



14-06-24

# The British School of Lomé

## Secondary Newsletter



### Head of School Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I feel honoured and proud to be working alongside some very special and talented individuals – young people, parents and the staff team – and it is a privilege to join BSL on its 40th anniversary.

As I look back on this academic year, it feels like it has passed in the blink of an eye. However, when I scroll through my calendar and take note of all the events, teaching and learning, celebrations, challenges and successes that have occurred, it is nothing short of remarkable. In fact, I am sure I could write many chapters of a book and still not include it all. It is safe to say that this academic year has been an extraordinary journey, and I believe we can look back with pride on all that has been achieved.

None of this happens by chance; it is the result of our exceptional team of dedicated staff members who consistently go above and beyond to support our students in realising their full potential. This year saw the introduction of GL Assessments, and I am very proud of our students, who collectively performed above the average of the thousands of students in the UK and international schools. The school-wide curriculum development and interventions ensured a well-rounded education that prepared your child for success in IGCSE and IBDP programmes. We've also increased the focus on core subjects and French and implemented interventions to ensure full curriculum coverage.

We have launched a marketing campaign to attract boarders globally. The Language Institute is in development to provide high-quality language courses. We introduced robotics and coding, and challenged our students' confidence through theatre productions and public performances, thanks to our dedicated music and drama team. This commitment extends to the establishment of the Wellbeing and Learning Support Department. This year's success wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our teaching staff, Heads of Department and Coordinators, students, parents, as well as operational staff. I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team for their unwavering support and Mrs Abi, the School's Administrator, for her strong support behind the scenes. For our Year 11 students, we thank you for your efforts to achieve excellence. We also send our Year 13 students into the adult world with all our best wishes – whether it's to university, further study, or work, I hope you all flourish and become the young adults you're capable of being. Remember, your school will always be here if you need help, advice, or a friendly voice to talk to.

We bid farewell to our departing and retiring staff members, who have enriched our school. We are excited to welcome a new wave of enthusiastic educators eager to join the BSL family in September. There will be further developments in the next academic year, for which I will keep you updated.

## Head of School Message

### -continued-

Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu said, "Dream big and start small. You can achieve anything if you put your mind to it and work hard every day." This aligns with the Kaizen concept of continuous improvement through small, incremental changes, which has guided BSL's developments this year.

I am filled with optimism and excitement for the future. We will continue to build upon our successes, explore new opportunities, and ensure that our school remains a beacon of excellence in international education. Whether you are continuing your journey with us or moving on, these values will continue to play an important role in your child's development.

Thank you for entrusting your child's education to the British School of Lomé. We look forward to welcoming our students back on 2nd September for a bright and rewarding year ahead. Advance Eid al-Adha greetings to our Muslim families.

Warmly,

Akif Naqvi  
Head of School

## Creative Department News



### STUDY TRIP TO JEAN KOUMY ART GALLERY (ART DEPARTMENT)

Embarking on a transformative journey into the world of art, the Year 10 Art students ventured into the Jean Koumy Art Gallery on Tuesday morning, the 11th of June. For many, it was an inaugural immersion into the realm of artistic expression, and what awaited them was nothing short of enlightening.

Jean Koumy, the Principal artist was on hand to receive them. As they stepped into the gallery's hallowed space, they were greeted by a symphony of colours, textures, and forms, each piece whispering tales of its creator's imagination. Guided by the curator's expertise, the students delved into the nuances of each artwork, unravelling the stories behind brushstrokes and sculpted curves.

With rapt attention and a thirst for knowledge, the students absorbed every detail, their curiosity sparking lively discussions and debates.

The students' conduct remained impeccable throughout the trip. As they bid farewell to the gallery, their minds abuzz with newfound insights, the students carried with them the seeds of creativity and a profound appreciation for the transformative magic of art. The trip to the Jean Koumy Art Gallery was not merely an outing but a voyage of discovery, one that would resonate with them long after they returned to the familiar confines of their classroom.

Thanks to the College authority, Mr Ernest, Mr Obaro, Ms Laura and everyone that helped in making the trip a success.



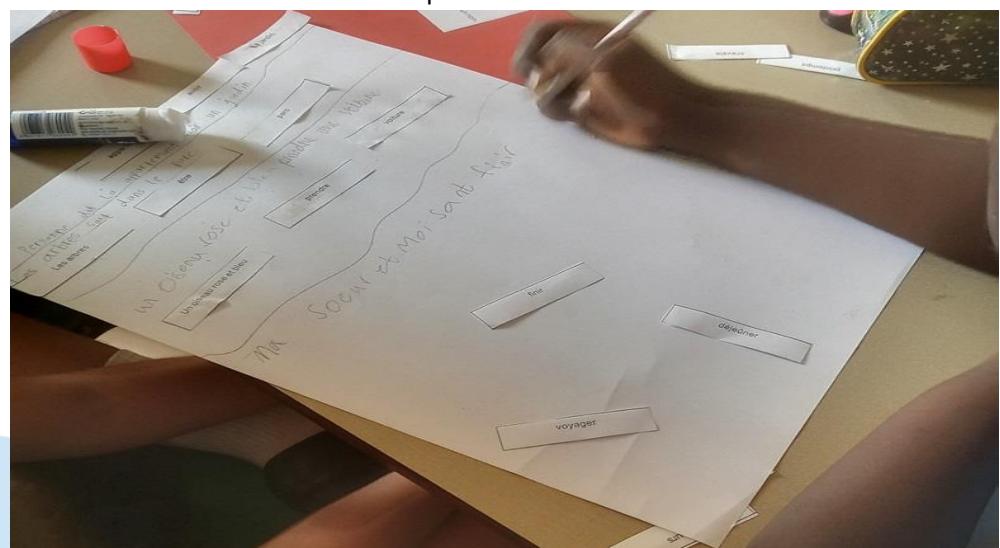
## IBDP TOK Exhibition

The Year 12 students presented an exhibition for the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, an internal IBDP assessment, showcasing their understanding of TOK concepts. Each student selected three objects, or images of objects, and provided written commentary on each one. The exhibition required students to connect their chosen objects to one of the 35 "IA prompts" provided in the TOK course. This assessment evaluates the students' ability to illustrate how TOK concepts manifest in the world around us, demonstrating their critical thinking and analytical skills.



## MFL Department News

This week, in Year 3 French the students played a game of making sentences using nouns, subject words and verbs. After picking one word from each pile, the aim was to conjugate the verb and add any article missing in order to make a sentence: One student in each team had to thereafter write out the sentence on a sheet of paper. The whole class enjoyed listening to the sentences and favourites included; 'La lionne observe des fleurs.', 'Un garçon joue avec des frites' and 'Mon professeur a couru en Inde.' Well done to the three teams of sentence inventors, writers and listeners for all the excellent attempts.



## Humanities Department News

Years 7-9 Humanities Enrichment activities this week required attendance at the Government Code and Cypher School to learn to become master coders and the decryption of intercepted messages.

Recruited by either Germany or the UK, they attempted to beat the timer to decide messages that would direct their troops towards an escalation of war or peace.

They then challenged themselves using the FOBISIA (Federation of British International Schools in Asia) Code Breaking Competition. See how successful you would have been in the previous competitions on the online site <https://schoolcodebreaking.com>.

Encoding information raised interesting discussions relating to espionage and safety, civil rights, legality of confidentiality, and the information that remains in unbreakable codes such as the Incan knotted quipu. Will AI be a help or a hindrance in future situations requiring secrecy?

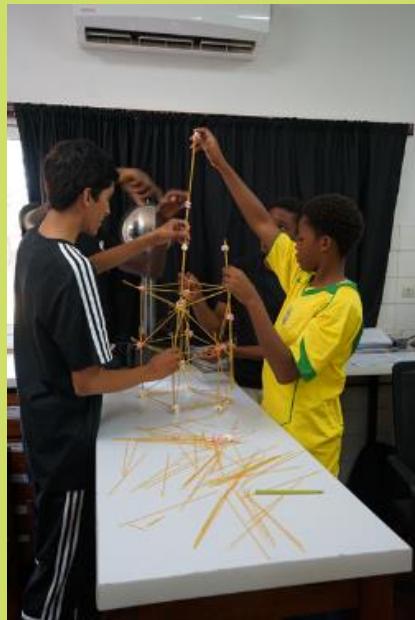


### Appointment of Dr Mark Evans as Education Policies and Strategies Advisor

We would like to announce that Dr Mark Evans, the Managing Director/Chief Inspector of Penta International <https://www.pentainternational.co.uk/>, has kindly accepted to join us as Administrator's Education Policies and Strategies Advisor. We welcome Dr Mark Evans.



## Year 7, 8 and 9 **STEAM enrichment**



During the last week Years 7, 8 and 9 have been completing an enrichment activity. The challenge was to build the highest tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows! The activity challenged them to problem solve and use their knowledge in an engineering context. All learner had great fun and developed their teamwork skills as well as applying STEAM knowledge and understanding.

The winners in each year group were:

- Year 7 - Aviel, Gideon and Warren with a height of 74.8cm
- Year 8 - Isaak, Jack, Zach and Bolabi with a height of 87.4cm
- Year 9 - Darien, Daniel, Jefferson and Satyam with a height of 99.8cm

Well done to all involved.



## **PE Department News**

### **PRIMARY SPORTS DAY JUNE 2024**

Last Wednesday witnessed our Primary children having fun during the Primary Sports Day.



## PRIMARY SPORTS DAY



**LEADER IN ME – An Interview with Vadeeka Tushar KHAIRNAR and Lorik GNASSINGBE (Year 10).**



**Vadeeka is appreciated for being very caring and for helping others with their studies. Lorik is appreciated for having a good sense of humour and for his sportsmanship.**

**What is your favourite thing to do after school or on weekends?**

Vadeeka: I like going swimming.

Lorik: Play basketball.

**Do you have any hobbies or activities that you really enjoy?**

Vadeeka: I like Art.

Lorik: I enjoy Chess.

**What's the best thing about school for you?**

Vadeeka: English and Art.

Lorik: Mathematics.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?**

Vadeeka: Teleportation so I would never be late and could go wherever I want to.

Lorik: Time travel because time is really important.

**What's something special you love doing with your family?**

Vadeeka: Watching movies.

Lorik: We just like talking to each other.

**What do you want to be when you grow up, and why?**

Vadeeka: An architect. I don't really know why but I have always liked Art.

Lorik: I'd like to be a property developer because I have always been passionate about house design.

**Can you tell me something you really want to learn how to do?**

Vadeeka: Crochet.

Lorik: Finance and marketing.

**What's your favourite book or story and why do you like it?**

Vadeeka: 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' because I like the plot and the suspense.

Lorik: 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' because I like seeing the perspective of another individual and how they take their decisions.

**Do you have a favourite animal or a favourite place to visit?**

Vadeeka: Greece.

Lorik: Dogs. Italy.

**How do you think we can help people who might be sad or upset?**

Vadeeka: Talk to them.

Lorik: Try to hear them out and give them advice to solve their issues.

**Is there something that was difficult for you at first and then became easy with practice?**

Vadeeka: Painting with water colours.

Lorik: Chemistry.

**What's something you'd like to get better at?**

Vadeeka: Additional Mathematics.

Lorik: Geography.

**If you could have any animal as a pet, even if it's imaginary, what would it be?**

Vadeeka: A rabbit.

Lorik: A lion.

**What is your favourite food?**

Vadeeka: Pasta.

Lorik: Fried chicken.

## Interview with Mr Guy Missodey

### An Interview with Guy Missodey, French teacher

**La parution de la nouvelle édition du Dictionnaire de la Laïcité est annoncée.**

**Vous en êtes l'un des rédacteurs. Quelles sont les particularités de cet ouvrage ?**

Réponse

*Ce dictionnaire défend l'idée que la laïcité est le ciment d'un « bien vivre ensemble » et que le principe de séparation des Églises et de l'État fait son chemin en Europe comme dans le monde du XXIe siècle. Ce livre est le fruit du travail d'une cinquantaine de chercheurs, d'historiens, de sociologues, d'avocats, de journaliste Il a été codirigé par Martine Cerf, secrétaire générale de l'association EGALÉ (Égalité- Laïcité-Europe) et Marc Horwitz, membre fondateur de l'association EGALÉ (Égalité- Laïcité-Europe).*

Question

**Quelle en est votre contribution ?**

Réponse

*J'ai étudié la problématique de la laïcité au Togo qui est un cas représentatif du phénomène en Afrique. Tout d'abord j'ai relevé les contradictions qui existent entre la proclamation de la laïcité dans les textes juridiques et les réalités que l'on observe dans les pratiques quotidienne. Ensuite, j'ai montré les causes de cette situation qui sont d'ordre historique et socioculturel essentiellement. Enfin, j'ai proposé une redéfinition de la laïcité en Afrique qui doit tenir compte des particularités de ses particularités.*

Question

**Quelles sont les autres questions que vous avez déjà étudiées dans vos recherches ?**

Réponse

*Je m'intéresse essentiellement aux questions qui portent sur « Espaces, Langues et Cultures des Sociétés africaines » à travers les textes littéraires. Les résultats de mes recherches sont publiés dans des ouvrages universitaires, notamment « Les Femmes dans le processus littéraire au Togo » (Bern ; New York : P. Lang, c1999.), « Les Acteurs du livre au Togo » (Edition : Graines de Pensées, Lomé, 2007), « Littérature togolaise : Discours et figures d'autorité » ((2018, Éditions Continents, Lomé), « Particip'Action » (31/12/2010 Université de Lomé). Par ailleurs, lorsque j'étais représentant de l'Afrique dans le Comité Scientifique de l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (Littérature d'Enfance et de Jeunesse), j'ai dirigé des travaux de recherche sur le sujet et des résultats sont publiés, Nationalités, mondialisation et littérature d'enfance et de jeunesse (éditions des archives contemporaines, Paris, 2007)...*

Question

**Quels sont les intérêts de vos recherches pour vos élèves à BSL ?**

Réponse

*Ils sont divers et nombreux pour une école internationale:*

*En cours d'apprentissage de langue et de la civilisation française, je partage avec les élèves mes expériences sur la complexité et les opportunités de l'apprentissage de la langue en situation particulière : influence de la langue maternelle et de deux langues étrangères*

*Encours de IBDP, les cours de Langue et de littérature bénéficié d'une part des recherches en critique littéraire et d'autre part des avantages de la littérature générale et comparée.*

### Alistair Siri (History)

#### **What I enjoyed most about BSL:**

The thing I have enjoyed the most at BSL has been the staff and students. My colleagues have been so warm and helpful ever since I arrived, and I have made some good friends during my time here. The students have been polite and welcoming, and it is them that make the school what it is. I have enjoyed not only teaching them but also talking to them during duties and annoying them about getting off campus on time. Finally I will particularly miss Friday football; I hope my 'questionable football skills' gave a few staff and students a laugh at least!

#### **Words to leave behind:**

School can sometimes get a wee bit frustrating or daunting (as can work). Just always remember you have friends and teachers who are here to help, and if you just; take a second to talk, break the problem down, and make a plan, it won't feel as daunting as before.

Finally I hope everyone has the very best next year.

### Scott Fairlie (Geography)

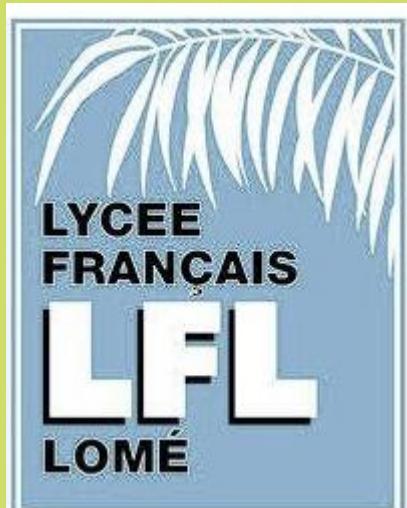
#### **What I enjoyed most about BSL:**

The friendships

#### **Words to leave behind:**

Dear BSL Students: May your dreams be as boundless as the horizon, and may your journeys be filled with joy, growth and amazing experiences.

## A visit of Lycée Français to BSL



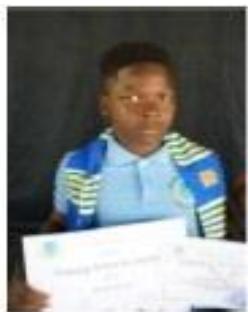
### A visit of Lycée Français to BSL

BSL believes in improving and supporting the educational drives in the country. As part of our drive to support the development of education in Togo, we have formed a collaboration with other schools. Today, we made another history as we were honoured to welcome a group of students from Lycée Français who came and sang a song for us. We thanked the teachers, Mr Seid (BSL Music teacher) and Mr Romaric (Year 3 Teacher), for their collaboration.



## Honours Day Gallery





## Summer @ BSL – 2 Years to 18 Years

**Summer months are fast approaching and BSL has something to offer all learners, from our very youngest to our young adults.**



**BSL are offering a Creche facility for our very youngest community members.**

**Creche hours will be between 8:30 - 12:30 and pupils will be able to play and explore in the familiar surroundings of their very own creche.**

Click the [link](#) or see the school bursar ([bursar@bsl.tg](mailto:bursar@bsl.tg)) to sign up.



**Beat the boredom of the summer months by coming along to the fun-themed weeks at BSL.**

**Each morning will be spent participating in a number of activities ranging from rock climbing to relay racing and swimming to cooking. All this coupled with enriching learning activities.**

Sign up using this [link](#) or see the school bursar ([bursar@bsl.tg](mailto:bursar@bsl.tg))



**Robotics Summer Camp (12-18 years)**

**For our older learners, there is an opportunity to bring machines to life during the Robotics Camp.**

**Wequipu will offer their expertise to pupils to build, design and programme robots through the use of ICT**

**(Available in French and English!!!)**



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



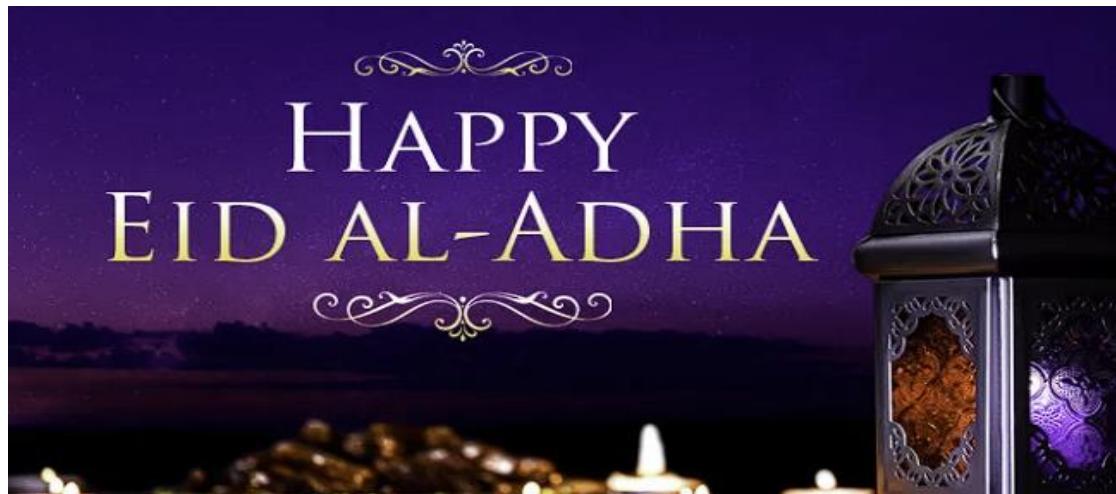
## GATEWAY TO UNIVERSITY ENDEAVOUR IS ALL

- 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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Happy  
**SCHOOL**  
Holidays!