



TAIPEI EUROPEAN SCHOOL

台北歐洲學校

EUROPEAN SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

Edition 14.0 Friday 3rd May 2013

From the Head of British Secondary and High School Section

TES Dance.

Congratulations to students involved in last week's dance concert. It was a highly entertaining event and clearly the ESC has some very talented performers. It was also great to see the older students from the ESC looking after the younger students from the EPC. It was TES at its finest. Well done to all concerned.

Mr Richard Greaves

Congratulations to Mr Richard Greaves who has been selected to represent Great Britain at this year's European Championships in triathlon. It is a wonderful achievement and on behalf of the TES community I wish him all the best. I am sure he will do TES proud!

MUN at TES

One of our most popular and successful ECA's is MUN. The TES team has been extremely busy over recent weeks with various conferences occurring. I have heard extremely positive reviews from staff and students about the High School MUN at the American School of Taichung and the Middle School MUN at TAS. Congratulations to students who represented the school with such distinction at these important events.

TES Gala

It was wonderful to see such a large crowd at this year's Gala and it proved a great opportunity to socialize and mix with so many members of the TES community. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The PSC organize such events in a manner that ensures they are always a stunning success. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and capable group of parents.

Warm regards,
Stuart Glascott

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.taipeieuropeanschool.com



Deutsche Sektion



British Section



Section Française



TES High School

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From the Deputy Head

Dear Parents,

My sincere thanks to the ESCPA who organized a fantastic event for parents and staff last Saturday night at the annual TES Gala Evening. The evening was a great opportunity for everyone to let their hair down and enjoy some wonderful entertainment whilst raising funds for the further development of the school.

On a slightly smaller scale, but no less impressive, the School Council held yet another well attended and lively school Disco for all Secondary students this Term. Well done to all students involved who brought the evening, the music and the refreshments together to provide another great social opportunity for our students.

Our IB examinations started this week and our students, as usual, adopted a mature and studious attitude to the examination process. Mr Sparks has issued detailed guidelines to students and we urge parents to take an active role in ensuring that quality revision programmes are being followed at home with students getting the right balance when it comes to revision and rest during this intensive time.

Concerns have been raised this week about some students' use of social networking sites. Students are taught about the responsible use of social media regularly at school and we aim to work in partnership with parents and students when it comes to the safe use of the internet. Follow this link to get some up to date advice and parental guidelines to help your child manage their privacy and online habits so that they do not get drawn into negative online behavior.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Secondary/>

Many thanks for your support with this.

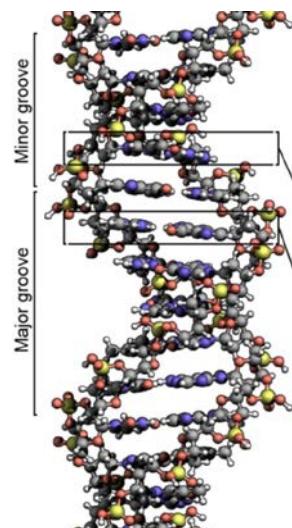
Chrysta Garnett
Deputy Head

H3 Theatre Arts

What does deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) have to do with IB theatre arts? The answer is simple: it is the stimulus being used by the current H3 theatre arts group for their next public performance on May 23rd in the ESC drama space. All may attend.

The 1997 film 'Gattaca' explored the possibilities of DNA engineering in human beings and many of the speculations made in that movie have already come to pass in the last 16 years since the film was released. Stem cell research continues to widen as a field and there is no clear sight of where it will all end. In their research of this topic, TES theatre arts students have begun to consider the ethical implications of DNA enhancement and the moral responsibility of the artist from a theory of knowledge perspective.

These days DNA has passed into the English language. We often refer to the DNA of something as the thing that confirms its identity. We can prefix virtually all abstract phenomena in this way eg: the DNA of someone's character, the DNA of a news story, the 'DNA of what brought us together', the DNA of a school even. Scientifically, the urge to name, categorise and archive everything is regarded to be a noble pursuit but it is this fundamental



drive to come up with a theory of everything that is itself at the heart of today's most human controversy. Stephen Hawking, the physicist, wrote that a theory of everything would be best articulated through a series of equations. He later rebutted his own statement with a question : "What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe?". Some two hundred years earlier, William Blake the poet and mystic wrote something similar in his poem 'Tyger tyger' : 'what immortal hand or eye / could frame thy fearful symmetry?'

Whilst DNA offers us the tools with which to quantify the very building blocks of life, it still offers no solution to the eternal questions like 'What is life for?' or 'Where is life heading ?' indeed you might offer as credible an hypothesis on this subject as say the evolutionary biologist next door.

In theatrical terms, the DNA of what it means to be human is what Feste from Twelfth Night would have called a 'doublet of changeable taffeta'. In other words it remains elusive. Whilst technology allows us to grasp the world from our armchairs, our relationship with it continues to flit in and out of tangible reality.

From an academic perspective, the fusion of an arts subject and a scientific phenomenon makes for an interesting debate : on the one hand celebrating mysticism and the unknowable and dedicating itself to finite truths extrapolated from a knowable universe on the other. In some ways, in an increasingly social world where subjectivity can now be played out on a grand stage (he Internet), it is arguably the most important drama of our time.

H3 students are grappling with these concepts and attempting to navigate the jungle that Francis Crick and James D. Watson planted back in 1953 when they first discovered the double helix. Drama gives us a language through which we may explore these tensions.

It should make for an interesting evening's entertainment.

Robert Morris
Head of Drama

HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS - TAIMUN XI

Recently, 25 students from H1 and H3 participated in the 11th TAIMUN conference at the American School of Taichung along with Mr Thomas, Ms Billante and me. We had a fantastic time and it was an amazing experience. TES students were professional and poised and it was a real pleasure to see them debate on some of the most serious issues of our time. We asked two H1 students to give us their impressions on their first conference and by reading them, we can see the beginning of a new passion.

Mr Laureti - MUN coordinator

As the delegate of Georgia from the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee, I spoke on the issue of achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by securing Universal Primary Education globally. Considering TAIMUN XI was my first conference, I had received a tremendous amount of advice and feedback from veteran delegates. I remember making my opening speech and how nervous I was, in front of 47 other delegates who were mostly older than me. However, as lobbying began, I slowly became more engaged into conversations, and said anything that could be relevant without hesitating. It is certain that the debate became more action-packed as the delegates knew each other more, and the amount of participation slowly became overwhelming and heated. MUN is unquestionably something that all students should attempt, as it greatly boosts your confidence and ability to make valid

arguments opposing to other people's ideas. TAIMUN XI is definitely one of my most desirable and unforgettable memory, with the fruitful, cooperative, aggressive discussions throughout the debates, and I look forward to future MUN conferences I will be attending."

Jonathan Tseng - H1

TAIMUN XI is the conference I had ever attended, and it was terrific. I was really nervous when the bus arrived at the front door of American School of Taichung (AST) despite all the hard work my friends and I did on our resolutions previously. The topics we debated were on the issues of arms-trafficking and the use of UAV. They are surely the most severe problems of security and disarmament today. I found out that some of the delegates were real experts when they were debating. I wish I could become one of them in the near future. Nevertheless, it was a nice experience when I approached the podium. I had learnt that I should take more risks and improve skills for expressing my ideas. This MUN experience has broadened my horizons and increased my knowledge of the controversial issues in the world. I would like to thank to all the teachers and H3 experienced delegates who gave me a lot of useful advice. I look forward to attending THIMUN Singapore in November and expanding my journey in the MUN world.

Stephen Lien H1

From the Assistant Head (High School)

H2 and H4 Examinations

Well done to the H2 and H4 students who have made a really positive start to the final examination period. Students have arrived to their exams on time, enthusiastic and well prepared. We are looking forward to a great set of results this summer!

During the examination period H2 and H4 students are welcome to revise at school, attend study groups and master classes. However, they are reminded to please adhere to our sign-in procedures. All students must sign-in at the High School Office upon arrival, and remember to sign-out before leaving campus.

H4 Graduation Rehearsal

Although examinations have just begun, the H4 Graduation Ceremony is quickly approaching! Parents are reminded that this year the Graduation Ceremony will be held on Saturday, 25th May at the Chinese Culture University and will commence at 6:30pm. In preparation for the big night, all H4 students are required to attend a rehearsal on Thursday, 23rd May. Students are to meet at the Chinese Culture University, ready for a 1:00pm start.

Writers and Artists UK Short Story Competition

A huge 'congratulations' to **Grace Tsai (H4)**, who was recently announced winner of the Writers and Artists UK Short Story Competition! Grace received a cheque for £500 and an **Arvon Foundation** residential writing course of her choice. We are very proud of Grace's achievement and look forward to hearing more from this talented young writer. Also, a well deserved congratulations to Grace's English teacher, Mr. Graham Bean who supported her throughout the competition process.

You can read Grace's winning entry, ***For The Discerning Traveller***, by following the link below to the **Writers and Artists UK** website:

<http://www.writersandartists.co.uk/2013/03/short-story-competition-2013-winners>

Ms. Sonya Papps Assistant Head (High School)

H1 Service Project Update: Harmony Home

Over the past few weeks many other groups of H1 students from the Harmony Home Project have visited the shelter for which our first visit was reported in the last newsletter. Last week the Awareness committee took the opportunity to pay a warm visit to the shelter in Wen Shan. The children at the shelter were energetic and enthusiastic to get to know the students. The members of the committee took a playful approach through playing with the children, helping the volunteers and feeding the infants. Unfortunately, time flies when having fun and the students slowly departed with emotional goodbyes.

This is the fourth year TES has cooperated with Harmony Home and so far it has been nothing short of a success. Harmony Home looks after children infected with and affected by the HIV/AIDS virus and supports and houses many of their mothers as well.

“Visiting the shelter was such a success and it was so heartbreakingly to leave the children”

~Jade Tsui, Chair of the Awareness Committee

“I was surprised that many of the children didn’t have names; so I named a friendly boy ‘Carlos’ ”

~ Gustaf Moberg, Member of the Awareness Committee



H1 Students during one of their visits to Harmony Home

Mr. Gavin Winter
Head of Year, H1 and H2

From the University and Careers Counsellor

H3 Summer Internships: As in 2012, a number of H3 students will be taking up work placements for two weeks or more in Taipei and overseas, to support their future career paths. As they did last year, the British and European Chambers of Commerce are offering their support in finding work placements in Taipei. A growing number of students are also arranging their own. There is no doubt that evidence of work experience is of great benefit when applying for university, particularly for the more specialised programmes.

Futurewise has sent their online magazine for 2013 (which registered students will get as well). There are some useful articles on applying for universities particularly in the UK and requirements for careers such as in television. Futurewise provides our H2 students with an excellent psychometric testing programme and part of the service to the school are publications such as this. **Please use the link below:**

<http://interactivepdf.uniflip.com/2/53517/299662/pub/>

Mr. Graham Bean
University and Careers Counsellor

From the Assistant Head (Key Stage 3)

Key Stage 3 'Sport For All'

Both Key Stage 3 students and staff will be heavily involved in sport this weekend.

Students

It is the Middle School basketball tournament this weekend and TES will be fielding 7 teams (4 boys and 3 girls) across the three age groups. The students have been working very hard in training and the coaches all have high expectations. I would like to wish all of our Key Stage 3 students the very best of luck on Saturday and most importantly I hope that it is a positive experience for all.

Staff

The TES staff Triathlon team is heading to Hualien this evening to participate in the Hualien cup triathlon. The team is headed by our very own 'Team Great Britain' member Mr Greaves who will be looking to finish very high up in the standings. Key Stage 3 is strongly supported with both Mr Sing Key (Head of Year 8 & 9) and Mr Imbleau (Head of Year 7) toeing the line as well. Mr Elkins and Mr Matthews are taking on the Triathlon challenge for the first time tomorrow so are very nervous.

The event consists of a 1500m swim in a lake followed by a 45km bike ride and finished off with a 10km run. The team have been training very hard to be able to take on such a challenge. We wish the team, and also the TES parents who are also competing, the very best of luck and look forward to reading an article from Mr Matthews describing his experiences in his very first Triathlon.



James Woodall
Assistant Head (Key Stage 3)

TES Titans

Taipei European School will have a new mascot starting the fall term of 2013. The Student Council, realizing that a new mascot could be beneficial to the school in further encouraging an already impressive school spirit, conducted a survey asking students what they would prefer the new mascot to be. The result was '**Titans**', a fitting name for our school as it embodies a European context (stemming from Greek mythology) and evokes a sense of strength and unity. To create a logo that is worthy of such a formidable mascot, The Student Council will be opening a House competition for those who are interested in designing such a logo. All submissions by students will be approved and selected by a judging panel, who is to award 700 house points to the eventual winner.

Please encourage your child to take part in this very worthwhile competition, as it is their chance to leave their mark on the school! All logo submissions are due May 24th.



Example from the internet

Vernon Lin
Student Council President

Year 7 Ocean Project

Following their successful excursion to Shimen Beach, the Year 7s have begun to transfer their knowledge and experience gained from their Ocean Day field trip held last month into their classroom studies. In Geography, students have invested coastal environments and marine processes as well how ocean landforms are created and how they affect man. After researching feeding relationships and using data collected from the beach, the burgeoning young scientists designed food web posters for Science class. They classified their organisms and researched adaptations. They also labeled organisms by trophic levels, predator/prey relationships, and consumer/producer categories.

The Art project is underway as well as the students have began to classify the debris found on the beach: 296 blue fishing floats, 172 pieces of foam (polystyrene), 49 plastic bottles, 60 shoes and much more. The promising young artists are currently planning how to utilize their interesting findings for their art display and some contemporary creations have already been completed as shown below.



Raymond Imbleau
Head of Year 7

KS3 representing 'TES Secondary Values' at the 4th Annual TASMIN 2013

Twenty-six TES students from Key Stage 3 had an opportunity to engage in friendly and at times heated and rigorous debate during this year's annual Middle School Model United Nations held at the Taipei American School.

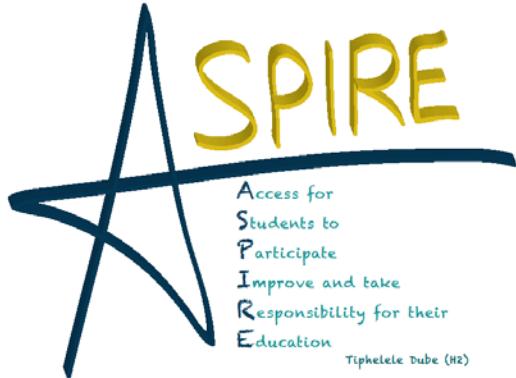
Straight off the bat I was impressed with our young students and how they embodied our school values. Many showed great **perseverance** as they sought to find **creative** ways to solve the world's issues and deal with unexpected crises through **active participation** and negotiation with fellow students from high caliber international schools in Taiwan. The standard of debate was high and TES students were given commendation for their preparation, poise and knowledge of the countries and issues that they were representing and striving to find solutions for.

The conference was thus a significant opportunity for our students to learn more about other countries, their issues, cultural differences and foreign policy problems that regularly occur in the political sphere of life. Through this exposure, students developed leadership a sense of **civic responsibility** as well as mutual **respect** for the differences and similarities that exist in our diverse world.

MUN is a fantastic ECA for students to learn and develop a myriad of life skills and values that will both challenge students as well as develop a solid platform of understanding and awareness of the world that will stand any student in good stead for the multi-cultural and globalised world in which we live today. I encourage all students to speak with either Mr Ian Stewart or myself if you are interested in being a part of MUN.



**Timothy Sing Key
Head of Year 8 & 9**



As many of you know I have decided to change the name of our service / department to A.S.P.I.R.E. (previously SEN) to reflect a much more positive image. As we celebrate the differences of the students who work with us it was time to adopt a new image that reflects our philosophy and our school values.

At ASPIRE we offer our students all the support they require to enable them to take responsibility for their education. We support them in assuming their role in society as confident, well rounded and happy citizens who are able to positively contribute to the world around them.

With this in mind I wanted to share the story below provided by The National Autistic Society. It is such an uplifting story and a testament to our philosophy of celebrating uniqueness and differences. Be proud of who you are!!!



"Hey, my name is Emily. I'm 19 years old and I have high-functioning autism. I was diagnosed when I was 2 1/2, when my parents noticed that I stopped...talking and developing normally. I never wanted to be snuggled. Loud noises scared me badly. I would parrot everything my parents said. I didn't like people in general. I'd have a hard time sleeping at night. I was a very picky eater, and didn't like things if the textures weren't right. I also didn't like it when things would suddenly change. Once I was diagnosed, I was put into speech and occupational therapy right away. My therapists thought that I would never be able to go to a mainstream school, learn how to drive, keep a job, or get married. I proved them wrong. I was put in an IEP program when I went to an autism preschool at 3 years old. I learned how to read when I was 4. I was good at remembering things with details. By the time I turned 5, my teachers ran out of things to teach me that were in their curriculum because I picked it up fast, so they started teaching me things that I would learn in kindergarten."

Now I'm in my freshman year of college, I changed my major this past semester to studying special education, and not social work. I work part-time in a call center for an anesthesia medical billing company as a billing specialist. I stopped being on the IEP program when I was in 9th grade. I have a driver's license, I graduated high school with a 3.2 GPA, I'm engaged to be married this summer, July 5th to an amazing guy, who loves me and accepts me for who I am. I still have some OCD tendencies, and I still have some texture issues when it comes to certain foods. For the most part, people can't even tell that I have autism. For you parents out there with children on the spectrum, don't give up on them. Help them reach for their potential. Look for the talents that they have, and help develop them. My parents didn't give up on me, and I'm forever grateful for them, because I get to live a normal life."

Thank you,

Emily

From the Head of Sport

Fixture Results

The Year 9 Boys have had 2 fixtures the week. They played DIS in a hard fought match to come on top by only one point! Then they then travelled to Bethany where they secured another win.

Year 8 girls played GCA in a really friendly game. Our girls won and coach Huang learnt a lot so the team can move forward to this Saturday's tournament.

Year 8 boys played TYPA. We have 2 teams this year. The red team won their game and the blue team lost but again learnt a lot and enjoyed the games.

The Senior girls Football team played DIS and won convincingly.

The Senior boys Volleyball team played DIS and won 2 sets to 0 but the scores were very close in each set. The Senior boys have been challenged by our JVB boys next week!

Upcoming dates

The Middle School Basketball Teams have their tournament on May 4th. The 6 teams will travel around Taipei and to Taichung.

The High School Girls Football Team and the Boys Volleyball Team will play in their tournament on May 18.

Lorna Wright
Head of Sport