

# International Baccalaureate Diploma Program News (6<sup>th</sup> Form) – September 2009

## IB1 Induction

The new IB1 cohort have now completed their induction week and are settling into the rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. The aim of the induction week is to build rapport between the student group and enable positive dynamics to develop in a safe and friendly environment. This is a very important stage of their learning development and builds confidence, leadership and organization skills.

As Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form, my philosophy is that happy students are hardworking students, and we therefore build a large element of ‘fun’ into the induction week program. This year we spent a day on Lac Togo learning how to canoe and taking part in teambuilding activities.



*Day trip to Lac Togo*

This was supported by a wonderful lunch provided by Aunty Comfort and her catering team. A big thanks to them.

Another popular event was the African Dance Workshop. The students found this challenging in more ways than one, but they soon overcame their fears and shyness and focused on learning the routines.



*African Dance Workshop at Brin du Chocolat, Lome*

Other teambuilding activities included ‘The Human Knot’, ‘Toxic River’, ‘Secrets’ and many more.

## **Prefect Council**

The current prefect council retires from office at the end of this half term. IB1 students have recently submitted their applications for council member and for Head Boy and Head Girl. They are now busy working on their publicity campaigns to encourage the students and staff of BSL to vote for them on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

The prefect council, along with the Head Boy and Head Girl are responsible for organizing Saturday events for our boarding students, run the school tuck shop and maintaining open communication between the students and the school administration. They are ambassadors for the school at local functions and events and represent the school at a National and International level.

## **Peer Mentor Program**

Some students, for a range of reasons, do not progress as fast as others. Here at The British School of Lome we have a peer mentoring program in place which uses senior students to offer academic and pastoral support to students in the lower school. This support can take many forms and is developed in consideration of the needs of both the mentor and the mentee. We are nearing the end of Peer Mentor Training and IB1 students will soon be meeting their mentees to discuss the variety of support they are able to offer.

## **Leadership**

Someone once said that leaders are born not made. Here at The British School of Lome we believe that everyone has the ability to develop within themselves, leadership skills that will help them succeed in the future. The International Award is one of our many programs offered in the school that helps develop leadership. The other primary opportunity is through the service element of CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) which forms part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. Students work in small teams to plan, deliver and evaluate activities to different groups of children with a wide range of needs. This year, we are working with children at Terre Des Hommes, a rescue centre for victims of child trafficking and other forms of neglect and abuse, and the local school for deaf children.



*Planning and delivering activities at the school for deaf children, Lome*

Each week, a different leader is selected and his / her performance is evaluated at the end of the activity. Areas for development are identified and further training opportunities are put in place for these to be developed. As the CAS activities will continue throughout the program the development of leadership skills can be monitored.