



Weekly Update

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents,

This week, our students have been engaged in a democratic process to elect the next BSL Head Girl and Head Boy. The process this year includes presentations in assembly, campaigns around the school and on social media, as well as interviews, discussions and a student and staff voting process. We applaud all of the students who have offered their services to the student community as their potential leaders.

We expect the process to be completed during the course of next week, which is also Social Responsibility Week at BSL. The overall aims of this week are to raise awareness of social responsibility, ethical citizenship, and community engagement locally and globally – and also to encourage proactive, inclusive, and compassionate actions in school and in daily life. It is a week that goes straight to the heart of what it really means to be a member of the BSL Community.

Our BSL Community is extremely important to us – and last week, we held a very productive meeting with our PAMC, in order to hear parent feedback about BSL. We have included a few general clarifications in the Whole School section below, in response to the points of feedback received.

We would like to develop our parent voice systems to a higher level for the future – and so we will shortly be reaching out to parents to invite volunteers for the informal role of Parent Rep for each section of the school. We hope that our Parent Reps will be able to help us channel our section specific communications more effectively, offer feedback on BSL and our special events, as well as helping us with parent focus groups for future consultations regarding school development planning. Please look out for these separate communications in the near future – and we look forward to working further with our Parent Reps once this system is up and running.

We thank all parents once again for their engagement with BSL.

With best wishes,

Tom Vignoles
Head of School
The British School of Lomé



BSL Co-Curriculum



TRIPS UPDATES

2027 Round Square International Conference Trip to Kenya – BSL's participation has been confirmed, flights and hotels are being booked and the excitement is growing! We may be able to accommodate a small number of additional participants. Contact Trip Leader, catriona.maclean@bsl.tg for more information.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FnYlag9fKA>



A FEW SPACES LEFT!

Paris Trip Letter – Last chance to sign up for the Paris trip!

[Details are in this letter.](#)



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Whole School

BSL Community Goal: To rapidly install a substantial number of solar panels at BSL.



Parent Handbook

We remind parents that our [BSL Parent Handbook](#) is linked into every weekly communication, and that this contains a wealth of information about BSL. Please do take some time to study it, if you have not done so previously!

Uniform List

Section 10 of the [BSL Parent Handbook](#) includes information about our current School Uniform requirements, with a link also to our [BSL School Uniform.pdf](#) list.

Water

The school provides water for students and staff via a number of large water dispensers. These can only be filled up once they are empty - and sometimes they can empty very quickly if a large number of students arrive with large empty water bottles at the start of the day!

It would help us greatly if students could arrive with full water bottles at the start of the day. We also encourage parents to supply bottles that are not unnecessarily large, as this can lead to water wastage and increases the chance of one of our water dispensers running out unexpectedly.



If a student finds that a water dispenser is empty when they arrive, they can ask any member of staff who will help arrange for a new bottle to be added as soon as possible.

Parking

The car park adjacent to the school site is a very useful resource for our school, though not technically on the school site. To avoid unhelpful congestion at arrival and pick up times, we respectfully remind all parents to enter and exit from the designated ends of the car park.

Use of the school site after hours

We respectfully remind parents that their children should not be onsite after the end of the school day, unless they are officially registered for an ASEP activity. Once ASEPs conclude, students should leave the site promptly. These measures are necessary to ensure the appropriate supervision and safety of all of our students at all times.

Sections 1.3 and 1.5 of the [BSL Parent Handbook](#) include reminders regarding pick up times at the end of the school day.

By special arrangement with our Estates Office (estate@bsl.tg), it is possible for parents to privately rent social or sporting areas of the school site for a special event outside of regular school hours, for which parents arrange their own adult supervision. Please contact our Estates Office if you would like to explore this further.

Whole School

BSL Head Student Campaign Week



Social media videos, speeches, formal letters of application, interviews and lots of conversations with voters have created a real atmosphere of excitement this week as students in Years 5-13 head to the polls to elect our Head Boy and Head Girl for 2026-2027.

Each candidate chose to put themselves forward and has shared how they would develop the Round Square IDEALS through their leadership of the Round Square Student Council (RSSC), as well as promote our BSL Community Goal to rapidly develop solar power across the school.

We are incredibly proud of every candidate for having the confidence to step forward, take a risk and put their ideas in front of the school community. Whatever the final result is next week, we look forward to seeing their ideas, leadership and enthusiasm continue to make a difference at BSL.

**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**

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Whole School

Lunch Menu

Here is the Lunch Menu for [September and October](#)

BSL Calendar - 2026-2027

Here is our [BSL Calendar for 2026-2027](#). Please note that some public holidays have not yet been officially confirmed, so further minor changes could still be possible.

Parent Handbook

Here is a link to our [BSL Parent Handbook](#). Further information can also be found on the [BSL Website](#), including the current list of [Educational Staff](#).

ManageBac Access for Parents

If you need further guidance on using ManageBac, here is a link to the slides from our recent training session.

[Getting started with ManageBac+ as a parent - Sept 2027.](#)

Please reach out to our IT Team (itstaff@bsl.tg) at any time if you need any assistance in logging in or navigating ManageBac.

Whole School Looking Ahead

Thursday 29th October – Open House at BSL

Saturday 14th November – International Weekend Community Event



OPEN HOUSE



Dola AI

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Primary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today's assembly was led by our Special Educational Needs Coordinator, **Mr James O'Hagan (SENCO)**, alongside a group of students representing classes across the Primary school. Together, they explored the important character trait of **courage** and what it means to be truly brave.

This week's Hero is **Courageous Collette**, whose core trait is facing her fears. Courage is not the absence of fear; rather, it is doing the right thing despite being afraid. Collette reminds us that courage means taking sensible risks, being resilient when challenges arise, and persevering when life becomes difficult. The children spoke about how, in life, there will always be obstacles and setbacks, but giving up is not the answer. Instead, we must face challenges with determination and courage.



We also reflected on how courage is not only about ourselves. It can be seen when we support others through disappointment, stand up for what is right, speak up when something is wrong, and show kindness to those who need encouragement.

In French, we often hear the expression "**Courage, courage!**" as a warm way of encouraging someone. It can mean "*Stay strong,*" "*Keep going,*" "*You can do this,*" or "*Hang in there.*" This captures perfectly the message we wanted our students to take away from today's assembly.

A special thank you goes to the children who assisted Mr James. They showed great bravery by speaking openly about some of their own fears and sharing how they overcome challenges. Their honesty and confidence inspired us all and demonstrated the courage we are encouraging throughout our school community.

Today was also an exciting day as students cast their votes for our **Head Boy and Head Girl**. Every candidate demonstrated tremendous courage by standing for election, knowing that the competition was strong. It takes confidence and resilience to put yourself forward, share your ideas, and represent your peers. Regardless of the final result, each candidate should be proud of the determination, maturity, and bravery they showed throughout their campaigns.

We look forward to announcing the results very soon. If you follow our social media channels, you will be able to see some of the excellent campaign videos created by the candidates. They all did a fantastic job and once again showed us what makes **BSL students** so special.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

Gareth Jones
Head of Primary

Judith Opiyo
Assistant Head of Primary

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Secondary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What does progress look like in Secondary? This week, it has taken many different forms: a new student finding the confidence to contribute in class, a Year 13 student refining an argument, Year 10 students taking responsibility for leading others in ASEPs, students identifying changes they would like to lead, or students of all ages receiving feedback and identifying the steps and strategies needed to learn from their mistakes.

For our newest students, teachers are currently completing Settling-In Reports, providing families with an early picture of how students are engaging with their learning, integrating into school life and where their next steps might lie. Year 11 and Year 13 reports are also being compiled as these students move towards mock examinations and important stages in their courses.

For Year 13 in particular, this is a busy point in the Diploma. Internal Assessments, Extended Essays and other coursework are progressing towards important deadlines, and managing these different demands is increasingly about students taking ownership of what needs to happen next. Additionally, some are completing SAT and IELTS examinations at BSL to meet university entry requirements. Diploma students have now been introduced to this year's Theory of Knowledge Essay prescribed titles and are starting to explore the questions, challenge different interpretations and consider where their own arguments might take them. Twice-weekly supported study sessions, from 4.30–6.00pm, are also providing a dedicated space to work, ask for help, develop specific skills or simply benefit from some additional structure during a demanding term.

Beyond the classroom, we were delighted to welcome a group of young people supported by HALSA International to BSL for their first activity session. Our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's International Award students took responsibility for leading the session, putting service, communication and leadership into practice. We look forward to seeing both the relationships and the students' confidence develop as the programme continues.

Leadership has, in fact, been a recurring theme across Secondary this week.

Students have been discussing questions of **fairness, representation and what effective leadership really looks like**. These conversations encourage them to recognise that leadership is not simply about holding a title. It can mean listening to others, noticing what needs to change, taking responsibility and being prepared to do something about it. In different ways, this is a responsibility that belongs to all of us.

Together, these different experiences reflect much of what we want Secondary education at BSL to provide: academic challenge alongside opportunities to reflect, serve, lead and grow.

As always, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and guardians for your continued support in educating and guiding our students, and in helping to prepare them to become responsible and compassionate future leaders.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Warm regards,

Francis E. Anquandah
Deputy Head: Academic

Jane Snell
Deputy Head: Student Development,
IB Diploma Coordinator

Secondary School

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) Essay Titles

Each year, the IB releases six questions for students to explore through their Theory of Knowledge essay. This year's titles are below – but why leave them to Year 13?

Pick one at the dinner table or in the car and see where the conversation takes you.

Ask **Why? What makes you think that? Can you think of an example? Would that always be true?**

There are no easy answers, and no TOK expertise is required! These conversations help students of all ages practise questioning, explaining and challenging ideas – exactly the deeper thinking they will need as they progress towards the IBDP.

1. Do we gain a better appreciation of the human experience from the artist or the historian? Discuss with reference to the arts and history.

2. If values change over time, how can they, nevertheless, continue to guide the pursuit of knowledge? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.

3. In the production of knowledge, how can knowledge be reliable if it is built on assumptions? Discuss with reference to the human sciences and one other area of knowledge.

4. To what extent do you agree with the claim that “any coincidence is worth noticing; you can throw it away later if it is only a coincidence” (Agatha Christie)? Answer with reference to mathematics and one other area of knowledge.

5. In the production of knowledge, when choosing one explanation over another, to what extent should simplicity be prioritized? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.

6. In the pursuit of knowledge, what value is there in exploring the paradoxical or the counterintuitive? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences and one other area of knowledge.

Key Dates

Here is our [Key Dates Calendar for 2026–2027](#). Please save the dates for key events in your schedule!

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