



Weekly Update

30th January 2026

Dear Parents,

As a school, our job is to educate your children. Education can be very effective within the regular classroom – and it can also be absolutely transformative in other settings. During the last week, many of our senior students have completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh International Award adventurous journeys. This was a fast-paced trip in Kuma Konda, during which students sharpened expedition skills, built strong teams, packed rucksacks for greater comfort, pitched tents properly, navigated from Google Maps to what was actually on the ground, and planned routes with clear risk assessments. Mornings were all about real independence – getting up, packing down, cooking, eating, managing time and delegating jobs efficiently. Above all, our students stepped up for each other, showed resilience, and made lasting memories. Education does not have to be about sitting on a chair!

On Thursday, we welcomed a team of visiting professional photographers to take class and individual photos. A reminder of the process for ordering these is below, so please do place your orders if you have not already done so. We will let parents know the process for collecting photos in due course, which will take a while given the large number of photos taken.

Meanwhile, safety and security are a very high priority for us at BSL. Please see below for an important message regarding our routine lockdown drill practice, which is coming soon. We would like to reassure you that this is simply a routine practice, which we are required to complete from time to time, rather than as a result of any specific concern.

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

Lockdown Drill – Important Information for Parents

As part of our commitment to keeping all children safe, we will be carrying out a lockdown drill in the near future. A lockdown is a safety procedure designed to protect students and staff in the unlikely event of an emergency, such as an intruder on site or civil disturbance nearby.

During the drill, students and staff will move to the nearest lockable room, doors will be secured, and children will be kept away from windows until the all-clear is given by senior staff.

We want to reassure you that this is a precautionary measure only. While it is a serious and necessary practice, it is extremely unlikely that we would ever need to use it in a real situation. The drill helps ensure that everyone knows what to do and can respond calmly and confidently should the need ever arise.

Mr G. Jones (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

School Photos

Thank you to those parents who have already completed their order forms for the class and individual photos which were taken by our visiting professional photographers earlier in the week. We will confirm in due course the process for collecting your photographs.

If you have not yet ordered photographs and wish to do so, here is the order form again.

[ORDER FORM IN FRENCH](#) [ORDER FORM IN ENGLISH](#)

Please complete this and return it to the school Reception, or to your child's teacher or Form Tutor.

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

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

Primary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts on how we, as a school community, support children through change and what safeguarding truly means to us.

Coping with Change

Change is a natural part of life—whether it's moving to a new class, making new friends, getting a new teacher or adapting to new routines. For children, these transitions can sometimes feel overwhelming. At school, we place great emphasis on helping pupils build resilience, confidence, and a sense of belonging. We encourage open conversations, provide safe spaces for children to express their feelings, and ensure that every child knows there is always an adult they can turn to for support.

What Safeguarding Means to Us

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. It is not just about protecting children from harm, but about creating an environment where they feel safe, valued, and able to thrive. This includes:

- Promoting emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Ensuring children are physically safe in school and beyond.
- Teaching them how to make positive choices and respect others.
- Working closely with families to provide consistent care and guidance.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and we are committed to working hand-in-hand with parents to ensure every child's safety and happiness.

Digital Security for Younger Children

In today's world, safeguarding also means protecting children in the digital space. Younger children are increasingly exposed to online platforms, games, and social media, which can bring both opportunities and risks. Digital security involves:

- Teaching children to keep personal information private.
- Helping them understand the importance of strong passwords.
- Encouraging them to speak up if they see or experience something online that makes them uncomfortable.
- Guiding them to use age-appropriate apps and websites.

Primary School

How Parents Can Help

You play a vital role in supporting digital safety at home. Some practical steps include:

- Setting clear boundaries for screen time.
- Using parental controls and privacy settings.
- Talking regularly with your child about what they do online.
- Encouraging openness so they feel comfortable sharing any concerns.
- Modeling healthy digital habits yourself.

Together, we can ensure that children not only cope with change but also grow into confident, safe, and responsible individuals—both offline and online.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a safe and nurturing environment for all.

Kind regards,

Gareth Jones
Head of Primary

Judith Opiyo
Assistant Head of Primary



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Secondary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Reporting and Upcoming Events

Post-mock exam reports, for Year 11 and 13 only, will be published on 3rd February. Our Parents' Evening for all secondary year-groups will be held on 5th February. Year 11 students will begin to think about how their IGCSE results and co-curricular activities support future study in the IB Diploma Programme and beyond, as we look ahead to our Options Evening on Thursday 26th February. Further information will be shared through information sessions, the careers fair, and mentoring. More details will be shared soon.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure a productive and enriching term for all our students.

Warm regards,

Francis E. Anquandah

Assistant Head (Academic)

Jane Snell

IBDP and Learning Development

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition: Five Days of Challenge, Growth and Resilience

Over five demanding and rewarding days, our Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants completed their expedition journey in the lush hills surrounding Kpalimé, based at Campement de Kloto. The programme included two days of practice expeditions, followed by three days of assessed expeditions, with teams hiking through and around Kuma Konda and Tomegbé.

Set against a backdrop of forested slopes, rural pathways and vibrant local communities, the expedition challenged students physically, mentally and socially – and provided powerful opportunities for personal growth.

What is the purpose of a Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition?

The expedition section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is designed to develop self-reliance, teamwork and resilience. Participants plan and complete a journey in unfamiliar environments, carrying their own equipment, navigating independently, managing their time, planning and cooking their own meals, and working together as a team.

Along the way, students are encouraged to develop initiative and decision-making skills, build confidence and perseverance, learn to work collaboratively under pressure, engage meaningfully with the environment and local communities, and reflect on their own capabilities and limits. The expedition is not about speed or distance alone – it is about learning through challenge, adapting to real situations, and discovering strengths that are often only revealed when comfort zones are left behind.

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Secondary School

Lessons from the Trail

Rather than statistics or summaries, the most powerful outcomes of the expedition are best captured in the voices of the participants themselves. These reflections were shared after the journey and are presented below exactly as written — a snapshot of honest learning from life on the trail:

On people and personal space

It's hard being surrounded by people all the time.

On resilience and unexpected strength

I didn't realise I was so strong - I thought my legs would fall off, and that I couldn't possibly walk another step and then my group started singing and the next thing I knew is that I'd finished the hike.

On community and perspective

Interviewing people gave an insight into their lives and it was sad how many said access to water was their most significant challenge.

On food, fuel and reflection

I realised how much food I need to fuel my body.
I realised how much food I eat at home that is not necessary.

On comfort, adaptation and pride

I really missed having a shower with pressure, someone cooking for me, and my own bed but I'm also proud of how I managed to learn from my group members and to adapt.

On teamwork and compromise

It was frustrating having to walk at someone else's pace and to stop more often than I needed to. But when my whole group made it to the end of the day together it was worth having to make the adjustments.

A journey that lasts beyond the expedition

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition is often remembered not just for the distance covered, but for the mindset shifts, the shared challenges, and the quiet moments of realisation along the way. For our participants, the hills around Kpalimé offered far more than a route map - they offered lessons that will stay with them long after the bags are unpacked. In the coming weeks, students will complete the administrative requirements in the Online Record Book, and prepare a presentation of their investigation findings and final reflections, which will be shared with the wider school community before half term, bringing the learning from the trail full circle.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition: Five Days of Challenge, Growth and Resilience



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Secondary School Looking Ahead

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.

2nd February

- IBDP English B individual oral assessments (all day)
- Y7 French outing

5th February - Y12 French outing

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

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

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

University Updates

Dreams Taking Shape: University Offers Are Landing.

University application season is well underway - and the good news keeps rolling in!

Our Year 13 students are continually submitting applications, preparing for interviews, refining portfolios, and celebrating offers from universities across the globe.

Guided by our University Counsellor, Mr David Nyamikou, and IB Diploma Coordinator, Mrs Jane Snell, students and families are being supported every step of the way through this exciting and important process.



The results speak for themselves. Thanks to their hard work and determination, the Class of 2026 has already been offered an outstanding **US \$248,000** in annual scholarships to support them through their university studies, with plenty more offers still to come.

We couldn't be prouder, and we can't wait to share what happens next!

Key Dates

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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