



13th May 2023

Secondary News

A message from the Principal



Dear Parents,
It is good to be back in school this week, although I feel like I have brought very British weather back with me from Manchester!

I have also brought back with me the great news that we have the go-ahead to begin work on updating the playground. We have engaged a firm of architects who have completed a survey on the area and I will be meeting with them shortly to begin the planning stage. I am hoping that we can get much of the work completed over the summer, I will keep you informed. We have also purchased several thousand euros worth of library books and the senior leaders have met this week to plan the reorganisation of the library itself.

On Tuesday, we were privileged to welcome the Band of the Royal Yeomanry from the UK. The brass

quintet had played for the President the day before as part of the celebrations surrounding Slovene-UK Friendship Day. The students really enjoyed listening to the music and learning about the different instruments and I was incredibly impressed with their excellent behaviour.

On a more serious note, I am aware that recent events in Belgrade are unsettling and lead to questions about the school's response. In June, we will be having a lockdown drill with all students, an Orbital requirement that should take place twice a year. During the drill, students and staff will practice following the lockdown procedure, and the week before I will speak to students about why we do this, for example, to keep us safe if there was an earthquake. If you have any questions concerning the lockdown drill, please do contact me directly.

Next week is the final block break of the academic year. Enjoy the holiday and we will see you back in school on Monday 22nd May.

Mel Hitchcocks - Principal



A word from Mr Travis

Block 6 Week 6

BISL was given a special musical treat on Tuesday with a visit from the Royal Yeomanry Brass Band Quintet, based in the UK. They played a fantastic set and really involved all the students with singing, clapping and musical chairs! During the same week the band performed for the President of Slovenia during the UK Slovenia Friendship Day and also at an event with the infamous Red Arrows. Thank you for a wonderful show!

Students from across the Secondary School performed beyond expectations at the UKMT Maths challenge competition. We had 4 gold winners, 5 silver and 6 bronze - a fantastic achievement! Certificates and photographs are due to take place after school on Friday. Well done to all those involved and thanks to Mr Batson for organising the event.

We are now one third of the way through final examinations. I have seen lots of smiling faces emerging from the examination rooms, which is a good sign! Students need to keep their foot on the pedal and keep energy levels high. Consistency throughout the entire period is crucial - remember to take time to exercise, eat well and get lots of sleep please.

The first of the Secondary Adventure Day residentials will depart on the Wednesday after the break. Excitement is growing about the plethora of activities on offer near Portorož on the coast. Please can parents and students check the packing list carefully and make sure you have everything needed for the trip. Hopefully the sun will be shining!

Head of Secondary
Mr Jonathan Travis, Head of Secondary

Sixth Form News

Exams

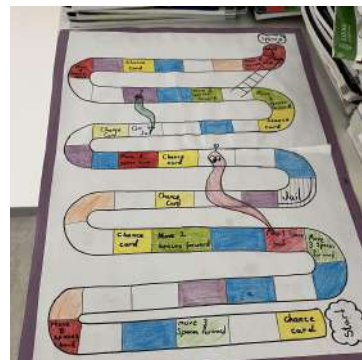
Examinations are in full swing and we have completed 58 examinations already across IGCSE, AS and A2 Level. We still have another month and 2 days left of examinations. The picture shows one of those rare occasions when candidates from **Year 11, 12 and 13** write their examinations together. Good luck to all our students, I know you will make us all proud!



Mr Batson, Assistant Head

Science News

As part of their continuing revision **Year 7** are doing for the end of year assessment, they created revision cards for the topic metals and non-metals. This will allow them to revise this topic, as well as the other topics they've created revision cards for, when playing their home made board game. A game that's hard to complete considering the chance cards and snakes that are part of the game!

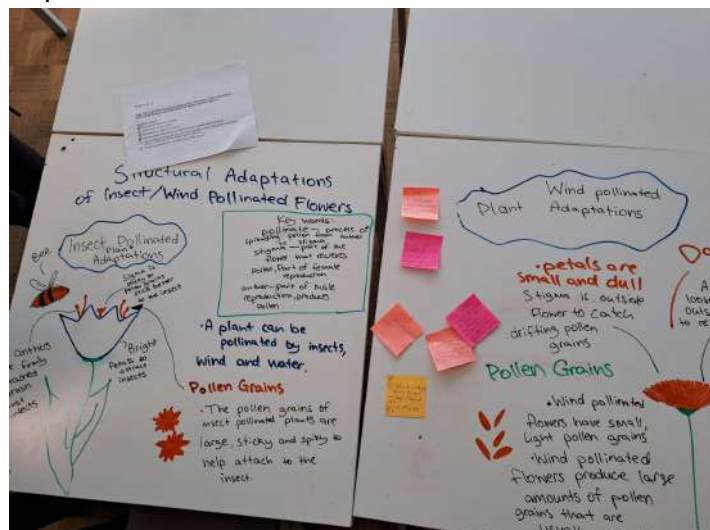


Year 8 students were busy with their end of block assessment. They had to display their knowledge on topics of Light, Material changes, Reproduction and fetal development and Magnetism. They are now continuing to investigate the topic of magnets further.

Year 9 students took part in the British Biology Challenge this week. This is an international competition for students who study the British biology curriculum worldwide. Students will receive certificates of achievement and their results at the end of May/beginning of June. **Year 9** students participated in the British Physics Olympiad consisting of many interesting and challenging questions ranging from simple mechanics and

measurement questions to astronomy and astrophysics and will get their certificates of achievement.

Year 10A students created models on pollination, fertilisation and germination as part of their topic on plant reproduction. Here is an example of one. They then created questions about their models and circulated the room answering each other's questions on post it notes.



Year 10A and 10B students were learning how convex and concave lenses produce images. They created ray diagrams in which they were investigating how the distance of the object from a lens determines the properties of the created image and were planning their new project of creating a camera obscura (the predecessor of modern cameras).

Year 10 students also participated in the British Physics Olympiad which consisted of many interesting and challenging questions ranging from simple mechanics and measurement questions to astronomy and astrophysics and will get their certificates of achievement.

Second hand clothes drive

Thank you to the parents and students who have kindly donated good quality second hand clothes, shoes, jewellery and books for the charity "Društvo verjamem vate". I'm sure your donations will be greatly appreciated by them, and the revenue generated from them will help young adults with special educational needs integrate into society further.

Science Department

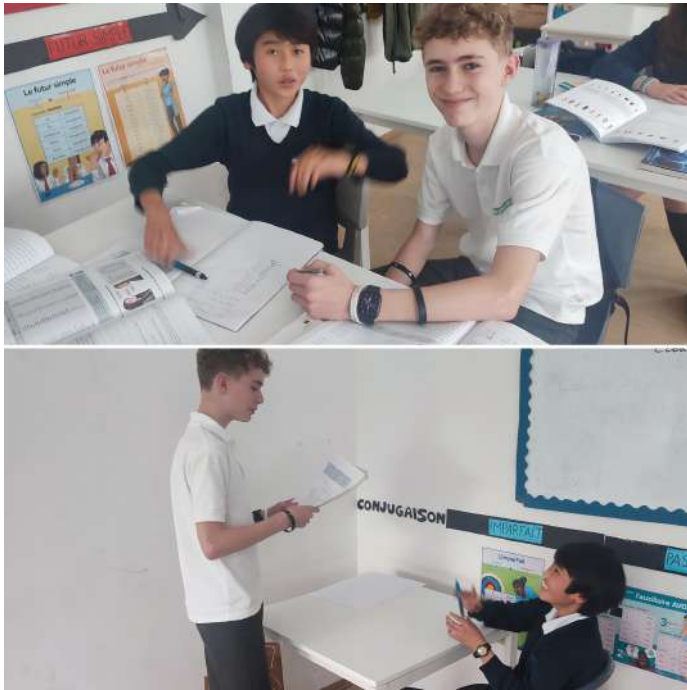
MFL News

MFL - Slovene

Slovene Foundation:

As a part of the Body and Health unit, Year 8 students at Slovene Foundation have been learning how to talk to a doctor in Slovene. Firstly, they have checked their prior knowledge and vocabulary by asking each other questions. Secondly, they have written a dialog with the title "Na zdravniškem pregledu". Finally, they presented a conversation between a doctor and a patient. Students have been collaborating in this lesson in pairs. They have been supporting each other and trying to learn as much as they could. Well done Year 8. Kar tako naprej!





Y7 and Y8 students in Slovene Intermediate group have been developing their reading comprehension skills with some interesting texts this week.

One text, titled "Svetovne znamenitosti" proved to be particularly engaging for the students.

As they read through it, the students were challenged to do a little competition to see who could recognize most sights in the photo. The winner named 31!

Ms Drogenik and Ms Kotnik

MFL - Slovene Foundation

With the assessments just around the corner, it is time for our secondary students to start revising and preparing for the challenges ahead. However, revision doesn't have to be a boring task. **Year 8** students have taken a creative approach to revision by creating their own board games as tools for studying.

The concept is simple: students design board games that cover topics they need to revise. The games are then played in groups, with players taking turns to answer questions or perform tasks related to the topics covered on the board.

We wish our students the best of luck and hope that the creative revision techniques will inspire others to take a similar approach to their learning.

Ms Jakup, MFL department

PE news:

In the final week of the block, we concluded our sporting units, with **Year 7** undertaking some competitive kickball, with **Year 8** finishing their baseball scheme of work with further competitive scenarios. **Year 9** and **Year 10** finalised their cricket playing unit, with competitive matches, incorporating batting, bowling and fielding into the game.

Congratulations too to the **Year 9** and **Year 10** students who took part in a volleyball match against the European School, winning by 5 sets to 1.





Mr Hayes, PE Department

Maths news

As the end-of-year maths assessments approach, Key stage 3 and **Year 10** students are displaying commendable dedication to their academic success. Through the creation of summary pages and repetition practice with diverse learning materials, they are actively reinforcing their understanding, improving their problem-solving abilities, and equipping themselves with the necessary skills to excel in their exams. The students are actively solving practice tests to familiarise themselves with the assessment format, time constraints, and question types. This practice not only enhances their speed and accuracy but also instills confidence in tackling the actual exam. By analysing their performance on practice tests, students can identify areas of strength and weakness, enabling them to focus their efforts on specific topics that require further attention. Their diligent preparation sets the stage for a successful performance in their end-of-year maths assessments.



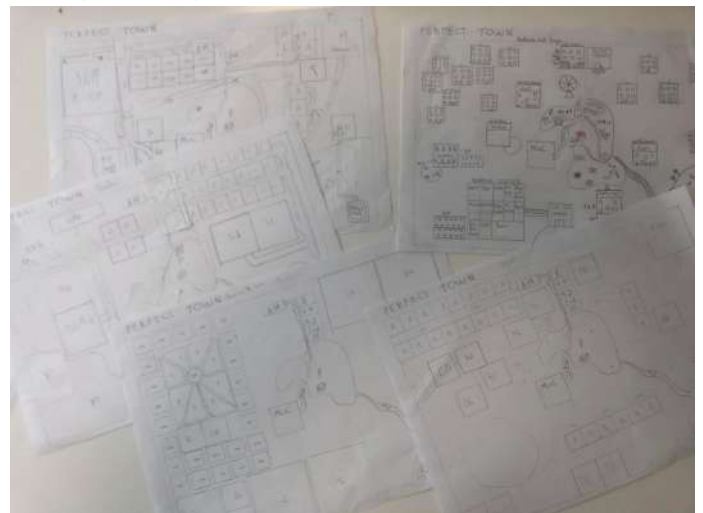
Maths challenge wall:

Check out new challenges posted next to the room 316.

Ms Zupanc, Maths Department

English News

Year 8 finished designing their “perfect” town and began populating it with a series of colourful characters by trying to come up with original similes and metaphors. From ‘tired men who drink 20 Red Bulls a day’, to a person who was ‘like pepper in a soup that you cannot see’, to a man who was ‘as annoying as a fly’, to a ‘diamond gem flowing down a river of mud’, to a ‘woman with glasses like shade on a hot Moroccan day’, to a ‘smart man who knows everything about the planet and the future’, to a ‘woman who was the town’s third person omniscient narrator (metaphorically)’.



Year 9 continued with “Of Mice and Men” and witnessed something happen to Candy (no spoilers), which left a few quite upset. They then wrote brilliant

diary entries from his perspective using the range of different colloquial language they had learnt.

Year 10 worked on improving their essay writing using the breakdown of steps when modelling that teachers had learnt about during the PLC. They also considered the impact of the AIDS epidemic and its role in the poem "The Man with the Night Sweats". They are reminded that just because you write a poem from the perspective of a goldfish living in a park in Zagreb, it does not make you a goldfish living in a park in Zagreb.

Creative Arts news

Year 10 art

This week in **Year 10** art students have started to combine their chosen artists' styles and techniques to produce personal responses. They are working from their own imagery, digitally manipulating their compositions, and exploring a range of media. We have also started to have our 1-1 meetings using a tracking my progress sheet. I will have 1-1 meetings with students in which we set individual targets based on their progress and current work. Over the next 2 weeks students will work towards completing these targets in class and outside of lessons, ticking them off as they go. After the block break they will be given a set of brand new targets to support them in reaching their aspiration goal. Keep up the hard work **Year 10!**



Geography News

Year 7

This week in **Year 7** the students have continued to learn about the geography of Africa. In previous weeks we had looked at the incredible diversity on the continent, splitting up what we discovered into human, physical and environmental geography. We investigated the Human Development Index (HDI) scores found across the African continent and started to understand better why the levels of wealth, health and education vary so much from country to country. This week we look more specifically at the physical geography of North Africa, focusing on the Sahara desert biome and researching how different animals and plants have adapted to survive in the extreme environment. Lastly we consolidated what we had learned over the past few weeks by identifying different types of geography on Google Maps.

Year 8

Touching grass again after our lessons spent on the rooftop last week, we continued to investigate both weather and climate and reviewed what we had learned about our atmosphere and how it affects us. We wrapped up the unit with an assessment where the **Year 8** students managed to showcase their excellent knowledge and skills developed over the past month.

Year 9

Year 9 have been looking in detail at the topic of development to better understand how and why countries develop in different ways based on their collective wealth, health and level of education of their citizens. **Year 9** then looked further into employment sectors to make links between the types of jobs people have and how wealthy, healthy and educated they are.

Year 10

Continuing this week's look at Weather, **Year 10** have been understanding the use and purpose of Stevenson Screens in collecting weather data as well as learning to identify different types of clouds and the associated weather conditions they might bring. **Year 10** also studied the concepts of relative and absolute humidity which helps explain why it rains at

different temperatures, as well as looking at atmospheric pressure and learning about the type of weather high and low pressure brings in different parts of the world during different times of the year.

Performing arts news

Year 10: Are currently studying traditional music and have recently finished looking at the Blues. They are now moving on to Reggae fusion music and will learn how to distinguish this genre from other styles, looking closer into its purpose and meaning.

Year 9: Music: Are learning about what makes a good pop song. They are learning to play and record the bass line, riff and chords for Ed Sheerans 'Shape of you'. When this is completed they will record the melody. This song encourages the students to think about timing, as the bass line and riff are syncopated.

Year 8: Performing Arts: **Year 8** have been further developing the idea of creating drama from a stimulus, and have been working on freeze frames to create a timeline of events. This freeze frame is to show there wasn't any evidence and the crime did not take place.



Year 7: **Year 7** have been learning how to play and remix a Pop song using an online Digital Audio Workstation. They are using the Black Eyed Peas song The Time, they must consider how to record the audio clearly, the structure of the remix and their own artistic interpretation of the given material.



Dates to Note

Mon	May 22nd	Block 7 begins
Fri	June 2nd	Coffee with the Principal
Fri	June 2nd	International Day

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

Accounts: accounts@britishschool.si

Principal: principal@britishschool.si

School Calendars

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

