



22th September

UPCOMING EVENTS...

September

- 24th - 'Settling in' email to parents for all new students and all students in Y7, Y10, Y11, Y12 & 13
- 27th - Half Term Break - one week holiday

October

- 4th - Scheduled return to on campus learning
- 4th & 5th - 'Settling' in parents zoom for all new students and all Y7, Y10, Y11, Y12 & 13
- 4th to 8th - CAT Testing week for Y4, 7, 10 and 12
- 8th - Tbilisoba @BIST
- 11th to 15th - International Week @BIST
- 12th - Secondary 2021 Awards Afternoon
- 15th - Parental CAT test reports published to parents
- 20th - COBIS International University Fair (online)
- 29th - Initial Progress Reports published to parents

CAT TESTS

When school has reopened for on campus learning, we will be running our CAT Tests for Years 4, 7, 10 and 12 and any new students in other years (Y5 and above) who we were not able to 'CAT' as part of the admissions process. CAT tests are Cognitive Abilities Tests done online and are produced by [GL Assessments](#). The tests do not require revision and prior learning is not assessed. They are moderated against the tens of thousands of students in the UK and in international schools who sit the tests each year. The tests are primarily for teacher use and give a wealth of information about a student's strengths and areas for development. A parental report is produced and will be released to parents about two weeks later.



Join us on Instagram!

[@bistbilisi.ge](#)

"Blessed are we who can laugh at ourselves...for we shall never cease to be amused!"

Louisa Thomsen Brits

Dear Parents

Hopefully this is our last week of online learning and after our half term break next week, we will be returning to on campus learning. Nothing in this day and age is certain however, and the school and staff will be preparing for both on campus and online learning.

On Friday of this week parents of any newly enrolled students for 2021-22 and all students in Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will receive a 'settling in' email from class teachers or mentors. If there are any issues that need to be discussed a Zoom meeting will be arranged by the class teacher or mentor for Monday 4th or Tuesday 5th October. Please note that the vast majority of students will not require such a Zoom meeting as they will have settled in well.

STAFF VACCINATION RATES

A small number of parents have asked about the vaccination rates of our staff. BIST staff have been very engaged in the process of vaccination and before 4th October 93.8% (106) of our whole staff will be fully vaccinated, 6.2% (7) part vaccinated and no staff will be unvaccinated. Within the 113 staff, we have 79 staff who are classed as "Educational" and have day-to-day contact with students. Of this 79, 100% will be fully vaccinated before the 4th October with just 5 of such staff scheduled for their second dose between now and the end of September.

BLACK SEA SCHOOLS

As you may be aware, we are a member of the Black Sea Schools group, a loose federation of Council of British International School members in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. The organisation's aim is to foster student engagement in a variety of activities and teacher networking as part of our continued professional development. I am currently the Chair of the Black Sea Schools. Last week, we had a useful Principals' Meeting and discussed online student activities scheduled for this year, the possibility of a return to face-to-face events in Summer 2022 and staff development opportunities.



The Patron's ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITED

STAFF FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

At the end of this week, unfortunately we have to say a fond farewell to two of our Learning Supports who are moving on to new challenges. Ms. Tatia has been at BIST for 4 years and is currently the LSA for Year 5S. We thank her for her unwavering service over her time at BIST. After a relatively short stay at BIST, Mr. Beqa, the Y5T LSA is also leaving us to take up a new job with the government. To replace Ms. Tatia, we welcome Ms. Martina to the team and a new replacement for Mr. Beqa will be announced soon.



MOUNTAIN BIKING STAR



Congratulations to Wiktor in Y7A who competed in the XV Eco Mountain Run in the Bedkouska Valley, Poland at the weekend. Wiktor won the 2km race in his age category competing against 56 other racers of his age. We look forward to hearing more about Wiktor's mountain biking success in the future.

PRIMARY POSITIVE ENTHUSIASM AWARDS

Our Primary classteachers selected Positive Enthusiasm champions on Friday. Well done to everyone!

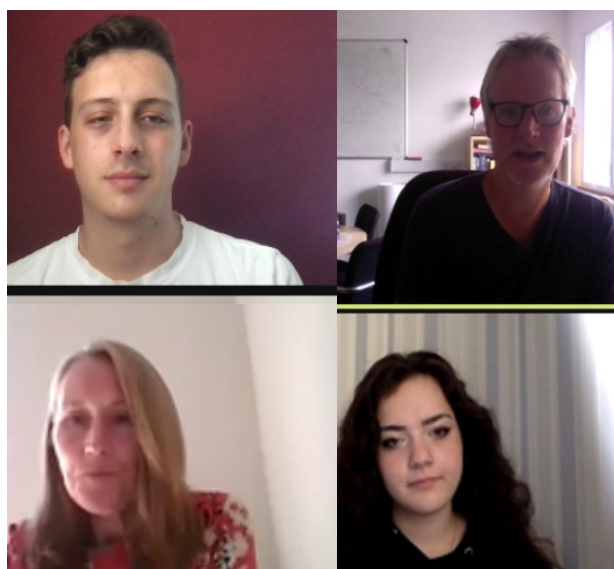


Primary Positive Enthusiasm Award Winners *Congratulations to all our winners!*

Foundation 1	Jojo, Maysa	Year 4D	Cristian, Jessica
Foundation 2	Chloe, Dario	Year 4L	Hana, Samiya
Year 1	Gabriela, Konrad	Year 5S	Erdem, Yerbolat
Year 1/2	Ondrej, Sofia	Year 5T	Emma, Karl
Year 2	Charbel Maroun, Emma	Year 6R	Imran, Sofija
Year 3W	Lina, Maxim	Year 6V	Alex, Mikhaylo

YEAR 13 CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP WITH CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

Our A Level Chemistry students participated in an on-line workshop with Cardiff University Inorganic Chemistry Professor Simon Pope. The students had an opportunity to learn more about chemical analytical techniques and their applications in university research and industry. Simon spoke on the spectroscopic techniques studied at A Level explaining how undergraduates study them in greater depth, how they are relevant to the study of such compounds as proteins and macromolecules and are applied in Medicine and Biochemistry. He introduced students to a new technique, X-ray crystallography, which is used to define structures of materials. The students learnt how their A Level studies are directly relevant to cutting-edge research and had an opportunity to ask detailed questions about analytical techniques. Thank you to Professor Pope and Cardiff University for supporting BIST students with their studies.



Mr. Stephen Priest
Principal

Ms. Alexandra Backhouse
Vice Principal & Head of Primary

Mr. Adam Whybro
Head of Secondary

Mr. Alex Timmis
EYKS1 Coordinator

Mr. Simon Rooney
KS2 Coordinator

Mr. James Miller
KS3 Coordinator

Ms. Sadie Rodea
KS4 Coordinator

Mr. Les Pemberton
Head of Sixth Form

Ms. Tumika Sthapit
Head of Administration

Ms. Sophie Kasrashuli
PA to the Principal

Ms. Tamuna Skhiereli
Office & Resource Manager

