



TAIPEI EUROPEAN SCHOOL

台北歐洲學校

EUROPEAN SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

Edition 4.0 Friday 21st October 2011

From the Head of British Secondary and High School Section

Early School Finish on Wednesday October 26

All parents should have received a letter from me this week regarding the early finish to school next Wednesday, October 26 due to the High School Parent Teacher Interviews. School will finish on this day at 1:10 p.m. If your child has a school lunch they will be able to eat their lunch from 12:40 to 1:10 p.m. Buses will depart TES from 1:15 p.m. There are no 3:00 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. buses on this day.

Students (with the exception of H3 and H4 students) are not to leave the school to buy lunch at the village and then return to school. Only students who are accompanying their parents for meetings in the early afternoon should remain in school after 1:10 p.m. These students can work in the study areas on level 3 and 4 in Phase II until they are required to attend Parent-Teacher interviews with their parents.

I look forward to meeting and talking with High School parents next week.

TES Japanese Society

Dear Parents and Teachers,

On behalf of TES Japanese Society, I would like to inform you that we have finally received the official receipt of the donation for Japan Earthquake Relief from Japanese Red Cross and here comes the receipt (Please see the last page of this newsletter).

Once again, I would like to say thank you so much for your big support for fundraising. Like "One good turn deserves another", we will do our best for TES to repay all your help. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Miyako Zumsteg on behalf of the TES Japanese Society

House Captains

Congratulations to the following students who have been appointed House captains for 2011-2012. I wish them all the best in their important leadership roles.

Bora Cheryl Kao and Jonathan Thompson-Bean

Mistral Fiona Lee and Brandon Hsiao

Scirocco Jennifer Fang and Vincent Chen

Marin Beatrice Kern and Eric Yang

Warm regards,
Stuart Glascott

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.taipeieuropeanschool.com



Deutsche Sektion



British Section



Section Française



TES High School

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From the Assistant Head – Studies

Target Setting and Planning for Examinations – High School

Dear Parents,

I am hoping to see many of you at the upcoming Parent Teacher Interviews for High School students on Wednesday 26 October. This follows the first progress reports of the year which are issued today. These interim reports will give you an overview of how your child is working in each of their subjects. Teachers have set improvement targets for the students and these will be discussed with students over the coming weeks. Soft copies of these reports can be accessed via the TESmile Website (<http://emaze.tes.tp.edu.tw:33688/TESmile/login.php>), from Monday 24 October.

H2 and H4 students should be thinking about their mock examinations which will take place at the start of term 2. It is important that they set up a revision schedule as soon as possible and that they practice as many past papers as they can in order to prepare for these examinations. The more they prepare now, the easier their final examinations in May will be.

As H1 and H3 students are respectively at the start of their IGCSE and IB courses they should be taking on board the advice offered by their teachers and thinking carefully about the ways in which they can make the improvements suggested. Addressing any issues that they may be experiencing with their studies early on in the course will pay dividends later on.

Kind regards,

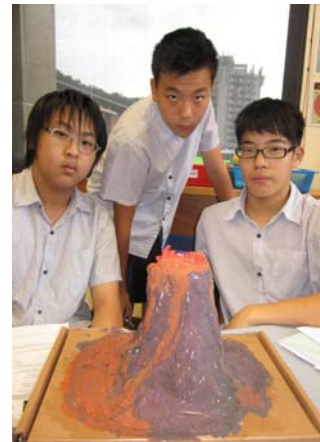
Sarah Pearson
Assistant Head (Studies)

Volcano Building

Year 9 students have been busy over the last few weeks building volcanoes as part of their Geography assessment for this term. Year 9 students worked in groups of 2 – 3 to name and locate a volcano of their choice. Students then had to build a model that resembled the specific example they had chosen.

As part of the assessment students also had to present their model to the class, explaining the specific type of volcano and its characteristics. Students were also expected to be able to explain the processes involved in its formation.

Presentations started this week, there were some fantastic volcanoes and outstanding presentations. The quality of research, the creativity displayed and the effort students have put into this project has been unrivaled. Congratulations to all Year 9!



Natasha Brock
Head of Geography

Donation and Chinese Drumming ECA

Mrs. Ku, the parent of Calvin Ku in H1 has generously donated another NTD 200,000 for the Chinese Drumming ECA at ESC this year. This donation is highly appreciated by all the TES drummers as well as their audiences, who previously have or will enjoy their performances in the future.

Thanks a lot for Mrs. Ku's generosity. Following photos were taken at TES Autumn Festival.



The Portraits of TES Young Artists

Ruby Ho (H3) has been proudly awarded the 4th place among hundreds of local high school candidates in a prominent literary award, 台積電青年學生文學獎, hosted by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company and United Daily News.

Ruby Ho's fiction, 留戀 (Lingering Affection) has not only won TES the first trophy in this important literary award but also won herself a NTD 10,000 scholarship.



Julia Chang (H3) has been well known at TES for the unique posters she has beautifully produced for various school activities. She has recently published her second art work in a local bi-monthly journal featured on comics. Julia has generously shared her talents with ESC students this year through a very popular ECA, Menga, Japanese Comics Drawing hosted by her.



Julia Chang



Singfornee Teng

A TES Star Was Born - Singfornee Teng (H4)

Singfornee Teng has her first Chinese album “Happy Agreement” released today, October 20th. She has been extensively involved with the album production from music and lyrics writing to MV shooting. Some of her friends in H4 like Sandra Tai, Amber Perng, Andrew Wang, and David Yuan have also joined her MV production. You may enjoy her performance at the following link and will be surprised to find how creative our TES students are, even though their academic pursuit at IB has been extremely challenging. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9v6bqjX9lqU>

Global Taipei, Top Air Quality – Multi-language Writing Competition

TES is participating a multi-language writing competition hosted by Taipei City Government and National Taiwan Normal University with the collaboration from Chinese, English and Modern Foreign Language Departments and supported by Science and Geography Departments at ESC. The topic of the competition this year for all the international schools in Taipei is “Global Taipei, Top Air Quality.”

It's a great pleasure that we had Dr. Yeh, the Professor and Director of Graduate Institute of Environmental Education at Taiwan Normal University to meet and talk to KS3 students about the environmental issues on October 4th to inspire them for their independent writing and research.

Students are expected to submit their works online in the language they are most confident with by **November 10**. We are hoping that TES students will not only shine in this writing competition but also be considerably benefitted and become more thoughtful and sensible with this global issue.



Flora Sung , Head of CLC
Sarah Pearson, Assistant Head (Studies)



From the Assistant Head – High School

The Road to May and Beyond

This half term will see our H4 students complete a number of pieces of coursework as well as their extended essays (25 November 2011) and TOK essays (9 December 2011). In addition, our H4 students will be completing their university applications, with some students attending interviews and taking additional examinations for courses such as Law and Medicine. In fact, a number of our students who have applied to Cambridge University have been invited for interview in Shanghai, and I would like to wish them all the best. In the meantime they have been busy sitting mock interviews and preparing themselves for the possible questions that might be asked.

The mock examinations in January are usually happen upon our students quicker than they expect. In regard to this our H2 and H4 students must remember that preparation time for these important examinations has to be allocated during their Christmas vacation.

High School Parent-Teacher Meetings

I look forward to meeting you at the upcoming High School Parent-Teacher meetings next week on Wednesday 26 October 2011. These afternoon and evening meetings are an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress reports, which you will receive this Friday (21 October 2011). In these reports the High School teachers have focused on providing each of their students with a meaningful target to work towards in order to make sound developments in their studies.

Use of Study Periods

In the last couple of weeks former students have passed on advice to our H3 and H4 students counseling them to use their time wisely. The study periods that our H3 and H4 students get are the perfect time to heed this advice and get ahead. The question a student should always ask themselves is how can they use this time to get work done so as to provide more quality time for themselves outside of school. The key point for our students to remember is that time is a precious commodity that we never get back. In both work and leisure, time is never wasted if it is spent in activities that provide sufficient challenge as they lead to our own personal development. Whereas activities that do not do provide enough challenge lead to boredom and apathy.

Peer Mentors

A number of our High School students have signed up as peer mentors and have been attending the required training course run by the school's Counselor, Ms. Jenny Hsu. These students will soon be connecting with students that will benefit from their help.

Ms. Hsu has outlined in her article, which can found later on in this newsletter, some of the ways in which students that are struggling academically can be helped. I am sure our peer mentors will be utilizing a number of these strategies in the coming weeks as they take on their mentoring roles.

UCC Update

Building Your Future with Futurewise



From Tuesday 18th - Friday 21st October the UK-based Educational Trust ISCO or 'Inspiring Futures Foundation' has been working with the students of TES to help them lay the foundations of their futures beyond TES and into the world of work. H1 was involved in a workshop aimed at creating a new charity using the 4P 'Marketing Mix' and devising fund raising activities within school to support it. The winning team chose to support Taiwan's Aboriginal Peoples - (a current high profile news topic) Their slogan 'Save our Past, save our Future' being the most memorable. H3 worked on a CV writing module which aimed to fulfill the maxim 'Know thyself' (written above the doors to Apollo's temple in Delphi); and also looking at Employer's requirements when hiring new employees. H4 students who are applying for Cambridge were put through their paces to prepare them for the interview selection process and H2 took the Morrisby Profile test, which will give them a clear breakdown of their skills and potential and form the basis of a one on one interview on their university applications and career aspirations. ISCO the Independent School's Careers Organisation will continue to guide TES students up to their 23rd birthday by which time they should be confidently in their future careers.

John & Catherine Broadbent
ISCO

TES Counselling News

It's Better to Talk

October 2011

COUNSELLING WORLD

What Do Struggling Learners Need?

By LEIGH PRETNAR COUSINS, MS

I find that all learners, be they child, adult, “gifted,” “average,” or “special needs” (whatever these labels might mean), need the same things:

Practice. There’s a mystique about the gifted: that they “get” everything automatically, without studying. In fact, the smart kids in the class study *more*. They tend to read more, and they think about intellectual subject matter as they move through their day, even when they’re not actually pouring over a textbook.

We often excuse struggling learners from practice, cut their homework load down, set lower expectations...and the result is that they miss out on the practice they need, and they fall further and further behind.

Struggling learners need MORE practice, not less. It needs to be at their level, and it needs to be engaging, to help rope them into the pleasure of learning that “gifted” kids experience.

Support. Learning isn’t always easy or fun. Sometimes it’s frustrating and daunting and feels really bad. Kids, and all learners, need empathy and gentle encouragement. (They don’t need lectures, threats, criticism, or critiques of their character flaws).

I still love Haim Ginott’s classics: *Between Parent and Child*, and *Between Parent and Teenager*, on how to speak to your kids with respect and offer genuine support. (And Dr Ginott’s insights apply equally to adults).

Help with Practical Tasks. You’d be amazed at how much of tutoring involves not the application of lofty educational principles, but rather the solving of small, practical problems. Like pulling out all the old tests and quizzes from the cluttered backpack, arranging them in order, and devising a daily study plan. Or brainstorming for a history paper topic.

One of my most important functions? To simply keep the student company as he works, and to be available for the occasional question or encouraging word or sympathetic glance.

Jenny Hsu
TES Counselor

Stewart Redden
Assistant Head of High School

SUPPORT VS REPORT

Monitoring the performance of students is very important as we aim to ensure that all TES students are reaching their full potential. Quite often a report system is seen as a punishment for bad behaviour and has a lot of stigma attached to it. Only the students with behavioural issues seem to be issued with these yet the quiet students who are not really pushing themselves, are doing the bare minimum but not causing disruption fly under the radar.

This year one of our main aims in Key Stage 3 is to be more effective and efficient at finding these students and supporting them in an appropriate way to ensure they are challenged and are pushing themselves to their full potential. One of our approaches has been to introduce the 'Student Support Card'. This is a very simple tick box card that teachers complete each lesson ranking the students on a 1 – 3 scale (1 being excellent, 2 being satisfactory and 3 being below what is expected).

This card enables us to get a quick and effective overview of a week in the life of a child. It can help to highlight issues, that we can then act on, and just as importantly showcase what an excellent week a child has had so they can be praised and further motivated for their efforts.

Our aim as the Key Stage 3 Pastoral Team is to target every student at least once throughout the year and issue them with a Support Card. This will either be done randomly or in some cases we may have concerns and feel we need to gain some information. If your child does have a Support Card please do not see it as a negative, quite the opposite. It will give you a chance to see exactly what is happening in individual classes over the week and I hope it will help to highlight what excellent work is taking place! If the card does raise concerns then we will be able to develop strategies at school and at home address these.

We have been trialing the cards for the past 2 weeks and the feedback from teachers, students and parents has been very positive. We hope that it will reduce the number of students who fly.....



UNIFORM

There has been a definite change in the weather here in Yangmingshan over the past few weeks. As the cold wet winter weather comes (it reminds me very much of my home in wet Yorkshire, England) can I please stress the importance of the KS3 students having the appropriate TES school sweater. Students must follow the dress code and will not be able to wear their own 'huddies', sweaters, jackets etc in school. If you have not had the opportunity to purchase one can I please urge you to do so over the next few weeks before the weather on the mountain becomes very cold. They can be purchased at the school uniform shop at the EPC (Wen Lin Road Campus)

TUTOR REPORTS

At present we are making some big changes to our KS3 form Tutor and PSHCE reports and if possible I would like to request some input from parents. As parents you are the people who want to know exactly what is going on at school and this is your chance to have some input in what information is relayed in the Tutor report.

In a full report (as will be issued in November) students will have an individual report in each of their subjects. As well as this they are given a report by their form tutor. In the past this has been in the form of a written comment. It has been felt that this could be made more effective and repetition can be avoided by using a box system with specific areas ranked on a scale of Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, Needs Development, Unsatisfactory as in the subject reports.

Below are ideas of titles that could be used,

- ☐ Punctuality
- ☐ Correct Uniform
- ☐ Peer Interaction
- ☐ Organisation
- ☐ Completion of homework
- ☐ Use of Diary
- ☐ Ability to listen to instructions
- ☐ Overall report grade

I am very interested to gain any input from parents on this. There would still be one smaller overall personal written comment by the teacher with a target etc, however it is felt that this system would produce a clearer picture for you as parents and could actually produce a more detailed and worthwhile report for you.

If you do have any input/suggestions they would be appreciated. Please contact me directly by email –

james.woodall@tes.tp.edu.tw

YEAR 8/9 Parent Teacher Interviews

I would just like to draw your attention to the date for the Year 8/9 Parent Teacher interviews. These will take place on **Wednesday November 30th from 1.30pm – 7.00pm**. I realize this may seem like a long way away but I know how busy people get at this time of year with functions etc so I just wanted to make you aware well in advance.

The booking system will open two weeks before the interviews (more information will be sent closer to the time) and the students will be issued with their reports the week before the interviews on Wednesday 23rd November.

Middle School Volleyball

Good luck to all the players involved in the Taipei Middle School volleyball tournament tomorrow (Saturday 22nd October). We have 7 teams, boys and girls, participating at various locations across the city and the Year 8's are playing here at TES. I know that in the past these competitions have been so much fun for the students and I am sure that this year will be no exception. Good luck to all the players and a big "Thank You" to all the coaches for the time given to training and for giving up your Saturday for the KS3 students.

There will be information and results etc in the next newsletter from Miss Wright the 'Head of Sport'.

Under 15 FOBISSEA – Beijing November 2nd - 6th

A number of Year 9 students have been selected to travel to Beijing next month to participate in the U15 FOBISSEA games. It is very exciting for the team as this is the first time, we as a school, have competed against these schools from Beijing, Shanghai and Korea as the FOBISSEA groups were changed last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these Year 9 students as they are a year younger than the majority of competitors (mostly H1's) so it is a huge achievement for them and obviously wish the whole team the best of luck on their travels. I am sure there will be detailed reports on future newsletters and we can hope for some medals coming back to Taipei from China.

James Woodall
Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator

Year 7 PSHCE

Currently in Year 7 PSHCE we are exploring issues around homework! Firstly I must congratulate the numerous Year 7 students who complete their homework and organise themselves at home. However, at times all students struggle with organisation and may fail to complete a piece of homework. Hopefully the PSHCE session this week will get the students thinking about how to organise their evenings so they can have a break, relax and ensure all the necessary homework has been completed on time, and what to do if it isn't. To ensure the students have taken note in the lesson their homework for PSHCE this week is to take a photograph of their workspace at home and to write about whether it is a good space and why or why not. I look forward to reading their responses – below is an example to help!



This is where I do the majority of my Homework. This is a fairly good place to do my work because it does not have too many distractions (the TV is a long way down the hall). I have a laptop at the desk which I can use to type some work.

All of the drawers have all the pens and stationery that I need to do my homework. I've got a calendar on the desk to help me keep track of due dates.

My workspace would be better if I had a desk lamp. This would mean that I wouldn't have to strain my eyes so much - this would help me concentrate more.

Overall, because this room has few distractions it is a good place to do my homework.

Joanna Crimmins, Head of Year 7
joanna.crimmins@tes.tp.edu.tw

From Roots and Shoots

Vegetable garden

Roots and Shoots have continued with the vegetable garden which is located behind our school football field. The next time you find yourself around the field, take a minute to look at our progress. On 19th October we dug up another patch of grass to be used for planting more fruits and vegetables. Good quality soil had been delivered early in the day (purchased with funds raised last school year). We hope to be planting some turnips, carrots, spring onions, coriander and parsley and anything else we can get. We plan to plant pumpkins along the side of the fence once the season is right.



Raised box made on Tuesday by Mr Graves (with help from Mr Knight)

We have someone to help us now who has a farm in Neihu and is generously sharing his planting knowledge with the group.

This is a small project which we hope will expand in the future. It does not require previous knowledge or skills and anyone interested is welcome to join us.

The Roots and Shoots ECA is now happening twice a week! Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 to 4:30 in room 1403. We hope to see more of you getting involved.

Goleta Burraston H4

Please see our website for further information and regular updates - <http://sites.google.com/site/tesrootsandshoots/>



Dylan Graves
Teacher in charge

From the Journalism Club

Maths Problem Solving Club

The Maths Problem Solving Club is an ECA where students from KS3 (Key Stage 3) and KS4 (Key Stage 4) get to solve a variety of Maths Problems. However, the Maths Problem Solving Club is not SEAMC. SEAMC is a Maths competition participated by students of all ages. To take part, a student's Maths skills are required to be tested. People who enroll the Maths Problem Solving Club are likely to participate in SEAMC, yet it is optional.

The club is held on Monday lunchtimes in Phase 1. It used to be in the Maths Department, yet is now in the ICT lab. The teacher supervising is Mr. Lee (room 1208). The tasks students complete are questions on the website NRICH. They could even submit their solution to the website and the best answer may get a prize.

"It is quite fun," commented a student. "The club sure is great."

If you are willing to be the next mathematician, the club is the right choice to be at. All KS3 students can take a risk by challenging themselves with KS4 intermediate questions.

Jenny Li
Year 9 Student



HOUSE T-SHIRTS

Dear Parents,

As you are hopefully aware, your son or daughter belongs to a 'House' at school. The Four Houses are named after European Winds; **Sirocco** (Red), **Mistral** (Yellow), **Bora** (Blue) and **Marin** (Green). All staff also belong to a House and various events are held throughout the year which aim to:

- Create a sense of camaraderie amongst students and staff
- Encourage Team building and Team Spirit
- Stimulate healthy competition between the Houses
- Provide leadership opportunities for students
- Allow students of all ages to work together
- Encourage student participation and enjoyment of school
- Provide incentives for students in school events and academic performance (i - Points)

We would like all students to own and wear their own House t-shirt so they become a team at house events. House T-shirts are important to build the House identity and team spirit. The t-shirt has been the same for three years now and the students can also wear them in PE lessons.

The cost of the t-shirt is 300NT. We are asking for your support of the House System through the purchase of a shirt for your child. Various sizes are available and the shirts are very good quality. An order will be placed after half term. Please complete the slip below and ensure that your child returns it in a named envelope with **300NT** to the Phase 1 and Phase II offices.

Should you require any further information, please contact me at school. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Lorna Wright
Head of Sport, International award and Houses

HOUSE T-SHIRTS

Name: _____ class: _____ house: _____

I enclose a payment of 300NT enclosed

T-shirt size:

XS	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
S	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>
M	<input type="checkbox"/>	other	_____

Parent Signature _____



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

We hereby acknowledge, with sincere gratitude, receipt of your contribution for those affected by the Japan's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant disaster. Based upon decisions made by the Cash Grant Allocation Committee, your donation will be distributed via the appropriate prefectural and municipal governments to support the recovery of those affected by this devastating disaster.

Contributor : Rikako ARAI on behalf of families of TAIPEI EUROPEAN
SCHOOL

Receipt No. : 10TH-0120546

Date : 20 April 2011

Amount : JPY1,290,891-

Please note that the Japanese Red Cross Society does not charge any administrative costs to your contribution.

Japanese Red Cross Society

