



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ★ September

5th-9th - CAT tests for Years 4, 7, 10 and 12  
19th - Secondary PSHE Day  
20th - Parent Class Reps meeting (8.30am-9.30am)  
21st - Parents Coffee Morning (8.30am-9.30am)  
21st - Parental reports for CAT tests published  
22nd - Secondary Awards Evening (6.00pm-8.00pm)  
23rd - Settling-in emails to parents of new students and Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13  
26th-27th - Settling-in meetings (if required) with parents of new students and Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13  
29th - Parent Community Association AGM (6.00pm-8.00pm)

### 🍊 October

5th - Parents Afternoon Tea (3.00pm-4.25pm)  
6th - Middle School Girls and Boys Football v QSI @ BIST  
7th - Middle School Girls and Boys Volleyball v QSI @ BIST  
10th-13th - International Week  
12th - International Evening (5.30pm-8.00pm)  
13th - BIST Tbilisoba  
13th - Last Day of Term 1.1  
14th-23rd - October Half Term break  
24th - First Day of Term 1.2

## CAT Tests



Students in Years 4, 7, 10 and 12 have been sitting online GL CAT tests this week. The CAT tests assess a student's strengths and areas for development across verbal, quantitative, non-verbal and spatial awareness fields. This is crucial data for teachers so we can further support students. A special parental report will be shared with parents.



## DEAR PARENTS

This week has seen the positive start by our students and staff continue. On Monday morning, Mr. Pemberton, our Head of Sixth Form, hosted a hustings event for our Head Students. The Head Students are elected representatives of the student body, but also representatives of our school community. There were seven candidates from Years 12 and 13; Adam, Egor, Eren, Lucas, Natalia, Salome and Sandro. All the candidates made a speech in support of their campaign. This was followed by a secret ballot amongst students and staff. The results will be announced next Monday. Also speaking at the event were former Head Students Melissa and Nutsa about their experiences as Head Student. Melissa and Nutsa are soon to be heading off to university to study Computational Art at the University of the Arts London (Melissa) and Healthcare Management at Arden University Berlin (Nutsa).



## COVID

Unfortunately, it would seem that COVID is still with us. We have had a very small number of cases within our community, but fortunately this has had a limited impact so far on teaching and learning. The regulations for schools remain at present as they were last school year for persons with COVID and for close contacts. These regulations are set by the local authorities and therefore we must rightly abide by them for the safety of our community. This does at times mean that students will need to study only during a period of self-isolation. It is very important that parents inform school about the ill health of their children and other family members. This week we have had a small number of children sent to school with or following symptoms of COVID who we have had to send home. The simple 'rule' is that if you or your child has symptoms, then you must take a PCR test or have a medical note that indicates it is not COVID.

## Staffing News



At the end of last week we said a fond farewell and bon voyage to our Head of Security, Beka, who has taken up a similar role at a residential and tourism facility in Saudi Arabia. Our new Head of Security is Mr. Levan Khorbaladze who has joined us from Rooms Hotels. We also have a new member of our EAL (English as an Additional Language) team, Ms. Tamta Megrelashvili. Next week, we will welcome a new member of our PE team, Mr. Archil Jgenti and our new Secondary School Office Manager, Ms. Tamar Petashvili. I am sure that you will make them feel very welcome.

## University Scholarship News

We had thought that the graduates of 2021 had done amazingly with university scholarship offers of an average of US\$28,000 per student. However, our 2022 graduates have outstripped this with a fantastic average of US\$43,530 and a total of US\$565,900. This is a tremendous amount and includes scholarship offers for universities mainly in the USA, but also in the UK and Spain. Well done to our graduates!



## Attendance

Please note that this year we will return to reporting on attendance. Good attendance at school is imperative for success. Our attendance policy can be found [here](#). Students who are forced online by COVID will be counted as present if they attend online lessons.



## Parents and Staff Meet & Greet

On Tuesday this week we welcomed parents who were unable to attend the open afternoon in August. It was a great opportunity for parents to meet new class and subject teachers.



PUMAS



TIGERS



PANTHERS



LEOPARDS



# Parent Community Association - PCA Committee Election

A note from our PCA Election Committee - In June, the school voted in a Constitution to create a school Parent Community Association (PCA) for all parents and staff. In close collaboration with the school, the PCA is to plan events and initiatives for students, parents and staff that foster cultural diversity, academic excellence, respect and friendship, and to raise charitable funds in support of these events. The PCA is to be organised through a Committee that we aim to have elected before the end of this month. There are five elected positions for parents (Chairperson, Primary and Secondary Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer) and one for a staff representative, who will be joined by two school representatives.

**Key Dates:** All parents and staff have been sent an email from the Election Committee ([pcaelections@bist.ge](mailto:pcaelections@bist.ge)) to confirm that they are registered to vote in the election. Any changes can be sent to the Election Committee by **9th September**.

**Nominations** to stand as candidates will need to be submitted by **13th September**. To nominate, send an email to the Election Committee with your name, the position(s) to stand for, and optionally: a short biography and statement of up to 300 words each, and a passport photo. Candidate information will be circulated to all parents and staff after **13th September**.

**Voting** via an online secure system is due to start on **19th September** and will close on **23rd September** with the results scheduled to be announced on **26th September**. We encourage and urge all parents and staff to participate in the elections to support our school community.



## Classlist

Classlist is a secure, GDPR compliant replacement for the BIST Community Facebook page and Class Parent Reps whatsapp groups. You will shortly be receiving an invitation to join Classlist. It works in a similar way to Facebook

and has a newsfeed, events listing, messaging system and marketplace.

**There are different levels of engagement from passive reader to receive via email, follow this [link](#) or see the attached flyer and then you can fully engage in our online community.**

## International Evening

A heads up for parents about our International Evening on 12th October. Pre-COVID, this was a fantastic event where parents worked in nationality or regional based groups to run information and food stalls as well as assisting in the sourcing of musicians and/or dancers from different countries. We do encourage parents to start talking to each other about their country or region's contribution to International Evening.



## Parent Class Representatives

Our Parent Reps are volunteers who support students, school and parents as an additional level of communication. There are Parent Reps for most year groups - though we do need volunteers to fulfil the position in F1/2 (Ms. Solmaz's class) and Year 13. **A full list of Parent Reps and their email addresses can be found [here](#).** Please do contact your Parent Rep via email as soon as possible to introduce yourself. They will also be found on the Classlist system.

## Uniform Sale

New uniforms are on sale from the BIST Administration office between 8.30-9.30am and 2.30pm-5.00pm. The cost is GEL45 per t-shirt. If you are not able to come during these times, you can pay by bank transfer to the usual school account (please note on the transfer that this is for BIST Uniform) and then ask your child/ren to come to the office to collect their sizes.



Proud to deliver



The Patron's  
ACCREDITATION

### ACCREDITED



**Mr. Stephen Priest**  
Principal

**Mr. Alex Timmis**  
EYKS1 Coordinator

**Ms. Sadie Rodea**  
KS4 Coordinator

**Ms. Tumika Sthapit**  
Head of Administration

**7 September 2022**

**Ms. Alexandra Backhouse**  
Vice Principal & Head of Primary

**Mr. Simon Rooney**  
KS2 Coordinator

**Mr. Les Pemberton**  
Head of Sixth Form

**Ms. Sophie Kasrashvili**  
PA to the Principal

**Mr. Adam Whybro**  
Head of Secondary

**Mr. James Miller**  
KS3 Coordinator

**Ms. Tamuna Skhiereli**  
Office & Resource Manager

NEWSLETTER BY



**British International  
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