

13 APRIL 2016

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



RECENT QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS

- Secondary standards – have they really improved?
- Curriculum – why the English National Curriculum?
- Curriculum – what is happening with assessment and the new curriculum?
- Staffing recruitment – how well trained are our teachers?
- Staffing changes and new Primary Headteacher

RECENT QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS (2)

- University destinations and guidance – getting to top universities and is the 'American curriculum' better for US universities
- IB vs APs for American universities; IB vs A levels for British universities
- The nationality balance
- AQI and what are the next developments on pollution?

SECONDARY STANDARDS

- Teaching and learning and independent review
- IGCSE results 2015:
 - 5+ A*-C 83% (UK 53%; BSB 2013 62%)
 - A*/A 53% (UK 21%; BSB 2013 33%)
 - 5+ A*/A 46% (BSB 2013 17%)
- IB predicted results – with honesty – 100% pass at Full Diploma; average points above global averages (although averages are misleading)
- Why are we non-selective?

CURRICULUM – WHY THE ENC/IGCSE?

- Programme followed by tens of thousands, not written by individual schools/teachers based on their preferences
- Rigorous, builds year on year, planned from 18 months to 14 years and beyond
- Learn new concepts earlier – better transition to other curricula
- Individual subjects, not ‘topics’
- Personalised and adaptable, and we adapt it strongly for our international student body
- IGCSE – an internationally recognised, formal examination qualification in every subject at age 16, leading well to IB or further study. Strong university and international currency.
- The new National Curriculum assessment programme

CURRICULUM – WHY NOT THE PYP/MYP?

- IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) are well-established, but.....
- Theme-based rather than subject-based, so rely heavily on quality of individual teacher
- Can be very varied in quality – quality assurance and benchmarking only at school level
- BSB curriculum guarantees subject specialists for all subjects
- PYP and MYP have no international examination programme to support – reliant on internal school grades with no external value. Students may enter IB Diploma with no examination experience.

STAFFING RECRUITMENT

- Change of Primary Headteacher – Mrs Nonie Adams
- Balance of experience with our staff – international vs UK
- IB staff – over 200 years of experience and 500 days of training whilst at BSB
- Dedicated IB Coordinator at Deputy Head level
- Secondary leadership unchanged for third year running

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS AND GUIDANCE

- New counsellor and counselling team 2016
- This year's destinations and offers :
 - 36% received offers from top 50
 - 44% received offers from top 100
 - 100% of applicants to Russell group received offers
 - Notable offers - UCL (7), ICL (8), Edinburgh (21), HKUST (28) HKU (30), Manchester (33) and UBC (50)
 - plus many highly ranked Art schools
- Visits from universities – most recently Oxford and Nottingham, have included London, Ivy League
- Next year's university fair will be at BSB
- **The big debate – American vs British curriculum; APs vs IBDP; IBDP vs A level**
- The British curriculum and IBDP are widely favoured in US universities

OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY PARENTS

- **The nationality balance**

- The most international school in Beijing
- Maintaining the limits but with care
- Balance within classes
- Waiting lists as appropriate

- **AQI measures and what is happening next?**

- Excellent classroom readings
- Want to do more in the foyer, gym, corridors, and first floor
- Role of consultants in modelling building
- Doors and windows
- Pressurised fresh air system 2016?

- **Power cables**



Thank you.