



BIS e-Bulletin

Friday 25th January 2019

Term 2

Monday January 7th—Friday April 12th 2019
Half Term Friday 15th February—Tuesday 25th February

Thank you

I would like to start this news letter with a personal thank you. Over the last few weeks I have met with many parents and I have been touched by their good wishes as I start my new role at BIS. It is much appreciated and reinforces how lucky we are as a school to have such a supportive parental body.

Year 11 Revision Sessions

The revision sessions for Year 11 pupils begin from Monday 28th January and will continue throughout this term. An email has been sent to all parents asking them to indicate which sessions they wish their son or daughter to attend. If you have yet to do this, please submit the online form no later than Monday 28th. Should you not have received the link please contact the registrar's office.

Concerts in the Park

Whether it be through, drama, oration, music or sport the opportunity to showcase talents and to build self confidence is fundamental to the holistic development of each student.

We therefore greatly appreciate the Creative Arts departments initiative of "concerts in the park". From next month we will see a series of short, informal musical performances taking place around the school grounds. The first event will be at lunchtime on the 14th February. Any student or students wishing to take part in subsequent performances should see Mr Babs to book a slot.

Able Gifted and Talented Programme & lecture series

At BIS we are fortunate in having pupils with a wide range of talents and abilities and each is encouraged to make the very best of their potential throughout their time with us. In addition, we also have students who are exceptional in one or more subject areas. These students are often referred to as a school's AG&T group. Identifying such a group is fraught with difficulties as pupils' talents emerge at different ages and can be demonstrated in a variety of ways. While currently we are broadening the range of activities which will stretch and challenge these academically gifted young people these events are open to all and any student who wishes to attend is most welcome.

The first of these events is a lecture series. These lectures will be held each month from 2.45 in New Horizons. Each lecture will last approximately 35 minutes with refreshments afterwards during which students are encouraged to discuss their thoughts on the topics covered.

The first lecture will be on February 1st and is entitled "Are democracies democratic?"

Co-Curricular Activities

On Tuesday of this week 6 co-curricular activities week were scheduled. Each activity was staffed and all had a number of students signed up for them. However, 4 activities did not happen as no students attended. This is disappointing in terms of lost opportunities but also because students are not meeting the commitments that they had previously made and are not acting in a well mannered way by informing staff in advance of their absence. These are traits which we do not wish to engender in our students and will ill serve them in their adult lives. As a school staff we are impressing on students the importance of this message however I ask that all parents support the school in ensuring that their children attend the activities they have signed up to each week. For reasons of safety we must keep accurate records of which students are on campus. Therefore, a student should only withdraw from an activity if they have written permission from home and they have handed this to their form tutor no later than the morning of the activity.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Joshua Onyeator currently in our Year 11. Joshua has not only secured at place at the highly regarded West Buckland School he has become the first ever recipient of the Victor Ubogu Scholarship. A fantastic achievement and we wish him every success during his time there.

Congratulations also to Adanna Okoli and Feechi Odinkalu both of whom have been accepted into Sevenoaks School. Often recognised as the best IB school in the UK places at Sevenoaks schools are always difficult to gain.

Please do contact pricipalspa@bisnigeria.org should you have any news that you would like to appear in this section of the news letter.

TIM: Tracking, Intervention and Monitoring

With the mock examinations for Years 10-13 now concluded it is an opportune time to outline how we monitor pupil progress.

At BIS we are in the process of introducing a formal TIM system. While this may sound rather grand at its heart is good common sense. Tracking is the measurement of what a student is achieving in examinations and comparing this to the standard that testing suggests that they are capable of. Interventions are the actions that are taken with students who are falling short of our expectations and monitoring is the reflection, via further testing, of whether our interventions are working.

Tracking: In Years 7, and 10 and 12 our students take a test provided by Durham University. This test is taken online and provides us with data that suggests the most likely levels of achievement in Years 9, 11 and 13. For the older pupils this "likely level of achievement" equates to the grades that they are capable of gaining at IGCSE and A Level. This likely level of achievement is often known as their **target grade**. This target grade can be adjusted by the teacher based on their personal knowledge of the student. These target grades should be challenging but achievable for each pupil.

Intervention: January's mock examination results will be published at Half Term and will be contrasted with a student's target grades. These comparisons are laid out on RAG sheets, where students missing their targets are shaded **red**, on target **amber** and above target **green**. Because of the colours used the system can also be referred to as traffic lighting.

Monitoring: Approximately every six weeks students are assessed either in class room tests or formal examinations and from this the effectiveness of interventions can be gauged.

In reports to parents these comparisons are indicated as progress markers; -1 = has missed target 0=has met target and +1 shows that a student is currently exceeding their target. Students who have missed their target grades must work closely with their teachers and tutors to establish a clear way of narrowing the gap between their present grade and that which they are capable of. These interventions are personalised, specific and time limited. Each student should be able to articulate what is expected of them. Intervention strategies can be discussed directly with staff in parents' teacher conferences.

Meeting with the Acting Principal

I am available to meet with any parent **each day of the week**. An appointment system is run to avoid parents needlessly waiting if my diary is full as well as to ensure that sufficient time is set aside to discuss issues fully and without interruption. Please contact the Principal's PA on **0908 701 4833** to book an appointment

I do appreciate that it may be more convenient, particularly for shorter meetings, to meet having dropped off your child in the morning. With this in mind 8.15-9.15 each day has been set aside for this very purpose. **No appointment is necessary.**

The relationship between school and parent is crucial to both the happiness and academic development of each child in our care. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any issue that you would wish to discuss.

Entrance test day Saturday February 9th

On February 9th we will hold the second of our 3 entrance test days for students wishing to join our Year 7 September 2019.

If you have family or friends who are considering us for their children's secondary education please let them know. Further information is available from the Registrar's office registrar@bisnigeria.org