



## UPCOMING EVENTS

[School Calendar](#)

### ✦ September

- 4th - CAT Testing Week (Years 4, 7, 10, 12)
- 6th - Parents Welcome Tea
- 13th - Parents Coffee Morning
- 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

It is amazing to be back in a school with children! For the last few weeks, we have been preparing for the new school year, but there has been something missing - our students! Today and yesterday, most of our students were back from holiday and the school year has begun. It was great to hear from the students about some of their holiday adventures and I look forward to hearing more about these throughout the rest of this week.



## Meet the Teacher - Welcome Tea

On Wednesday, 6th September from 3.30pm to 5.30pm we welcome parents for another chance to meet teachers and mentors. This will be a repeat of Monday's Open Afternoon for parents who were not able to attend last Monday. All parents and students are welcome.

## CAT Testing Week

Next week is CAT testing week. CAT tests are sat by all students in Years 4, 7, 10 and 12 and by all students new to BIST who have not already sat a CAT. The tests take approximately 90 minutes and are completed online in a classroom setting. A parental report of what the CAT says will be forwarded to parents a few weeks after the tests. Please remember these tests are purely to give teaching staff information on a student's strengths and areas for development.

## Events Coming Up!

The new school year is packed full of exciting student and parent events. The most up-to-date PDF of our [Events list](#) is linked, but please remember that all these events can also be found on the [calendar page](#) of the school website. Coming up soon is the Secondary Awards Evening and, at the end of this half term, the International Gala Evening - always a fantastic event at BIST and a great opportunity for the different countries represented at BIST to demonstrate their cultures and cuisines.

## Extra-curricular Clubs and Activities

Our master clubs planner for this term (until 3rd November) is available [here](#). Once we have registration numbers for Lions academies and clubs such as UCMAS, we will update the list and share again.

## Communication Routes Reminder

As I said in the letter sent to parents last week, communication between school and home is crucial to the successful development of students and access to, and engagement in, school life by students and parents. Our secure 'parents-only' Classlist platform is an important channel of communication between school and parents and amongst parents. If you are not already a Classlist user, a link will be forwarded shortly when we start the 2023-24 system. I would also like to direct parents to our [website](#) and in particular our [policy page](#) which contains links to the many important school policies of relevance to parents. Lots of information can also be found in our [Student Parent Handbook](#).

Primary classteachers and Secondary Mentors are the first contact point for parental queries. In Secondary, as different teachers teach students different subjects, these subject teachers can be contacted directly through this [email list](#). It is also appropriate for parents to contact [Ms. Alex Backhouse](#), the Vice Principal and Head of Primary; [Mr. Adam Whybro](#), our Head of Secondary; our Key Stage Coordinators (EYKS1 - [Mr. Alex Timmis](#), KS2 - [Mr. Simon Rooney](#), KS3 - [Ms. Christelle van Heerden](#), KS4 - [Ms. Zoe Abbott](#), Sixth Form - [Mr. Les Pemberton](#)) or myself if you feel the issue needs to be addressed at this level. For fee-related or administrative issues, please continue contacting [Ms. Tumika Sthapit](#). A full staff list is also available [here](#).



**Mr. Stephen Priest**  
Principal

**Mr. Alex Timmis**  
EYKS1 Coordinator

**Ms. Zoe Abbott**  
KS4 Coordinator

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

**30th August 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