



# ESC Newsletter

Issue 14

November 2015

## Coming up this month:

- 28 November: Christmas Bazaar
- 30 November: H4 Mock Exams Start
- 17 December: Christmas Concert
- 18 December: End of Term

## Inside this issue:

- ESCPA 3
- IB Spotlight 4
- Sports Day 6
- Articul8 10
- University Counsellors 12
- Sports News 18
- And much more!

## Welcome from the BSHS Head

Chrysta Garnett, Head of British Secondary and High School Section

### Dear Parents

As we almost come to the half way point of the academic year, there is, as always, lots to celebrate in this month's edition of the ESC Newsletter. Many of our core curriculum areas have contributed to this edition to give parents a flavour of the current academic focus of this Term. Our Maths Department has been particularly busy with the recent Senior Maths Challenge that sees our top performing high school students compete against their global peers; as well as leading on a EPC and ESC articulation project involving our H1s gifting our Year 6 students their traditional Halloween Hats. You can read more about this project, as well as other curriculum news, inside this Newsletter.

Last month saw our second annual ESC Sports Day, involving students from Year 7 up to H3 in a range of fun but also competitive traditional sports events at Taipei Arena. Like last year, the sun shone and students and teachers had a wonderful day in the name of exercise, good health, the TES values and House spirit.

Each year, as we approach Christmas, learning seems to take a particularly serious turn for our H2 and H4 students. Our H4 student mock IB exams start on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The exam period is preceded by a week-long 'Masterclass' programme, where students are given an opportunity to revise key curriculum content under the supervision of their specialist teachers. Once the mock exam period begins, students are allowed to attend only for their examinations, but may use the school facilities if convenient, for focused study periods. We give students the option of a silent study area and a peer study area, as well as the option to remain at home during non-examination periods. Ms Rana and Ms Harris will be communicating more information regarding the mock exams very soon, as well as advance information about the upcoming H2 mock IGCSEs after Christmas.

Also this month, in the immediate aftermath of the recent events in Paris, a TES memorial concert was held at ESC to show our collective stance

against terrorism. Our French Section colleagues and students have had a particularly difficult couple of weeks and we send all members of our French community our condolences and sympathy. French Section students and teachers, as well as the ESC Music Department, put together a wonderful programme for our hastily arranged memorial concert to remember the victims of terrorism all over the world. Our thanks to all involved for making this happen in such a short timeframe.

At the weekend, TES held one of its biggest annual events that will saw up to 7000 members of our community celebrating our Christmas Bazaar with us at the EPC. Festive fun, good food, music and a great range of family friendly activities were on offer and it was wonderful to see so many of you there. The sun shone on us as always...I am starting to think that the ESCPA order the weather especially for the event! Thank you as ever for your ongoing support.



## Focus on Progress

Daisy Rana, Assistant Head

H2 and H4 students are currently preparing for mock examinations which will commence for H4 on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November and for H2 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Experience shows that the highly structured revision sessions offered by TES staff, coupled with a series of timed mock examinations, prepare students and staff well for success in the coming months and for the final examinations themselves.

The mock exams aim to provide for our students a realistic examination experience – from preparing revision schedules, to managing emotions during pressurised situations, to balancing the academic needs of all subjects. For H4 students, the mock examination grade achieved will also provide another piece in the jigsaw regarding overall performance. Similarly, H2 Mock examination grades will help students and staff recognise current attainment and, together with a bank of assessment information, will help staff form an attainment grade which will feature in the Academic Reports scheduled for February. Once marked, staff

will guide students in the self-analysis of their mock examination papers so that the next steps toward progress are identified, actioned and evaluated by the student with our support.

In order for all students to shine, it is important that each student considers the following:

- Attendance and punctuality to mock examinations is key. For morning exams, all students will need to arrive by 7:50 am. For afternoon exams, arrival time is 12:50 pm at the latest. Students arriving late for the start of the exam will not be given extra time.
- Equipment needed for examinations is the responsibility of the student and a letter shared with all H4 students recently by Mrs Harris, our Examinations Officer, outlines the equipment expectations. A similar letter will be distributed to H2 students before the Christmas break.
- Past papers, revision guides and recommended online tutorials are all effective approaches to revision and

students should explore their preferred revision style, using a combination of all revision resources available.

To help students with their preparation for this series of examinations, staff have led a 'Master Class' week in which the review of challenging topics was led by the teacher. Numerous revision sessions have also been conducted through departments after school. In addition, students have participated in a sequence of assemblies and PSHCE sessions on constructing realistic study schedules, managing distractions and maintaining mental and physical well being through the examination period.

We fully expect that our combined thorough approach to examination preparation will allow students to shine in the coming weeks and maintain their motivation to reach their full potential with our full support.

Many thanks.

## Chamber Choir Visits ICRT Radio



## News from the ESCPA

Anna Durmus, ESCPA

Dear Parents,

With all the events going on in TES this month and the preparations for the annual Christmas Bazaar in full swing, I personally feel that November must be the busiest month in TES life! The number and range of school events is amazing and the ESCPA is striving to provide the best possible support we can, while having lots of fun and good moments and laughs to share among ourselves.

Even though I mentioned the Sports Day in the last issue, I would like to use this opportunity to say a heartfelt Thank You to my colleagues in the ESCPA Activities Committee who did their best to keep the kids and teachers well-fed, and to volunteer parents who came to lend us a helping hand and cheer their competing kids. Your assistance was invaluable and we could not have done without you! Congratulations to the winning team and good luck to all TES sportsmen in the upcoming competitions.

Our October vegetarian lunch, organised jointly by the ESCPA and Roots and Shoots ECA, was hosted by Junko and featured a Japanese curry. Now, I've got to tell you, I would never have thought that a curry could be so popular among the kids. If I say they loved it, it would not be an exaggeration. Some kids came for seconds...

and thirds! We joked that Junko should work as a Chef for the catering company or even start her own business. Well done, Junko! We hope you will make our kids happy next year, too! We are grateful to many of you for encouraging your children to give our lunches a try. We've heard from many kids that this was a subject of conversation at home. Well done for raising your kids' awareness of healthy eating! More on the November Vegetarian Lunch in the December issue.

The renewed Cafeteria Menu has been available for a month now. My kids enjoy the new menu items, and I hope yours do too. If you have any feedback or suggestions for the Cafeteria Committee, they are happy to hear from you. Please contact [escpacommittee@gmail.com](mailto:escpacommittee@gmail.com) if you have anything to share with us, both good and bad.

By far one of the most meaningful events at TES in November was Values Day on 11/11. When, at very short notice, we were contacted by one of the teachers asking us to host a traditional European lunch for a 39-strong group visiting from an Atayal (aka Tayal) Tribe School, the ESCPA did not think twice. We knew we would love to host those kids and their teachers. And once again, the ESCPA Activities

Committee set to work and produced a mouth-watering lunch of Swiss Pasta, German Sausage, French Quiche and British Apple Pie. We were happy to receive so many compliments on the lunch, both from the visiting team and our own TES staff. Well done, volunteer parents!

Finally, Saturday was the big day! I know how busy and exhausted many of you have been for the past months and how relaxing life will suddenly feel on Monday after the Bazaar day... Thank you again, volunteers, you are awesome, you are fantastic, you are simply the best! We hope you had fun at the Bazaar everyone, enjoying the atmosphere, tasting the great food and watching TES talents performing. Thanks again to the TES volunteer parents, who did a gigantic job to make this event happen!

And just a gentle reminder that you can keep abreast of the ESCPA activities on the TES Parents Forum on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TESparentsForum/>. The news and photos are updated regularly, and there is a lot of other useful information as well. So long for November and see you soon!

Your ESCPA



# Spotlight on IB

## TOK Essay Day

Sean Kenny, TOK Team Leader

While the rest of the student body and staff participated in Sports Day, the brave H4 cohort and the TOK Team of teachers held their own sport in the form of seven hours devoted to understanding the demands of the TOK essay in the new 2015 TOK curriculum. All the TOK Team had helped plan and prepare the day and all spoke to the students on an aspect of the essay writing task.

Just as the younger students on their way home from the Taipei Arena felt tired but exhilarated, the H4s will have felt tired but ready to begin their own 100 metres hurdles race with the demands of the six prescribed titles set by the IBO this year. They must select one and produce an essay of no more than 1,600 words. The titles this year are:

1. In gaining knowledge, each area of knowledge uses a network of ways of knowing." Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
2. Knowledge within a discipline develops according to the principles of natural selection." How useful is this metaphor?

3. The knower's perspective is essential in the pursuit of knowledge." To what extent do you agree?
4. Without application in the world, the value of knowledge is greatly diminished." Consider this claim with respect to two areas of knowledge.
5. To what extent do the concepts that we use shape the conclusions that we reach?
6. In knowledge there is always a trade-off between accuracy and simplicity." Evaluate this statement in relation to two areas of knowledge.

One of the important ideas about TOK that parents, IB teachers and IB students should be aware of is succinctly summed up by this quotation from an IBO regional conference in 2013:

*"The TOK course should not be a technical philosophical investigation into the nature of knowledge: it should be rooted in the students' own experience in their other DP subjects."*

As the principal means of assessment of the two-year course, the essay should have the same focus of reflection on

the ways into knowledge learned in all the academic subjects of the Diploma, and, of course, in the everyday events of life which shape us as knowers (TOK talk for 'people').

In the TOK presentation, which will take place in March, the second stage of the assessment will have the same focus, but this time the students can choose their own starting point in a RLS (a real life situation) and not be constrained by the prescribed titles of the essay.

We hope that parents will talk with their sons and daughters about the essay titles. You can offer insights and provide a sounding board for the essay. Many students make it too abstract, and/or too philosophical. Mum and Dad can help bring the ideas down to earth and get them rooted in the real world. TOK in the end is designed to assist us as we grapple with the everyday knowledge choices of work, family and conscience: it is not designed for ivory towers or the world of angels.



## Year 7 Service Project - Raised Garden Beds

Raymond Imbleau, Head of Year 7

The Year 7s got off to a wonderful start with their Service Project on October 29<sup>th</sup> when the whole year group went outside to weed, clean and organise their own raised garden beds. It was a challenging afternoon as students were asked to combine their efforts and teambuilding skills team in order to effectively prepare their gardens for planting the vegetable and herb seedlings.

Not only was hard work on

display all afternoon, but so too was passion and enthusiasm.



asm for their Raised Garden Bed Year 7 Service Project. It was great to see so many

students take their role as young gardeners with such earnest. They can look forward to harvesting their lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli and mint in a couple of months.

Students can also fertilize their gardens with things from home such as used coffee grinds and leftover vegetables that have not been cooked.

## English News

Adam Taylor, English Teacher

### Selling the Dream – A Way Into *Death of a Salesman*

We have been working on a unit as part of the World Literature course which requires us to study Arthur Miller's quintessential modern literary work on the American Dream, *Death of a Salesman*. Considering the nature of the theme suggested in the title, we spent a bit of time thinking about what the American Dream meant to writers of the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century and how many, like Miller, had begun to question the direction the Dream had taken: from its idealistic and coequal beginnings rooted in the founding of the Americas, towards a more materialistic and self-interested path that, to some degree, is still prevalent in today's consumer driven culture.

The story of Willy Loman's descent into disillusionment and despair, therefore, reflects some of the misgivings that Miller himself had about the burgeoning pursuit of capitalism that was taking place in post-

War U.S.; a period marked by growing affluence and pursuit of material wealth. This went hand-in-hand with increasingly conspicuous media advertising which often promoted prod-

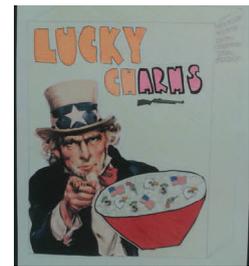


ucts through the exploitation and veiled promise of achieving the American Dream.

To explore this idea further, students used an information sheet on which to base their own poster ad, the job of which was to 'sell' the Dream in the guise of a commercial product. The main aim was to think which elements of the dream most stood out for them and to sell it as an actual material item. For example a

car, holiday, toaster or home appliance...anything. They could then think about how aspects of that item might link in with key aspects of the Dream – but also its corruption – serving as a kind of metaphor; similar, in essence, to what was envisaged by Miller in his play which is, after all, about a man who sells for a living.

In addition, students were able to see how the power of advertising works as a medium, as well as explore the subversion of that text type as a piece of satire in itself. It was a challenging task, with a complex premise, but the group took to it admirably and produced adverts which were diverse and thought provoking: from cereal packets to Playstations, and chandeliers to vacuum cleaners; one could say that, at the very least, it was a lesson in how to get ahead in advertising.



## Drama - H2Devised Performances

Rowena Bracken, Head of Drama

H2 Drama Devised Performances demonstrated that hard work, commitment and creativity results in excellent work. On the 29<sup>th</sup> October, the TES H2 Drama class performed three short performances.

The students wrote and directed their performance pieces in response to a range of stimuli. What impressed me throughout the process was the imagination from the students' collaborative ideas and their willingness to take risks in

performances. Each piece was very different, showing just how individualised each groups' responses were. It was an awesome evening and I am certain the H2 Drama class have set an excellent example to other students keen to take Drama.





## Sports Day 2015

Francesca Simmons, Head of Physical Education

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, saw all staff and students from Year 7 through to H3 make their way down to the impressive Taipei Stadium for the 2nd TES Annual Sports Day.

Once again the stadium shone with our four electric house colours of blue, red, yellow and green as Bora, Sirocco, Mistral and Marin all battled for their chance to be the 2015 Sports Day Champions.

As always, these events cannot happen without tremendous effort and help from a number of people and so I would like to formally thank, in no particular order; the Parent's Association, the Sports Leaders, the House Captains, all staff and parents for their support on the day. You all contributed to making the day a really special and memorable one and so a big, big Thank You! I look forward to next year being even bigger and better!

Here's what our House Captains had to say about the day:

### Howard Lin and Ray Chen, MARIN

Last week's Sports Day was one of the most fantastic events we've experienced. We were glad to see everyone pumped up, being enthusiastic

and we'll never forget your positive house spirit! We would like to thank all of you for showing respect to both the staff and opponents. Without your dedication, participation and determination, our house wouldn't have made it this far. Marin is about to dominate the school, so say 'Go Marin Wolves'!

### Chris Lam and Ann Tsai, MISTRAL:

We were very fortunate not only to be able to participate in some of the events, but also to watch and root for Mistral. We were very impressed with some of the athletic talents of Mistral and many potential stars, but more importantly the enthusiasm and house spirit you exhibited, particularly cheering on your teammates and stepping up when another was injured or unable to participate. We are very proud of Mistral's effort this year, and though we may not have won, you are all winners and hopefully next year we will take it home!

### Irene Kuo and Jacob Wu, SIROCCO:

All the performances were commendable. It was very encouraging to see all of Sirocco participate and put in tremen-

dous efforts to every competition. They all tried their best and persevered till they reached the finish line. Even though some students had events that they did not prefer, they took part for their house and gave it their best. Kudos to everyone in Sirocco for putting yourselves out there and persevering underneath the sun. At the end of the day, it was a memorable experience and everyone learned a new skill or two in the process. Most importantly, we all had fun!

### Angelina Chen and Tiger Hong, BORA:

The Bora girls and boys who participated in the Sports day were beyond awesome! The day went smoothly and everybody was energetic, enthusiastic and persevered in all events. Tiger and I couldn't ask for more spirit from Bora because everyone sang their hearts out, cheered their lungs out and dominated all battles. The most enjoyable race was definitely the tug of war, since it involved lots of communication, collaborative planning and teamwork. Although the day was exhausting for us, making sure everything was running perfectly fine, we both enjoyed it thoroughly and it was overall a successful day.







## News from the Mathematics Department

### Halloween Hats

Hani Sparks, HI

The HIs were told in a Maths lesson that we were going to make a Halloween Hat for a Year 4 student. We were each assigned a Year 4 child and given their head dimensions, preferred hat height and what they wanted to see on the hat. We started the project with a practice mini hat challenge, where we learned the formula for making a hat and where we practiced putting a hat together.

Then we were on to the real hats. We spent three maths lessons working on our hats; in this time most of the year managed to have the hat finished and all they needed to do was decorate it and write the report. We had to write a report on what we did, the formulas we used and what we thought of the project.

On Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the HIs went down the mountain at 10:30 am, to give the

Year 4s their hats. At the EPC we gave the hats to our Year 4 student then they gave us a fashion show of them wearing the hat. Then there was a game of Family Fortunes between four HI students and four Year 4 students, which the Year 4s won. After that we said our goodbyes and went back up the mountain for lunch. Overall it was a good project and both the HIs and Year 4s had a great time.



## News from the Mathematics Department



### Senior Maths Challenge

Julie Dale, Head of Mathematics

The Senior Maths Challenge is aimed at all 16-19 year olds studying Mathematics who are not yet at University. The Challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in Maths in large numbers of pupils. The papers con-

tain 25 multiple choice questions. Of these, the first 15 are more accessible, whilst the final 10 will provide more food for thought. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are awarded to 40% of participants nationally in the Junior and Intermediate Challenges, and 60% of

participants nationally in the Senior Challenge. The most successful participants at each level are invited to enter follow-on rounds – Kangaroos (multiple choice questions) or Olympiads (requiring full written answers).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Justin Liu - Best in School  
Justin, Alex, Andrew, Ryoki, who qualify for  
the British Mathematical Olympiad

Congratulations also to all of the certificate winners, listed below:

#### GOLD

Justin Liu, Alex Lee, Andrew Wu, Ryoki Kunii, Jim Chen, Matthew Shen, Daniel Lee, Stephen Lien, Jonathan Tseng, Howard Lin, Tim Cheng Leo Ku, Alpha Wu, Jefferson Chien, Johnson Lee

#### SILVER

Elizabeth Morrison, Jenny Li, Sharlene Chen, Bojun Hsu, Curtis Chen, Timmy Chiang, Irene Kuo, David Lin, Steven Liu, Anja Rabich, Alvin Chang, Samantha Chen, Meightyal Liu, Raghav Rasal, Ray Huang, Ashley Fuh, William Chen, Angela Chen, Chris Lam, Timothy Lee, Vatsal Savani, I chuan Hsia, Jennifer Li, Hao chun Hsiao, Annie Cheung, Ryan Chang, Henry Chuang, Will Huang, Yuki Nogawa

#### BRONZE

Rosa Pan, Stephan Jao, Angus Hsieh, Amber Lu, Xuanlin Tham, Milan Zaavy, Ivory Lee, Yvonne Huang, Yu ting Chen, Chris Lu, Howard Chao, Nidhi Mehta, Jatin Agnani, Lukas Cha, Chaihsin Huang



## Articul8

Amanda Marcon, Articul8 Coordinator



**Stephanie Liu getting organised with her research**

Year 9 students were refining their research, investigation and critical thinking skills throughout the Articul8 week – a project which is similar to the Extended Essay in the IB Diploma program.

The Articul8 project, now in its fourth year, was designed to give students the opportunity to engage in a personal inquiry about a relevant issue using an interdisciplinary approach. The project aims for students to develop deeper understandings through in-depth research and investiga-

tion; develop confidence in learning skills; and to develop critical thinking skills and strategies. The main objectives are for students to define a clear goal or area of focus based on personal interest. Students demonstrate research skills and subject specific knowledge and plan and record the development process of the project in a process journal. Students also learn how to plan and use their time effectively while reflecting on the outcome.

Students were engaged in

various sessions throughout the week, such as organisation and planning, conducting research, academic honesty and a library resources session. The project aims to give the students insight into the rigours of high school and IB learning attributes, while extending their knowledge and understanding using an interdisciplinary approach.

Here is an insight into some of the student essay titles and perspectives portrayed in their blogs throughout the week.



**Sidney Liu locates a book to suit his area of focus**

### **How does modern society's actions affect Brazil's environment and how does this affect its economy and its population?**

*"Today is the day that we have to finish and submit our essays. Throughout the project I had a lot of fun researching and doing the actual essay. Even though it wasn't easy, I was still able to successfully finish my essay and submit it... I was able to actually finish my work because I followed a plan and a timetable. I think*

*Articul8 is great help for IB's extended essay, since is something similar. In my opinion, I*



*think Articul8 showed us that in the future we have to manage our own independent studies since there won't always be*

*someone there to help us. I think Articul8 taught me that I need to learn how to manage my own time depending on my level of concentration every day and, in my opinion, I think this will help me a lot in the future. I found my topic very interesting because I was able to understand how a country struggled day by day depending on their crisis, working with this type of question also made me understand how far a small problem can go." Jennifer Chen Huang, Year 9.3*

### **What are the Effects of using Technology to Enhance the Human Body?**

*"This is my last post about the Articul8 project. I have finished everything on my calendar and worked hard to finish it on time. I am proud of what I have done and think it is very good. However not everything is perfect and I will find out what needs to be done and fix any last minor problems that my teachers see in the project." Jude Lakkis, Year 9.1*

**Jessy Lee and Natalie Tioh sharing resources**



### **How do the politics of a country affect its economy and its relationships?**

*"Today I feel like I'm running out of ideas to write, but at least I'm almost finished. I just have to finish one more point and the conclusion. I am at 1200 words! I was quite surprised when I heard this is only our first draft. We have to do this at least one more time. At least this is a good way to prepare for IB when we have to write an extended essay (4000 words)." Bruno Engel-Cadamuro, Year 9.2*

## Articul8

### To what extent does Social Media affect our Human Behaviour?

*"Today was the last day that we got to work on our Articul8 project at school; it was also the day where we had to publish our first draft of our essay. My entire day was mainly spent on adding the final touches to my essay. I was also able to add a few pictures and my sources. However,*

*I didn't change much of the final content, as I was afraid that I would end up changing the*



*entire context of my essay. I enjoyed this Articul8 project a lot. Not only did it allow me to research about a topic I was interested in, it also allowed me to improve on my writing skills."*  
Natalie Tioh, Year 9.3

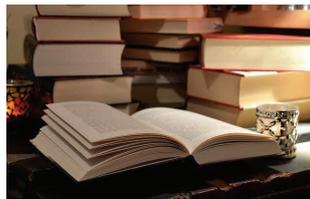


**Shani Lim takes a closer look at the contents**

### From the start of the Age of Enlightenment, how has Skepticism in literature developed into the Modernist Literary movement?

*"Today was the day where I finally completed my essay. It took a great deal of editing to sort out most of my grammatical mistakes and areas that seemed repetitive or didn't make sense. Yet I feel like there might still be quite a lot of areas where there wasn't*

*enough analysis or strength in arguments, but I was already dangerously high over the word*



*limit and I took up a great deal of time editing what I already*

*had, so I had to move on to the visual presentation in order to finish my essay on time. I found a website that could generate a visual timeline for me to mark out all the key elements of Skepticism in my essay and another website where I could create a mind map. It was a pity that my mind map was too big so it couldn't fit in the Google document so I had to put a link instead."*  
Victoria Somerton, Year 9.1



**Students engaged in Library Resources and Research session in Phase 2 Library with Mr Bonnalie, Mr Weston (photographer) and Ms Chang**



**Ms Chang explains the Library Resources system**



## Looking back and looking ahead

Eric Swan, University & Careers Counsellor

During the last six weeks, the TES University Counsellors have experienced a spike in the number of university applications submitted, now totalling at nearly 220 applications. Students' earliest deadline was October 15<sup>th</sup>, which pertained specifically to students applying to the UK for Oxbridge and all applications to dental, medicine and veterinary medicine courses of study. November 1<sup>st</sup> was the next major deadline. This deadline is better known as the 'Early' deadline for universities in the US. These students will be notified of their results by December 15<sup>th</sup>. And lastly, the month of November is the only time for students to submit their application for the University of California (UC) system, which is the most popular network of schools among TES students: Last year, the Class of 2015 submitted 101 applications and this year, the Class of 2016 will submit 105 applications to the UC system. We are hopeful that all remaining applications—there are few exceptions—will be submitted by December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Accompanying the vast majority of these applications are teacher and counsellor recommendations. So far, approximately 148 recommendations have been written! On behalf of all H4 students and families, I would like to extend a gracious thank you to all of those who have taken the time to advocate for our students.

As the H4 students begin to finish-up with their applications, our work promptly begins to focus on planning with the younger students in H1, H2 and most critically, H3 students. On the evening of November 25<sup>th</sup>, the planning began with H3 students and their families when we hosted 'H3 University Night'. H1 and H2 students will begin planning on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November and again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December during PSHCE meetings with Mr Shull and Mr Swan.

Earlier in the school year, many parents joined a series of presentations offered by Daniel Grayson, a former US

admissions officer at Tufts University. Most recently, TES was fortunate to host another admissions expert, only this time pertaining specifically to the UK admissions process: Mr Sean Jones from the organisation UKEAS. Sean delivered an informative parent-presentation to approximately 20 TES parents and also spoke to nearly 30 prospective UK-bound students during lunchtime.

This school year, the UCC department is eager to develop a comprehensive curriculum to help younger students and families understand what they can be doing now that will prepare them for university and beyond. Improving communication with students, parents and TES staff, as well as educating our community on the myriad of university options and requirements, are our top priorities. We encourage all members of the community to contact either Mr Shull or Mr Swan should you have any questions regarding your child's future.



## TES Wins Dance Competition

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, Miss Lin, TES Primary ECA Dance Programme Jazz teacher took our TES Dance Competition Team to take part in the Taipei Students Dance Competition. Once again, they won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Taipei City North District Primary Modern

Dance category, with the highest score (88.90) of all the six modern dance groups in Taipei City. For the fourth time, they will go on to represent Taipei at the National Students Dance Competition next March in Taichung. Every year they always achieve a very good score

and last time they even won second prize in the national competition. Hopefully next March they can go one better when they represent Taipei City to compete in the National Dance Competition 2016 at Taichung. We wish them luck!

### Our Dancers:

German section (ESC):

Katherina Whittome

French section:

Fiona Chen, Riona Chen, Aurelie Kan and Justine Marion

British Section (ESC):

Evie Wickham, Natalie Sng

British section (EPC):

Ashlyn Tioh, Carol Hung and Chelsea Dennis

## H3 Art Trip to Juming Sculpture Park

Sam Hebden, Head of Art

H3 are currently doing a sculpture unit for their IB Visual Arts course. As part of their critical investigation into the work of different artists, we visited the sculpture park of the famous Taiwanese artist Juming. During class we had performed an in depth analysis of the British artist Henry Moore. Of course, we were doing that by looking at two dimensional images of his work, so it was really hard to get a sense of the scale, impact and meaning of the sculptures. When we did

the same type of analysis of Juming's work, we could walk around it, touch it, consider its setting, appreciate the textural qualities and discuss the work whilst sitting next to it. It made such a huge difference to be able observe and analyse Art in real life.

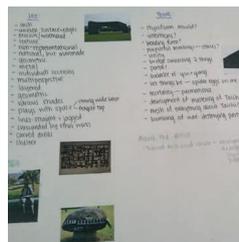
The students had some excellent observations and, when we all worked together, we found out that we could say and think a lot about a previously unknown artwork, just by observing it carefully.

The last hour of the visit was spent doing some

painting of the exhibits.

This type of activity is excellent practice for the critical analysis component of the IB Visual Arts course, as well as helping inspire the students for their current project.

It is great to see students implementing thinking skills that have been taught in a classroom setting in a real world environment. I found the experience to be extremely positive and inspiring. I have included some images from the students' visual arts journals to highlight the good work they did that day.



## News from the Music Department

Ashley Bousfield, Music Teacher

It is always a pleasure to herald the triumphs of TES students. Due to the excitement this accolade has crated around both students and staff in the music department, I thought it better suited to be announced by the student himself, Russell Ho.

*"The other day I was fortunate enough to take part in the Taipei City Music Competition. This competition is held once every two years. The best violinists from all around Taipei gather to demonstrate their musical ability and technical dexterity.*

*The moment I got there, I was overwhelmed by how good the other competitors were. All of them looked so confident, so well*

*prepared and the skills they showed during our individual warm-up time seemed so refined. Seeing the talent exhibited by the other musicians, my expectation of winning decreased and doubt in my ability began to grow.*

*As the competitors in the prep room left one by one, I tried to calm myself down. And then my nerves finally hit me, right before it was my turn. It turns I had nothing to worry about; the other competitors were well prepared, but so was I. I stepped into the spotlight, feeling confident, took a deep breath and began.*

*Everything else did not seem to matter anymore, I was going to do my best and that was what mattered the most. All the time I had*

*been practicing led up to this moment. "This is it," I told myself, "you are going to do your best!" It was over sooner than I had expected and the results came out shortly after I had finished, since I was the very last contestant.*

*I was nervous as I looked up at the scoreboard to check the final results. In the end, I was surprised to see my name up there, not only in the top three, but in first place! All the hard work had really paid off!*

*I am grateful to all my teachers and I especially want to thank to my parents, who gave me the chance to prove myself. In the end, I guess I was just relieved the whole thing was over."*





## Geography News

Hannah Brooks, Head of Geography

So far this year, Geography students across different year groups have been using the local environment to develop their skills and interest in the subject.

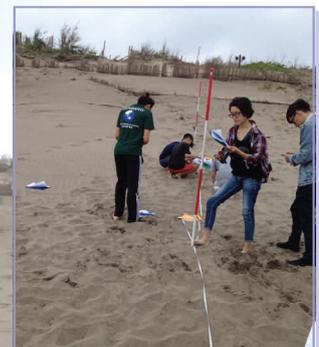
The Year 8s walked along the local Monkey Trail to learn more about rainforest adaptations.



The Year 9s built models to show the structure and key features of a volcano and then made them erupt outside the Phase I building.



The H4s travelled to Baishawan beach in the north to complete a sand dune study on a small section of the coast. This data will be used as part of their IB course to write their IA using skills of data presentation, analysis and evaluation.



## International Award Hike

Scott Simmons Powell

On the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, the Bronze and new Silver International Award students went on their first planned hike. The students had to plan the hike and carry all the equipment needed for the two-day trip. On the Friday night, the students had to cook and prepare their meals – it was very interesting to see what they had prepared! This hike was a learning experience for many of them, as on the second day the weather changed to rain, rain and more rain! Here's what some of the students had to say about their experiences.

**Nidhi Mehta:**  
IA. Now what can I say about this amazing and unforgettable hike? The cold, the steep mountains we had to climb, the rain; everything was just so memorable and filled with excitement. Everything from carrying big, heavy backpacks on trails to cooking warm dinners under a gazebo while it was raining with no light; it was all something to learn from and to keep in mind on the next hike. Overall, a wonderful experience!

**James Pan:**  
On October 30<sup>th</sup>, us IA members embarked on a hike into the Yangmingshan mountain range. This hike, lasting two days in total, was definitely a memorable experience for me. During the hike, we faced many challenges, such as finding our own way around with compasses, locating exactly where we were on the map, hiking long routes with heavy bags, and aggravating weather conditions that stopped us from finishing our hike near the end

of the second day. However, with each and every challenge I faced during this hike, I was able to learn something new and valuable to me. I was able to make many new friends during this experience from a wider range of year groups. And, as a team, the company that we provided one another with helped us to maintain a relatively cheerful spirit throughout the entire hike, even when we got lost or were soaking wet under



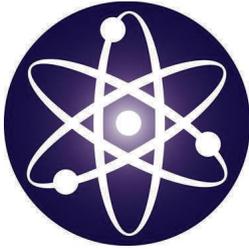
the strong, unforgiving winds high up in the mountains. This thrilling experience is one that I will never forget and I hope to go on another IA hike in the near future.

**Lute Durham:**  
Being a new participant of this award, I genuinely enjoyed the hike. I didn't know what I was expecting at first, but the outcome of this expedition definitely exceeded the fun I had in mind prior to the event. What I found the most unpleasant about this hike was the repetitive and monotonous blocks of grey solids (stairs), which were, as expected, absolutely awful. We knew they were coming, but when the first flight of stairs appeared, the thought of having to climb them for the rest of the hike, was completely energy-draining and dooming. But of course, the stairs didn't last

forever and in a quick hike of the first peak, we were all back to happy hikers again. The second and the third peak were all great fun, with the inclusion of lunch, mud and ropes. Everyone had a considerable sense of accomplishment by the end of the day (I believe), and were all in high spirits. Some people were in abnormally high spirits when we arrived at 7-11 and reunited with civilisation. At around 6:00 pm in a drizzle of rain, we arrived at the scout camp. Showering and supper cooking took place, which were all noticeably relaxing and amusing. Overall, most of us had a brilliant time during the IA practice hike and learned that we needed to bring better breakfast, have more practice with bearings and lower expectations of the qualifying hike (Starbucks, showers, cabins etc...). I am looking forward to the next hike enormously.

**Loyse Queau:**

This was our first hike together and although there were tough moments, overall it was a great experience. Some of the useful skills that we have learned along the way are being able to locate yourself according to a map, compass or surroundings, as well as being prepared for all types of weather. Spending time as a group and motivating each other was also a big part of this enjoyable experience. I think we are all looking forward to our next hike, at the beginning of next year, to learn new skills and to reinforce connections made.



## Science News - Testing for Vitamin C in Year 8 and H1

Yoko Tsai, Science Teacher

### Year 8 food and Digestion Unit



*Preparing citrus fruit juice for testing*



*Guess which fruit contains the most Vitamin C?*

### H1 B3 Food and Nutrition Unit



**Count how many drops need to be added before the blue colour DCPIP solution completely disappears!**

# Memorial Concert - November 19, 2015





## A Word from the Head of Sport

Kwok Chow, Head of Sport

It was a packed month of sports for November, with our High School teams competing overseas in U15 FOBISIA and Phuket 7s. There were outstanding performances from all athletes and they should all be proud of their contributions to TES sports. Lastly a big thank you to all coaches who have put in all the extra hours to make sure that the teams are always ready for action. Go Titans!

## Athlete of the Month

Carl Wikström  
For displaying tremendous leadership



## JVB Football TISSA Tournament Report

Report by Vatsal Savani

Coming first was just a glimmer of the JVB Boys Football team at the start of their day, but after the first match, we felt compelled to make it a reality. However, The TES JVB Team lost 4-0 to the MAC team in the final half of the final match, dropping back to second place.

Early morning, 6:30, on All Hallows Eve, a team of 14 young footballers, set off towards the western coast of Taiwan, to Taichung. After a two-hour long drive on a bus, we reached MAC, the host of this year's football tournament; by the time of our first match we were all ready and warmed up to win against IIS. After a quick

game of football, our team won by three points with a score of 5-2, and moved up to 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place.

After waiting for an hour or so, we had another match, this time against Kuei Shan (KSS), a team which we had already won against in a practice match. Regardless of that, this time we played even harder, even better and even faster. However, we won the game with a score of 3-0.

The two games that were played by us were supposed to be just a warm up for the finals, which was against the MAC team. The MAC, being recognised as one of the

football toppers were no doubt going to win, but we kept playing till the end. We kept it at 0-0 till half time, but as soon as the next half started, goals started sweeping in. This resulted in our first loss at 4-0.

Soon after our matches, we were awarded second place and the names of our MVPs were stated. They were Douglas Lee, our lead defence, and Tom Wikström, our lead scorer.

All in all, The JVB Boys enjoyed the day and reached the EPC late in the evening, all tired and breathless. A day like this only comes once in a decade...



## Phuket Soccer 7s

Report by Phuket 7s Football Team

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November, our school participated in the annual Phuket Soccer 7s Tournament. This enticing tournament brought together 18 different teams, who battled for supremacy in the over 15 age group. This however was just a small part, as there were loads more boys and girls playing for glory in five other age groups. From the off we knew we would have to give it our all, as we were the youngest team (and most handsome) and had never previously played in a 7 a side tournament. The teams we were drawn with were all Thai local teams, so we were in for fierce competition.

### 1-0 loss

The game started off with us having a lot of confidence. We all started off giving a lot of pressure, which clearly made a big impact on the opposing team. Our midfielders had to run up and down the pitch, which at one point made the other team gain an advantage, as the team had a lack of fitness. We were not as good at staying without man and making sure they wouldn't get a chance to score.

We also believe that our team was a little nervous, as it was our first game of the tournament. After the opposing team scored a goal, it was a wake up call for us, since we started to be more aggressive and we started to take a lot more chances on goal.

We learned a lot from our mistakes and we improved a lot in other games, as we knew what to change.

### 2-1 loss

Next up was the most important kick-off for the Phuket team, a match to decide whether we would qualify for the cup finals or not. The opposing team, Prem Tinsulanonda International School, was an older

team and yet the Titans team could already imagine winning the game. The game started with 100% intensity right from kick-off, with the ball playing back and forth furiously. Although the Titan defence was solid as a rock, the opposing team still managed to break through and scored the first goal, which led on to a second goal from a free kick within the same half. TES quickly swung back the momentum within the final minutes with a stunner from Jun Young, but unfortunately the end whistle followed right after the goal, ending the game 2-1, with another loss on TES Phuket 7s record. Even with another heartbreaking loss for the team, Titans learned from their mistakes from the first game, improved from the mistakes and ultimately shined a light upon themselves for other teams to fear.

After losing two games, we had to win this third game. Our third game started on the second day and we were all committed and ready to win. When the game started, for around the first six minutes there wasn't much between us two teams and then the opponents scored a goal, which was very unlucky for us. But thanks to our courageous captain Charlie, he popped the ball in the net in no time to make the score 1-1. Whilst we were taking our chances for scoring a second goal and getting ahead, a mistake took place and the opponents scored another goal, which put us 2-1 back. Around five minutes after that goal, our team's striker, Sam, struck the ball very hard, it beat the keeper and we got back in the game with a score of 2-2. There was about five minutes of game time remaining but, because of the heat and our fitness levels, we got very tired and they got past us and scored two more goals in the last two minutes.

However, a good thing that we all did was that we never gave up and kept on trying. Despite the fact that we lost three games and came last on the table, we gave it all we could, but at the end what mainly lost us the game was fitness levels.

### Tes vs Qsi

We played our second game of the day against QSI, the Korean International School. As we arrived at the fields in the morning, it quickly came to our realisation that we were going to get quite muddy due to the pitch condition from the rain the previous night. The fields were in a bad state; the lines were gone and the pitch was extremely bumpy and torn up – it looked like pig stall! After losing our first game 4-2 (an extremely close match until we got tired) we wanted to get a win, our first win. The game started fairly and we were almost certain we were the better side, playing much more tactical thoughtout game plays and dribbling around their non-strategic slide tackles. After a questionable take on Sam (a few of the Korean team mates went towards him and gave him a push or two) the game became much more aggressive and tense. There was a lot of emotion thrown into the game and that showed in both our and the opposing team's play. We failed to score for the longest time. However, with an amazing chip ball from Charlie Wikström, our Captain Jacques made a clinical first time finish in the bottom corner, securing us the one goal lead. After very extreme 2 halves of football, we sealed ourselves the victory, our first of the tournament.

The tournament eventually got rained off and we came 10<sup>th</sup> out of 24 teams. This didn't dampen our spirits. It was a great trip and thanks to Mr Weston and Mr Chow for organising it.





### Phuket Soccer 7s



## JV Girls TISSA Tournament

Report by Ivory Lee

I didn't want to write. Because I know, once I did the season would officially be over. Counting down since the last couple of practices before the tournament... 2... 1... 0. The JV Volleyball Tournament has officially ended. Even though we came second, we played the best we've ever played; the highest quality and the most collaborative teamwork. Not only did we beat our competition, we crushed them, just like true Titans.

All of us were very much looking forward to winning the Championships, so when the game ended with the referee's whistle, many of us teared up,

including me. "It's about the journey, not the destination." Look how far we've come. Think back to the time we started. Most of us couldn't even receive a ball properly. Now look at us; every one of us can receive, set, and spike. Each of us, with our best skill, was put together by Mr Lee, the best coach you can ever find, to create an amazing team. We played our hearts out and gave it our best. We all had Sports Day the day before and Sydney and Lute just completed the IA hike in the morning, so kudos to us for putting whatever energy's left out there to play so well. I'm so proud of us.

I'm definitely going to miss this season, this team, and our amazing coach. Over these three months, we grew closer; we not only became a team, but a family. It's bittersweet knowing that next year, we'll be in Varsity and we might not get the chance to play as a team with half of our players... I was having so much fun, I forgot that it doesn't last forever, but I will forever keep the memories inside my heart. I love my team – they taught me the importance of teamwork and the indescribable feeling of being cherished.



## MAC Varsity Tournament

Report by Carl Wiström

After having won the JV tournament at MAC two weeks ago, we were relatively confident when coming into the Varsity tournament. Instead of playing a tournament with group stages and finals etc., we played a type of league system. The first game was against the host school MAC. They went into the game very strong and scored in the opening three minutes. This was sort of a wakeup call for us. We played very sloppy football in the first half, but still managed to retain the 1-0 loss. In the second half

we made a few substitutions that then led to another goal being conceded. In the last ten minutes, Jacques scored, making it 2-1, which we managed to retain until the final whistle. We did not play very well in the first match, so we went away and practiced what we needed to learn from, from the previous game.

In the second game, we played the same school that we had beaten in the JV final, MAK. We thought it would be a slight struggle, because the previous final was a tight one, but we did

not let that hinder and stop us from winning. We went into the game very strong, with the first goal coming from Charlie. Shortly after that came another three goals from Malthe scoring two and Jacques scoring one. At halftime, the score was 4-0. We felt very comfortable at half time with this score, so we were aiming to score more. We went into the second half just as strong as the first half, when three more goals came from Junyoung, Charlie and Moris. The game finished with us winning 7-0.

(continued)



## MAC Varsity Tournament (continued)

This next game was one of the hardest, because we had played the KAS school at the JV tournament and luckily beat them after almost losing. They managed to score first, which meant they had the upper hand. Their team spirits were lifted and ours were not. Shortly after this we got a free kick, Charlie stepped up and smashed it into the bottom right corner bringing it to 1-1, this score took us to half time. After half time, Charlie and

Sean both took shots from outside the box and both managed to score great goals, with the game finishing 2-1 to TES.

The final game was against a Japanese school. They had beaten a few of the other schools as well, so we were expecting a good game but a tough game. Right from the start we were very confident, which led to a goal coming from Jacques and shortly after that another from Sean. Franco made some great saves in the

final minutes of the first half, so we still had the 2-0 lead going into the second half. In the final ten minutes Priyank scored again, sealing the victory and Franco yet again making a great save.

Sadly the American system has something called head-to-head, meaning that even though TES and MAC had the same wins, draws and losses, when they played us, they won the game, meaning they took first place with TES claiming silver.



## UI5 FOBISIA

Report by Hannah Kwuo & Douglas Lee

Everyone arrived on time at 9:45, ready to leave for Beijing. After training for months, we were finally ready for FOBISIA!

We arrived at Taoyuan Airport at around 10:30am and everyone was pumped. We got to spend some time eating and chilling. Time flies and we were already on the plane. Here we go Beijing! On the plane we had some great food and a great time. We enjoyed ourselves, though there was quite a bit of turbulence during the flight.

As we landed safely at Beijing, we were welcomed by the pollution, though none of us

were surprised. Our hotel was very nice and we got to meet quite a few of the other schools, though they seemed quite strong competitors. The welcoming dinner ended with a speech from the DCB representative and we received goodie bags from the host school. On the next day of the tournament, the boys would play basketball and the girls would play football at Dulwich College. We were up against Kellett, Hong Kong, whom we thought could be our strongest competition, but everyone said they would try their hardest to win and get the gold medals in honour of TES.

We woke up early at 6:00 am! We were the first school to enjoy the delicious breakfast. The girls' first game was against Pudong Shanghai, who were an extremely strong team. The girls lost with a score of 0-2, but we all believed that we had played to the best of our ability. The boys played Kellett first, they were not that strong so we practiced our strategy and warmed up. The final score was 34-10. We won!

The second game for the girls ended in a draw against Kellett, which was a relief for us as they were a strong team. Everyone fought hard for the ball

and made good passes, though the goalie managed to deny many of our shots.

The second game we played was BISHCMC. They had a tall player, which was very difficult. We had to keep a player on him at all times. But our defence was really good. The final score was 42-14, we won again!

Against BISHCMC, the girls controlled the ball for most of the game, created great plays and managed to score a goal from a free kick from Hani in the first half. Ho Chih Minh did not score any goals, which gave us a victory of 1-0, especially since Molly made an incredible save.

The third game we played was against BISJ. They were so-so. We were kind of tired too, because we had played two games in a row. Luckily our bench was good. We beat them by 25. The final score was 29-4. No surprise, we won again!

During the last two games, everyone was pretty tired, but they all still gave it all they could. Although both matches ended with 0-0 scores, everyone still thinks that we performed to the best of our ability. Everyone chased after the ball, tried to pressure the opponents and in general worked at a team which was the best we could do.

The fourth game was the game that really mattered! We were playing DCB. They were the only strong team and also the home team. We were leading or tying for the first two quarters! Jeremy got fouled out and Douglas got four fouls. Our team played hard. So unfortunately the final score was 18-29 – we lost.

We came to the last game. We played NAIS. Everyone was tired, but we still played hard and played a good strategy. Douglas did a great job leading the team and helping others to run the strategy. We won quite

easily. Donny also did a great job – he always tried his best to do a fast break and hustle. We won again!

Overall, both boys and girls played very well. The boys came 2<sup>nd</sup> place and the girls came 5<sup>th</sup>. The following days were athletics and swimming and we hoped that we could win some more medals.

Day 3. Due to the air pollution, we had to compete indoors for athletics. The boys competed first. The hardest part was long-distance running, as the floor was slippery. However, all of us still finished the race with pride. The Javelin was another big problem for us. The indoor javelin was really hard. You couldn't really throw it with full power, because it was too light and it span around.

For the girls, it was swimming. Many of the girls lacked confidence, but they still won many medals. Although none of us got first place medals, everyone received at least a bronze or silver medal. The team cheered each other on during races, especially in the relays. All of the girls were determined and persevered through each race, so we were all satisfied with our end results.

After a tiring morning of swimming, the girls faced athletics in the afternoon. Although their energy was drained, we still managed to win many medals, especially during field events. Almost every field event had a TES representative standing on the podium! Hani, Annabella and Molly especially dominated the field and were collecting medals in almost every event they entered. Everyone cheered each other on and picked each other up when we didn't get the result we wanted; our team spirit really showed that afternoon!

The boys' swimming was next. Some of the boys didn't even have their lunch and just went to warm up. All the boys did an outstanding job. Douglas won four medals including one gold,

two silvers and a bronze. Donny won three medals, including one gold and two bronzes. Our team relay also did an awesome job. Many of us aren't really good at swimming, but all of us tried our best and as a team we won quite a lot of medals. Our coach was really proud of us.

Overall, the school got quite a lot of medals for athletics and swimming and everyone was proud of themselves. Although some of us got injured, we were Titans and we kept fighting like Titans!

On the last day, the boys played football and the girls played basketball. We vowed to bring back two more gold medals for TES. Let's go Titans!

Day 4. The first basketball game was against Kellet. Everyone was nervous, but we managed to keep the lead for the whole time. In the end, the score was 14-10 for TES girls.

The guys played against NAIS first, and the first half was really good. We only let them score once. However the start of the second half was a little disappointing. The defence was really weak and we let them score four goals in five minutes. However, our team got back together again. Sadly we still lost by five.

Ho Chih Minh School was the girls' next opponent. At first, we thought that they would be an extremely strong team. They had a few talented players and overall played well, but our teamwork rose above their skills to guide us towards a win. The final score was 21-12 to us.

The boys played Kellet after NAIS. To be honest, we should have been able to beat them. However, we made a silly mistake which cost us dearly. They took the opportunity and scored. The final score was 0-1.

The third game that the girls played was against BSJ. Knowing that they had already lost to schools where we had won, we



(continued)



### UI5 FOBISIA (continued)

guessed that we could beat them. However, everyone still tried their hardest to make a win of 14-9. In this game, the whole team had a chance to play on court.

Our third football game was against Ho Chih Minh School and they had a really fast player. He ran around the pitch and gave us a lot of trouble. Although we were tired, we still tried our best to defend and follow him. Unluckily, we lost by 1 goal.

The fourth game was against DCB, who were our toughest competition. The game started with us leading, scoring points and free shots. In the third quarter, DCB had caught up

with us on points and many players had become injured or hurt during the game. However in the last quarter, we managed to pull away with a final score of 25-14.

The boys played BSJ for our fourth game. BSJ was the team that seemed the best. All the boys were nervous. We still tried our best and we successfully defended them. The final score was 0-0. Everyone was proud of themselves.

Our last basketball game was against Pudong. They had beaten us in football two days before, so everyone was determined to win at basketball. The game started off with some great plays from both teams,

though we kept the lead the whole way. In the last minutes of the game, we only passed the ball around to take up time. The buzzer signalled the end of the game and our win.

For the boys, the last game was against DCB, who were a really strong team. They scored two goals in the first half. However, our team didn't give up after all the support coming from the coaches and team mates; Tom finally scored. It was an amazing goal. It was the first and only goal for us! We were pumped. We kept playing hard and tried our best, but soon the whistle blew. Time was up, we lost. But guess what? No one put their heads down. Everyone was proud.







**SWIRE EUROPEAN  
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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.

