



12th May

"To effectively communicate, we must realise that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others."

UPCOMING EVENTS...

May

- 12th-14th - Social Enterprise Week (Y7-10)
- 13th - Key Stage 3 guest speaker from Georgian Down Syndrome Association
- 17th-21st - Design Technology Week (Primary)
- 17th-21st - GL Progress Tests (Y2-6)
- 19th - Soccer Aid Day
- 20th-21st - International Award Borjomi expedition
- 26th - School Closed for Independence Day
- 27th-28th - International Award Manglisi expedition
- 31st-4th - GL Progress Tests and Summer Assessment Week (Y7-9)
- 31st-4th - Summer Exam Week (Y10)

June

- 7th-11th - Primary Hit the Button Maths Challenge Week
- 7th - Secondary PSHE Day 1
- 9th - Year 10 Summer Exam Grade card to parents
- 14th - Start of Year 11 to 12 and Year 12 to 13 Bridging Course
- 14th-18th - Science Fair Week in Key Stage 2
- 15th - Secondary PSHE Day 2
- 16th-18th - International Award Silver Assessed Expedition (tbc)
- 18th - Lost Property collection - 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 23rd - Secondary PSHE Day 3
- 24th - Secondary Sports Day
- 7th - Secondary PSHE Day 1
- 25th - Primary and Year 7 Transition Day
- 25th - End of Year Reports (F1-Y10) and GL Progress Test reports (Y2-Y9) released to parents
- 25th - Lost Property collection - 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 30th - SingUp! Day

July

- 2nd - End of School Year for Years 1-13
- 5th-9th - School continues for F1 and F2 classes

Emma Thompson

Dear Parents

It has been great to see our students back in school today after the extended Easter break and our online programme. The children have been happy to be back, their teachers overjoyed at seeing their classes again and learning in class has most definitely been happening.

COVID SAFETY

We would like to remind parents about their role in ensuring our community is COVID safe. We do ask all parents to err on the side of caution when their children are ill. Please keep children at home with any infectious illness or COVID symptoms. The spread of non-COVID infectious illnesses can weaken all our immune systems. Children with COVID symptoms should have a test to show it is not COVID before returning to school. Siblings of children with COVID symptoms should also remain at home until such a time as it is proved to not be COVID. Our return to school guidance can be found [here](#).

CALENDAR

As you can see from the calendar section of the newsletter, we have a busy remainder to the summer term. Some of the events may unfortunately be affected by the ongoing pandemic and may have to be postponed or changed in some way. We will keep you updated of any programme changes.

COBIS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Last Friday we received the certificates from COBIS for three of our students who we had nominated for achievement awards for 2021. Iasha in Year 13 and Melissa and Nutsa in Year 12 all received awards in the Significant Contribution to the Wider Life of the School category. Iasha is in his final year and received the award for the positive contributions he has made over the last 4 years at BIST. Melissa and Nutsa were awarded for their work as joint Head Girls and their contribution to our Student Council.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2021



BLACK SEA SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

A few weeks ago I wrote in the newsletter about our students who had reached the final and international stage of judging in the Public Speaking competition. This competition involved students at COBIS schools around the Black Sea. We are very proud to announce that Fedra in Year 6 won the Key Stage 2 competition. Well done, Fedra and all students who participated.



INTERNATIONAL AWARD

You will see from the calendar that we hope to be able to run our International Award expeditions. However, these do remain firmly to be confirmed due to the ongoing pandemic. We hope to confirm whether they can run shortly.

SOCCER AID

As in previous years, though with a break last year due to lockdown, we will be participating in the annual UNICEF Soccer Aid day. This involves a whole day game of football that the students will participate in in their bubbles. The aim of the day is to highlight the role of sport and also raise funds for a local UN charity working with children. To raise these funds we are encouraging everyone to wear a football (or other sports shirt) on the day and donate 5 GEL to the fundraising effort.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

Today, our somewhat shortened Social Enterprise Week in Secondary has begun. This will see the students engage in various activities centred around the topic. There will also be guest speaker lectures via zoom from the Georgian Down Syndrome Association and in school from the UNDP.

LOST PROPERTY

To allow parents (and students) to find any items of lost clothing or other property, we will display all our lost property items at the school's back gate between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Friday 18th and 25th June. Parents will be allowed to check if there are any items there that their children have lost and take them home. Any items left after these times will be recycled to needy charities.



GL PROGRESS TESTS

Next week students in Years 2 to 6 will take their GL Progress Tests. For Year 2, this is just in English and Maths and for Years 3 to 6 there is an additional test in Science. Students in Years 7 to 9 will sit the tests in the



week starting 31st May. The schedule for the tests can be found [here](#). These tests are an annual summative assessment of progress measured against the English National Curriculum. The students do not need to prepare for these tests. The real purpose of the tests is for our teachers to see the specific areas within these subjects that students have made more or less progress on in addition to the progress that is observed by the teachers daily in lessons thus helping us further support students in their learning. A report is produced for each test and will be forwarded to parents in June. If parents would like to know more about the GL Progress Tests and their formative benchmarking cousin, the GL CAT tests, we are willing to run a zoom information session on Wednesday 19th May. It would be very useful if parents could let us know if they want to attend such a session and we will know if we need to arrange one or more sessions and what time is best. Please email [Ms. Sophie](#) if you would like to attend and also include what time is best for you.

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT AND STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK 2021-22

Shortly parents will be receiving the electronic version of the 2021-22 Home School Agreement for signatures. If you have any problems with the electronic signature, please contact Ms. Tumika. The new Student-Parent Handbook will also be forwarded to all parents. Please note that policies referred to in the handbook can be found on the [school website](#).

YEAR 1/2 DIORAMAS

Please see some of the fantastic ecological dioramas made by Year 1/2.



Mr. Stephen Priest
Principal

Ms. Sophie Kasrashvili
PA to the Principal

Ms. Tumika Sthapit
Head of Administration

Ms. Alexandra Backhouse
Head of Primary

Mr. Alex Timmis
Director of Studies

Mr. James Miller
Key Stage 3 Coordinator

Mr. Les Pemberton
Head of Sixth Form

Mr. Andrew Graham
Key Stage 4 Coordinator

Ms. Joanne Gow
Key stage 2 Coordinator

