



# Secondary News

## A word from Mr Travis

### Block 1 Week 1

As the new Head of Secondary at BISL, I am delighted to welcome families back to school for a new academic year. It has been an exciting first week and classrooms are already abuzz with the sound of enthusiastic teaching and learning! Teachers were working hard last week to prepare for a strong start, and I am delighted to see so many students responding positively in the classroom. It was wonderful to meet so many parents last Friday at the Orientation Day and I look forward to getting to know you all better in due course.

A special welcome also to our new students – if you feel a little overwhelmed this week, do not panic. We are all here to ensure you settle in quickly and enjoy your learning. I have already seen numerous examples of the BISL values in action, with students helping each other when lost and teachers celebrating diversity in the classroom. Positive learning relationships are being forged and this is the key to long term success. It is fantastic to see the school growing so rapidly, with our largest ever cohort in the Sixth Form – 31 students!

Thank you to Ms. Predan and Mr. Hulse for introducing the huge number of after school activities that are planned for this Block. Our provision has increased dramatically this year and I do hope students will sign up to the activities on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

On Wednesday, parents had the opportunity to meet subject teachers and gather further information regarding the curriculum for the year. On Thursday, Mr Malden introduced the opportunities for student voice and student leadership for this academic year. Here at BISL we are serious about students taking an

active role in the change agenda and we do hope they grasp these leadership opportunities with both hands.

Congratulations to all the students who received their [IGCSE results](#) and [A-Level results](#) over the Summer. We are extremely proud of your outstanding results and these are testament to your hard work and effort over the year. Good luck to our graduating class who move on to their chosen university pathways and please remember – you will always be a BISL student, and we are always here to help you if you need us.

Students and parents will already be aware of the high standards and expectations we have for all students, including uniform. Just a reminder to all, that students should be wearing the full **formal** uniform as listed on [the website](#), with buttoned, collared blouse and tie. Attendance and punctuality are absolutely essential to student learning, and we will be monitoring every student closely.

It is an honour and privilege to be leading the Secondary School this year. BISL is a dynamic, vibrant and values-driven community with incredible potential. We constantly strive for excellence and outstanding achievement, as well as developing the character traits that will help them navigate a complex world. It is an exciting time at BISL and I look forward to my next update!

Please continue to check the [News](#) section and the latest [Update from the Principal](#).

I wish everyone a wonderful weekend ahead,

*Mr Jonathan Travis, Head of Secondary*

## First week reflections - Secondary

We have had a very positive first week back with staff and students settling well into the routine of school. We have already hosted three events including primary and secondary curriculum meetings, where parents heard more about the daily life and studies of their children, as well as a presentation for afterschool activities.



During the week friends reunited, new friendships were formed. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces running around the playground and also welcoming new students to. It is clear that students have missed each other during the summer holidays and were enthusiastic to catch up during break and lunch times, and as you can see from the pictures below, the playground is an active place not only for the students.

The school is once again a very academically active place with the students hitting the ground running and diving straight into their lessons. With the use of technology in the classroom (as well as other interesting but relevant props) our students are exposed to content delivered in an exciting and dynamic way.





And due to the significant increase in student numbers, new areas of the school were opened up so now even more of the new building is being used to hold A Level and IGCSE lessons. In our new building, which boasts such impressive views of our wonderful city, we have created a calm and industrious working environment.



Our sixth form has increased in size also with now over 30 students in year 12 and 13 combined. Here are some reflections of our new students.



"The start of the week was amazing. The business and psychology lessons were very exciting, but I especially liked the friendly class, with whom it is pleasant to communicate and study with" Alina



“I enjoyed everything about the first week at BISL. The views are amazing and most importantly all the colleagues are very friendly and the fact that there are a lot of international students has helped me a lot.” Tudor



“The first week in the British International School of Ljubljana has been probably the best week of school in my entire life. I never liked going to school, but here it's a rather comfortable and sophisticated environment and I started enjoying my time in class rather than waiting for it to be over.” Mark



“The beginning of the week was a bit overwhelming with all the new information, but all the students and staff are very friendly and helpful, making the transition into a new school easier.” Mia

“The transition to BISL was a lot to take in at first but with so many friendly and helpful staff and students I felt ready to learn and relaxed in this new environment.” Ivan

With our outstanding achievements in both our [A Level](#) and [IGCSE](#) results, the beginning of the year has been extremely successful. We all look forward with positivity, optimism and our eye on continued success.

## SUBJECT NEWS

### Maths Block

#### Maths News:

Welcome to a new year in Secondary mathematics! We are excited to see the students back as they have endeavoured to take on new challenges.

The students were introduced to the curriculum, textbooks and Canvas.

Please read the Term 1 Maths email - it has all necessary information regarding the stationary, tests this term and other relevant information. This year, we are pleased to reintroduce MyiMaths, which is an interactive online learning platform. The students are welcome to use it as a resource for their independent learning, as the programme provides feedback and task retakes.

#### **Maths challenge wall**

The maths team presents a new weekly challenge, which will be posted in front of room 316 for Key stage 3 and 4 students, as well as in room 510 for 6th form. There will be new challenges every week and all students are welcome to participate. Please send your answers to [maja.zupanc@britishschool.si](mailto:maja.zupanc@britishschool.si) or to your maths teacher.

#### PE news:

#### **Week 1**



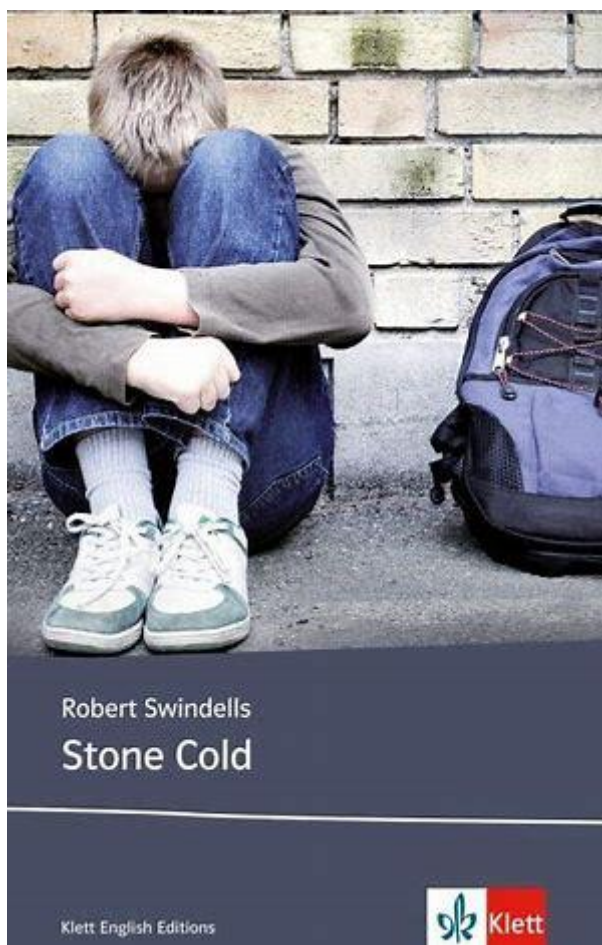
This week during secondary PE we introduced the student expectations for the year ahead and outlined the different sporting topics we will be covering. All students completed the beep test during the first week and we played some conditioned dodgeball and handball games.

All of the students displayed excellent effort and enthusiasm during secondary PE this week and the whole PE department is looking forward to an active and successful year ahead.

Mr Hayes

### English news:

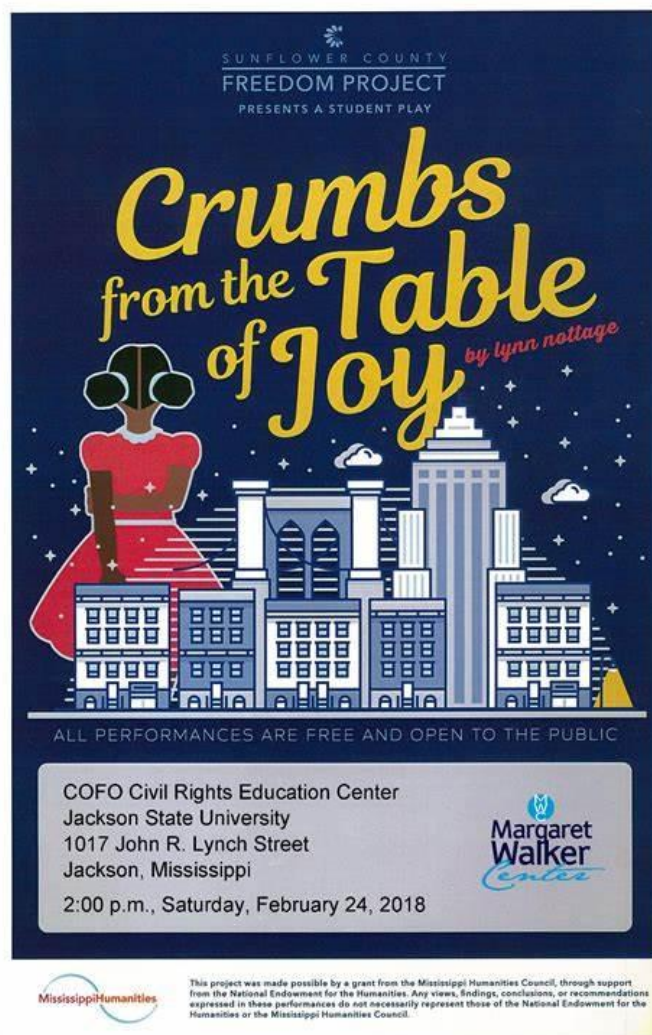
**Year 7:** Year 7 discussed the plight of homeless people while they began their study of the novel "Stone Cold" by Robert Swindells.



**Year 8:** Year 8 worked on making inferences about the novel "A Monster Calls" predicting what they might expect from the story.

**Year 9:** Year 9 began their examination of George Orwell's classic satirical novella "Animal Farm."

**Year 10:** Year 10 looked at the topic of racism and their understanding of it. They also investigated the subject of bad language (swearing etc) in preparation for their study of the play "Crumbs from the table of joy" by Lynn Nottage.



**Year 11:** Year 11 looked in depth at some song lyrics in preparation for working on the Unseen Poetry section of their iGSC English Literature Paper.

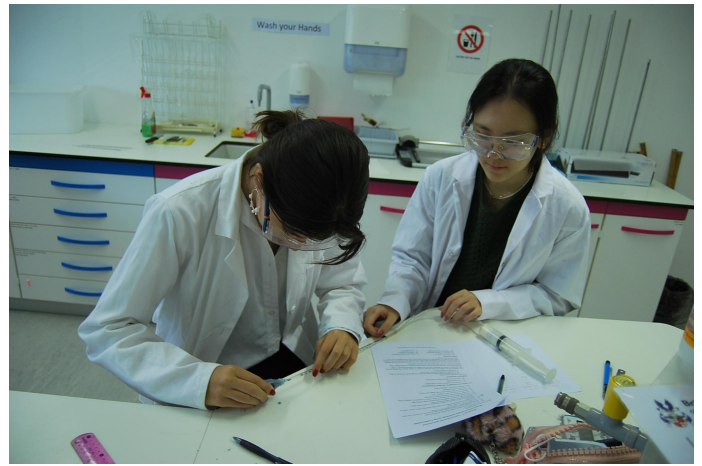
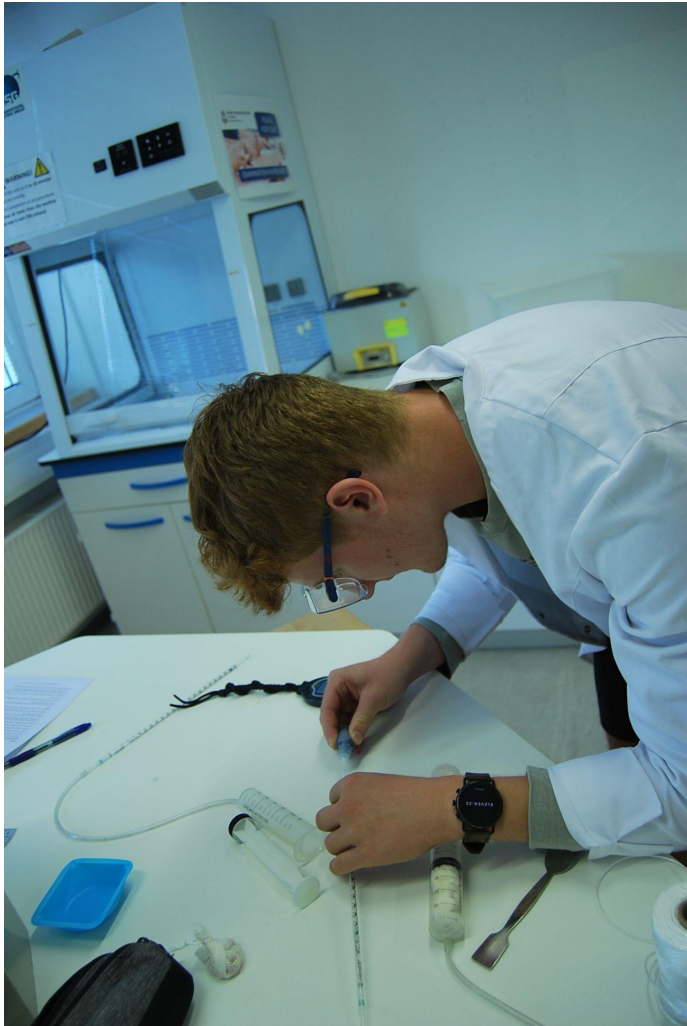
*The English Department*

### Science News:

In Science we were excited to welcome Ms Jones to our team, she got off to a good start and has settled in well with students and staff alike. She dived into the A-Level practicals by investigating aerobic respiration in mung beans using a respirometer with her year Y13 students. The purpose of this practical was to develop their knowledge and understanding of aerobic



respiration with a focus on calculating respiratory quotients.



In Y7 students were learning about lab safety and hazards. They carried out their first experiment, learning how to safely light a bunsen burner. Here are some highlights:



## MFL News:

Slovene

What a fantastic start for all Secondary students! This week was an introductory week for them, as Slovene lessons will be held in three groups from now on: Slovene Advanced, Intermediate and Foundation. This is a great opportunity for all students to demonstrate their capabilities and be challenged accordingly. This week, the students wrote a Baseline Assessment, which is going to be helpful for both them and the teachers for further work. Slovene teachers are already looking forward to working with their group!

*Slovene Team*

## Coffee with the Principal - Friday September 2

Coffee  
with the  
Principal



Friday September 2nd 8:00 am

These monthly coffee mornings are a worthwhile opportunity for our parents to hear some detailed updates and plans about upcoming announcements, school events and some of the key areas that we are focusing on as a school from a pedagogical point of view, from our Principal, Mr Cox.

## Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Families,

I write to express my gratitude for the warm and wonderful welcome extended to me and all the new members of our BISL community this first week of school.

I know and appreciate that all new students, families,

and staff have been treated with the utmost kindness and care. This has not only made the start of the school year, and our first experiences of BISL happy and comforting ones, but it has also informed us 'newbies' of the thoughtful and caring nature of the community we have chosen to join. Thank you again.

My reflections on witnessing the school in action have also given me great confidence for the future. Having spent a week of professional development with our academic staff, and now another week with the students as well, I am pleased to report that the relationships, attitudes and motivations of all seem well-developed, respectful and effective. I am fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to spend time in Early Years, Primary and Secondary classrooms, and in every subject. Right from the start of school last Monday, the teaching and learning environment has been both purposeful and engaging. Alongside our Heads of School and members of the community we will continue to work hard to maintain and build on this good start.

I am particularly pleased that we are now able to tap into the potential for learning that the new building provides, with 6th Form Centre and classes, some Key Stage 4 classes and the lovely assembly hall all now being occupied alongside the Library, Admissions Meeting rooms, Computing and Performing Arts classrooms. This really is a very positive development for the school.

Of course, there are also already some areas of development and improvement that have caught my attention. Whilst it is good for the growth and development of the school in many ways that we have a pleasing late increase in student enrolment over the summer break, this has of course presented us with challenges in terms of class and room sizes. We are actively working to resolve those issues through both recruitment and use of the new building, and I will keep the BISL community informed of all developments as soon as we are able.

Another indicator, in my view, of a healthy and confident school, is its insistence on the richness of experiences and opportunities for the students, young and old. Therefore, I am delighted that in the coming weeks our Secondary School will be embarking on the first of its Adventure trips starting with Y7 & Y8 in two weeks' time.

I wish you all a pleasant end to our first week of the school year.

Best wishes,

*Matthew Cox, Principal*

All upcoming events and details are available on our [website](#).

## School Contact Details

Reception Hours: M-F 07:15-16:00

General Telephone: +386 40486548

Admissions: +386 40618356

General Enquiries: [enquiries@britishschool.si](mailto:enquiries@britishschool.si)

Accounts: [accounts@britishschool.si](mailto:accounts@britishschool.si)

Principal: [principal@britishschool.si](mailto:principal@britishschool.si)

## School Calendars

For Term dates and school holidays, [click here](#).

## Dates to Note

|     |                      |                           |
|-----|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Fri | Aug 19 <sup>th</sup> | Orientation Day           |
| Mon | Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> | First Day of School       |
| Fri | Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Coffee with the Principal |

