



UPCOMING EVENTS

BIST CALENDAR

★ January

- 19th - School closed for Epiphany
- 22nd - Y11-13 Mock Exam reports released
- 22nd & 23rd - Y11-13 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 24th - Black Sea Schools Online Maths (Y6)
- 24th - Class Parent Reps meeting
- 25th - PCA Hot Chocolate Sale
- 29th - Start of KS1/2 Language Rotation 3
- 30th - BIST U12s Handball Tournament
- 31st - UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

■ February

- 3rd & 4th - Lions Invitational Basketball Tournament
- 5th - Y6R Secondary Transition Day
- 6th - Y6V Secondary Transition Day
- 7th - IGCSE/Year 10-11 Programme Information Evening
- 9th - Lunar New Year events
- 14th - Secondary PSHE Drop Down Day
- 14th - Valentine's Day events
- 16th - Valentine's Secondary Disco
- 16th & 17th - U18 Girls Volleyball Tournament
- 19th-23rd - BIST/BGA CERN Trip
- 21st - Mother Language Day events
- 21st-26th - Antalya Basketball Tournament Trip
- 23rd - Mid-Year Progress Reports published (F1-Y10)
- 26th & 27th - Parent Teacher Conferences (F1-Y10)
- 26th-1st - Book Week
- 28th - Parents Coffee Morning



Dear Parents

Happy Old New Year and we hope that those celebrating this event had a pleasant time with family and friends at the weekend. Last week we had a very positive start to the new term and the new calendar year with lots to look forward to. We do once again remind parents to keep an eye on our live online calendar where events for the forthcoming term and remainder of the school year can be found. To access the online calendar, please follow this [link](#). The dates for the 2024-25 academic year were also sent out last week, but here is a [link](#) to the document.

UCMAS Awards

On Thursday of last week, we hosted a special presentation ceremony led by the UCMAS team for the students at BIST and BGA who passed their UCMAS International Grading Examinations. Congratulations to all our students who follow the UCMAS mathematics enrichment programme for their endeavours.



Black Sea Online Maths

On Wednesday of next week, Mr. Wells and his student team of Key Stage 2 Mathematicians will participate in the annual Black Sea Online Maths competition. This is an event hosted and organised by Mr. Wells and schools across our network participate.

COBIS Accreditation Report

Last week, we shared, via email and Classlist, our COBIS Accreditation report. For those of you who have not seen our report, a copy can be found [here](#). We are all very proud of the report as it highlights many of the great things happening at BIST. We are particularly pleased with the special commendations we received in many important areas - our curriculum design and structure; the attitude of students to learning; how leadership promotes wellbeing; the focus on high expectations and the enrichment of student experience; the school's vision; the openness and efficiency of communications; our extracurricular and enrichment opportunities; and the opportunities offered to students to engage with the outside world. Even more pleasing was the award of Beacon Status for our promotion of wellbeing and our school's vision. Beacon Status means that we are recommended to other COBIS schools as a source of advice on these issues. BIST has been a member of COBIS since 2015 and was first accredited under the Patron's Accreditation scheme in 2019, the 17th of the 270 COBIS member schools to go through the process. The Patron's Accreditation has since been re-named as COBIS Accredited Member status. Membership of COBIS requires schools to successfully complete what is known as Compliance (and we congratulate our sister school BGA on becoming a COBIS member through this route). Schools are not compelled or required to complete COBIS Accreditation to be members, but those schools who want to test themselves and be judged against the COBIS accreditation standards can do so. We would like to thank all in our community for their contributions to this process and to making our school such a great institution.



Parents Coffee Morning

A big thank you to Mrs. Rak, one of our BIST parents, for her interesting and useful presentation of life balance this morning. If any other parents would like to present at Parent Coffee mornings, please do let us know.

School Closed Friday

Don't forget that school is closed this Friday for the Epiphany public holiday.

Year 11-13 Parent-Teacher Conferences

With mocks examinations completed this, next week on Monday and Tuesday we have parent-teacher meetings for our Year 11 to 13 students. This will be an opportunity for parents to discuss the mocks and progress towards the real

PCA Hot Chocolate Sale

Our PCA volunteers will be selling hot chocolate on Thursday 25th at break time. The cost will be 4 GEL per cup and all profits will go to PCA charities.

Mother Language Day Survey

The 21st February is Mother Language Day and we always celebrate this global event at BIST. This year we are inviting parents to join our celebrations. If you would like to come to school and run a short lesson on your language (games, reading, stories, songs, etc...), please complete this [survey](#).

Primary School Positivity Award Certificates

Last Friday, our Primary teachers awarded students for demonstrating great levels of positivity in recent weeks.

Primary School Positivity Award Winners

Foundation 1	Emily, Isak	Year 3W	Ivan, Jihyo
Foundation 2P	Amy, Elias	Year 4B	Ava, Luka
Foundation 2S	Ariana, Erhan	Year 4D	Kiasha, Reema
Year 1T	Alejandra, Avishag	Year 5A	Janna, Tatiana
Year 1W	Demir, Renee	Year 5H	Nita, Sophia
Year 2H	Amelia, David	Year 6R	Anastasia, Matthew
Year 2K	Dario, Teona	Year 6V	Dobrynia, Miron
Year 3B	Dojin, Nana	<i>Congratulations to all our winners!</i>	



1826 POINTS



1789 POINTS



1696 POINTS



1559 POINTS

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

Ms. Christelle van Heerden
KS3 Coordinator

Ms. Zoe Abbott
KS4 Coordinator

Mr. Les Pemberton
Head of Sixth Form

Ms. Tumika Sthapit
Head of Administration

Ms. Sophie Kasrashvili
PA to the Principal

Ms. Tamuna Skhiereli
Office & Resource Manager

Ms. Tata Petashvili
Secondary Office Manager

17th January, 2024