



ESC Newsletter

Issue 9

April 2015

Coming up this month:

- **8 May:**
Europe Day
- **23 May:**
Summer Fair
- **23 May:**
Graduation
- **25-29 May:**
HI Work
Experience Week
- **31 May:**
Transition Day

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**And much
more!**

Welcome from the BSHS Head

Chrysta Garnett, Head of British Secondary and High School Section

Dear Parents

A slightly slim Newsletter this month for your enjoyment, due to our recent Spring Holiday. This month, however, has been as eventful as always at ESC, with a number of whole school events that deserve celebration.

I am thrilled to announce that the British Secondary and High School has now been officially recognised as a 'Thinking School' by the Cognitive Education Development Unit at Exeter University in the UK. We completed a world first 'Virtual Accreditation' process that we piloted with Exeter University. Our status as a 'Thinking School' recognises us as providers of an education that explicitly promotes the value of developing creative, critical and enquiring minds. Staff, Governors and students were all scrutinised during the

process and we are understandably thrilled with the award!

The evolution of the IB Art Show this year saw its first public exhibition at a Taipei gallery. This year's art was as astonishingly impressive as always and reflected the intriguing artistic and creative visions of our very talented Visual Arts students. Under Mr Hebden's tutelage, our artists have developed a confidence of expression and a sophisticated flair that was very deserving of public exhibition. The private preview was attended by VIPs and Trade Office representatives, as well as by proud parents and provided a fitting venue for our students' wonderful work. We wish our IB Visual Arts students the best of luck in the future in pursuing their artistic ambitions.

Our H2 and H4 students are now on formal study leave for the duration of the Summer Term. We wished them a fond farewell and the very best of luck in our final assembly with them last week. Dr Matthews and Mr Latchford as always spoke from the heart about these two very special cohorts and gave them some sound advice on how to keep their academic momentum going as we approach their final IGCSE and IB examinations. I echo those sentiments and would like to tell our High School students again how proud we are of them and wish them the very best of luck in the coming months. Our parting gift was a Superman T-shirt for every H2 and H4 student. Research has shown that students wearing Superman T-shirts perform on average 8% better in exams... so please remind them to wear their shirts with pride!



Focus on Progress

Daisy Rana, Assistant Head British Section

Before the Easter break, all students in KS3 received their Academic Progress Reports, which give an indication of how they are progressing academically. These were followed up earlier this month with Parent-Teacher meetings, in which we were able to give more detailed information on learning, progress and achievement in the individual subjects. It was great to see so many parents attending these meetings and we were especially pleased to see so many students directing their own learning conversations. We hope that the personalised advice, guidance and targets given during these meetings will lead to high levels of progress during this term and an enthusiasm to drive

achievement ever upwards. As usual, the targets set will be monitored and followed-up by individual teachers in class.

Our H2 and H4 students have now entered their study leave period and will be starting their exams very soon. This is their opportunity to put their hard work over the IGCSE or IB years into practice and to use the study and exam skills they have learned to gain the best possible outcome. We wish them all the best of luck.

For the rest of this final term of the academic year, we will be focussing on our H1 and H3 students and carefully tracking their progress. We have already started to have positive learning conversations with

these students in order to instil effective study habits. Students are receiving structured guidance on essential study skills and we shall be offering extra support to our students in individual subjects where necessary.

All students in KS3, H1 and H3 will receive their final Academic Reports for this academic year on the last day of term in June. These will contain an overall grade/level for each subject, as well as comments and targets for the next academic year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's progress.

ESCPA Corner

Jaime Chang, ESCPA

Thank you to the parents and students who will represent the TES ESCPA by joining the Dragon Boat Team in the 2015 Taipei International Dragon Boat Championship. I am sure it will be fun and a great experience for all of you. Training will start soon – be ready and have fun!

We hope that everyone who attended the IB Art Exhibition enjoyed the students' beautiful work at 剥皮寮 and thanks, as always, to all the parent volunteers for being there at the four-day event.

Following a request by students, the school has purchased two refrigerators, one each in the Phase I and Phase II canteens just in time for the warm weather.

Vegetarian Lunch



Thanks to Chin for preparing cold pasta for the March Vegetarian Lunch (see photo).

The last Vegetarian Lunch for the school year will be on Wednesday, 20th May at 12:40 pm in the Phase II Canteen.

Next Monthly Meeting

Friday, 15th May
9:00 am – 11:00 am
Phase II Conference Room



International History Bee

Ian Stewart, Head of History

The 2015 International History Bee and Bowl competition was held on March 23rd in Tainan, Taiwan.

TES students did very well against a high calibre of knowledgeable history students from around the island.

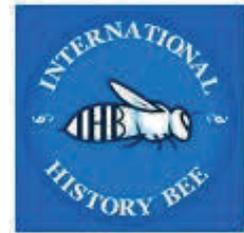
Overall we came out on top in almost every category. Our

seniors won the senior 'Varsity' category, our KS3 team came first and second in the 'Middle School' category. They also competed with the 'Junior Varsity' teams during the day and one of our teams beat all of them as well.

Individually, we had four students in the Middle School

Finals competition, with Alex Lee winning the whole category by a comfortable margin. In the Varsity we had three students in the finals competition, with Antoine Faure attaining third place.

Huge congratulations to all students involved!



Year 7 History: Qin Shi Huang Di Pop-Up Book

Raymond Imbleau, Head of Year 7

The Year 7s designed and created many educational and engaging Qin Shi Huang Di pop-up books for their History assessment recently. Qin Shi Huang Di was the First Emperor of China in 220 BC and he is credited with unifying the country, building The Great Wall of China and constructing the terra cotta soldiers to guard his tomb in Xi An, China.

Students were asked to independently explore the life and works of the First Emperor of China and use their research to create an information pop-up book about the life and times of Shi Huang Di, which they then presented to the class.

Throughout the year, we have been working on writing well structured Point, Evidence and

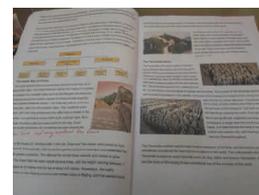
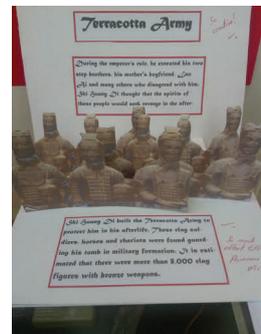
Explanation (PEE) paragraphs in History and students were



asked to demonstrate these research and writing skills with their three main focus questions on the Emperor:

- What were some of Shi Huang Di's achievements?
- Who was he and how did he rule his people?
- What were the main changes during Shi Huang Di's time as emperor?

These History assessments were a true pleasure to read because there was so much time and effort put into their research and writing and because they effectively used so many of the History building blocks that they have studied so far. The students began this year focusing on thinking critically when looking at evidence and sources, to look for bias and reliability in these sources and then write PEE paragraphs based on their evidence and educated opinion. This will continue in Term 3, when Year 7 History students will investigate the Norman Conquest of 1066 and analyse how it changed England.





Music News

Chris Papps, Ashley Bousfield, Katy Ho - ESC Music Department

LGT Young Soloists Visit TES

Year 7 students were enthralled for the first two periods of school on Thursday 16th of April, when the eight member of the LGT Young Soloists string ensemble visited the ESC. Selected from students all over Europe, these young musicians demonstrated amazing technical prowess, as well as incredible passion and emotion in their performance of a varied repertoire. Ranging from only fifteen years old through to

university age, the ensemble is expertly led by maestro Alexander Gilman. The ensemble performed favourites like *Spring* from the *Four Seasons*, to modern works like *Palladio* by Karl Jenkins. Each performance featured a different soloist, highlighting the phenomenal virtuosic mastery of each of the students.

After the concert for Year 7s, the musicians then offered

master classes to some of our KS3 string players. All students involved in these sessions started quite nervously at first, but were 'buzzing' by the end, having been given new insight and renewed enthusiasm for the instrument they play. A big thank you to Mr Alexander Gilman and the group – we do hope you visit TES again!



Peripatetic Programme – Extra Lessons

As the second semester comes to a close, some parents are interested in having extra lessons for their children. If you would like your child to continue lessons beyond the ten initially offered, please contact Ms Katy Ho katy.ho@tes.tp.edu.tw directly as soon as possible, to see whether this is possible and to organise additional payment, etc.

Music News



KS3 Performance Evening

The 6th KS3 Performance Evening will be held on May 28th this year. This is a great opportunity for all KS3 musicians to audition to perform without having to 'compete' against High

School students! Last year's concert was a great event, showcasing a huge range of talent and performance styles. If your child is interested in performing in this concert, as

either a soloist or as part of a group, they need to send a video of 1-2 minutes in length to Ms Katy Ho katy.ho@tes.tp.edu.tw before 5:00 pm on Friday, May 8th.

Year 8s Try Out Chinese Instruments

In keeping with our school's mission statement, which includes 'European Culture and Values Within the Context of Taiwanese Society', Year 8 students started a Chinese Music Unit this term. Given the choice of three standard Chi-

nese Instruments, *Erhu* (two stringed fiddle), *Guzheng* (zither) and *Dizi* (transverse flute), students have five weeks to master the basics under the expert instruction of local tutors. All classes will then put these newly formed skills into

practice at the end of the unit and perform a well-known Chinese song together as an ensemble. Initially a little apprehensive, students are now having a great time learning these instruments!





Art News

Amanda Marcon, Art Teacher

Year 7 Art

Students Papier Mache Sculptures made with a balloon, newspaper, white paper, glue and paint. Students were asked to use the design process to undertake this task. Students

designed an animal, realistic or abstract, then selected colour to enhance the shape and form of their artwork. Students enjoyed the task very much and it was fantastic to see the collab-

oration amongst students, combining ideas and helping one another when needed. Well done Year 7s!





Sofia Pellandini



Louisa Debelic



Jewel Lee and Noa Shmueli



Darren Hu and Ivan Lim



Vanessa Teong



Helena Nuttall

**University
Counsellors
Corner****NEW SAT vs. ACT: Which Should You Take?**

Jack Shull, University and Careers Counsellor

As the United States does not have a national curriculum such as the GCSE in the UK and the national curricula of Germany, France and many other nations, there is no standardised method to measure a student's academic performance. As a result, US universities rely on university admissions tests, such as the SAT and ACT, when evaluating applicants. There are many articles written about university admissions tests, books written about them and even movies about them. Now the SAT is undergoing its biggest change in 30 years and many questions are being asked about the NEW SAT vs the ACT (American College Test), as both are accepted by US universities.

The redesigned SAT is expected to be ready for the March (in the US) or May (international) 2016 SAT administration, so will impact students who are in the class of 2017 (the current TES H2 students). The content of the redesigned SAT will be very

similar to that of the ACT, with no guessing penalty, essay optional, charts/graphs, vocabulary and grammar in context. The major difference is in how the concepts are tested and the steps students will have to take to solve problems correctly. Students will have to reason their way through the NEW SAT by tackling problems in a linear and sequential fashion and a student's ability to process information quickly will be key.

The SAT is still a critical thinking test and students who might have chosen the old SAT would still be making a good choice with the NEW SAT. They might even find it easier and less stressful, with the essay being optional and no guessing penalty. So which one to take? My general advice would be to take an ACT as well as an SAT practice test to see which one is more suitable for you. My own children took both the 'actual' SAT and ACT tests and one did better on the ACT and the other did better on the

SAT. They then submitted the results with their university applications.

What next? In October 2015, TES again will offer students the opportunity to take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and I encourage students in H2 and H3 to take this test. This will not be the format of the NEW SAT, but will still be a strong indicator on how well they will perform on the NEW SAT. Current H3 (Class of 2016) students should complete all of their university admissions testing by December 2015. Current H2s (Class of 2017) should take the PSAT in October 2015 and if they wish to sit the old SAT do so in December 2015 or January 2016. The NEW SAT will be launched in May 2016 and I have heard that universities will accept both the old and the NEW SAT for students applying for admission in 2017 (current H2). However, stay tuned as the 'world' of university admissions is constantly changing!



My Time with the Wizard

Beatrice Blanc, H3



The Wizard of Oz was the school production for 2015. It was a great success and everyone went to great effort to make it happen. It is still hard to believe that this is my last year of being in the school production and waking up on Saturdays realising that there are no rehearsals! I want to thank everyone who made this year's experience an unforgettable one. When you watch the show, you don't realise how much effort it is to put something so amazing together, the amount of rehearsals and practices that have been put into it, in order to achieve the success it did.

Props coordination was very exciting; shopping around in Halloween costume stores was the highlight of the job: buying everything from fake bread to spiders the size of my head! We didn't really have any props that were extremely hard to get hold of, which also made my life easier and I thoroughly enjoyed it!

This experience was truly life changing and I will always remember it after I leave TES. I want to thank Mr Morris and Mr O'Shea for all the directing and help, Mr Papps and Mr Bousfield for all the musical and technical help with the sound, Mr Woodall and Mr O'Neil for set design help and bringing everything thing together, the ESPCA for all their support and dedication, and of course all the cast, crew, special effects team and the pit band!



This year, I was offered Head of Costumes, Props, Makeup and Backstage Management, as well as having an acting part playing Lord Growlie. I was really out of my comfort zone in different areas. I have learned that you need to keep your mind wide open for any possibilities that might work and not restrict your vision to one kind of costume, which made my job a lot easier. The costume sourcing process only took two hours, which is a lot faster than usual. This was also due to the nature of the play, which requires a lot of colours and life in the costumes.

Makeup was the biggest concern going into the last days of preparation, because of the details needed for the main characters such as Dorothy, but thanks to the Parent Association and their help and enthusiasm, the makeup was a big success and no one looked like a ghost on stage, which is always a good sign!

I could not have asked for a better team of people to work with. We had tears, laughter, screaming moments and misunderstandings and of course a lot of pressure and stress, but as a team we pulled through and produced a wonderful piece of drama. If I could, I would rewind time and let everything happen again, but sadly I'm unable to do that. I wish next year's show team all the best and I hope everything goes well. Thank you for this experience and opportunity.

I really enjoyed playing the character Lord Growlie, because it allowed me to fully express my personality and I felt that this character really suited me.





News from the Mathematics Department

Julie Dale, Head of Mathematics

GOOD LUCK to all our H1/H2/H4 students taking IGCSE and IB examinations over the next few weeks, we know you will do your best and be fantastic!

Pupils at TES achieved 15 Gold, 23 Silver and 26 Bronze awards in this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. Over 200,000 pupils from across the UK and worldwide sat the challenge, with roughly the top 6% receiving a Gold Certificate, the next

13% a Silver and the next 21% a Bronze. Approximately 1500 of the top students are invited



young mathematicians Ryoki Kunii and Johnson Lee, who were awarded a Certificate of Merit in the Olympiad, Andrew Wu who achieved a distinction and Alex Lee who gained a distinction and a medal prize.

to sit a follow-on Olympiad round and a further 9000 to do a multiple choice European Kangaroo round.

On Thursday, 30th April, it was the turn of the juniors, with Year 7 and Year 8s taking the Junior Maths Challenge.

Special mentions go to our



H1 students showing off their certificates.



8. A large cube is made by stacking eight dice. The diagram shows the result, except that one of the dice is missing. Each die has faces with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 pips and the total number of pips on each pair of opposite faces is 7. When two dice are placed face to face, the matching faces must have the same number of pips. What could the missing die look like?



1418

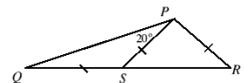


©UKMT



6. In triangle PQR , S is a point on QR such that $QS = SP = PR$ and $\angle QPS = 20^\circ$. What is the size of $\angle PRS$?

A 20° B 35° C 40° D 55° E 60°



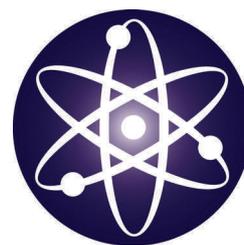
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Science News

Nicholas Hardy, Head of Science



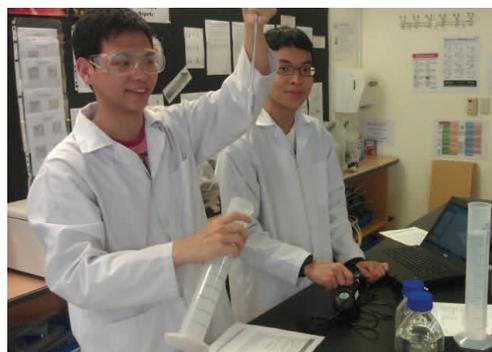
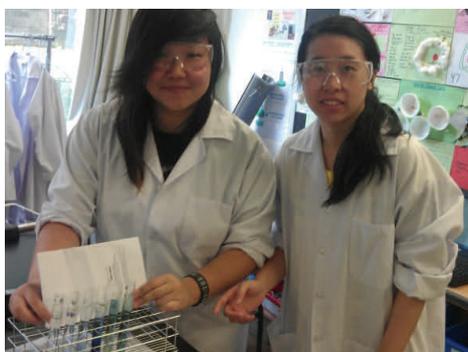
At the end of March, Year 6 pupils came to the Secondary campus for their Induction Day and had some fun in the Science labs making Goo!



Year 7 students studying Acids and Alkalis with indicators.



H4 Chemistry students determining phosphate content using the spectrometry method.





Autism Awareness

Grace Kennedy, Head of ASPIRE

The month of April is Autism Awareness month across the globe. We have heard from world figures discussing this condition, which affects millions around the world. Very recently, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called on business leaders to commit to employing people on the Autism spectrum and recognise their unique abilities. President Obama has also spoken out and, within the last year, has taken steps to safeguard the needs of those with Autism by signing both the Autism CARES Act 2014 and the ABLE (Achieving Better Life Experiences) Act 2014. Both of these give significant and desperately needed support to not only those who have Autism, but to research into the condition, training of related professionals and provision of services to

ensure acceptable standards of quality of life.

This year at TES we marked the occasion on Thursday



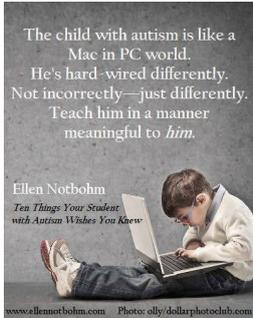
23rd April, when we asked all students and staff to wear blue in honour of the event and to donate NT50. The money collected will go directly to FACT (The Foundation for Autistic Children and Adults in Taiwan). This is a local charity that works tirelessly to support those with Autism and their families here on the island. More information on the work

they do can be found at:

<http://www.fact.org.tw/>

We also worked with our Year 7 students during PSHCE time, to educate and inform them about Autism, in a similar way to our Light It Up Blue celebrations last year. To ensure that our message of celebrating and understanding diversity was at the forefront of everybody's minds, form tutors across the year groups showed a variety of videos and other resources to their students in the run up to the special day as well.

I want to thank everyone who joined in and took a moment or two to think of others in society who are affected by this condition and desperately require the understanding and support of their local community.



News from the English Department

Poetry & Music

Dan O’Shea, English & Drama Teacher

In English this term we are looking at poetry. Our plan is to collaborate with the Music department at the beginning of the next academic year, to link our Poetry scheme of work with the Music department’s ‘The Music of China’. The students will be creating their own poetry and performance as preparation for next year’s co-curricular exploration.

We have seen incredible musical performances this year at TES in Pop Idol, the Christmas Concert, the ESC Music Concert in February, the Music FOBISIA in Thailand, and The Wizard of Oz production. TES has an extraordinary talent in performance. After asking each

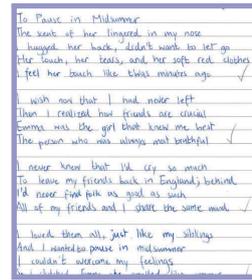
of my KS3 classes who played an instrument, the response was overwhelming.

In the poetry classes we will be merging the students’ new skill of writing poetry and branching into areas of songwriting, rap, SLAM poetry and spoken word. Highlighting their musical talents, our aim is to develop students’ understanding of expression through the medium of poetry, music and performance.

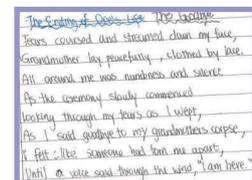
I asked some Year 7 students how they felt about their latest endeavour: *“It would be very interesting to make our poems and English class quite diverse and engage ourselves in music*

while including literature.” (Ethan Chen); *“I think it’s very exciting! I’m looking forward to doing it next year maybe and creating a whole new level of poetry and music. A new performance called Musitry!”* (Amber Herwegh Vonk); *“I really like this idea because you can link different hobbies into one.”* (Arsalan Mir); *“I think this is a good idea for students to experience how to transform your feelings into words and from words then into music.”* (Emily Chang).

If you are interested in finding out more about spoken word, poetry, SLAM or poetry in performance please contact Mr O’Shea.



Amber Herwegh Vonk



Jeni Liu

FOBISIA Short Story Writing Competition

Claire Drag, Assistant Head of English

As most of you will be aware, the school participates in the annual FOBISIA Short Story Writing Competition, which is for all pupils who attend the Secondary School and are in any of the school sections. This year, the competition was hosted by Garden International School in Thailand and they have chosen Jenny Valentine, the author of five critically acclaimed novels for young adults, to be the judge.

Jenny has had success through publishing works such as *Finding Violet Park*, *Broken Soup*, *The Ant Colony* and *The Double Life of Cassiel Roadnight*. Her forthcoming novel, *Fire Colour One* will be published by HarperCollins later in 2015. Jenny is also the author of the warm and brilliant *Iggy and Me* series for younger readers. The winner and two runners-up in each

category will receive certificates, have their stories published on the FOBISIA website and receive an autographed copy of Jenny’s newest novel, so we are hopeful for some TES success.

English, French and German teachers all chose stories (written in English, with the theme of *‘Taking Risks’*) from each of their classes, to go forward to the Year Team competition. This was a tough job, as the standard was very high as always and the criteria was based around the novelty of the story, the link to the theme (some more tenuous than others!) and the overall accuracy, presentation and style. Ultimately, each teacher chose a unique entry that they thought had the best chance of winning the school competition and representing TES.

Well done to all of the BSHS Year team winners, whose stories were selected. The

students who were successful were as follows:

- Year 7: Noa Shmueli
- Year 8: A tie between Helena Liu and Jonathan Chang
- Year 9: Brian Lu
- High School: Darren Ting

The French and German Section overall winner was Emily Staude, whose entry has now gone on to represent the whole school at the FOBISIA competition. Ms Edith Stawecka is her teacher and was delighted when she discovered her pupil had been chosen, especially as Emily works in German and spent weeks perfecting her story.

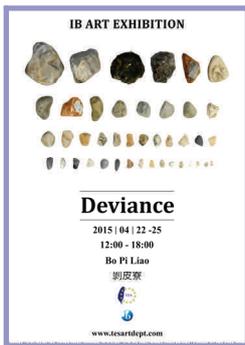
The story was emailed off to Thailand before the break and we are awaiting news regarding whether or not Emily has been even more successful. Many thanks to everyone for all your efforts and support with this year’s competition and congratulations once again to not only our winners, but to all the participants!



Jenny Valentine

IB Art Show - Deviance

Victoria Boyden, H3



One of the things that always strikes me about TES, is the level of creative freedom afforded to students — a level that would be unthinkable at the previous two Taiwanese schools I have attended. At TES, creativity is encouraged. Although there are flaws in the system, it is designed to help students rather than hinder them.

I was especially struck by this in a recent History class on the Spanish Civil War that took place in the Art classroom, where Mr Hebden gave us a lecture on Picasso's *Guernica*. Surrounded by student artwork, I realised that the high value afforded to creativity at TES had resulted in an outpouring of originality, covering the walls and ceilings with the contents of students' imagina-

tions. Art classes are so much a fact of life at TES that this is often overlooked, and yet it is an integral part of what sets TES apart from any other Taiwanese school.

The 2015 IB Art Show made the benefits of this freedom abundantly clear through the work of the H4 art students, who displayed an astonishing body of work. Every collection of work was a wonderful surprise, showcasing the students' originality and imagination. The works of Eric Chen and Eva Wang were especially eye-catching, with Eric's work offering a glimpse into his unique point of view and Eva's work delving into the significance of appearances.

The range of materials used to create the artwork was also

impressive and included potted plants, feathers, and magazine advertisements. Many pieces addressed issues such as perceptions of gender, ethical treatment of animals and the recent Fukushima disaster. These thought-provoking pieces injected a sense of immediacy into the exhibition, eliciting both intellectual and emotional reactions from the viewers.

Seeing the fruits of the H4 Art students' labours gave me a renewed sense of perspective on the role of creativity in education. I believe that creativity and imagination play a vital role in learning and development, a point proven by the outstanding work produced by students of a school that allows them to think and dream.



IB Art Show - Deviance



IB ART EXHIBITION

Deviance

2015 | 04 | 22 - 25
12:00 - 18:00
Bo Pi Liao
胡皮寮

www.tesardpt.com





A Word from the Head of Sport

Kwok Chow, Head of Sport

The final tournaments of the year for High School were played last Saturday with our Varsity Boys (coached by Ming Chien Li) and Junior Varsity Boys (coached by Rob Neroutsos) playing well, but just missing out on the medals. Our Varsity Basketball Boys team (coached by David Lin) also competed in the High School Boys Basketball Youth Cup for Taiwan. They had tough opposition, but played admirably throughout the tournament. We finished off our first Touch Rugby season (coached by Jared Duxfield) and the student athletes had a blast. This weekend, KS3 will play the last TISSA tournaments of the year in Basketball, so good luck and go TITANS! The last sporting event of the year will be the Sports Awards on the 12th May from 5:00-7:15 pm, followed by a BBQ until 8:15pm. If you are interested in coming along, please email marie-beatrice.blancb2016@stu.tes.tp.edu.tw, who is the event coordinator.



Athlete of the Month

Marie Josephine Blanc

For outstanding display of tackling in the JV Girls Football Tournament.



**Our
Titans
Mascot!**

Upcoming KS3 Basketball Tournaments

Details of 2nd May KS3 Basketball Tournaments

Y7 Girls@MAB (Bethany in Taipei) 9-5pm
 Y7 Boys@MAC (Taichung) 9-5pm
 Y8 Girls@MAC (Taichung) 9-5pm
 Y8 Boys@AST (Taichung) 9-5pm
 Y9 Girls @ISIS (Koashiung) 9-5pm
 Y9 Boys@ISIS (Koashiung) 9-5pm

Please come and support if you have time this weekend.



Junior Varsity TISSA Girls Football Tournament

Report by Marie Josephine Blanc

On Saturday, 25th of April, our JV Girls Football Team had a tournament at the new TES football pitch. Our school, along with four other international schools, DIS, TAS, ISIS and ICA, participated in the tournament. The day started off quite cold and we had quite bad weather during the week so we were actually all worried about rain on that day. Fortunately, the weather got better when we started our first game against DIS at 7:45am.

We played against DIS a few days before the tournament for practice and scored 7-0 to us. Therefore, we used this game as a warm up and got the nerves out of our system first thing in the morning and ended up with a result of 4-0 to us! We then had a one hour break before our game against ICA. We had some snacks to restore our energy and then stretched and prepared for our game. Despite the really strong wind and hot sun that came out, we still played our best and ended with a score of 0-0. The next game was against MCA, who we knew was going to be the toughest team to play against. We all started to get sunburn and sore legs, but we knew that we had to give our best effort and persevere through the 36-minute game. Unfortunately, our nerves got the best of us and the match ended with a score of 2-0 to MCA.

We were quite disappointed because we all knew that we could do better and make our coach, Miss Simmons, proud. However, we cheered up because we still had one last game to play against ISIS. We had a 2-hour break, so we used that time to eat our lunches and prepare ourselves for the last game. This game wasn't just our last game of the day, but also the last game we would be playing together as a team, because two teammates will be leaving and two other H3s and I will not be able to join the JV tournament next year. Therefore, we all knew that we had to give all we have and also, most importantly, enjoy our last game! We scored 8-0 in total and ISIS didn't have any chance of scoring. We were all super ecstatic! This game was a perfect ending to the day and got us our 3rd place bronze medal!

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Chow for organising the day and, most importantly, to our best coach Miss Simmons for making this year's football so special and helping us push through our limits and improve as a whole team! What we got out of the day wasn't just a medal but we all got ourselves red cheeks!





Varsity TISSA Boys Volleyball Tournament Report

Report by Kevin Wang

The first game for today's tournament was against ICA Team 1 and the first set started off with a lead, but the scoring became tighter as the set progressed, resulting in a loss for the first set. We were able to win the second set, but the third set was unsuccessful as well, with a wider score gap than expected and possible. The total score for this game was 60–48 to ICA.

The second game of the pool against ISIS saw us winning the first set, but losing the second one. The final set of this game was very close, coming to a deuce at the end, which we won 16–14. The total score for this game was 59–55 to TES.

The score differences we had, however, was insufficient to advance us into the final round, which meant that this was, unfortunately, our last game in the tournament. We gave each other encouragement and support throughout the games and under Coach Li's guidance, maintained a good spirit generally. The result of this tournament was an underperformance, as we practised a lot during training and everyone improved significantly, meaning we definitely had the ability and chance to win this year's tournament. One of the main factors behind the result was nervousness during the games and falling confidence after making certain mistakes, especially when the scores were tight. At times, more communication between players would have helped prevent some mistakes as well. We can all positively say that the team was capable of attaining a better result, as evidenced, for instance, by the largely successful serves we made and some of the spikes, sets and blocks. It was, however, some minor errors that accumulated into nervousness that led to the underperformance.

All in all, it was still a very rewarding experience, since we were always very supportive of each other throughout the training sessions and the tournament and we worked well together as a cohesive and positive team. We may not have returned with a physical medal or trophy, but it is our firm belief that the cooperative and positive spirit we exhibited over the past few months up to the tournament was unparalleled by any other team.



Touch Rugby Season

Report by Harry Stokes

The Rugby Football Union was first set up in 1871 when a group of enthusiasts decided that they would play a different brand of football to that of the modern day variety. Similarly at TES, there is such a group of passionate people that regularly indulge in the sport of Rugby. Whether in rain, sleet or shine; we strived to become true Touch Rugby players.

Since the start of the mid-season, a group of enthusiasts have gathered every Wednesday on the field to train in the rudiments of Rugby. All of our skill levels varied. We had players with a great deal of experience, some experience and no experience at all! This did not concern us at all, the reason being: we were all there to share the joys of a sport. Our coaches, Mr Duxfield and Harry Stokes, probably have the most experience and passion of all, as it was the two of them that set up the activity in the first place.

The very basics of Rugby – passing and running – were drilled into us for the first few weeks, purely to get us used to the feeling of a Rugby ball and style of play. Subsequently, maneuvers such as the ‘3 man drive’ (a basic offensive maneuver) began to emerge as our play became more and more sophisticated. Towards the later stages of training we started to spice up the ‘3 man drive’ with techniques such as ‘backdoor’, ‘quickie’ and ‘the loop’. All three of these were offensive maneuvers.

Our coach also made sure defence was not neglected. Before proper defensive training, our defence was in a shambles. It made things too easy for the attacking team to score tries. As a team, we were shown the art of a static defence line, along with something I like to think of as a ‘magnetic’ active defence. This method could be described as drawing in the two people on either side to hamper the efforts of the runner.

Aside from the technical aspects of learning a sport, I am sure that everybody involved enjoyed being trained and definitely played their hearts out. Drills were always punctuated by the occasional ball drop, but that didn’t matter. After all, we were all improving slowly but surely. One of our coaches even commented (with a large grin on his face) “*You guys are hopeless*”. The end of each session always hailed a game. We were often split into two or three teams, rotating around and scoring tries. This was of great importance, as all of us gained experience in actual gameplay.

Our experiences were further enhanced when a staff game was organised. Teachers were invited by Mr Duxfield to try their hand at playing the two youth filled teams. It was a rather warm day, the most humid Taipei had experienced in a while. We were all rather nervous, as it was our first proper game collectively. The match started badly for us. As one of the players in our team commented, “*We got wrecked by older people*”. A seemingly apt description of the first few rounds we faced. Despite this predicament, by the second round, the energy of the youth filled team outlasted that of the more seasoned life experts. It was an interesting example of the benefits of being young!

(continued over)



***“In the beginning, you were all running around like headless chickens. It’s amazing to see how much you all have improved”
Mr Duxfield
(during the final game)***





**“You guys are
hopeless”
Harry Stokes**

Touch Rugby Season (continued)

The season culminated in a game with an external organisation: the Taipei Touch Association. Similarly to us, these were a group of people that came together to enjoy the many joys of Rugby. The biggest difference though, was that they possessed many people that were regular Touch Rugby players – strong, sinewy players that were very fast; and adept at scoring tries.

The day started off with a nice, early gathering time of 9:30 am. Judging by the amount of banter and camaraderie displayed by everyone, spirits seemed to be high. By the time we arrived at the appointed venue at Bailing Sports Field, the sun was well above our heads. It was turning into a very warm day. By this stage of our training, we had incorporated a ‘rolling substitution’ method. Players who were tired were constantly and consistently subbed of the field to rest and/or give their fellow teammates a chance at being a game changer. The heat of the day quickly sapped our strength and this became one of the most important aspects of our gameplay. By the end of the first half, we were trailing by several points, although it could have been completely different as King Munn and Joshua could have opened the scoring in the first few minutes if it weren’t for the poorly marked try lines. “Unaccustomed to” would be the best description for the level of unfamiliarity our team faced when playing on a dusty field made from real grass and baked hard by the scorching sun. As the match drew on, both sides grew more and more tired. The sun was an unforgiving fellow but again, our youth was the pivotal factor that allowed us to persevere to the end. At around 11:00 we all decided to call it a day, curiously without knowing who won or lost!

One thing that I personally noticed amongst this team was how at ease we all felt being around and playing Rugby with each other. Every time something funny was said (even slightly more ‘interesting’ jokes, such as “Backdoor? Hahaha”). Everybody that could hear would laugh in response. It truly had, as some would say, “a good vibe”. This would be instrumental in keeping the atmosphere positive and conducive for learning; even when presented with a high pressure situation. It was the team chemistry and strong bond, unique to those in the Rugby team, that gave the team its shape, identity and seamless invincibility.

The season ended with our coach giving us all a verbal pat on the back, along with some words to live by. *“In the beginning, you were all running around like headless chickens. It’s amazing to see how much you all have improved”*. It is truly a pity that the season had to end. I, along with all others, really hope to see the Spirit of Rugby live on at TES. We will undoubtedly be back for more, when the sun rises again, heralding a new season of Touch Rugby at TES .





Touch Rugby Team

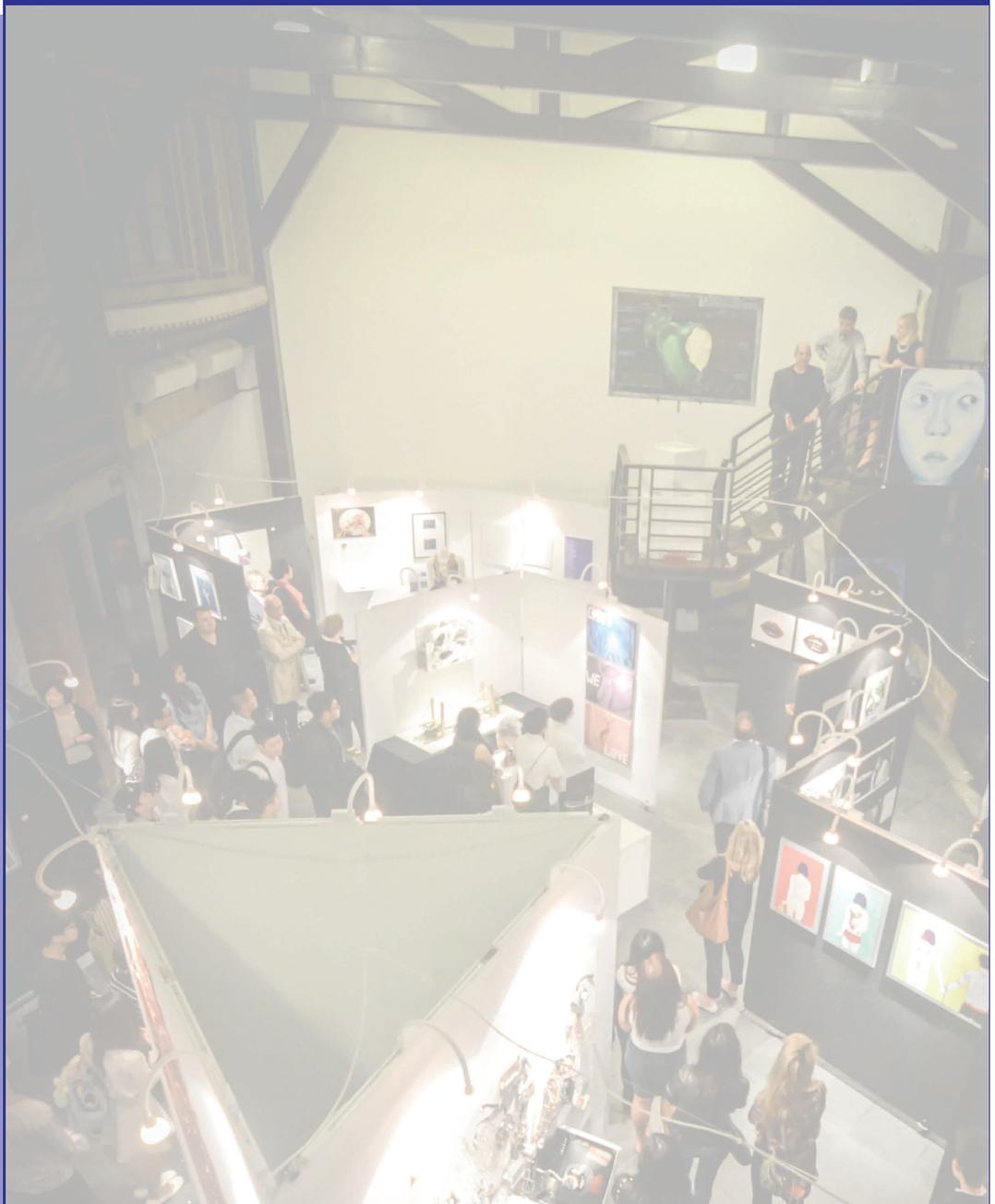


Junior Varsity TISSA Boys Volleyball Tournament Team



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Our school has attracted regional and worldwide attention with its unique model for integrating German, British, French, and High School sections in terms of their curricula, administration, finance, buildings and facilities.

The Taipei British School (TBS), Ecole Francaise de Taipei (EFT); and Deutsche Schule Taipei (DST) began around 1990 in response to the needs of expatriate families with young children, living in Taipei. The schools soon realised that there was much to be gained by joining forces to establish a combined European campus. This would allow the schools to share some facilities and resources yet teach their own respective national curricula.

