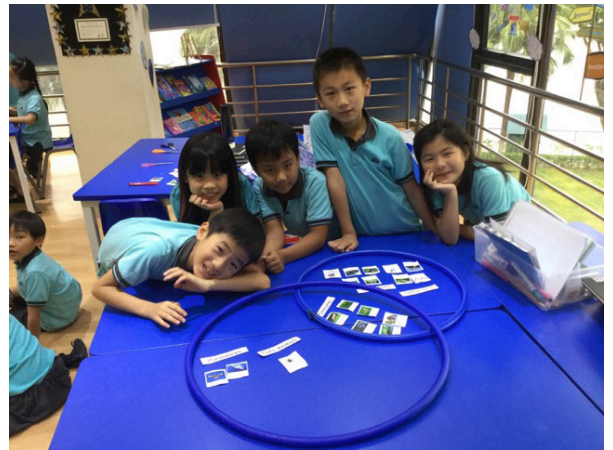
Fe-Fi-Fo-Fum, I smell... the pleasant aroma of a healthy flapjack baking in the oven. As a topic, Can Healthy Food be Tasty has certainly been a favourite and will be well remembered. Starting off with a semi-dignified performance of Mr Jogi and the Beanstalk, exploring what plants need in order to grow healthily, the children have been on a journey that has pushed the boundaries of their endurance; mentally, physically – and culinary.

It all started off so gently. What do plants need to grow? Subtract some soil and sunlight and all of a sudden, the answer becomes obvious. This was coupled with some revision about the parts of a plant and their role, from anchoring roots to attractive flowers, mixed in with some Oompa Loompa-esque poetry to help us remember and recite.

Following this, we moved onto the subject about what humans need to remain healthy. Upon learning that chocolate is more for a treat rather than a way of life, the children designed their own food plates that represent a more balanced diet, consisting of the recommended quantities of the 5 food groups. Things became a bit more physical, when we began to explore the importance of our skeletons and muscles. After creating their own model skeletons (complete with modern and Latin names), the children created their own exercises intended at strengthening several core muscles. It was a challenge for several teachers who can barely manage a solidary push up

Things soon took a more dramatic turn. Whilst having a (un)healthy snack in Deli Marche Café, a poster asking Year 3 to create a healthy snack to sell in the café was met with unimaginable excitement. To generate ideas, the children took on the role of food critics, sampling a range of popular snacks before giving their expert opinions on how they can be improved. With a snack in mind, the children set about practicing making their chosen item and brainstorming ideas about how the product can be presented and sold. The most overall appealing creation will be chosen using a Dragon's Den Style pitch, allowing the children to demonstrate their public speaking and presenting skills. The winning group will have the honor of selling their snack at Café Marche, however the other gastronomic delights will be immortalised forever in our own Year 3 Recipe Book.

It promises to be an exciting contest with plenty of opportunities to shine. As the saying goes: If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!



## An Electrifying Day Out!

David Barton  
Year 4 Teacher

Bags...check, sandwiches...check, Miss Maher's fancy hat and glasses combo...check! Well, as far as trips go this has to have been one of the best in my time at BSG. Was it the amazing interactive resources at the Guangdong Science Centre, the tasty pack lunches or Mr Rees's silky smooth trip planning? I don't know, but I do know it was a fantastic day out. The bus ride there was slightly noisy but who could blame the student's excitement! When we arrived it wasn't very busy, it was almost like we had the whole place to ourselves. After organising the tickets and realising that we don't have a single member of Year 4 under 1.2m tall, we then proceeded to the second floor where the discovery began. Some chose left, some chose right either way there was a world of exciting science awaiting interested minds. 4D started off in the electricity area which was an excellent choice considering we are learning about this in science at the moment. There were so many interactive displays about electricity, where it is from, how it can be made...it was truly electric! Miss Suki was even kind enough to demonstrate her 'just woken up' hair as she stood on a Van Der Graaf generator!

There were so many areas and things to do from spinning cars, to hand-gliders and even walking on the moon! Unfortunately, two hours was just not enough to get around, so we apologise in advance if your children don't stop asking you "can we go to the Science Centre again!". However, believe me, it is an experience not to be missed!





## The Mystery Of Tuesday Night

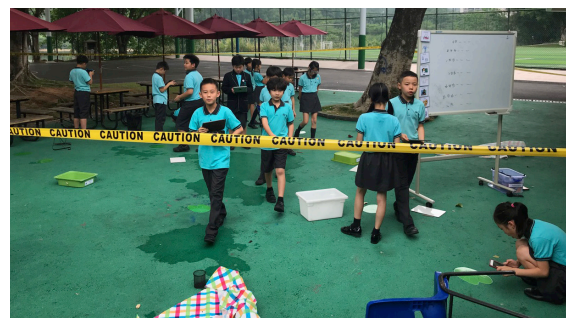
*Rochelle D'Silva Jones*  
Year 5 Teacher

It was an ordinary Tuesday evening when Mr. Healey left school around 8pm to return home. The next morning, the most peculiar sight awaited him in the year 5 common area! Giant lily pads were found on the ground, with water puddles everywhere. Police had cordoned off the area and our year 5 detectives were tasked with the job of finding the culprits.

After searching the crime scene thoroughly, students created an incident board which identified the key locations and eye witnesses. Our core text, Tuesday by David Wiesner, suggested that some pesky flying frogs on lily pads had something to do with these strange occurrences all around town.

Our student detectives then went about interviewing the witnesses and gathering all the evidence they needed to charge the suspects. The naughty frogs were also put in the hot seat and were asked some tough questions about their actions and whereabouts.

Having all the interview transcripts and evidence at hand, our detectives wrote their police report, recounting the events of Tuesday night. Chief Inspector Braces from the Guangzhou Police was very impressed with the detailed police reports he received from year 5. All in a day's work for our amazing student detectives, solving mysteries all around town.



# Primary School

## Fully Booked!

*Rebekah Martin*  
Year 1 Teacher

At BSG we love reading, and Book Week was the perfect way to celebrate our enthusiasm through a range of exciting activities.

We were very lucky to have the opportunity to work with two inspirational authors from the UK; Mr Clive PiG, a globetrotting storyteller, poet and songster and Mr Adam Bushnell, an author of both fiction and academia. The children learnt many important storytelling strategies through the authors' engaging and lively workshops and assemblies.

Both the teachers and children had a fun-packed week, where they took part in many competitions, which involved designing a book cover for their classroom door, retelling their favourite story in front of their parents and reading in weird and wonderful places. The teachers who judged the competitions had a very difficult job choosing one winner in each year group, as every child involved showed hard work and dedication. Well done to all who took part!

Towards the middle of the week we saw lots of excited children arrive into school in their PYJAMAS, ready to snuggle up and read with their favourite book whilst drinking delicious hot chocolate and eating yummy cookies.

As Book Week drew to a close, the children showed mixed emotions of excitement and anticipation, as they knew it was the day for our final assembly where they would find out the competition winners and say goodbye to our wonderful authors. What better way to celebrate a fantastic week than to come to school dressed as our favourite book characters? There were some very interesting creatures roaming around school, from lions to lizards and even some wizards! Thank you to everyone who made Book Week a huge success.





## Reflections In Year 6

Amy Stather  
Year 6 Teacher

There is always an electrifying 'buzz' emanating from the Year 6 corridor. It has been there since the 16<sup>th</sup> August – our first day. The excitement and enthusiasm the children demonstrate daily created this energy. However, the amplitude of this 'buzz' has changed somewhat over the last few weeks; and it has been interesting to observe.

The only way to describe this change in atmosphere is 'Nervous Excitement'. The Year 6 children are mentally preparing for the next big challenge in their educational lives – probably the biggest one so far for many – Secondary!

Transition activities for the big move started with the combined science lessons in term 2, which were fantastic and gave all the Year 6 children a taste of what science lessons will be like for them next year. The children then had the privilege of meeting Mr McConnell who will be the Head of Secondary from August. Last week some Year 7 children (the experts in Year 6 to Year 7 transition) came and gave all the classes a guided tour of the secondary building, which in just over 2 months, will be their new 'home'. Over the next few weeks more transition events are scheduled, including the transition days where the children will become Year 7's for two days.

All the thought of transitions has left the Year 6's in a reflective mood. We have been looking back over the year (which has flown by). It is amazing just how much we manage to squeeze into a year here at BSG: from Alex Rider Adventure Stories, Building Boats, Creating Circle art to Zoo trips - and everything in between. Year 6 children really have worked hard since that first day back in August, and achieved so much. It reminds me of the saying, 'time flies when you're having fun!'



# Primary School

The children have also been looking at famous sayings and quotes, which they liked, then linked them to their reflections and passing of time in Year 6.

“The greatest gift you can give someone is your time.” I think this quote relates to when we played games with little children during our residential trip. To me, this quote means that time is precious and that it could really mean a lot when you give some of your time to people – a precious gift. Reading Wonder has also made me believe this quote even more!

**Arielle Alvez**

“Time passes quickly, make sure you do all those things you really want for your life while you still can.” I think this quote means that each day you should do a little something to move closer to your dreams. I did this the time when I was dissecting a heart, even though I was nervous about doing it.

**Lik Feng**

“Time is like a river; you cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again.” This means you should enjoy every passing moment in your life! Like the lesson when we had to think about influences and choices we make in life. I thought that was very important because you should never change because of anyone or influence, or even peer pressure. You should be yourself – a person you can look back on and be proud of!

**Jitha Zhang**

One student (who will leave us at the end of this year) even made up his own quote:

You have a full sized pizza. Each slice is a part from your life. Once you have eaten it you can never get it back again, no matter how tasty it was – so enjoy every bite. Like my time here at BSG, and especially when I was on residential I made the most of the time there and tried new slices of the pizza of life, I gobbled it up and let it leave me with life-long memories.

**Bruce Zeng**

All that is left to say is, Good Luck in Year 7. You have been an amazing Year 6 and have left your teachers with life-long memories!





# Secondary School

## Year 6 & 7 Zoo Trip

Marc Tillotson  
Head of Science

The culmination of our Science transition programme involved a trip to Guangzhou zoo. The weather was kind to us and the students enjoyed the opportunity to explore and observe the animals. The visit gave the students opportunities to consider what the purpose of zoos is and what factors should be considered when deciding – what makes a good zoo?

Students in Year 7 had an additional task of researching about an animal before arriving at the zoo. They were then tasked with producing a documentary about their chosen animal. There were some excellent and inventive videos with individual class winners and an overall winner, who was Federica Yee in 7d – well done.

It was a pleasure to see the students work well together during the lessons and I know the staff enjoyed the activities leading up to the zoo visit. Roll on next year!





# Secondary School

## Art Update

*Hollie Slaughter*  
Head of Art

Michelangelo once said "If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all." And for the viewer, it is easy to stand back in awe at the talented work of our art students.

I can wholeheartedly confirm that the work produced here does not come from a god-given talent; it comes from hard work, determination, commitment and a vision to succeed. Whether a young artist is successful during a timed art exam will boil down to how much they have prepared, how much time they have spent on practicing their medium, and their ability to draw upon previous knowledge.

It is easy for the viewer to wrap it up as genius, but for those who love art, they will have probably loved it since the first time they made a mark on a piece of paper, on a wall in a nursery or on a pavement, and they have, knowingly or unknowingly, been perfecting their artistic skills ever since.

**Year 11 GCSE Exam Final Pieces based on the theme 'Fragments'.**

**Year 13 A Level Exam Final Pieces based on the theme 'Freedom & Limitations'.**

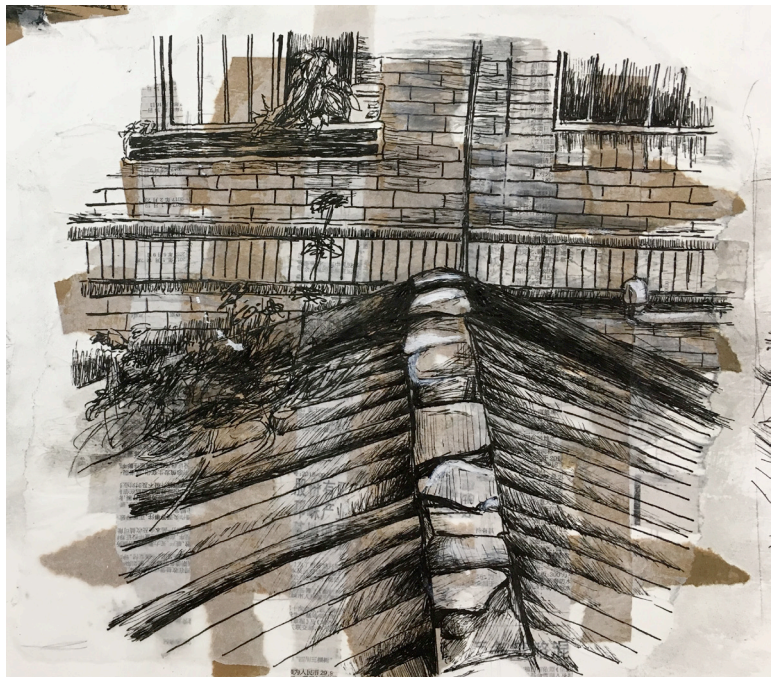




# Cycle Canton

Hollie Slaughter  
Head of Art

Our Art students from Year 10 and 12, along with the ALPS students, gleefully took to the vibrant streets of Guangzhou on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, collecting and recording evidence for their new GCSE Art project, 'Cityscapes'. From Taojin to Tianzi Wharf, they cycled off the beaten track, discovering old and new parts of the city to serve as inspiration for their future work. On a thankfully rain-free afternoon (a rarity this time of year!) the group, armed with their sketchbooks and cameras, sketched and photographed Ancestral Halls, tiled roofs, ornate gates, layered alleyways and beautiful old buildings. These images supported the Year 10 students in their recent mock exam, where they created a number of striking observational studies that truly and fully captured the everyday beauty of where we live.





## Accelerated Reader

Claire Walsh  
Head of English

As the year comes to a close, we are once again celebrating the outstanding achievements of our BSG readers. As parents are aware, this year the Accelerated Reader system was rolled out into primary years 4-6 and this has proven to be extremely successful. Out of all of our students we have 112 who have read more than a million words in just one year. Forty of these students have read over 2 million words, 18 over 3 million and incredibly, 5 students have read over 4 million words. This is truly an outstanding achievement and really shows a dedication to resilient reading.

Over the summer we are going to challenge students to a Summer Reading Challenge (the details of which will be revealed towards the end of term) and cannot wait to see how they fare. Although students aren't able to check out books from the library, years 6-11 will still be able to access the school's online OverDrive library, which hosts several hundred texts. Happy reading everyone!

### Shakespeare - Year 8

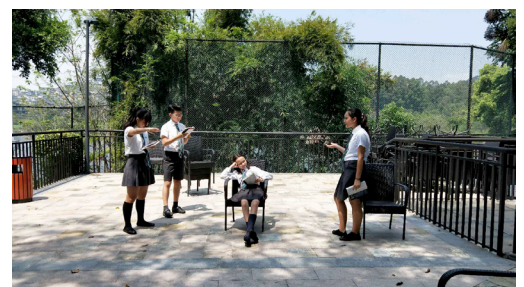
The Year 8s have been taking full advantage of the lovely weather this term and used the amphitheatre to perform scenes from Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice', 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', focusing on their delivery and stage directions, to mark the end of a 5-week unit. We were very impressed as the students made such an effort to learn the lines by heart as well as act them out effectively. They also showed good understanding of character, which displayed the amount of work that went into their earlier empathetic writing. Students were also challenged to write in Shakespearean style verse, and offer an opinion on contemporary interpretations of Shakespeare's works, ultimately leading to a discussion on the relevance and validity of studying Shakespeare in 2018. We mainly agreed that it was a good idea!

When asked what they had thought of the Shakespeare unit, they replied 'AWESOME'! What more could we ask for? Their enthusiasm and engagement with the plays once again indicates that Shakespeare's work is both universal and timeless.

Romeo:

Is my life destined to my foe's debt?  
O Saint, how can you do this to me?  
My only love found upon the only hate  
The heir of my biggest rival.  
She doth teach the diamonds to shine bright  
My heart burning on the first glimpse.  
Did my heart love til now?  
Every moment with you is like a dream  
O how I wish I could live in this dream,  
And never be awoken  
If despite the hatred of our parents  
You'd be the one I was meant to find...  
O this girl has stolen my heart,  
Left me nothing but a hollow shell  
What if we were to rewrite the stars  
Changing the world to be ours.

Chloe Zheng





## Music Awards

*John Wright*  
Director of Music

On Thursday 26 April the school's musicians dusted off their fancy clothes and went down to the Marriott Hotel in Tianhe for an evening to celebrate musical achievement throughout the year. The orchestra performed magnificently and we awarded School Colours to students who have shown consistent commitment to the school's flagship ensembles (orchestra and choirs) for one year (half colours) and for two years (full colours). This way of rewarding extra-curricular contributions is common practice in British public schools and the tradition goes back several centuries. In our school, students receive a badge to display on their uniform and these were presented by our Vice Principal Mr. Iain Ruck.

After a lovely buffet dinner, we moved to specific awards for students who have made exceptional progress on an instrument or a voice. All winners must also have made a commitment to one of the ensembles. These certificates were presented by our Principal Mr. Mark Thomas. One of our resident Rock groups, 'Be In Site', concluded the evening with a great performance of 'Thousand Years' by Christina Perry.

Shortly after, our primary singers went off to perform at AISG in the annual 'Sing Up!' event. Performances and presentation, as well as student behaviour on that evening, brought much credit to our school. If you missed it, there will be another opportunity to hear the students performing 'Children of The World' and 'Mad World' at the forthcoming Primary Awards.

Apart from this, we also have the Primary performance of Madagascar to look forward to on 20 & 21 June and the Secondary House Music Competition on 21 June.





# Secondary School

## Enterprise Week

*Francine Hearn*  
Business & Economics Teacher

Enterprise week, held on 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May, was a very successful event that offered Year 10 Business Studies and Economics students a chance to unleash ideas and make their mark. The event was held in Primary and in Secondary giving students an opportunity to learn how to segment the market and tailor products to suit the wants of those segments.

Entrepreneurship is exciting, challenging and risky. Students invested their own money in the products they sold not knowing whether they would break even, let alone make a profit. Students formed partnerships and sold various homemade goods such as cupcakes, rose tea, brownies, ice cream and frozen cups. With the right marketing mix all groups broke even and many made a profit.

Furthermore, students donated a percentage of their profits to Hopeful Hearts. I would like to thank students for their donations.





# Les Martinets Switzerland Expedition

Stephen Dodds  
Mathematics Teacher

High ambition! BSG's 22 adventurers have returned from their inaugural expedition to Les Martinets in Switzerland. Students hiked alpine peaks, climbed to the summit of a glacier, spent the night at a height of almost 2500 metres and enjoyed some delicious chocolate and cheese! A truly once-in-a-lifetime experience!





## Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Charlotte Giles  
History Teacher

The year 11 students finished their time at BSG in a perfect demonstration of who they are as a year group – full of life, demonstrating their many talents, stuffed full of humour and perhaps a tiny bit disorganized!

Opening the assembly with an homage to The Greatest Showman, the assembly was hosted by Monica Mok and Terence Neo, in the grand tradition of China Week assemblies. A quiz, played by house teams and one teacher team, swiftly followed. It featured such rounds as 'guess the Greenhill' and 'which student is the teacher describing?'. After victory was given to the Saxons (fix!), a video round-up of the year demonstrated the time that year 11 have spent at BSG, from tiny year 7s all the way to the composed young adults they have become.

Featuring the twin horrors of David Kim dressed as Ms. Giles, and Daniel Kim standing on David's head, a skit that summarized the expectation of residential trips versus the reality raised the most laughs of the assembly. Emotions changed swiftly however, when messages from past teachers were played, and messages to the leaving students from those remaining were delivered. Even Mrs. McKenna was almost seen to shed a tear at the heartfelt videos that were played on screen, although Wil Jorgensen provided some comic relief by starting his message to May Hewitt with a prolonged 'ummm' and a confused look.

The comedy continued when a video of science rap songs that the year 11s had recorded in year 8 was played – both students and staff were heard to be humming these Grammy-worthy compositions for hours afterwards. Finally, a group of students demonstrated the musical prowess of year 11 with a mash up of songs that they both sang and played. Despite hot competition from the many musical numbers in assemblies this year, it would be fair to say that this performance was a fan favourite, and had many members of staff tapping their feet, and even some students singing along. After running over by ten minutes the year 11s departed, starting their exam season and the challenges of year 12, wherever in the world they may be.

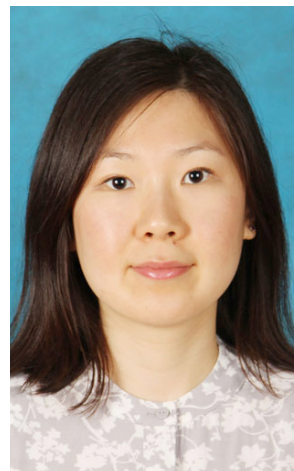




## The School Counselling Service

*Xiaoxuan Qu*  
School Counsellor &  
Learning Support TA

From the next academic year, the British School of Guangzhou will offer a school counselling service to our students. Xiaoxuan (Xuan) Qu, a trained counsellor who currently works in our Learning Support Department, will have dedicated time to support our students. The aim of any school counselling is primarily to assist students to master their learning environment in school. The service also allows students to explore, understand and overcome issues in their lives which may be causing them difficulty or stress. During counselling sessions, students are provided with structured time and space to explore worries and concerns and reflect upon things that are troubling them. Students are offered a chance to understand and manage difficult thoughts and feelings and to discover new ways of responding to people or situations they are finding difficult.



### Why do we have a counsellor in school?

Our school values the overall wellbeing of our students and we recognise the importance of having a counsellor on-site. We believe that good mental health and emotional wellbeing is an integral part of children and young people's holistic development. School counselling is well incorporated into the whole school commitment to improving student overall wellbeing. A school counsellor can help to assist students to achieve a greater understanding of themselves and their relationship to their world, create greater self-awareness, build resilience, and support their ability to address problems and pursue meaningful goals.

### Who is the school counsellor?

My name is Xuan and I am delighted to take on the role of school counsellor at BSG. I completed my Master's Degree in Counselling at Webster University in Geneva, Switzerland and Bachelor's Degree in Psychology at the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK. Before joining BSG, I worked with children and adolescents in various settings across different cultures. Some well-remembered moments include school counselling at La Cote International School in Switzerland and alcohol and substance treatment at RecoveryWays in the United States. I look forward to continuing to develop and learn with Secondary students in the upcoming academic year.





THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF GUANGZHOU  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# Summer School!

2nd - 20th JULY  
Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm

**4-10**  
Year olds

**SWIMMING  
SPORTS  
FUN ENGLISH  
ARTS & MUSIC**

Organised by  
**BRITISH SCHOOL  
TEACHERS**

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE  
3,000RMB PER WEEK  
EMAIL [shaila.chainani@bsg.org.cn](mailto:shaila.chainani@bsg.org.cn)



[www.bsg.org.cn](http://www.bsg.org.cn)