



# NEWSLETTER



## Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the BSL Community,

As we approach the final four weeks of this term, our students and staff are currently engaged in their first round of assessments. After a term of dedicated teaching and learning, this is an opportunity to evaluate students' progress. These assessments will provide valuable insights for teachers to reflect on what has worked well and identify areas for improvement. The outcomes will be discussed during the upcoming Parent-Teacher Meetings, which I strongly encourage you to attend.

In January, we will hold mock examinations for our exam classes, Years 11 and 13, to help them prepare for this year's external assessments. Based on the results, teachers will implement tailored interventions. As with last year, we anticipate students attending after-school sessions, Saturday boot camps, lessons during school holidays, and in some cases, we may recommend boarding arrangements. Evidence shows that boarding significantly improves academic performance, and we want to provide every opportunity for success.

On Sunday, 10th November, I had the privilege of attending the Indian Cultural Festival in Lomé. I was particularly proud to see BSL students perform with confidence, showcasing their talents and representing our school with pride. Their energy and poise were truly inspiring and a testament to the values we foster at BSL. As we prepare for our own International Day celebration, we welcome sponsors and businesses interested in promoting their services to get in touch with the school office.

The Remembrance Day ceremony at Wahala on Monday, 11th November, was a moving event, honouring the sacrifices of those who fought in past conflicts. I was privileged to represent the British side alongside the French and German Ambassadors and Togolese officials, united in respect and remembrance. I was especially proud of our BSL students, who sang the British National Anthem beautifully and delivered a speech that reflected their confidence and leadership skills. At school, we also marked the occasion with a short ceremony, including a minute of silence. Coming from a military family—my grandfather served as an instructor in the British Army—such ceremonies hold deep personal significance for me. For history enthusiasts, I highly recommend visiting Wahala—it's a profound reminder of the past and an opportunity to reflect on peace and reconciliation.

BSL takes pride in fostering a culture of continuous professional development. Last year, recognising the dedication and hard work of our local staff, I introduced UK teaching certification for them. This initiative aimed to acknowledge their commitment and elevate their already commendable practices by incorporating 21st-century teaching methodologies. I am proud to share that every staff member nominated for this programme has successfully completed their certification.

The British School of Lomé is a community-centred institution, dedicated to serving both the nation of Togo and the expatriate families living here. We are always here to support our local and international communities.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared vision for excellence at BSL.

Warm regards,

**AKIF NAQVI**  
**Head of School**





# ARMISTICE 1918 CELEBRATION 11TH NOV 2024



## R E M E M B R A N C E   D A Y W A H A L A   2 0 2 4



5e anniversaire de l'armistice / Cimetière militaire de Wahala



# THE NEO SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Neo Science Olympiad is an annual competition offering various categories across multiple subjects. Last year, one of our students qualified for the finals in the Coding category but was unable to attend because the minimum requirement to compete in the finals is eight participants from the same school. We encourage parents and students to consider registering in any category that aligns with their interests so that more students can participate and qualify for the finals together. Please find attached snapshots from the neo science website.



[www.neoscience.org](http://www.neoscience.org)

## Invitation to the **NEO** Science **Olympiad** Online Exams and Grand Final in New York

Dear Students, Parents and Teachers,

Get ready for an unforgettable experience! The 2024-2025 **NEO** Science **Olympiad** is now open for registrations, and this is your chance to be part of an incredible journey in science, technology, and innovation.

This year's competition offers a wide range of categories, including Coding, Mathematics, Natural Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and AI Prompt Challenge tailored to challenge and inspire students from different grade levels. With medals, certificates, and the prestigious **GRAND FINAL** event in New York on the line, it's time to step up, compete, and show the world what you're capable of!

Don't miss this opportunity to grow, excel, and become a part of an exciting global community of future innovators.

Register now and get ready to start your journey to success!

### NEO SCIENCE ONLINE EXAMS



#### CATEGORIES AND FEES

Participants have the opportunity to compete and showcase their skills in 7 different categories depending on grade levels:

- Coding (for grades 3-11)
- Mathematics (for grades 3-8)
- Natural Science (for grades 3-8)
- Physics (for grades 9-11)
- Chemistry (for grades 9-11)
- Biology (for grades 9-11)
- AI Prompt Challenge (6-11)

The participation fee in the Coding category is \$35, while the participation fee for the other categories is \$20 per exam.



#### MEDALS, CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

The top 3 students in each grade and category from the online round exams (a total of 105 participants) will be awarded medals and certificates sent by mail.

Additionally, the top 3 students from grades 3 to 11 (a total of 105 participants) in the online round exams will qualify for discounted entry to the Grand Final Program in New York, USA.

Every participant will receive either a certificate of participation or a certificate of achievement.

### EXAM CALENDAR

Chemistry Biology	December 15, 2024
AI Prompt Challenge	January 18, 2025
Coding	January 19, 2025
Mathematics Natural Science Physics	January 26, 2025
Grand Final (New York - USA)	June 5-12, 2025

For more information, please visit <https://neoscience.org/> or contact [bolaji.aliyu@bsl.tg](mailto:bolaji.aliyu@bsl.tg)



## YEAR 7 FRENCH

In French Y7, the students completed their extraordinary animals and descriptions to add to the poem read together in class.



### JAFAR ABDURRHAMAN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY ZOE YEAR 12

**Zoe:** How did you find out about BSL?

**Jafar ABDURRHAMAN:** I knew about BSL for almost all my life because most of my older siblings attended the school even before me for either IGCSE or IB.

**ZA:** How many years did you spend at the school?

**JA:** I spent 2 years at the school

**ZA:** What were some of the highlights of your time at BSL?

**JA:** I have had countless highlights at BSL but the ones that stand out would be the 2 International Weekends I have experienced, March Madness and the Duke of Edinburgh award expedition.

**ZA:** How did having a broken leg during the IB affect your school experience? Did it impact your studies or social life in any way?

**JA:** Having a broken leg while I was doing my IB surely had some effects on me in different ways. First, my social life was greatly impacted in the sense that I felt that I needed a helping hand in almost everything I did then, thereby making me feel like I was depending on people too much and also being a burden, which was not comfortable for me.

Secondly, I was affected academically because I had to deal with recurring pains and limitations, which essentially made me feel at times that I could not achieve my goal of completing the IB with a good result.

The academic effect it had on me was mostly in a psychological way seeing as a limitation on a part of my body could lead to limiting me from achieving my academic objectives.

However, overall, the whole experience was enhanced by my ever supportive friends at BSL then, especially my house mates and house parent, who made sure I had everything I needed, and made sure that all I needed to do was ask for a helping hand. The school authorities also made sure that things were made easier by providing transport for me to and fro the school premises and the boarding house. All these ultimately made me stronger mentally to complete my IB on a high note and felt supported immensely.



**ZA:** Which IB subjects did you pick, and what made you choose them?

**JA:** I did English A – HL, Geography HL, Business Management HL, Biology SL, Math Studies and French AB Initio. I pretty much chose the subjects that were well within my strengths and that I would do well in, and also happened to be subjects that would help me in the course that I ultimately chose to study at the university.

**ZN:** Were there any teachers at BSL who influenced you during your time there?

**JA:** I had a few teachers whom I very much looked up to in the school due to various reasons. Mr Hough, my tutor and geography teacher was one, who influenced me and helped me develop in many ways especially academically, teaching me how to do research work and also supported me in my EE. Mr David was another one whom I had a great time with doing charity and voluntary work for CAS. Last but not the least was Miss Nelly – till this day, I still use some of the tips and continue to rely on lots of things she had taught me during my time in her English class. Moreover, her kindness and willingness to always help was the most important thing I had learned from her, which I still practise.

**ZN:** What are some of your favourite memories from your time at BSL?

**JA:** Some of my favourite memories at BSL were anytime I either had English class with Miss Nelly or Business Management with Mrs. Anquandah. Also, I loved Friday evenings when we would always just be on the football pitch till later than usual because there was no prep on those nights. Social nights/days in the boarding house were also great memories when we usually watched movies or went out with the house parent just to relax.

**ZN:** Did you participate in any extracurricular activities and how did your injury affect your involvement?

**JA:** I did a few extra-curricular activities at BSL. One of the activities I participated in was art club, where we all displayed different levels of creativity and had fun with the teacher. I also did chess, where I might have learned a thing or two at the club with Mr. Anquandah. Due to my inability to play any sport that required me to be on my feet running, I did swimming with Mr Ado, and played table tennis with my friends occasionally. Each of the activities I participated in was not intense due to my limited movement. I had an initial feeling that I would do well or enjoy them but I was proven wrong in the end. Voluntary activities were also fun with my group because even though I was limited in movement I helped with kids from the deaf school and had fun with them.

**ZN:** How important were those activities for your overall IB experience?

**JA:** The activities were vital in my overall IB experience not just because I had to do most of them but I made lot friends from all year groups doing different activities. This ultimately shaped up my time at the school as well because I felt welcome in different groups.

**ZN:** Which university did you attend after BSL, and how did the IB programme prepare you for that experience?

**JA:** I attended the University of the West of England, Bristol, in the UK. The main thing that I was pleasantly surprised in my university days, especially at the beginning was that in doing research work, my university employed the same referencing technique as the one I used in all my other projects during my IB. This made life a lot easier because referencing is one of the hardest things in doing research works. I was also familiarised with some concepts in my course which I used in my EE and in Geography HL. Even in my masters, I was surprised to realise that some of the things being taught were already known to me while doing TOK in IB. So I think I was quite well prepared for university because of IB.

**ZN:** What degree did you pursue at university, and did your IB subjects influence your choice?

**JA:** I studied Urban Planning for my undergraduate degree, in which my IB Geography HL came in really handy. My EE which I did in Geography was also a great resource in my studies. My Masters, which was in International Management was also heavily influenced by taking Business Management HL and a lot of the things I did I already had a background in from my IB days.

**ZN:** Can you tell me about your current job? How do you feel your time at BSL and the IB shaped your career path?

**JA:** I am currently doing volunteering work while also doing a job search. I think BSL has always prepared me for this because I did a lot of voluntary work during my time there as well as doing CAS, so it does not feel new to me.

Jafar, a Nigerian, was at BSL from August 2017 to May 2019. He lives and works in the UK. Four of his older siblings are also BSL alumni.

## HOUSE SYSTEM – THE BATTLE OF THE BIG CATS!



Cheetahs  
983



Caracals  
1299

At the moment Caracals are leading but there is plenty of time for that to change. We hope that we are able to reward thinking, actions, creativity, inquiry and above or else, endeavour!



# ROYAL GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY



Royal Geography  
Society



Our students receive the certificates from the Royal Geographical Society (RGS). The Royal Geographical Society, often shortened to RGS, is a learned society and professional body for geography based in the United Kingdom.

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## FORGET ME NOT

- DofE International Award Walk – 30th Nov
- Secondary Student Council Inauguration Assembly – Mon 18th Nov
  - Time for Years 7–9: 8:10 – 8:40 AM
  - Time for Years 10–13: 8:40 – 9:10 AM (parents are welcome to join)
- DELF Exams– week beginning Mon 18th Nov
- International Day weekend – Fri 22nd Nov and Sat 23rd Nov
- End of Term 1 Report to Parents – Week of Mon 9th Dec
- End of Term 1 Parent–Teacher Conferences – Wed 11th Dec and Thu 12th Dec
- Carols in the Cathedral – Week of Mon 9th Dec
- Last Day of Term 1 (Half Day) – Fri 13th Dec 2024
- School reopens on– Mon 6th Jan 2025
- IBDP & IGCSE Mocks– week beginning Mon 13th Jan 2025



# FRANCIS CHARDEY CONFERENCE REFLECTION



Last week, I had the opportunity to participate in an online Model United Nations conference, WWYMMUN, where I represented Lebanon in the UN Women Committee. The topic focused on addressing the needs of refugee women in countries with high refugee populations, which seemed particularly relevant for Lebanon. The first day involved a mix of speeches, caucuses, and resolution drafting. I observed how experienced delegates used various techniques to engage others in debate. I also had the chance to collaborate with the delegate of Indonesia on our resolution, learning valuable skills with their eloquence and presentation. This experience introduced me to new perspectives on women's rights and refugee issues, expanding my knowledge and understanding.

The second day went as follows, Resolution Speeches were given, Amendments were written, Reconsideration speeches were given and votes were passed. After the formal proceedings had concluded we had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to one another. This Icebreaker session allowed me to get to know the other delegates on a personal level, which was a breath of fresh air after our tireless debating. I also received an award for best delegate which was amazing to say the least, particularly as this is the first conference that I have attended.

Overall this MUN conference was a great experience that taught me a lot about the socio-economic roadblocks that lie with the preservation of women's rights in refugee situations. It also taught me a lot about how people debate and what I can do to improve my ability to debate. I also realised that I tend to question the effectiveness and overall virtue of things before I can form a valid opinion on it. This experience was enlightening and has encouraged me to work harder and refine my debating skills further. I'm looking forward to the next conference!





## ART WITH VIVENDA SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Our CAS service partner, the Vivenda School for the Hearing Impaired, came to school for a painting session in the art studio with the Year 12 learners on a Thursday afternoon. Three canvases had been stretched and primed for the activity and put up on easels ready for painting. The leaders of the activity thought it inconvenient for the canvases to be on the easels and so removed them and placed on the tables. The CAS coordinator found this not to be a good idea and reprimanded the leaders for their decision but since there is freedom in creativity, the coordinator did not hazard any further with his reproof and let the learners take charge – after all it was their duty to be in charge.

The outcome of that afternoon's service activity was astounding – three lovely pieces of art – testament to one of the key elements of creative art, which is improvisation!



The Vivenda pupils (and Year 12 learners) with their framed paintings. The biggest canvas was done with Year 13 learners.

The CAS Team.



## PRIMARY ASSEMBLY



In the Primary Assembly this week Mr Jones our Head of Primary told us about next week's International Weekend and what it is to be a Global Citizen. A Global Citizen has skills that help them to overcome problems and difficulties and to take action in creating a tolerant, respectful and inclusive world.



Stars of the week



Inktober competition

We also gave out certificates to Year 5 for being kind in Anti-Bullying Week, our Stars of the Week and for the winners of the Inktober competition.

## GRATITUDE FOR PARENTAL SUPPORT AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO MR CHANDRA PRAKASH



BSL is proud to have a supportive parental community that is always there for us. It is a privilege to receive such unwavering support from our parents.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our parents, and a special thank you to Mr Chandra Prakash for his generous gift of the Student Council badges.



# INDIA FESTIVAL 2ND EDITION 2024



India festival 2nd edition 2024 held on 10th Nov organised by Embassy of India and Indian association of Togo at Canal Olympia Godope.

Vidhit was playing the role of Lord Krishna

## NEWLY REFURBISHED STUDENT LOCKERS NOW AVAILABLE!



We are excited to announce that the newly refurbished student lockers are now ready for use! After a thorough refurbishment process led by students, the lockers are clean, secure, and fully functional, providing students with a convenient and safe space to store their personal belongings during the school day. Students who wish to reserve a locker can do so by visiting the school office.



## SAVE THE DATE



  
**THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF LOME**  
*presents*  
**A PRIMARY MUSICAL DRAMA**  
**JOURNEY To BETHLEHEM** 

Students & Staff : THURS. 5TH DEC 2024 1:30PM  
Parents & Invited Guests : FRI 6TH DEC 2024 6:30PM  
VENUE : THE AMPHITHEATRE, THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF LOME

**Admission Ticket for Friday show : 500 FCFA for students, 1000 FCFA for adults**

Bring family and friends to share in the joy of this classic Christmas story, reimagined by our primary students!







**Educating Children from  
18 Months to 18 Years  
(Day and Boarding)**



## **GATEWAY TO UNIVERSITY**

**ENDEAVOUR IS ALL**



- **CRECHE & EARLY YEARS**
- **PRIMARY**
- **SECONDARY**
- **UK GL ASSESSMENTS**
- **CAMBRIDGE IGCSE EXAMINATIONS**
- **PRE-UNIVERSITY IB DIPLOMA COURSE**
- **CAREERS GUIDANCE AND INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS**
- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS**

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