



"It is better to fail aiming high than to succeed aiming low."
Bill Nicholson

UPCOMING EVENTS

School Calendar

✦ September

- 18th - Secondary PSHE Drop Down Day
- 19th - Year 6R National Museum visit
- 20th - Class Reps Meeting
- 21st - Year 6V National Museum visit
- 22nd - CAT Test parental reports published
- 27th - Secondary Awards Evening
- 29th - Initial Progress 'Settling-in' email to parents
- 2nd - Initial Progress 'face-to-face' meetings
- 3rd - Initial Progress 'face-to-face' meetings
- 3rd - UK Maths Trust Senior Maths Challenge
- 4th - Parents Coffee Morning
- 9th - International Week
- 12th - International Gala Evening
- 13th - Tbilisoba Day (Primary)
- 13th - International Student Research Symposium @BIST
- 13th - Last Day of Term 1.1
- 14th-22nd - School closed for Half Term Break
- 23rd - First Day of Term 1.2 - School re-opens



Dear Parents

On Monday, our new Head Students were announced in the Secondary Assembly. After speeches last week followed by voting by students in Years 6 to 13 and staff, Eleonora and Sandro in Year 13 were elected as Head Students and Jayden in Year 12 and Lucas in Year 13 elected as Deputy Head Students. Our Head Students play an important role as ambassadors for the school and student body and are involved in our student council. We have four fantastic students elected and we look forward to working with them. We would also like to thank all the other students who put themselves forward as candidates.



Kindly take note that the last page of our Newsletter features an exclusive interview with our accomplished students, Alex, Lucas, and Lazare, highlighting their outstanding achievements at the WSC event in London.

Parents Coffee Morning

This morning we held our first coffee morning. Presentations were given about extra-curricular activities. Ms. Maia, our Clubs Coordinator, gave a [presentation](#) on the clubs programme at BIST and the UCMAS, SmartUp and Bildits team also shared information about the clubs they offer.

Class Parent Reps Meeting

Next Wednesday, we have our first Class Parent Reps meeting in the cafeteria. We are still missing Reps for the following classes: Year 7Z, Year 8Z, Year 9A, Year 9Z, Year 10A, Year 10Z, Year 12A. If you would like to volunteer, please email [Ms. Tumika](#).

CAT Tests

Last week, the vast majority of CAT tests, barring a small number of absent students, were completed in Years 4, 7, 10 and 12. We will, therefore, hopefully be able to share the downloaded parental reports before the originally posted date of the 22nd. These will come through the Parent Portal. If parents would like to know more about what the CAT tests mean, further explanations can be provided. Please contact mentors if this is the case.

PSHE Drop Down Day

For the benefit of parents new to Secondary, our PSHE Drop Down Day is when our secondary students have an alternative timetable (i.e. not the normal timetabled lessons) to focus on Personal Health and Social Education (PSHE). This is a mandatory part of the English National Curriculum and covers a wide range of topics within this field - each year group focussing on one issue for the whole day.

Classlist

83% of BIST students now have at least one parent who is a member of Classlist. In June of last academic year, this was 85% of students, therefore we hope soon to surpass this figure. If you have not yet joined, please do so using this [link](#) to join. You can set the frequency of notifications you receive from Classlist through clicking on View Profile then App Notifications and selecting the notifications you want to receive. Please also note that although some staff are members of Classlist by virtue of them also being parents, any messages to these staff should be through normal channels and not through Classlist - please allow our staff who are also parents to just be parents on Classlist.

Lions Academy Sports Clubs

Our Lions Academy roars back into action next week with weekday and weekend academies in football (Y5-10), basketball (Y6-10) and volleyball (Y7-13). Places are limited and in high demand. To register your child(ren), please follow this [link](#).

Traffic

Please remember that Georgian schools in our neighbourhood and the new Turkish School are due to open their doors on Friday 15th. Please factor this in your commute.

Primary 'Settling In' Certificates

Last Friday, our Primary teachers awarded students for how well they have settled in or back in to school after the holidays.

Primary Settling In Award Winners

Foundation 1	Emily, Rina	Year 3W	Jei, Luca
Foundation 2P	Elias, Leia	Year 4B	Daniel, Emil
Foundation 2S	Anna, Jinxu	Year 4D	Philippa, Serafina
Year 1T	Elle, Joel	Year 5A	Janna, Olga
Year 1W	Demir, Maxime	Year 5H	Jacob, Nika
Year 2H	Anna, Leyi	Year 6R	Anastasia, Zavia
Year 2K	Kopala, Minori	Year 6V	Lars, Miron
Year 3B	Daniel, Mateo	<i>Congratulations to all our winners!</i>	

HOUSE POINTS

 LEOPARDS 366 POINTS	 PANTHERS 350 POINTS	 TIGERS 350 POINTS	 PUMAS 320 POINTS
---	---	---	--



Championing Academic Excellence: A Journey to Yale University

Today, we are privileged to share the remarkable journey of three outstanding students: Alex Margvelashvili, Lucas Gorgiladze, and Lazare Khantadze. These students recently achieved extraordinary success at the regional round of the World Scholar's Cup at BIST and have since set their sights on global recognition.

With diligence and unwavering dedication, guided by Mr. Whybro, the leader of their Year 9 debate club, Alex, Lucas, and Lazare secured a remarkable Second Place in Debates among all Junior teams at the Global Round in London. Their accolades also include a sixth-place ranking for writing and more than 25 medals.

Their journey continues as they prepare to represent Georgia and BIST at the Tournament of Champions at Yale University in November. In this interview, they share their insights, aspirations, and gratitude for the support of their school and dedicated teachers.



1. Can you tell us more about your experience at the regional round of the World Scholar's Cup at BIST? What was the most challenging part, and how did you prepare for it?

Our experience in the world scholars cup regional round was quite enjoyable. Our team had lots of fun and it was very interesting, however academically challenging. We probably found the scholars' challenge the most difficult. The questions were very broad and hard. To prepare, we would do group calls and revise the topics and improve our skills.

2. Winning Second Place in Debates among all Junior teams is a remarkable achievement. Can you share some insights into the strategies and teamwork that helped you achieve this result? How did the knowledge you have received at BIST help you?

Thank you for your remark, we had multiple strategies for each part of the competition, for example using more rebuttals in debates, to make them stronger. The knowledge developed at BIST helped us a lot in this, because 2 of 4 competitions there were general knowledge, and that is what school provides us.

3. Winning over 25 medals in total is quite an accomplishment. Can you provide some context on the different categories or events in which you earned these medals?

Thanks, all of our trophies were earned in the writing and debating, however we did receive medals in every category. In the scholars challenge we all received a silver medal. And in the scholars bowl we got around 100th place as a team. We all earned multiple medals for writing and debating and we received two trophies in debating and 1 trophy in writing.

4. Were you the only participants from Georgia? If not, who was participating with you?

No, we were not the only participants from Georgia. There was a group from BGA and there was also a person from a school in Batumi. Our competitors were people from all over the world.

5. Looking ahead to the Tournament of Champions at Yale University in November, what are your expectations, and how do you plan to prepare for this prestigious event? Do you have the information about who you're competing against?

Until November, we are planning to do a lot of team sessions, practising debates, essay writing and quizzes as a team. We are competing against 332 other teams, from all around the world as there are 20,000 people in total, but only 1000 remain for the Tournament of Champions.

6. In your letter, you expressed gratitude to your school and its dedicated teachers for the opportunity to participate in this competition. Could you share some specific ways in which your school and teachers supported your journey?

First of all, a special thanks to the debate club leader for organising the debate club which we went to to improve our skills and a thanks to our English teacher for teaching us English and essay skills. Also, thanks to all the other teachers' help, as all the subjects appear in the WSC. Additionally thanks to the school management for organising and letting us participate in this joyful although academic event. Besides, the school itself has helped a lot by implementing teamwork all throughout the years, as it is very important.

7. Beyond the competition itself, what have you personally gained from your participation in the World Scholar's Cup? How has it influenced your academic and personal growth?

Beyond the competition, our participation in the World Scholar's Cup has greatly advanced our academics and our growth as individuals. During our stay with the other scholars outside of competitions, we made many great friends and met lots of new people. It helped to improve our social skills and we enjoyed talking to people from all over the globe. We also learnt many new things from the hosts of the events, the teachers representing their schools, and the other scholars. Even though our time participating was short, we had an extremely wonderful time which expanded our skills and introduced me to new ways of thinking and new hobbies.

8. Lastly, what advice would you give to other students aspiring to excel in academic competitions like the World Scholar's Cup?

Our advice to students that wish to do well in the World Scholar's Cup, and other events like it, is to get the ideas and tricks from other people who experienced the event, along with studying yourself. It is important to find people who are knowledgeable or have experienced the event beforehand, getting all the information you can from them as it provides a better image of what to expect and what to study for. However you should still try your best to study using the resources that are available to you, whether that be online from third parties, from books and past works, or from the event itself. All of these things are necessary if you wish to excel in events such as the World Scholar's Cup.

Mr. Stephen Priest
Principal

Mr. Alex Timmis
EYKS1 Coordinator

Ms. Zoe Abbott
KS4 Coordinator

Ms. Sophie Kasrashvili
PA to the Principal

13th September 2023

Ms. Alexandra Backhouse
Vice Principal & Head of Primary

Mr. Simon Rooney
KS2 Coordinator

Mr. Les Pemberton
Head of Sixth Form

Ms. Tamuna Skhiereli
Office & Resource Manager

Mr. Adam Whybro
Head of Secondary

Ms. Christelle van Heerden
KS3 Coordinator

Ms. Tumika Sthapit
Head of Administration

Ms. Tata Petashvili
Secondary Office Manager

NEWSLETTER BY
British International
School of Tbilisi