



BIS e-Bulletin

Monday 15th September 2019

Term I

Tuesday September 9th — Thursday December 12th 2019
Half Term 2.35pm Thursday 24th October - 8am Monday 4th November

Welcome to the new Academic Year

A warm welcome back to all pupils and parents of BIS. As always, the beginning of the year is a busy time for the School. Pupils returned on Tuesday and we were delighted to welcome 80 Year 7s to BIS. Numbers in Sixth Form have also risen and we also extend a warm welcome to students who have joined us in other year groups. There a palpable feeling of energy and positivity radiating from the students which has been commented on by several parents.

New staff joining us this year

We also welcome new staff to BIS. Staff have joined us in the English, Mathematics and French departments and we wish them a long and successful career at BIS. Mr Derek Jones has joined the school as Vice Principal. He brings wealth of experience having filled senior education positions in Africa as well as further field and will now continue to drive forward the academic life of the school. Mr Jones' has included his own welcome to the new year below.

A message from Mr Jones, Vice-Principal at BIS.

Can I begin by saying how pleased I am to be here at BIS, the welcome I have received from the entire school community has been outstanding. BIS is the seventh international school I have now worked in, my previous experience has included leadership roles in schools in Argentina; Chile; Peru; Kenya; Qatar and most recently Egypt. I sincerely hope that this wealth of experience will help me to make a positive and worthwhile contribution to BIS, I am confident it will. Although it is still early days for me in Nigeria my first impressions have been very positive, I look forward to the rest of the school year with optimism, I am sure it will prove to be a very rewarding experience.

Examination results

August saw the release of IGCSE and A Level results. Our IGCSE students achieved an excellent 93% pass rate. This is an even better performance than that achieved in the year prior. Our first sizeable cohort of Sixth Form students also graduated this year and by coincidence also produced a 93% pass rate! Each student has gained a place of their choice in leading universities in the UK or Canada. Well done to all students. While overall pass rates grab headlines parents, teachers and pupils are very aware of the individual efforts and successes that lie behind such statistics.

Development of the School

The summer break has been a busy period of building at BIS. The front gate security gates have been redeveloped and will improve the flow of traffic in and out of school. In addition, our Primary School building has begun. The access road is now in place, foundations were laid during the holiday and the final shape of the building is beginning to emerge. This is an exciting next development in the School's history. The primary section will ensure that the pupils gain the very best education before progressing to our secondary school. While the teaching staff, classrooms and play areas will be separate the primary pupils will gain the advantage of having access to the specialist resources associated with a secondary school.

Uniform

At the start of a new year a few students have needed reminder about the standards of uniform expected of them. Please check your child's homework diary for any concerns that their form tutor may have raised.

Co- Curricular activities

Co- curricular activities will begin on Monday 23rd September. The co-curricular fair for students to find out more about these activities will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The options form has been sent to all parents by email and is completed online. If you are yet to receive it please contact the Registrar's office.

Website

The new BIS website went live on our first day back this Term. For the convenience of current parents, I would draw your attention to some key developments:

- A document download area where parents can view and reprint any forms or letters that have been sent out.
- A live calendar showing term dates and events.
- Our 365 portal for student email account can be accessed via the website.

The site will continue to develop over the coming months.

Pupil Medical Questionnaires

At the start of the new year can I remind all parents of the importance of the school holding accurate and current medical information for each pupil. If your child has recently joined school, I ask that the medical questionnaire form is submitted as soon as possible. For pupils whose parents have previously submitted medical forms please support our nursing team by updating them on any relevant changes.

Meeting with the 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.
