



8th April 2023

Secondary News

A word from Mr Travis

Block 6 Week 1

Welcome back everyone! After a well-earned break it is great to see students and staff fully energised and back into the rhythm of learning. A huge welcome to our new Principal Ms Hitchcocks, who began the week with an inspiring assembly - she stressed the importance of grit and determination in all of our endeavours and the importance of embracing mistakes and using feedback wisely to make progress. A message that resonates with all of us.

Thank you also to Malgosia Paprotny for her excellent presentation on the adolescent brain. It is vital that teachers are aware of the science of learning and adapt their instruction accordingly. Students learn by retrieving information from their long term schema and combining it with new knowledge in small chunks. Teachers at BISL actively study the importance of cognitive science and shape their teaching to suit the needs of students. Retrieval, modelling, deliberate practice, questioning, feedback, metacognitive talk - these are all pedagogical areas that BISL staff engage with on a regular basis.

Parent-teacher interviews have continued apace throughout the week and it is great to see the focus of these conversations firmly on student learning and progress. According to the Education Endowment Foundation, parent involvement in their child's learning is the single most impactful intervention for a child's progress. It literally adds months of learning to your child. Remember parents, you don't have to be an expert in Chemistry to further their cognitive development - get your children to explain something to you and you are helping them cement that new knowledge in their long term memory!

Finally, our intrepid MEPI leaders have headed out into the cold this weekend for their adventurous journey. Wrap up and take care! Thanks to all the staff who have accompanied students on this trip.



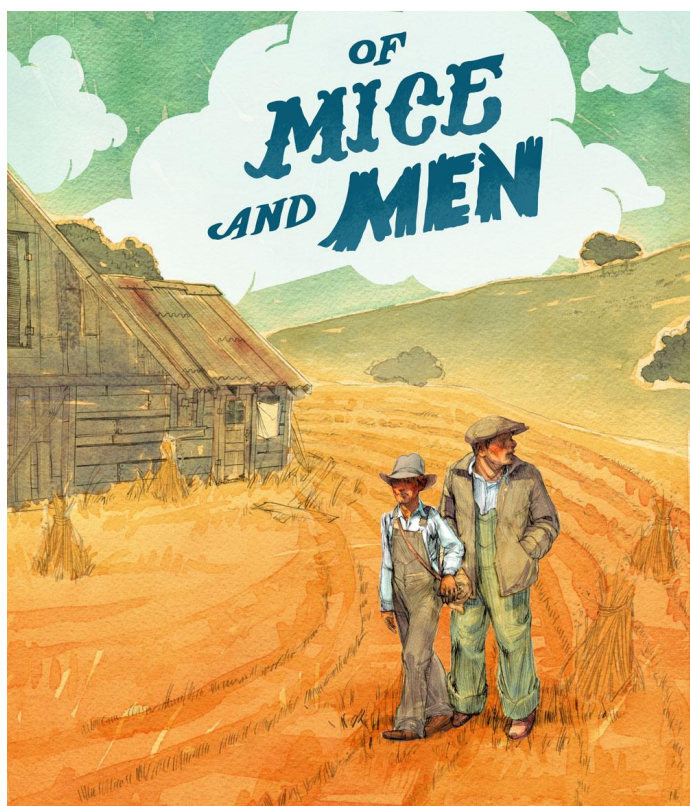
Please be sure to read the latest Update from the Principal and I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

Head of Secondary
Mr Jonathan Travis, Head of Secondary

English News

Year 8 - Have looked at the structure of Noughts and Crosses, and have written PEE paragraphs analysing the relationship between Callum and Sephe. As part of the staff's PLC development, students have also been evaluating the success of different peer assessment strategies from Think Pair Share to Gallery feedback. They loved the chance to get feedback from everyone in the class when using the gallery approach.

Year 9 - Have started reading the American classic "Of Mice and Men" and they have already predicted, from the cover alone, the trajectory of the novel, with startling accuracy. They have also looked at the eerily quite opening chapter, and eagerly await the drama that is to come.



Year 10 - "It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking 13." - Year 10 have been creating their own "hooks" for creative writing and have produced some absolutely brilliant first lines after being inspired by some of the greatest in literary history.

Year 11 - Have started independently revising for their exams and have completed a detailed assessment sheet in order to ensure they know exactly how to get the grades they want. It's over to them now, and we hope they can keep pushing in

these final few weeks in order to achieve the grades they're capable of.

MFL News

MFL - Slovene Foundation

This week Year 7 students have started with a new topic. They have been learning about clothing and outfits on different occasions. Students deepened their knowledge with a memory game, listening comprehension and working in pairs. They reviewed and outlined colours of the clothes and used questions such as "Kaj imaš danes oblečeno? or Kakšne barve je tvoja majica?" . A good way to practice speaking Slovenian!



Ms Kotnik, Ms Drogenik and Ms Jakup, MFL department

PE news:

We introduced new sporting themes throughout secondary PE this week. Year 7 began their kickball unit, focusing on the techniques required when looking to kick the ball into space. Year 8 were introduced to the batting techniques required when playing baseball, whilst Year 9 and Year 10 began

their cricket units with an introduction to bowling and batting. Year 11 continued to work on their tactical games unit.

Mr Hayes, PE Department

Maths news

Year 7 students reflected on their learning about straight lines through a feedback task, where they worked independently at first, then joined forces and produced perfect responses. They then put themselves into the role of bank cashiers and recalled how fractions represent parts of amounts. They connected this to percentages and worked out some simple percentages of amounts through interactive tasks.

Year 8 students correctly matched straight line graphs with their formulas and consolidated their learning of area and perimeter by critiquing an incorrectly solved question involving a circle. Then they recalled how to calculate a percentage of an amount and put themselves into the role of estate agents in order to solve problems involving percentage increase and decrease.



Year 9 students recalled how to plot straight lines and find the gradient of a straight line from its graph or equation, through a mini murder mystery. Then they learnt how to work out the slope from two given points and applied their knowledge of straight lines to real life problems including direct proportion and currency conversions.

Year 10 students consolidated their learning of bearings by solving past examination questions. They faced and overcame challenges that included trigonometry, Pythagoras' theorem and the use of construction tools.

Year 11 and 13 students prepared for and sat in their final internal assessment. This will be used to provide the students with feedback and to identify areas of concern.

Maths challenge wall

Check out new challenges published on the new display board next to room 316.

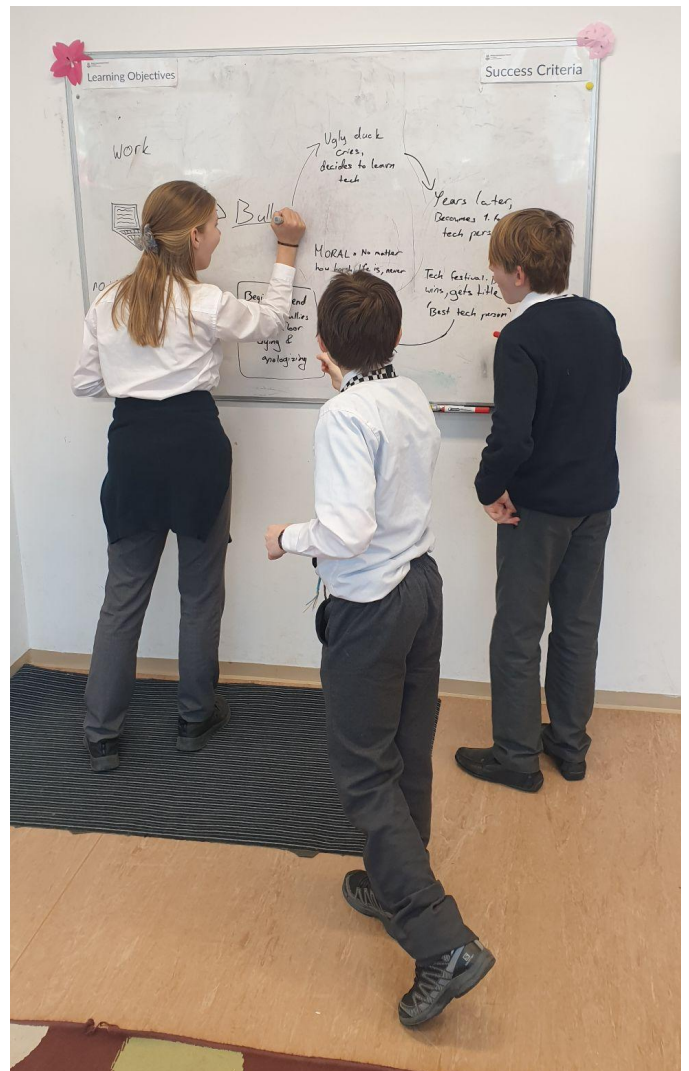
Ms Zupanc, Maths Department

Performing Arts - News

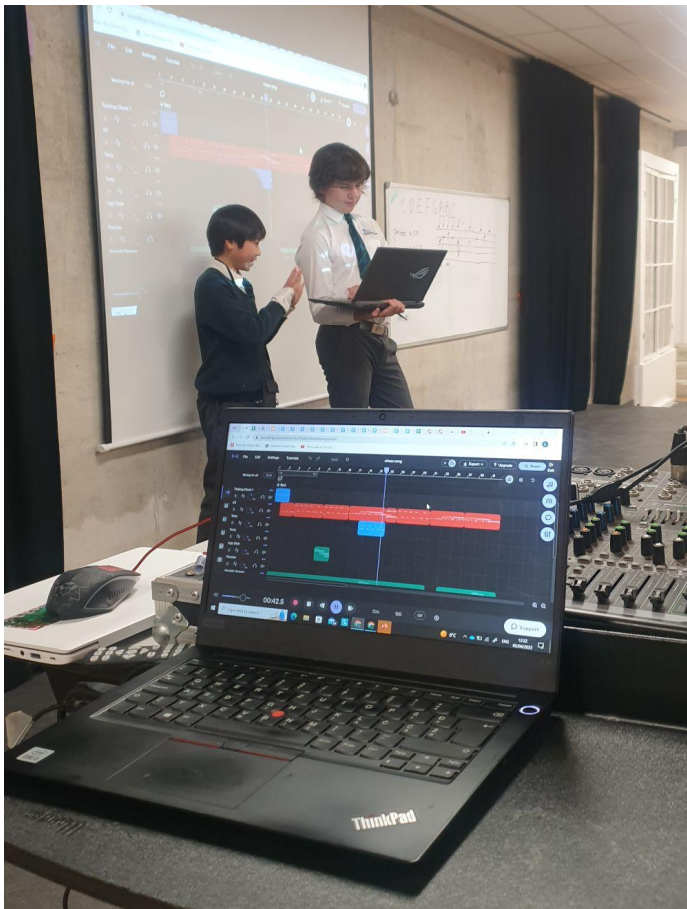
Performing Arts -

Year 7 have been getting creative with their modern day twist on a fairy tale, devising drama pieces targeted at a teenage audience.

We had the Ugly duckling, Beauty and the beast and Rapunzel.



8A completed the performances of their own composed songs this week. Their lyrics and music were very creative and personal to each group's likes and experiences.



Ms Kenealy, Music Department

Dates to Note

Mon	April 10th	Public holiday School closed
Tues	April 11th	Year 8/ 9 Swimming day at Atlantis
Weds	April 12th	Year 7 Swimming day at Atlantis
Thurs	April 27th	Public Holiday - School closed
Fri	April 28th	School closed
Mon	May 1st	Public Holiday - School closed
Tues	May 2nd	Public Holiday - School closed

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

School Contact Details

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

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General Enquiries: enquiries@britishschool.si

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Principal: principal@britishschool.si

School Calendars

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