



Weekly Update

24th April 2026

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your family are enjoying the two successive long weekends. Our calendar in April and May includes several public holidays – however, learning will continue absolutely as normal around these, as we make sure that every day of education really counts for our students.

As a British School, English is of course our language of instruction. However, we have recently been developing significant programmes to support students whose first language is not English, as they seek to transition into our curricula. This includes our innovative Bridging Programme ('Le Programme Passerelle'), which is especially suitable for Year 11 age students who have completed their Brevet Diploma, and wish to become bilingual by the end of their school career. These students follow an intensive English fast-track programme for one year, before commencing the IB Diploma in Year 12.

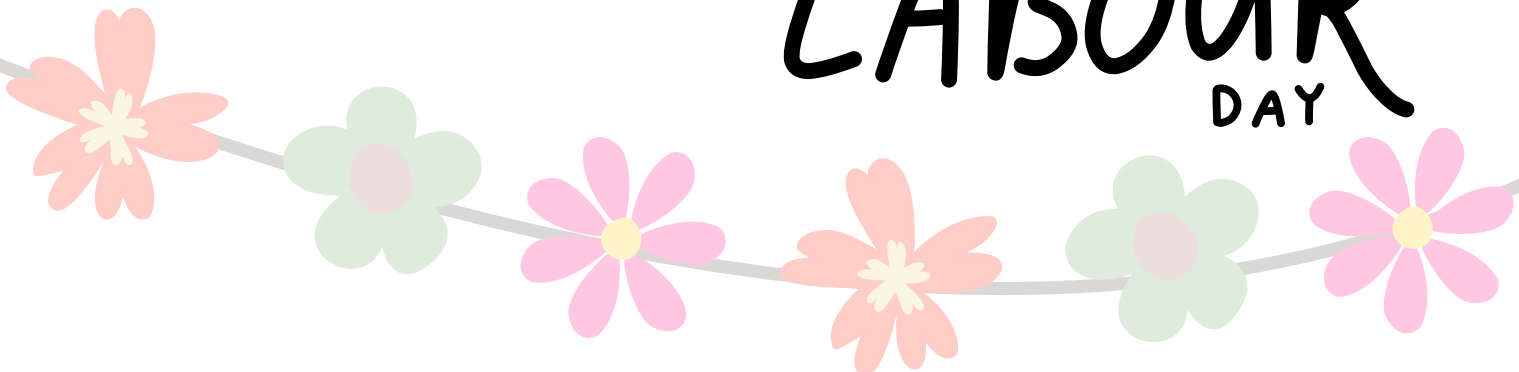
Our Bridging Programme is led by our English Language Institute (ELI) – and last week, I shared the exciting news that our ELI has received a special award from the British Council! The Bridging Programme and IELTS are just two of the many courses offered by our ELI, and you can read more about this in the longer article below.

Happy Labour Day!

With best wishes,

Tom Vignoles
Head of School
The British School of Lomé

HAPPY
LABOUR
DAY



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Whole School

The BSL English Language Institute

The English Language Institute (ELI) aspires to play a central role both within the school and across the wider community, supporting learners of all ages in developing the English skills they need for academic success, professional growth and international opportunities.

Within the school, one of our flagship initiatives is the Bridging Programme – a one-year intensive course designed to support students transitioning from francophone or other education systems. This programme is transformative. Students make rapid progress, gaining the English language and academic skills needed to thrive in an English-medium IB school and to unlock opportunities for international study after their IB Diploma.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be running our ELI summer school from 13 July to 7 August. This four-week programme offers an engaging blend of English learning, creative and cultural workshops and project- and performance based learning experiences. It is designed to be fun and to help students aged 9–18 build fluency and confidence.

This year, we have expanded our provision for adults and now offer General English courses at all levels alongside IELTS preparation courses. ELI courses are designed to be communicative, practical and engaging, helping learners build confidence in using English effectively in real-world contexts. We are delighted to have welcomed 63 enrolments so far this year from parents and working professionals, with more signing up every day for a new round of courses that will start in August.

Our work as an IELTS test centre has received regional recognition. At a recent British Council ceremony in Ghana, the ELI was honoured for achieving the highest percentage growth in IELTS candidates as well as for our outstanding commitment, strong partnership and exceptional performance in supporting IELTS delivery and candidate recruitment.

We also have ambitious plans for next academic year, including the launch of a new suite of professional English courses tailored to the needs of the local business community. We are also working closely with the British Council to become a testing centre for Aptis. Aptis is a widely-recognised English language exam that will offer students, professionals and teachers in Togo a more affordable alternative to IELTS.

We look forward to continuing to work with our students, parents and the local community as the ELI continues to evolve and grow in the year ahead.



Whole School

Summer Schools at BSL

We still have places for our [BSL Summer Schools](#) available. This year, there will be truly something for everyone, with our usual English Language Institute (ELI) Summer School and Primary section Explorers Summer Schools running as usual. For the first time, we also welcome an external company to run innovative AI-focused Summer Schools, which we hope may be of interest for our older students.

Leaflets were sent home to students in the Primary Section last term, which include a link to our [Summer Schools Website](https://bsl.tg/summer-school) (bsl.tg/summer-school) where you will find lots of further information. Secondary students and parents can pick up leaflets from Reception or the ELI. Please sign up soon, to avoid disappointment!

Long-Term Strategic Goals

At the end of last term, we shared with you a copy of our BSL [Long-Term Strategic Goals](#). These are also now on our website. We are always very keen to receive any input from parents regarding our future development objectives, so please reach out to us with any thoughts which this document may trigger.

DRAFT CALENDAR - 2026-2027

A reminder of the [Draft BSL Calendar for 2026-2027](#). At this stage, public holidays for the next academic year have not yet been officially confirmed, therefore it is still possible that changes to our calendar may occur at a later date.

Whole School Looking Ahead

Mon 1st to Fri 5th June - Assessment Week



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Primary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Weekly Notices – Final Term Update

Although this has been a very short week—just eight school days since our return—we have already begun the busy final term with enriching and memorable experiences.

Last Friday, I had the privilege of joining Year 2 on their field trip to Artist Koumy House in Lomé. Jean Koumy, born and raised in Togo, spent nearly forty years in Europe, particularly Belgium, developing his artistic career and exhibiting internationally. In 2017, he returned home to Lomé, where he continues to create and now mentors young artists through training and creative projects.

Our Year 2 students were given a personal tour of his home by the artist himself. They were amazed to discover art in every corner—from the swimming pool to the kitchen, and even the bathrooms! Afterwards, the children gathered around a large courtyard table to paint, express themselves, and let their inspirations come to life. It was a truly beautiful experience, and I would highly recommend a visit during the holidays for families who have not yet had the chance.



Looking ahead, if you are wondering how to keep children engaged during the upcoming **eight-week holiday**, especially given the uncertainty of travel costs and flight availability, please consider enrolling in one of our **BSL Summer Schools**:

- **Explorers** (ages 2–12)
- **ELI** (ages 9–18)
- **AI Summer School** (ages 10–18)

Details are available in the attached flyer. We encourage you to book early to secure a place.

Wishing you all a restful long weekend—we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday.

Kind regards,

Gareth Jones
Head of Primary

Judith Opiyo
Assistant Head of Primary



Don't miss out

Primary School Looking ahead

Friday 12th June – Year 6 Graduation Event

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Secondary School

Careers, Creativity, and French Literature

The BSL Cafe litteraire, held on 23rd April 2026 gave students the opportunity to interact with the writer Mrs Sully Kay and the co-Director of the publishing house Graines de pensées. They exchanged ideas on the novel entitled 'Prisonnier Sans Etoile'. The author talked about the ideas that she sought to convey to the reader through her narrative. Students honed skills such as:

- developing critical thinking by asking relevant questions and receiving insightful ideas.
- French skills like listening skills – the discussion was in French.
- IB Learner Profile skills like being communicators, reflective and inquiring

All demonstrated that they are thoughtful and open-minded young people as they empathised with the difficulties Black communities have gone through.

Below are some of the reviews written by Year 12s :

Josh

J'ai trouvé cet échange d'idées très intéressant et utile ; il m'a apporté de nombreuses et nouvelles informations sur le livre et sur la vision que l'auteure cherchait à transmettre au lecteur à travers son récit. J'ai également partagé mes propres idées et hypothèses sur l'histoire directement avec l'auteure, ce qui était agréable car j'ai pu discuter personnellement de mes réflexions sur l'extrait. Cette discussion m'a permis de développer mon esprit critique et de réfléchir aux idées précédentes et aux différentes perspectives que les gens avaient sur le livre.



I found this exchange of ideas very interesting and useful; it provided me with a great deal of new information about the book and the vision the author aimed to convey to the reader through her narrative. I also shared my own ideas and hypotheses about the story directly with the author, which was enjoyable as I was able to discuss my thoughts on the extract. The discussion helped me think critically and reflect on the previous ideas and different perspectives people had on the book



David

J'ai trouvé l'expérience de la semaine dernière très éducative et informative. La semaine passée, il y avait un café littéraire avec Mme Sully Quai qui nous a parlé de son livre "Un prisonnier sans étoile". Elle a beaucoup parlé du contexte historique dans le cadre de son roman. J'ai pris un des extraits "Sylvestre" qui parle de la surprise et de la peur pendant la ségrégation pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Une des valeurs de IB que j'ai utilisées était Partagée la Planète – Les droits de l'homme. J'ai pris cet aspect car j'ai appris que le texte montrait des différences entre les couleurs de peau des humains noirs et blancs. Sylvestre a été forcé de partir car il n'avait aucun droit de faire un achat dans le restaurant.



I found last week's experience very educational and informative. Last week, there was a book club with Ms. Sully Quai, who talked about her book, "A Prisoner Without a Star." She spoke a lot concerning the historical context of her novel. I chose one of the extracts, "Sylvestre," which deals with surprise and fear during segregation in World War II. One of the IB values I used was "Share the Planet – Human Rights". I chose this value because I learned that the text is about the differences between the skin tones of Black and white people. Sylvestre was forced to leave because he had no right to make a purchase in the restaurant.



Secondary School

Careers, Creativity, and French Literature

Arthur

La semaine dernière, ma classe a discuté du livre 'Un prisonnier sans étoile' de Sully Quay avec l'écrivaine. J'ai choisi l'extrait « Sylvestre, voyage vers les camps » qui parle du moment où Sylvestre, le personnage principal, a été arrêté par des soldats nazis. Après son arrestation, il commence un voyage vers un camp de concentration. Cet extrait m'a intéressé parce qu'il fait ressentir beaucoup d'émotions, comme la tristesse, la surprise et la colère pour Sylvestre, car il a été arrêté à cause de la couleur de sa peau. Une compétence de l'IB que j'ai développée est « être ouvert d'esprit », parce qu'en choisissant cet extrait, je me suis posé des questions sur ce que Sylvestre pensait, par exemple s'il pensait à sa famille ou à autre chose. Je pense que c'était une bonne expérience parce que c'était la première fois qu'une écrivaine venait parler de son livre avec nous.



Last week, my class discussed the book "A Prisoner Without a Star" by Sully Quay with the author. I chose the excerpt "Sylvester, Journey to the Camps." This excerpt describes the moment after Sylvester, the main character, is arrested by Nazi soldiers. After his arrest, he begins a journey to a concentration camp. This excerpt interested me because it evokes a lot of emotions, such as sadness, surprise, and anger for Sylvester, because he was arrested because of the color of his skin. An IB skill I developed is "open-mindedness," because, by choosing this excerpt, I asked myself questions about what Sylvester was thinking, for example, whether he was thinking about his family or something else. I think it was a good experience because it was the first time an author had come to talk to us about her book.



Priyansh

La semaine dernière nous avons participé à un café littéraire avec l'auteure Mme Sully Quay pour discuter de son livre Un Prisonnier sans Étoile. Le roman se déroule pendant la seconde guerre mondiale et parle du racisme et de l'injustice.

L'extrait "Sylvestre, mi-juillet 1938, France" m'a marqué car il montre les difficultés vécues par certaines personnes à cause de la couleur de leur peau. Cela m'a aidé à mieux comprendre le contexte historique et les mentalités de l'époque. J'ai trouvé la discussion intéressante, surtout en écoutant les différentes idées des autres. Cette activité m'a aussi permis de m'exprimer en français et de réfléchir à des sujets importants.



Last week we participated in a literary café with author Sully Quay to discuss her book, *A Prisoner Without a Star*. The novel takes place during World War II and deals with racism and injustice. The excerpt "Sylvester, mid-July 1938, France" particularly struck me because it illustrates the difficulties faced by some people due to the color of their skin. This helped me better understand the historical context and the attitudes of the time. I found the discussion interesting, especially listening to the different perspectives of others. This activity also allowed me to express myself in French and reflect on important issues.



Secondary School

Careers, Creativity, and French Literature



BSL MFL Café Littéraire 23-4-2026



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Secondary School

What happens when academic curiosity meets creativity?

Our Year 12 learners are about to show you.

As part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, students are developing their Collaborative Science Project to design and carry out their own investigations to explore the theme "In Motion." From Monday, they'll be experimenting, analysing, and preparing to showcase their discoveries.

Join us for the Exhibition of Learning!

Tuesday 5th May.
1:30pm – 2:30pm.

Come and explore their interactive displays, hear first-hand about their findings, and see science brought to life through student-led inquiry.

Talk to the learners.
Discover creative investigations.
Be inspired by real scientific thinking.

All are welcome to visit and engage with the Exhibition of Learning.

YEAR 12 are EXHIBITING their COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE PROJECT

IN MOTION

**Tuesday 5th May
1:30 to 2:30pm**

"Come and explore student led science in action: Investigating problems through experimental design, modelling, evaluation and collaboration."

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The British School of Lomé
Educating Children from 18 Months to 18 Years
(Day & Boarding)



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Secondary School

Secondary School – Looking Ahead

Friday 24th April to Tuesday 9th June – IGCSE Examinations

Tuesday 28th April to Wednesday 20th May – IBDP Examinations

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th May – Year 12 Collaborative Science Project (parents and students invited to the Exhibition of Learning)

Friday 15th May – International Buffet (Year 12 parents invited to participate)

Saturday 23rd May – Year 13 Graduation and Year 11–13 Prom

University updates

Difficult choices and a step closer to the adult world.

The Class of 2026 has already been offered in excess of US\$350,000 (~210 million CFA) in university scholarships – a powerful recognition of their hard work, ambition and potential.

These awards are opening doors to universities around the world, making global education more accessible for our students and their families. At the same time, this is a complex and important stage in the journey. While some students are still actively submitting applications, others are now carefully weighing their options across different countries, courses and institutions.

For many, this includes making difficult decisions – balancing financial considerations, visa and logistical realities, and personal aspirations. In some cases, it also means turning down offers from excellent universities in order to commit to the pathway that is the best overall fit.

Admissions timelines vary by country, and with some application portals only just opening, we hope to see this total continue to grow. It is already a fantastic achievement, and one that reflects not only academic success, but also the maturity and thoughtfulness our students are showing as they navigate these significant life decisions.

A remarkable milestone so far – and the journey continues beyond the exam period.



Key Dates

The latest version of our Key Dates for Parents is [HERE](#). Key Dates for next academic year will be shared at a later date, once they are finalised.

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