

*"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."*

LAO TZU

## UPCOMING EVENTS

BIST CALENDAR

### ● February

21st – F1 - Year 10 Mid-Year Progress Reports Published to Parents

24th – F1 - Year 10 Parent Teacher Conferences (Online)

25th – F1 - Year 10 Parent Teacher Conferences (In School)

28th – School Closed for Mini Break

### ◆ March

3rd - School Closed for Mini Break

4th - 7th - Book Week

5th - Class Rep Meeting

7th - International Women's Day Event

12th - PCA Committee Meeting

## A LEVEL OPTIONS EVENT

On Wednesday, our Sixth Form students, along with the Key Stage 5 team, met with our current Year 11 students to discuss the benefits of joining our Sixth Form and to provide guidance on their A Level subject choices. The session aimed to give Year 11 students valuable insights into Sixth Form life, the academic expectations of A Levels, and the support available to help them succeed. Our Sixth Form students shared their own experiences, offering first-hand perspectives on subject selection, workload management, and the transition from GCSEs to post-16 study. A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).

## SCHOOL MENU

Please find the menu for next week below:

[Foundation](#)

[Y1-Y13](#)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is clear the last two weeks have been difficult for our school community. The very sad news I shared about our fellow BGA student at the start of this week followed a week of uncertainty. I wrote a letter last Friday (14th) to all parents so I will not repeat the same information here in a public document. I said in that communication education and student wellbeing will and must continue to be our priorities, and the last two weeks show that is clearly the case.

Our secondary students enjoyed their third PSHE drop down day where they focused on a range of themes including relationship, health and careers. Seeing our older students supporting our Year 11 students with their A level choices reminded me about the supportive and caring community we have here at BIST.

This week we have had local science trips, awards ceremonies and sports fixtures in the snow! I enjoyed meeting parents for the online safety presentation on Wednesday. Please do take time to look at the presentation (section below) and explore the links. Educating ourselves about the very real risks associated with using technology helps broaden the umbrella of safety we can provide as a community.

## ILLNESS

We are experiencing higher levels of illness at the moment across the school. We are following regulations with handwashing and cleaning. We are also opening doors and windows where possible for short spells to allow fresh air. If your child has a stomach illness, please do not send them back to school until at least 24 hours after they have last been sick.

## DOG ORGANISATION COMMUNITY PROJECT

Years 1 and 2 have been working hard to support their Community Partnership Link, the Dog Organisation Georgia. With some of the money they've raised throughout the year, 60 kg of dog food was purchased. Well done, and thank you to the students and teachers of Years 1 and 2. The dogs are looking for families to walk them. Please get in touch with [@dog.org.ge](https://www.dog.org.ge) to organise a day/time and make a dog very happy! Please share photographs with your class teacher if you go for a walk!



## UCMAS IGE AWARDS CEREMONY

On Tuesday we hosted the Annual UCMAS IGE event where we celebrated and awarded out BIST and BGA pupils who have made progress with the UCMAS program. We also awarded the students who excelled in the World Championship in December. We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with UCMAS and to Georgia hosting the world Championship later this year!



## IGE AWARDS CEREMONY



## SPORTS RESULTS

February has been an action-packed month for our teams! Our U18 LIONS basketball team fought hard against QSI on February 7th but narrowly lost 59-57, while our U18 football team faced a tough 1-0 defeat against BGA on February 10th. However, our Year 7-8 football team secured a thrilling 3-2 victory against Buckswood on February 14th.

The QSI Basketball Tournament saw strong performances from our U18 teams. The Girls U18 remain undefeated, winning both group games, while the Boys U18 won 2 out of 3 games and advanced to the Semi-Finals, awaiting their next challenge. The finals will take place on February 22nd at QSI School.

### Tournament Highlights

#### Girls U18:

LIONS 71-24 QSI Armenia  
Caspian 27-38 LIONS

#### Boys U18:

LIONS 74-71 IB Mthiebi  
LIONS 44-29 Caspian

Looking ahead, our U18 Mini Football League will close out the month with more exciting action. Best of luck to all our teams!



## TBILISI JUNIOR LEAGUE

BIST has kicked off its participation in the Tbilisi Junior League, with students from Year 2 to Year 7 competing weekly against club teams. BIST 2013 U12 faced a tough opener and battled harsh weather in their second game, showing resilience despite a 5-1 loss. BIST 2015 U10 secured an exciting 4-3 comeback win, highlighted by Mikhail Paderov's stunning volley. BIST 2016 U9 dominated their first match, leading 4-0 at halftime and finishing 5-2. Meanwhile, BIST 2017 U8 played their first-ever game, gaining valuable experience against a well-established opponent. Fixture details and standings are available at [juniorleague.ge](https://www.juniorleague.ge)



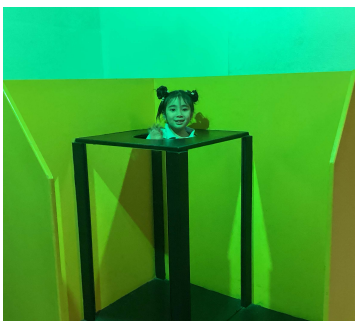
## ONLINE SAFETY

On Wednesday we had our Parent Coffee Morning where the focus was on Online Safety. We are wanting to work with the whole school community to help keep our children, from the very small to young adults, educated and supported in navigating the ever evolving digital world. Please find here [the presentation](#) where there are also links to excellent websites and other sources of information (all listed at the end)

- [Internet Matters](#) has practical tips and 'advice hubs'
- The [NSPCC's online safety guides](#)
- Common Sense Media - [www.commonsense.org](http://www.commonsense.org) for checking ratings and content
- UK Government Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre [CEOP](#)
- [Factsheets](#) on commonly used apps

## TRIP TO THE EXPERIMENTARIUM

On Wednesday, as part of their IPC unit, Year 1 students visited the Experimentarium in the city centre. Excitement filled the air as they explored a variety of fascinating exhibits, learning about electricity, magnets, pulley systems, and states of matter. The highlight of the trip was a live liquid nitrogen investigation, showcasing dramatic changes in matter.




## HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS


It has been a busy couple of weeks in the House Competition, with the Pumas emerging victorious from a Capture the Flag tournament in the Secondary school, while the Y1-2 Tigers won their Stuck in the Mud contest. Congratulations to Sara N (7A), Nino D (7Z), Vera S (8Z), Finn R (10M) and Lazare K (11Z) for reaching 50 House Points. 11A and 11M made it to the 250 HP milestone on the exact same day, while Year 7A have now notched up an incredible 500 HP. Finally, well done to the Secondary Leopards (1000 HP), Primary Leopards (2500 HP) and Primary Tigers (2500 HP). An extraordinary effort all round!



## HOUSE POINTS

  
**PANTHERS**  
5292 POINTS

  
**PUMAS**  
5110 POINTS

  
**LEOPARDS**  
4119 POINTS

  
**TIGERS**  
4064 POINTS

## PRIMARY AWARDS

### Pupil Progress Certificates 21.02.25

<b>Foundation 1</b>	Lea, David	<b>Year 3W</b>	Anna, Boris
<b>Foundation 2</b>	Rina, Emily	<b>Year 4B</b>	Sofya, Savva
<b>Year 1S</b>	Vasilina, Sofia	<b>Year 4D</b>	Misha, Ethan
<b>Year 1T</b>	Jinxu, Amara	<b>Year 5A</b>	Constance, Ondrej
<b>Year 2H</b>	Mark, Lloyd	<b>Year 5H</b>	Serafina, Erdem
<b>Year 2P</b>	Athena, Daniel	<b>Year 6K</b>	Anna K, Janna
<b>Year 3M</b>	Amelia, Nikoloz	<b>Year 6P</b>	Anna M, Joonhyuk

**Congratulations to all our winners!**

**Mr. Robert Snowden**  
Principal

**Mr. Adam Whybro**  
Head of Secondary School

**Ms. Katie Karmazyn**  
KS2 Coordinator

**Ms. Zoe Abbott**  
KS4 Coordinator

**Sophie Kasrashvili**  
Head of Administration  
& PA to Principal

21<sup>st</sup> February, 2025

**Mr. Simon Rooney**  
Head of Primary School

**Mr. Alex Timmis**  
EYKS1 Coordinator

**Ms. Christelle Van Heerden**  
KS3 Coordinator

**Mr. James Parker**  
Head of Sixth Form

**Ms. Ana Jirkvelishvili**  
Attendance Officer

NEWSLETTER BY:  
 **British International  
School of Tbilisi**