



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the British School of Lomé we can boast about the many wonderful things that are available for our young people. Our activities and initiatives aid our young people as they grow to be balanced and caring. Our teaching helps to cultivate critical thinkers who are knowledgeable about the world that we share. In this edition of the newsletter, I will be focusing on these two areas: our learning inside and outside of the classroom.

The secret to forming *thinkers* is to create instances where they can learn without the process looking like learning. Instead, it must be packaged in collaboration and fun.

Doing this allows our young people to thrive and flourish. One of the many ways that we achieve this at BSL is through our International Weekend. With this in mind, we eagerly look forward to spending time together where our young people can learn to appreciate our diversity and the things that connect us.

Before this celebration, we also have the opportunity for our young people to demonstrate the extent of their learning during our assessment week. Please keep in mind that though your child's teachers will be setting your child summative assessments, his/her classwork and homework are extremely important. As such, your child should be putting in effort during his/her lessons and at home during independent learning. Your child's overall attainment grade will be made up of these three elements and we hope that you support us by emphasising the importance of classwork and independent learning.

Despite these upcoming assessments, we would like you to encourage your child to maintain a positive attitude and to make time to have a balanced life. Your child should make time to rest and to approach his/her studies in a sustainable manner. Offer your support by helping your child to prepare cue cards, or allowing your child to take five minute breaks for every twenty minutes of study. Encourage your child and do not hesitate to reach out to his/her subject teachers for more information or guidance.

All the best,

Mr Anthony Jackson
Head of Secondary



REVIVING THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL TRIPS: BSL VISITS DATUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GHANA



On Thursday 17th of October, a group of teachers and students representing BSL visited Datus International School in Tema, Ghana, as part of BSL's long-awaited initiative to restart international trips. Here is a glimpse of the journey.

By Akif Naqvi.



Since last year, parents have requested the rejuvenation of international trips that BSL once took pride in. Since then, I have been in communication with various schools in neighbouring Ghana. We were pleased to receive a positive response from Mrs Christine, Head of Datus International School in Tema, with whom I had several discussions. Mr Ayree volunteered to lead the group, having been part of past trips. Being our first trip, there was extensive logistical planning, preparations, and efforts to motivate students to join.

On the day of the trip, we gathered the students for a briefing, answering any last-minute questions. With mixed emotions, we began our journey to Ghana, accompanied by a supportive parent who kindly joined us.

Upon reaching the Togo-Ghana border, we navigated a somewhat lengthy immigration process and were soon on our way to Ghana, first experiencing the city of Aflao, just over the border. After picking up some last-minute snacks, one student played music on a boombox, lifting everyone's spirits as we travelled.



We made a stop along the way for a meal at KFC and Pizza Hut before finally arriving at our hotel. However, we found that the hotel's Wi-Fi wasn't working, and with no assurance it would be restored, some students grew concerned about not being able to contact their families. Ensuring the students' safety and well-being is paramount, so I decided to find another hotel with functional Wi-Fi. While the students stayed in their rooms under the supervision of Mr Jibril and Ms Eunice, Mr Ayree and I located a nearby hotel with working Wi-Fi. Later, I returned to assist the students with packing, and we swiftly relocated to the new hotel.

Early the next morning, we enjoyed a buffet breakfast and set off for Datus International School, where we were warmly greeted by Mrs Christine and her team. During the school assembly, our students were assigned buddies from Datus, and the school governors joined to welcome us—a truly touching gesture. While the students attended lessons, BSL staff toured the school and engaged with their team. I also organised a workshop for their teachers, which was well-received by their inspiring staff.

After lunch, we gathered on the basketball court, where BSL faced off against Datus's team in front of a large crowd of students, staff and parents under the warm Tema sun. Our students, despite fatigue from the journey, showcased their basketball skills, winning the first game, while Datus took the second, ending in a friendly draw. This was followed by a friendly football match. The day was filled with fun and camaraderie and concluded with Mrs Christine and the school's owners presenting us with gifts and memorabilia, along with promises to visit BSL in the future. That evening, we enjoyed a lovely meal as students and staff reflected on the excitement of the day.

The following morning, we set off for Accra, where we explored the city's modern buildings, shops, cafés and restaurants. On Oxford Street, students enjoyed touring various shops and restaurants.

I am immensely grateful to our team for organising this trip and extend a big thank you to the Head of School, governors, staff and students at Datus International School for their warm hospitality. This experience allowed me to connect more deeply with our students, who continually impressed me with their hard work, manners and the joyful energy they brought to every moment. We are now eagerly working on planning further trips, including opportunities with MUN and other activities, and I look forward to sharing more details soon.

Students Feedback:

Daniel: "The atmosphere made the trip memorable. It was a great experience that taught us about Ghanaian culture and cuisine. I highly recommend these international trips."

Aleksandr: "Visiting Ghana and meeting other students was great. I wish the trip had been longer, but it was still interesting and enjoyable."

Manoah: "Thank you for the fun trip. We should definitely have more of these trips!"

Chris Junior: "I appreciated Datus staff showing us their program Managebac, similar to Google Classroom at BSL, which also generates reports and transcripts. Returning to Togo, I understood why Ghana is called the Gold Coast. I'm incredibly grateful for this experience, and I hope this success inspires more fantastic trips."

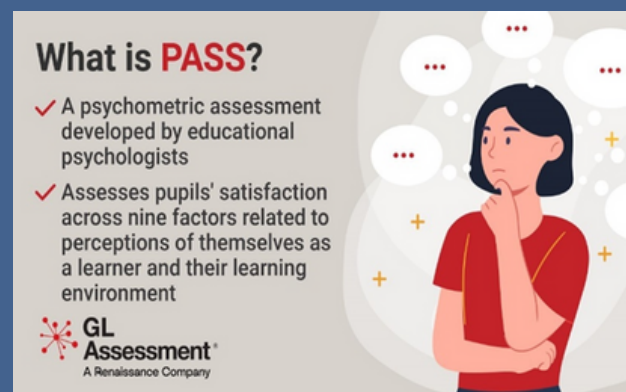
Satyam: "The trip to Ghana and Datus International School was unforgettable, filled with learning, friendship, and adventure. We enjoyed the cultural exchange, sports, and joyful moments with our friends and staff."

Samuel Han: "My gratitude goes to Mr Naqvi, Mr Ayree, Mr Jibril, and Nurse Eunice for looking after everyone on the trip. When we (the students) were tired, they (staff) were surely even more exhausted from the responsibilities they shouldered. I won't forget the night Mr Naqvi moved us to the new hotel. One of the best parts of the trip was freely interacting with students from Datus, who were all very kind and friendly. I even made some new friends!"

WELLBEING & LEARNING SUPPORT NEWS – PASS SURVEY

We have completed the PASS (Pupil Attitude to Self and School) survey for all our students. This crucial tool evaluates students' attitudes towards their learning, school environment, and overall well-being. We will use the survey data to identify areas where students need additional support, fostering a positive and inclusive school culture.

The insights gained will help us tailor interventions, boost student engagement, and enhance academic outcomes. This data-driven approach will guide our teaching practices and inform well-being initiatives, ensuring that every student feels supported and empowered in their educational journey.

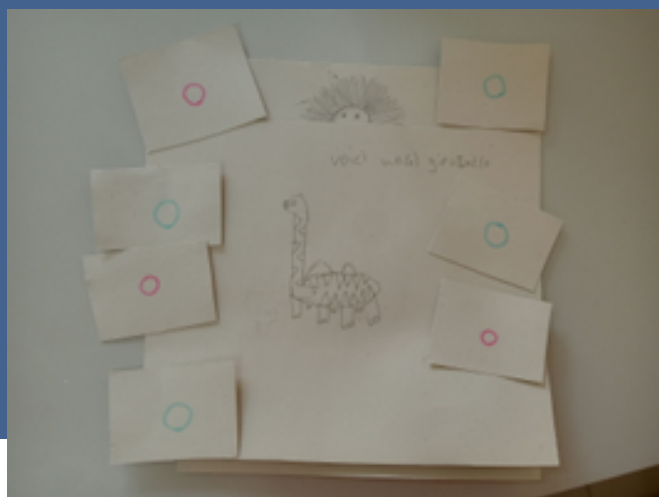


IBDP YEAR 13 PHYSICS



During the last 2 weeks of school and during the half term break, the Year 13 Physicists have been working on their Internal Assessments. The IA takes approximately 10 hours to complete and gives the learners 20% of their overall IBDP Physics grade. The learners choose an individual research question which they wish to investigate, plan their own methodology, carry out the practical, analyse the results, write and explain a conclusion including any uncertainties involved and evaluate the whole investigation. This year we have a range of topics including, how the area of a parachute affects its time to fall, how the temperature of a spring affects the spring constant, how the surface area of a wind turbine affects its rotational speed and how does the temperature of a gas affect its pressure when the volume is kept constant. The learners have been working hard on their IA's and we are looking forward to reading their completed findings next week.

YEAR 7 FRENCH



In French, after reviewing masculine and feminine nouns using a simple coloured card game, we read out aloud the poem, 'Le zoo extraordinaire'. Students have now begun inventing their own extraordinary creatures to add to the poem in the next stage of the creative activity.

LEADER IN ME

FRANCIS – (YEAR 10)



Francis

- **What is a leader?**

Francis: A leader is someone who makes the right decisions, willing to take risks, willing to do the tough things to maintain peace and harmony.

- **How are you a leader?**

Francis: I'm not afraid to share my beliefs, I'm willing to tell people the truth about a situation, not willing to lose my dignity.

- **How can BSL improve its leadership?**

Francis: By incorporating more activities that require students displaying leadership skills, and overall instilling a sense of independence within students.

- **What does the leader of the future look like?**

Francis: Someone who can assess a situation and address it, one who is free from the shackles of what others think.



CONGRATULATIONS, MR ZAMMIT AND MISS TOTTERER!

We're thrilled to share the wonderful news of Mr Carl Matthew Zammit and Miss Isabeau Nicole Totterer's wedding! On behalf of all the staff and the Head of School, we wish you both a lifetime filled with love, laughter, and happiness.

To celebrate this special occasion, the school committee organised a traditional West African ceremony and dance, along with a small gift to cherish in your future life together. Here's to a fantastic new adventure—congratulations on tying the knot!

Best wishes from everyone at BSL! ❤️





MUN (MODEL UNITED NATIONS)

Rahma in Year 11 attended an online Model United Nations MUN Conference last weekend. Global Nexus Summit Model United Nations (GNSMUN'24) says that 'Where Nations Unite, Solutions Ignite'.

Participants chose one of the following committees to join:

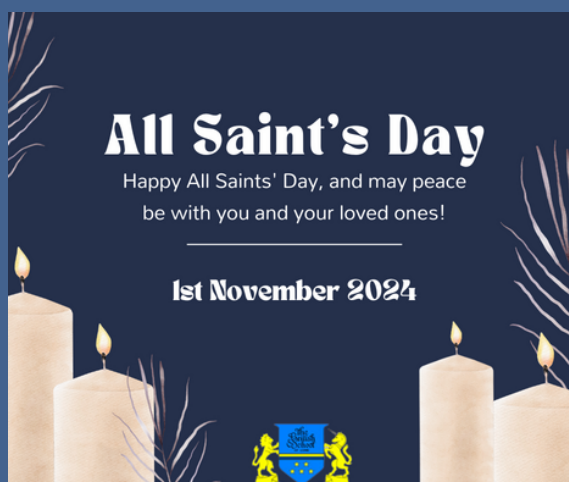
- UNSC (United Nations Security Council): Addressing the Escalation of Violence and Civilian Casualties in Lebanon
- UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees): Exploring solutions to refugee crises, focusing on access to employment and financial services.
- ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council): Delving into the disparity between growth and development, with a focus on sustainable solutions that prioritise the vulnerable.
- IPC (International Press Corps): Providing a platform for journalists and media representatives to cover the discussions, ensuring transparency and engagement.

Rahma reflected that:

"This was my first online MUN conference and the opportunity enabled me to meet people from around the world, and diplomatically converse on important global issues. The simulation in the UNHCR committee helped me to learn more about the different approaches countries make to create a second home for refugees. I have to acknowledge that there were different skills in my committee and we had to use this to work together to create and then debate a resolution."

We are proud to share that Rahma was one of two recipients of the Honourable Delegate Award at the end of the conference.

SOCIAL MEDIA POST



YEAR 13 THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)

The ToK essay is a formal, reflective 1600 word essay that is a mandatory assessed component of the course. Writers are challenged to critically evaluate knowledge questions which engage them in analysing the nature, acquisition and application of knowledge. Year 13s have begun to prepare their ToK essay based on the prescribed titles issued by the IB for each exam cycle.

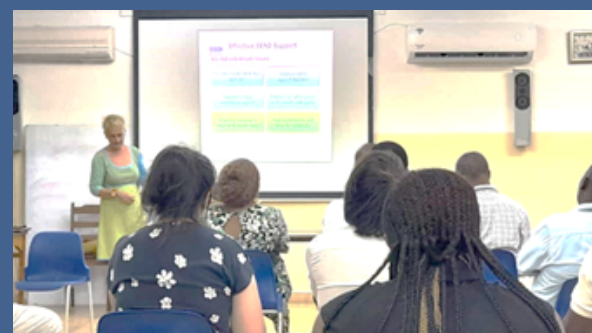
The titles this year are:

- **Prescribed Title #1:** Do historians and human scientists have an ethical obligation to follow the directive: "do not ignore contradictory evidence"? Discuss with reference to history and the human sciences.
- **Prescribed Title #2:** Is our most revered knowledge more fragile than we assume it to be? Discuss with reference to the arts and one other area of knowledge
- **Prescribed Title #3:** How can we reconcile the relentless drive to pursue knowledge with the finite resources we have available? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences and one other area of knowledge.
- **Prescribed Title #4:** Do the ever-improving tools of an area of knowledge always result in improved knowledge? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.
- **Prescribed Title #5:** To what extent do you agree with the claim "all models are wrong, but some are useful" (attributed to George Box)? Discuss with reference to mathematics and one other area of knowledge.
- **Prescribed Title #6:** Does acquiring knowledge destroy our sense of wonder? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.

We look forward to the insightful, accomplished and lucid discussions that will no doubt occur this term as they formulate their ideas

CPD (CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

On Wednesday 30th Nov, we had a very informative CPD organised by our SENCO, Ms Kirsten, where she shared insights with the staff on the diverse needs of students and her plans to initiate SEN interventions. We will soon have a session for parents, with dates to be announced later. We are proud to have her expertise in our school. The Wellbeing and Learning Support department can now also enhance their interventions in EFL/ESL as well as counselling.



HOUSE SYSTEM – THE BATTLE OF THE BIG CATS!



Cheetahs

927



Caracals

1225

At BSL we believe that it is better to incentivise and reward desirable behaviour than rule our young people through fear of punitive punishment. Positive reinforcement comes in many forms. For example, a teacher may praise a child for their conduct and/or record a merit on our system. All of these merit points accumulate and are reflected in an overall tally of House Points.

Even though we are one school, we have two distinct houses that are designed to create a sense of community, belonging and friendly competition. We ensure that within a family, they are all within the same house thus creating tradition and a deeper connection with the school.

In the yellow corner, we have House Caracals and in the blue corner, House Cheetahs! These two houses will battle it out during Inter House competitions where they will be challenged in sporting, artistic and various problem solving endeavours. They will also battle it out for the annual House Cup which is issued to the House with the most merit points. We will use these newsletters to inform you about the amount of points that each House totals. We will celebrate these achievements and hope that you encourage your child to work as hard as possible to contribute to the overall success of their respective House.

A big congratulations to House Caracals! We look forward to seeing how this battle ensues and we hope that we are able to reward thinking, creativity, inquiry and above or else, endeavour!

FORGET ME NOT



- Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal Begins – Mon 4th Nov
- DELF Mock Exams Conducted by MFL Team in Collaboration with Institut Français du Togo – Thu 7th Nov
- Remembrance Day Ceremony at Wahala – Mon 11th Nov
- DofE International Award Walk – Nov (TBC)
- Secondary Student Council Elections – Nov (TBC)
- End of Term 1 Exams Begin – Week of Mon 11th 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

'MIGHTY WORDSMITHS!' – POETRY AT KS3

Some of our young people have been flexing their creative muscles and experimenting with the poetic form. Enjoy a piece from one of our exceptional Year 8 learners.

The Climb to Stillwater Ridge

She rises early, breaks the dawn,
A figure climbing, moving slow—
The hill's rough spine beneath her
hands,
Is breathless weight, the path below.

The sky is bruised with violet hues,
A heavy mist clings to trees.
The earth beneath the boots is cold,
Wet moss clings tight like winter's freeze

The wind is low, it groans through pines,
Its finger is pulling at her hair.
Each Step she takes is like a beat
That breaks the stillness in the air.

She hears the distant brook's soft call,
Its water twisting round the stone,
A quiet voice, a beckoning
That echoes through the hills alone.

The ridge draws near, its jagged edge
Sharp as a blade against the sky.
She reaches up, her finger trace
The rock's cool face as clouds drift by.

Above, the world unfolds in light,
the valley spread like scattered seeds—
and here she stands, the wind in flight,
her breath a song, her heart in need.

Poem written by Aviel
Year 8 English



PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY STUDENT COMPETITION 2024

Students in Years 8 and 9 took part in this year's International Physical Geography Photography Competition which is run jointly by the Geographical Association and British Society for Geomorphology.

They had to take a picture that showed 'the power of nature' – and then they had to research the 'Geography' that was happening in the image. Finally, the students wrote a short report on their investigation which accompanied their photo.

After the 'in-school' part of the competition, these four entrants were shortlisted to represent the BSL in London. Their photos, together with their research pieces, will be scanned and sent to the Geographical Association – let's congratulate them and wish them luck for the final stage of the competition!



**AVA (Y9), STALACTITES AND
STALAGMITES**



**IVANA (Y9), JACARANDA TREE
IN WALLONIA, BELGIUM**



**AVIEL (Y8), THE EMPTY DESERT
OUTSIDE DUBAI, UAE**



**SAII (Y8), THE DARJEELING
HIMALAYAN RAILWAY**



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- **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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