

16th January 2019

“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”

Pele

UPCOMING EVENTS...

JANUARY

- 14th-18th - Year 11 Mock Examination Week
- 22nd - US Universities Roadshow @BIST
- 23rd - Primary Swimming Gala
- 25th - Year 11 Mock Examination grade reports to parents
- 25th - Primary Assembly - 2.00pm (parents welcome)
- 28th - Mathematics Week & competitions
- 28th - Year 11 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 30th - Year 7&8 depart on Bucharest Sports Tour

Dear Parents

Term 2 is now well underway here at BIST. This week has seen the start of rehearsals for The Pied Piper of Hamelin, our Key Stage 2 musical (see below for more details). Our Year 11 students are now half way through their mock examinations. As I have said before the mocks are a good test of general preparation, examination technique and knowledge and allow students and teachers to identify next steps before the real examinations of the summer.

As a school we do feel it is important to address the issue of attendance once again. We are aware that a number of parents are concerned about influenza in Tbilisi. We have in response been reinforcing our handwashing and cough/sneeze protocols amongst the children. Our attendance data and contact with students that are absent suggests that we have had over the this week and last less than 3% of our children off through illness and none of the parents reporting in about this have indicated their child has the flu. None of our staff have been absent through illness either. A further 1.8% of children were absent as their parents indicated they were concerned that their child might contract the flu by coming to school. What we cannot quite understand is that over 6% of children were absent last week because they were still on holiday - some of whom had still not returned to school on Monday. Given that the students have just had a 3 week and 2 day school holiday, I am sure you will understand our concerns. Attendance at school is a key factor in determining academic progress and attendance below 95% is proven to be detrimental to this progress at all levels of education. It is also generally the case that when students leave BIST for new schools or when they head to university in the future that we are asked to supply the receiving institution with attendance data - this can obviously impact admissions.



This week our youngest students, in Foundation 1, have begun their swimming programme. There were a few nervous little faces as they headed to the pool, but they all had a great time enjoying the water. Even though it was lesson 1, there were a number of fantastic successes as some of the children became confident enough to let go of the side or their spaghetti float and swam on their own.

BIST PRIMARY SWIMMING GALA 2019

The Gala will have a variety of races and relays from Foundation Stage to Year 6. Students will have the opportunity to experience a competitive swimming gala.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR CHILDREN WITH A SWIM KIT TO SCHOOL ON 23RD JANUARY.

BIST HOUSES AND POINTS

A board displaying Houses and House Points is set up in the Atrium. BIST will keep track of points on this board, celebrating accomplishments of each House following competitions. After the Dodgeball tournament last term, there is a three way tie for first place between Tigers, Panthers and Leopards at 30 points. The Pumas are not far behind with 20 points.

Houses acquire 25 points for a first place finish, 15 points for a second place finish, 10 points for a third place finish and 5 points for a fourth place finish. Individual points will be added as well. Students who earn a Personal Learning Goal certificate will receive 5 individual points which are also added to their house. Each House has two captains in Primary and two captains in Secondary. Students were asked to put their names forward for consideration as a Captain last term. In Secondary the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Coordinators worked with the Prefects to appoint students who best exemplified the BIST Personal Learning Goals. In Primary Year 5 and 6 teachers appointed students based on how well they exemplify these values. House captains are expected to act as role models for other students. They also help to decide on and organise upcoming House competition events.



The cast of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* practising their solo singing and doing full walk through the script. Key Stage 2 are excited to perform the story for an audience at the end of March.

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC LESSONS

There are still also slots available for peripatetic one-to-one guitar and recorder lessons. Please contact **Ms. Tamuna** in the office if you are interested in signing up your children for this.

BLACK SEA MATHS CUP

BIST is proud to establish a Numeracy competition for Year 5 and 6 - The Black Sea Maths Cup - with the first competition taking place 29th January. Several British schools from the Black Sea region will join BIST online and compete in a battle of the brains. Competitors will answer logic, problem solving and numerical problems, which will require a lot of resilience and thought. The winning school will receive a trophy and be declared the winner of the Maths Cup.

VISITOR SAFEGUARDING LEAFLET

Attached to this newsletter is a Visitor Safeguarding Leaflet that all visitors to BIST and BGA must read. Hard copies will be given to visitors, parents are expected to read this electronic version.

The 2019-20 Tuition Fee Schedule will be sent out as an email attachment alongside this newsletter. If you do not receive it, please let us know.

WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP

BIST is happy to host the first World Scholar's Cup regional tournament in Georgia in May. There will be a Junior Division (ages 10-13) and Senior Division (ages 14+) competing. Regional rounds of competition are hosted all over the world and the Tournament of Champions is at Yale University in November. For more information visit [this website](#). It is a fantastic event where students compete in teams of three in the four different areas.

Team debate - Team debates three times each. The topics can range from politics to poetry. Students are given 15 minutes to research the topic before the debate starts.

Collaborative Writing - Debating with the power of the pen. Teams will be given time to work collaboratively and individually on an essay.

Scholar's Bowl - Each team answers questions with a clicker. Teams can discuss the questions then decide on an answer but they are working against the clock.

Scholar's Challenge - Quiz type competition. It's multiple choice with a twist: you can mark more than one answer per question. The more you mark, the less points you get.

Mr. Stephen Priest
Principal

Mr. Daniel Comar
Key stage 4 Coordinator

Ms. Tumika Sthapit
Head of Administration

Ms. Erin McRaith
Head of Primary

Mr. Alex Timmis
Director of Studies

Ms. Tatiana Trofimchuk
Admissions Officer

Mr. James Miller
Key Stage 3 Coordinator

Ms. Sophie Kasrashvili
PA to the Principal

Ms. Tamuna Skhiereli
Reception Desk Manager

