



# Weekly Update

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16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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## Dear Parents,

The term has started very positively and we are already well on our way towards the mid-term break. Our ASEP programme also commenced this week, and it is great to see the very wide range of activities that our students have signed up for.

As we look ahead, there are many special events to come this term. This term's calendar includes STEAM Week, Careers Week, Literacy Week, the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award adventurous journeys as well as other school trips, the Community Art Fair, the Secondary Drama Production – and much more!

Watching your children grow is an absolute privilege. To help us with future memories, we have engaged a professional photographic team to take group and individual photos of our students. This will take place on Thursday 29th January. Further details appear below and will be reconfirmed nearer the time.

Finally, we know that many of you may already be wishing to make travel plans for next academic year. We are pleased to confirm our [Draft BSL Calendar for 2026-2027](#). Further details appear below.

We wish you a very pleasant weekend.

With best wishes,

Tom Vignoles  
Head of School  
The British School of Lomé

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# Whole School

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## **DRAFT CALENDAR – 2026–2027**

We are pleased to share the [Draft BSL Calendar for 2026–2027](#). At this stage, public holidays for next academic have not yet been confirmed, therefore it is still possible that changes to our calendar may occur at a later date.

However, we wanted in particular to make sure that all parents were fully aware of our start and end of term dates. It is very important for our students' learning that they arrive on time for the start of term and attend school every day, as research evidence shows a very clear correlation between school attendance and school achievement. Thank you for ensuring that your travel plans permit your children to attend each term in full, rather than them being disadvantaged by missing any time at the beginning or end of a term.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS – Thursday 29th January**

**On Thursday 29th January**, at the suggestion of a number of parents, we have engaged a professional photographic team to take group and individual photos of our students.

On the day, please ensure that your child attends school wearing their regular school uniform, not their PE kit, with their PE kit in a separate bag if PE is scheduled that day. We will be making small adjustments to lesson schedules on that day, to ensure that the photos can be taken.

Parents will have the opportunity to purchase photos of their child, and of their child's class, if they wish. We will contact you nearer the time with details of how to order and purchase photos.

## **ASEP Programme Off to a Strong Start**

The ASEP programme has got off to a fantastic start this week. Students have shown great enthusiasm, curiosity, and loads of energy as they engaged in a wide range of activities. We are pleased to share that several ASEP activities are already fully subscribed, reflecting strong student interest. We are operating a waiting list for these activities and will allocate places if they become available. However, there are still spaces available in other activities, and we encourage families to sign up soon to avoid missing out. We look forward to seeing the programme continue to grow over the coming weeks.

## **WHOLE SCHOOL– Looking Ahead:**

**Thursday 29th January** – School Photos

**2–6th February** – Careers Week – a series of career planning and information sessions will take place for Secondary students throughout the week. Parents who are interested in being involved should contact the BSL University and Careers Councilor, Mr David Nyamikou to discuss further [david.nyamikou@bsl.tg](mailto:david.nyamikou@bsl.tg)

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# Primary School

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## Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well and that the first week of school has been a positive start for you and your child. It has been wonderful to see our students settling back into routines, reconnecting with friends, and engaging enthusiastically in their learning. It was also lovely to see so many of you at the Nursery/Creche stay and play session on Wednesday.

As we begin the term, I would like to take this opportunity to share a few important reminders:

### School Uniform

- Children should wear the **light blue polo shirt** with **dark blue shorts, skirts, or trousers**.
- Socks should be **plain and not colourful**.
- Shoes must be **dark (mainly black), closed-toe, and safe for school activities**.
- Please note that **sandals, crocs, or flip-flops are not permitted**, as they are unsafe for school use.
- The PE uniform should only be worn on days when children have PE.
- Also **a hat** is very important for breaktime and outdoor activities.

### Healthy Start to the Day

- A **nutritious breakfast** is essential, especially as many children have **PE or swimming in the morning**. Without breakfast, they often feel tired before snack time.

#### Snacks and Hydration

- Please pack **a healthy snack** for your child. Items such as crisps (chips), popcorn, sweets (candies), and chocolate are **not considered healthy options**.
- Ensure your child **brings plenty of water**, which is particularly important in our current climate.
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Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe, healthy, and positive environment for all students. Together, we can ensure that every child is ready to learn and thrive.

Kind regards,

**Gareth Jones**  
**Head of Primary**

**Judith Opiyo**  
**Assistant Head of Primary**

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# Secondary School

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**Dear Parents,**

As we move through a busy and productive period in Secondary School, there has been much to celebrate and reflect upon. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have recently completed their mock examinations. These have provided valuable lessons, including the importance of arriving at school early, entering the exam room calm and prepared (not stressed and sweaty), bringing the correct equipment, carefully reading and listening to instructions, and avoiding last-minute cramming.

We are also pleased to launch the **Round Square Passport Pilot** Initiative, with further details shared later in this newsletter. Alongside this, staff and students have been actively involved in training, planning, and preparation as we get ready to host our upcoming International BSLMUN Conference.

It has also been an exciting time for our senior students, with university visits, applications, and offers well underway. Finally, there is a real buzz of creativity around the school as rehearsals begin for *Hairspray* the Musical, our next drama production, which promises to be a fantastic event for the whole community.

**Francis E. Anquandah**  
**Assistant Head (Academic)**

**Jane Snell**  
**IBDP and Learning Development**

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# Secondary School

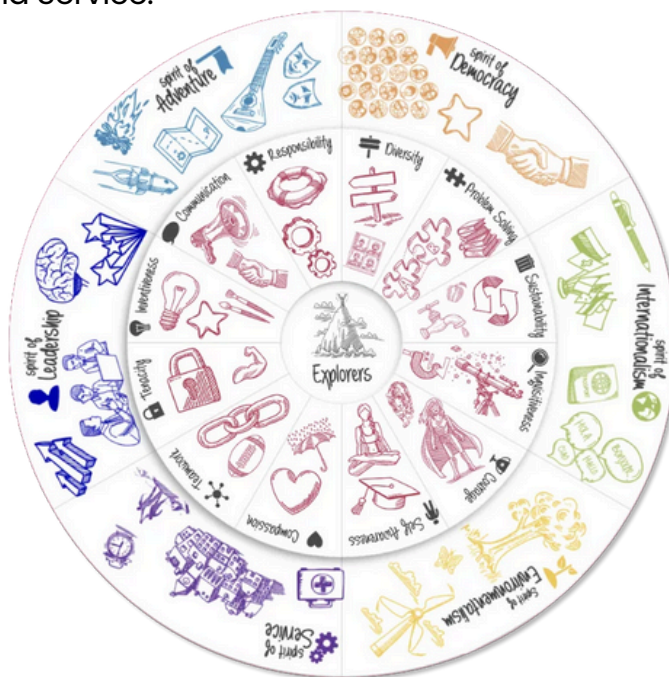
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## KS3 Round Square Passport Pilot Initiative



### What is Round Square?

Round Square is a global network of schools, including BSL, who are committed to character development and global citizenship. Its philosophy is built around six core values, known as the IDEALS: Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, and Service.



Source: "RS Ideals and Discoveries."  
Round Square, n.d.,  
<https://www.roundsquare.org/about-round-square/rs-ideals-and-discoveries/>

At BSL, we believe education goes beyond academic success and includes developing key personal qualities such as resilience, problem-solving, leadership, and responsibility.

### What is the Passport Pilot?

In April 2026, BSL will launch the Key Stage 3 Round Square Passport, a structured way for students to record and reflect on their personal growth throughout their secondary years.

Ahead of this launch, a pilot group will run from January to March 2026. Students will meet with Mrs Maclean regularly to trial hands-on challenges linked to the IDEALS, test the Passport system and provide feedback to help refine the programme.

Participants will act as "Founding Designers", helping ensure the Passport is meaningful and effective when introduced across the school.

We look forward to working with this group of students to create something impactful for the BSL community and to working together to develop well rounded, reflective, and engaged young people in all year groups.

**Catriona Maclean**

**Round Square Coordinator & Year 3 Teacher**

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# Secondary School

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## University updates

### University Offers Keep on Coming!



### It's university application season, and excitement is building!

Every week, our Year 13 students submit new applications, prepare for interviews, polish portfolios and – best of all – begin receiving offers from universities around the world. Our University Counsellor, Mr David Nyamikou, and IB Diploma Coordinator, Mrs Jane Snell, have been working closely with students and families to guide them through every step of this important journey.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work our students have put into their applications, and it's wonderful to see universities recognising their talent and potential. The Class of 2026 has already been awarded an amazing US \$141,000 in scholarships – and we're just getting started!

Stay tuned for more updates as the offers keep rolling in!

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# Secondary School

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## Year 13 Mock Exams

Year 13 will end the Mock Exam period on Wednesday next week. They will then have two days to complete their Extended Essay (EE) Viva Voce (VV) amongst other assessment tasks. The EE VV is similar to a university viva, soutenance, or thesis defense. Students will discuss their research methodology and outcomes, as well as their personal growth, and the wider implications of their findings. Most importantly they will celebrate their achievement with their Extended Essay Supervisor.

EE Research Questions this year are very varied and have involved lab work, library research, surveys and questionnaires, interviews with representatives from Togolese Ministries, NGOs, UN organisations, and experts or academics in their fields. The result is a very personal research journey, and an academically robust 4000 word essay.

Here are some of this year's topics:  
(The full list can be seen [here](#))

*To what extent do locally sourced clay and activated charcoal derived from agricultural waste remove turbidity and heavy metal ions (e.g., lead or copper) from water, and how do their adsorption properties compare to commercial filter media?*

*To what extent has Tesla's investment in product innovation and R&D contributed to its market leadership in the US electric vehicle industry from 2018 to 2025?*

*How do variations in soil texture affect the time taken for infiltration across cultivated and uncultivated sites at Kailend Farm, Togo?*

*To what extent do variations in environmental conditions and socio-economic factors account for the spatial disparities in rice production between the Savanes and Maritime region of Togo?*

*To what extent has Apple's product portfolio diversification contributed to its financial performance in the U.S. consumer technology sector?*



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## Secondary School

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We were pleased to welcome Data ScienceTech Institute (DSTI) — France's first specialist school for computer and data engineering — to our school this week for a thought-provoking session on the question: "Is Artificial Intelligence real intelligence?"

DSTI staff engaged a small group of students and staff in a rich discussion on how artificial intelligence is reshaping business and politics, while also raising critical ethical questions about innovation, responsibility, and the limits of machine intelligence. The session encouraged students to think beyond technology itself and reflect on what truly defines human intelligence in an AI-driven world.

With campuses in Paris and Nice, DSTI offers industry-focused programmes in data science, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence, all taught in English to an international student community.



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## Secondary Looking Ahead

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**Thursday 8th January to Thursday 22nd January** – Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Examinations

**24–28th January Duke of Edinburgh International Award** – Silver Adventurous Journey (practice and assessed) – Year 12 and 13 students.

**31 Jan and 1st February** – Online MUN Conference – optional for Secondary students, no experience necessary, full training given by the BSLMUN Committee. MUN ASEP is on Tuesday afternoons in A1.

**2–6th February** – Careers Week – a series of career planning and information sessions will take place throughout the week. Parents who are interested in being involved should contact the BSL University and Careers Councilor, Mr David Nyamikou to discuss further [david.nyamikou@bsl.tg](mailto:david.nyamikou@bsl.tg)

**5th February** – Secondary Parent Teachers' Meeting (Years 7 to 13)

**8–10th February** – Duke of Edinburgh International Award – Bronze Adventurous Journey (assessed) – Year 10 and 11 students.

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## Key Dates

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The latest version of our Key Dates for Parents is **HERE**. Other Key Dates for this academic year will be shared at a later date, once they are finalised.

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