



June 2015

The British School of Lomé

BSL BUZZ

The Endeavour Awards!

Empowering Learners
Excelling Through Life
Every Child Matters
Empathy For Others
Enriching Lives
Excellence



The Winner of the BSL Endeavour Award 2015 Serena Sabnani stands with Srijana Holland who won the award in 2014 and Ilona Kavege who won the award in 2012!

The Primary Graduation!



On the 19th of June, 2015, we had our Year 6 farewell assembly. All of Year 6's graduated from Primary to Secondary and we all received a certificate and a scarf. We performed a song called 'Let it Shine' that we had set up on our own and our teacher, Mr. Pirie was very proud of us.

We are all very thankful to our teacher who has taught us during these long 10 months, and we are all happy that we have had the opportunity to shine.

Paula Gnassingbe, Year 6

The Endeavour Awards



Primary Endeavour Awards

Friday 19th June, was a day full of celebration! The Primary School had its first ever Endeavour Awards. 'Our Endeavours' encompass the vision, mission and ethos of the British School of Lomé and represent not only what we as teachers want to provide the students, but also traits that we hope the children take away from us. Throughout the year, children in the primary school were made aware of the Endeavours and what they meant and this allowed them to identify these characteristics in each other. The teachers were also pleased to see children striving for Excellence, showing Empathy for others, Enriching their lives and ours, being Empowering learners, showing that Every child matters and also doing their best at Excelling through life.

Congratulations not only to all the award winners, but also to all the children in the Primary school. As Ms. Gaeta said, you make the school what it is – an excellent place to be!

Main School Awards

Early Years

Student nominated award for excellence:

Jana Ben Sweid

Teacher nominated award for excellence:

Henri Teck

The Primary School

Student nominated award for excellence:

Hitanshu Ahirwar

Teacher nominated award for excellence:

Hedia Dickson

The Secondary School

Merit Award: Roshan Ramnani

Performing Arts Award: Gillian Ayim

Student Leadership Award: Frank Awesso

Global Citizenship Award: Serena Sabnani

Creativity, Action and Service Award: Gillian Ayim

Empathy For Others Award: Gillian Ayim

BSL Excellence Award: Roshan Ramnani

BSL Endeavour Award: Serena Sabnani





Academic Excellence Awards

Mathematics	Mahima Ramnani
ICT	Aya Vako
ITGS	Oluwadamilola Odukoya
English	Junior Adjallah
ESL	Liv Rygh
French	Antoine Bodjona
Spanish	Roshan Ramnani
Science	Joseph Elias
Biology	Mahima Ramnani
Chemistry	Serena Sabnani
Physics	Serena Sabnani
ESS	Florian Prual
History	Roshan Ramnani
Geography	Serena Sabnani
Humanities	Aya Vako
Business Studies	Obinna Ikeonu
Economics	Antoine Bodjona
Art	Mahima Ramnani
Music	Sonia Ugwoha
Drama	Savannah Chapman
PE	Carla Awesso

Linda Ayim made huge progress this year and was honoured with her own awards for the following achievements

- Maths achievement
- Achievements in Cookery
- Outstanding progress

Boarding Awards

Habeeb Olorode
Sinclair Amachree
Oluwadamilola Odukoya
Danielle Zedomi

Gold Merit Certificates

Pablo Berlanga
Aya Vako
Christel Dickson
Habeeb Olorode
Nana Osafo Buabeng
Roshan Ramnani
Maxwell Passigwe

Sports Awards:

Junior Sports Award	Marlene Takou-Ayaoh
Senior Sports Award	Florian Prual
Leadership In Sport	Svonn Mivedor
Endeavour in Sport	Franck Awesso

Year Group Awards

Year	Excellence	Most Improved
Year 7	Aya Vako	Fiona Azumah
Year 8	Jason Ugwoha	Clara Douglas
Year 9	Habeeb Olorode	Michael Yobou-Nampe
Year 10	Serena Sabnani	Maxwell Passigwe
Year 12	Mahima Ramnani	Antoine Bodjona



A Fond Farewell



The school community wishes our Headmaster Mr Robert Thompson and his wife, Ms Teresa Gaeta every happiness in their new lives back in Spain.

Every year BSL must say sad goodbyes to staff members. This year our Head Master is retiring from an illustrious career in education. All of us who have worked with Bob have always appreciated his calm approach to solving problems that has led to many lasting solutions. The school is a considerably better place since he arrived with many improvements for all to see!

Also leaving this year after 18 years working and leading the boarding community is our resident chief Mr Mike Dawson. Mike will continue to serve the school in a new role as West African Development Officer based in Ghana where he will promote the school to new parents and students.

The following teacher are also leaving the school: Martin Little (mathematics), Nigel Tickner (drama), Ben Fugill (geography), Teresa Gaeta (Counsellor), Sandra McCreedy (Librarian) John McCreedy (ESL), Gilles Peyron (PE), Shelia Holland (Nursery), Ashika Chapman (reception) and Trevor Ryan (Year 2). We wish them all the best for the future!



'The Big Chief' Mike Dawson has worked for 18 years at BSL!

Amazing Zanzibar

Sea, Sand and Stonetown on the Week Without Walls trip to Zanzibar!



A Feast for the Senses: Stone Town

The salty air makes its way through the narrow, winding streets packed with tourists, locals and the occasional vehicle. Vendors call out from their shops, cut into the stone walls that give the town its name. Old Stonetown is a place full of life, despite its dark history, with people pushing their way forward, ignoring the sellers calling out their wares, save for the tourists, who are eagerly swept into the grasp of a potential sale, at a ridiculously high price. The tourists don't know the value of currency very well, after all. All around us are bursts of random Kiswahili – “Mambo!”, “Salaama!”, “Asante sana!”, echoing out from a multitude of voices; it is impossible to pinpoint the exact speaker in the chorus that forms only one instrument in the orchestral sounds of Stonetown. Our group is distinguishable easily, from our bright yellow-and-magenta pagnes that stand out like photo-shopped images in a mass of muted colours. The entire scene is one big photograph, something that great artists would have taken time to paint. I have the feeling that any artist would find this place a well of inspiration that would never dry out. As another gust of salty wind blows around sharp corners and narrow lanes, the sun filters through a gap in the clouds and highlights the scene, opening up a whole host of other details...which I don't have time to write about now because we have to go and order our ice cream!!

By Serena Sabnani, Year 10



On the first day the only thing we saw for miles was the blue of the sea and the wonderful white sand that we had been waiting for so long. It called to us directly when we arrived to come and swim and have fun and we didn't even go to our rooms we just jumped in! The house we stayed in was really poa (that means cool in Kiswahili). There was the smell of nature in the air and the birds were singing every morning next to our pool. We could see the sun rising every morning to its highest point, it was amazing to see. The water was clear but not next to the shore because of the small waves hitting the coast. But one day we went snorkelling and that was like a dream. We went to a magical place called Fumba where we got to see all the cool coral and fishes, even Nimo and Dora! We saw so many dolphins from our boat and ate fruit that turned our lips bright red. I think it was the coolest place in the world.

Sascha Montoya, Year 7

Walking with Elephants

Monkeying around on the Week Without Walls trip to Ghana!



The trip to Ghana was fantastic! We did so many things on the trip including visiting the Boabeng Fiema Monkey Sanctuary where we fed the Mona Monkeys, a boat trip on lake Bosumtwi and visiting a 15th century mosque at Larabanga. One of my favorite experiences was when we went on safari! We saw baboons, antelopes and Elephants! After the morning drive we went on a walking safari. Some students including myself chose to do a long two hour walk into the bush tracking elephants. It was an amazing walk and we got extremely close to an elephant! I couldn't touch him because it would be too dangerous but it was fantastic to be so close to an elephant in the wild!

Tatiana, Year 12



The Golden Eye

Adventurous Activities during Week Without walls!



Day 1: Mountain-biking 'Today at Golden Eye, we went mountain biking. With started with a practice session for about 30 minutes to acquire the basic skills. We learnt that we have to use the rear brakes and lean back while going downhill. Going uphill was hard because it required a lot of force, but going downhill was fun. We all enjoyed it and had a great time.'

Roshan and Timo Year 9

Day 2: "Aqua Rando" 'Today we went walking in a river. At the beginning, we thought it was quit stupid to walk in water because some of us only had 1 sport shoe. People fell, got stung by plants. The coach showed us some plants such as coffee plant, the banana plant, the avocado plant and also where they make coal and where they get the plant to make it. Overall the walk was very educative and it tested out our survival skills.'

Danielle Year 8, Oriane and Nana Year 9

Day 3: Paragliding 'Paragliding was an interesting sport. We got to learn how to fold the paraglide easily and safely. We also learned how to try to run and jump to glide, how to be safe with the ropes and how to put on the paragliding equipment.'

Pablo Year 7 and Trygve Year 8

Day 4: Rock Climbing 'Rock climbing was extremely fun and terrifying. It challenged us to think about different ways to try things to climb. It gave us courage to do new things.'

Cyrus Year 9

'Rock climbing was terrifying. The coach was keeping us up which took a lot of trust. We had to climb a 10 meters cliff, going up was challenging but easy, but going down was terrifying.'

Leo Year 8

Week Without Walls

Exploring Science!



It was a week of fun science! We made kites of various shapes and sizes and flew them sky high at an open field at the university. We also made paper airplanes and plastic parachutes to send small weights floating to the ground from the roof over the canteen. In the biology lab we extracted DNA molecules from our cheek cells! And thanks to the soap we made in the chemistry lab – both liquid and solid – we are nice and clean! Perhaps the highlight of the week was our trip to Afrik Aquarium sarl, Centre d'Aquariophilie in Lome. The experts there showed us around their amazing tropical fish hatchery and aquarium supply shop. They even helped BSL set up an aquarium in the reception area of the school!

Maths Magic!



During Week without Walls I had so much fun. The activity I chose was Maths Magic. I really thought Maths was boring but during this week I learned so much. We learned how to make paper footballs and I made two robots out of paper cubes and houses out of sticks.

Everyone was like “Why did you choose Math? You are going to regret it” Well I didn’t, I really enjoyed it. Math can be fun and hard but it is really a way to think. We spent most of our time working together. People were kind, so funny and nice. This activity brought us all together.

Gracias Etoh, Year 9

Week Without Walls

Art Attack!



For Week Without Walls 15 secondary girls took part in the Art Attack activity. This activity consisted of silk screen printing designs of our choice on T-shirts.

On Monday we dug our brains and creativity for designs. Having come up with designs on paper we inked them in black as we were instructed. On Tuesday a Togolese screen printing artist named Mr Gerard came to lead sessions on the process of silk screen printing. He also introduced us to printing by using templates which we cut out ourselves on paper. On Wednesday we visited his working studio where he explained the process of transferring our designs onto the screens, a process which was mostly developed in a dark room. On Thursday and Friday we had a lot of fun with the help of our teacher and activity leader printing different designs of our choice on T-shirts. It was a very nice experience which we did with a lot of laughter and enthusiasm.

Aya Vako, Year 7

From the Head of Secondary

Dear Parents and Guardians,

By the time you read this, you will have already had the opportunity to read and digest your son/daughter/ward's school report for this last term. Please make an effort to read the teachers' comments carefully and make sure that any suggestions about how a pupils' academic performance can be improved upon are followed up. This is how the triangular relationship-pupils/students/teachers-works and is the key to making sure that pupils achieve their best. Give praise where it is due and give support where it is needed.

You will also have received notification about the changes that we are making to the school uniform which we feel will be bring a breath of fresh air to BSL along with the changes in the House system. Please be reminded that school footwear is black or brown shoes and not sports shoes/trainers or whatever you call them. We ask for your support on this as we shall be clamping down on those who infringe the rules.

Enjoy your summer break whether or not you're coming back to BSL. We are looking forward to seeing you all back here at 8 o'clock on Monday 24th August. Best wishes,

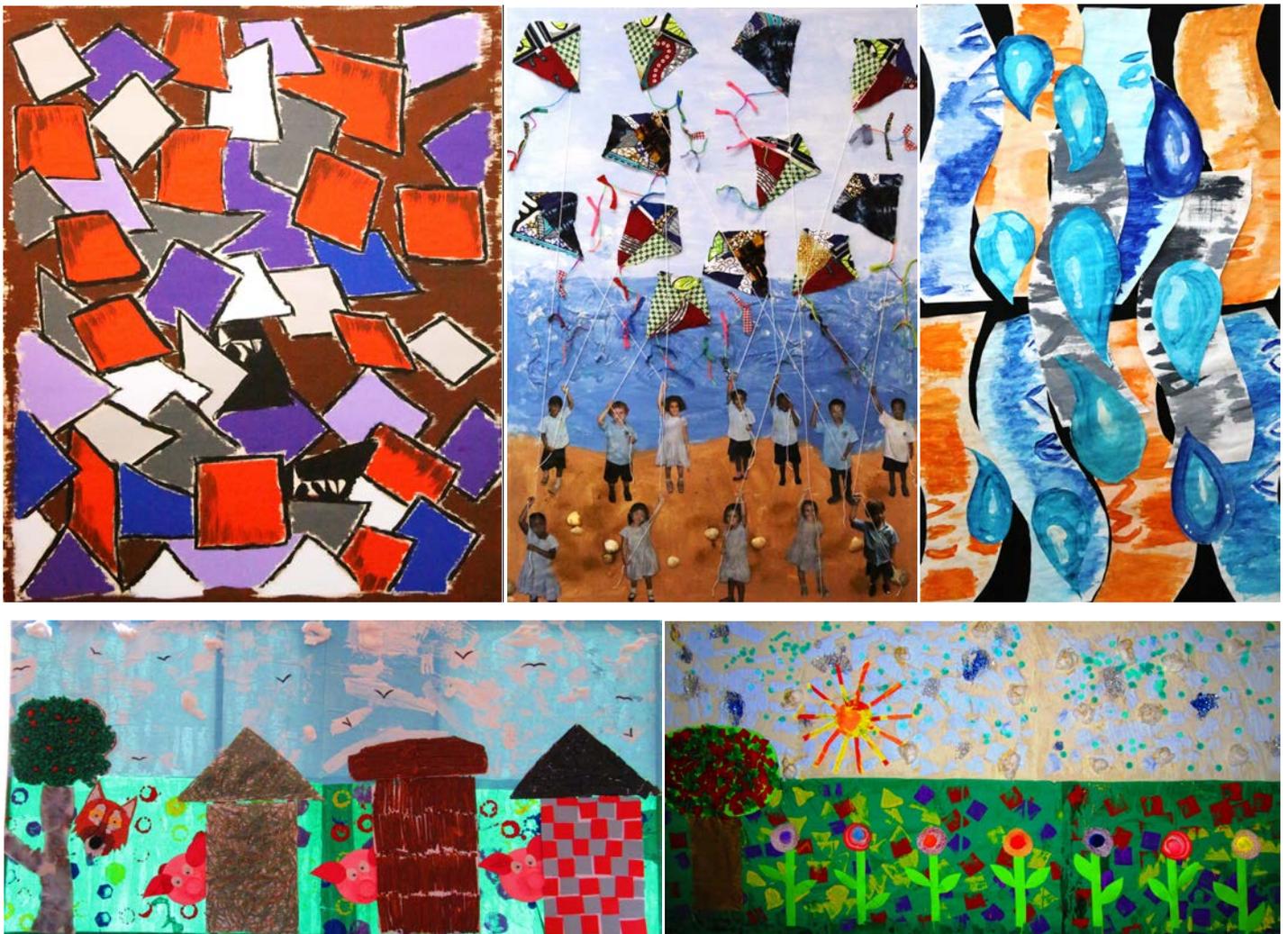
John McGuinness

Primary Arts Week



I loved Arts Week! We had a fun dancing lesson, I danced crazily and the teacher even span in his head! I played an African drum so fast it made my hands hot! I made a mask with Mr Omer in our pottery lesson. I helped paint the class picture and made my own shape picture from circles and triangles. The art gallery was beautiful I really liked it!

John Boakye, Year 1



Year Five Trip to O'Lodge and Aneho Orphanage

On the 12th of June 2015 Year 5 woke up at 7am in O'Logde. We took our showers and put on our bathing suit so we could swim. At around 8am we had our breakfast and went to the lake to do water activities like kayaking, paddling boats, kayaking but with 2 people and lots of more activities. Once we finished we went to the giant water slides!!! Afterwards we got to eat delicious chocolate crepes before we went back into the pool. Then it was time to get ready for lunch and pack our bags to head back to school.

Why did we wake up at O'Lodge? Because the day before after a trip to the Aneho orphanage. When we arrived at O'lodge on Thursday afternoon, we hurried to our rooms to put away our bags and get changed for the pools (yes that's pools with an s!!!).

We played in the first pool, taking turns on slides and playing with tons of pool toys. We all kept eyeing the MEGA slide!!! We pestered Miss Schreyer to let us go on in and finally she came to us and said it was ready!! To get to the top of the slides, we had to climb a huge amount of stairs (about 69!!) to reach the top. The slides are FAST, long and AWESOME!! When you approach the bottom of the slide you enter the pool with a huge splash! It was way too much fun. Even though it was a lot of stairs to climb, it was worth it and some of us went on the slides ten times!

After a long and tiring day, we had dinner (spaghetti bolognese) and ice-cream for dinner. Now I know I shouldn't say everything that happened at O'lodge (like how the girls pretended to sleep whenever Miss Schreyer came to check on us through the night), but there's only one word to describe it all... EPIC!!!

By Ryan Tano and Hedia Dickson, Year 5

On Thursday 11th June, Year 5 visited the Aneho Orphanage and met the children there. We went to Reception class to play with the children and talk with them. After, we wanted to teach them a song but they taught us one instead. The song they taught us was very sweet and we then sang one back to them. It was sad seeing some of the very young babies, but we felt happy that we were able to help with all the donations that we took. We also got to see one child being adopted by a lovely family. We all agreed that we are lucky and should appreciate what we have and also look out for those less fortunate than us.

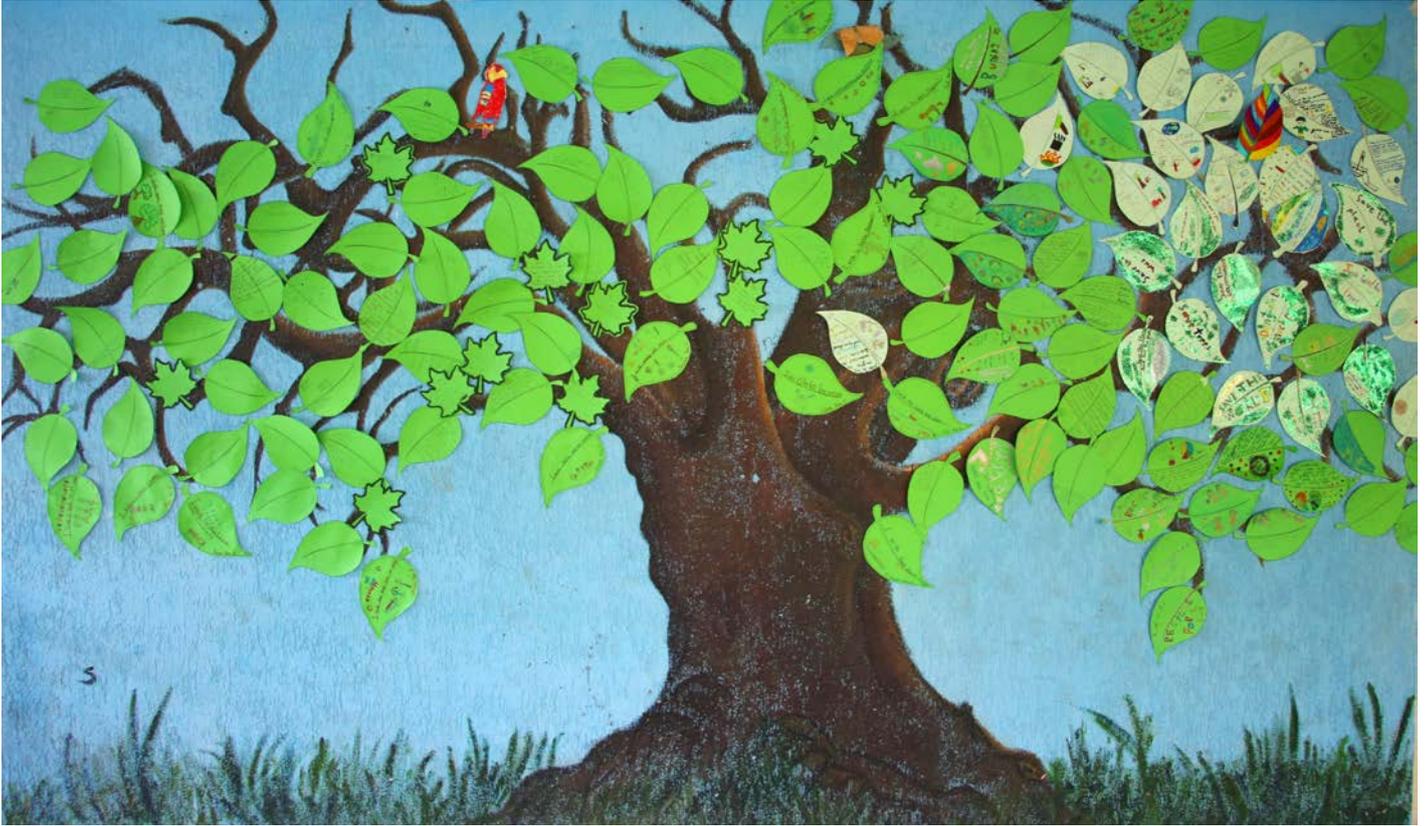
We would like to thank everyone that sent in donations. They made a lot of children happy!

By Justine Kamperman, Year 5



Enriching lives

Eco Council News



World Environment Day was again celebrated this year with in class activities designed to raise awareness of environmental issues. This year the activities were led by year 12 IB students which culminated in a visually stunning 'Tree of Environmental Dreams' where students reflected on their own futures and how they might reduce their personal impact on the environment. The students also ran a T-Shirt competition which was won by two primary students; Iman (pictured below in her winning design) and Kerane! The money raised went to our school community service project tracks and will be spent next year planting trees in the community.



BSL Lions



BSL Lions Triumph Again!

A basketball tournament with other local schools was organised this month entirely by year 12 students which was dedicated to our departing PE teacher Dr. Gilles Peyron. BSL Lions honoured the head of Athletics by winning the tournament!

Staff Football Match!

The BSL Staff Community came together to take part in an action packed football tournament last Wednesday 10th June. Togo United (Guards and Drivers), Vert Ecolo (Groundsmen), Les Victorieux (Maintenance staff) and Adadbeyor's Angels (Teachers) took to the pitch to fight it out for the golden trophy. A great time was had by all but Togo United were victorious in the end! Thanks to everybody who came out to support us.



Staff Verses Students Annual Chess Tournament!



The yearly teachers verses students chess tournament was held this month. The teachers were hungry for revenge after last year's thrashing! The final scores were 17 wins and one draw to the teachers and 12 wins and one draw to the students. Better luck next year students!

Future School Improvements

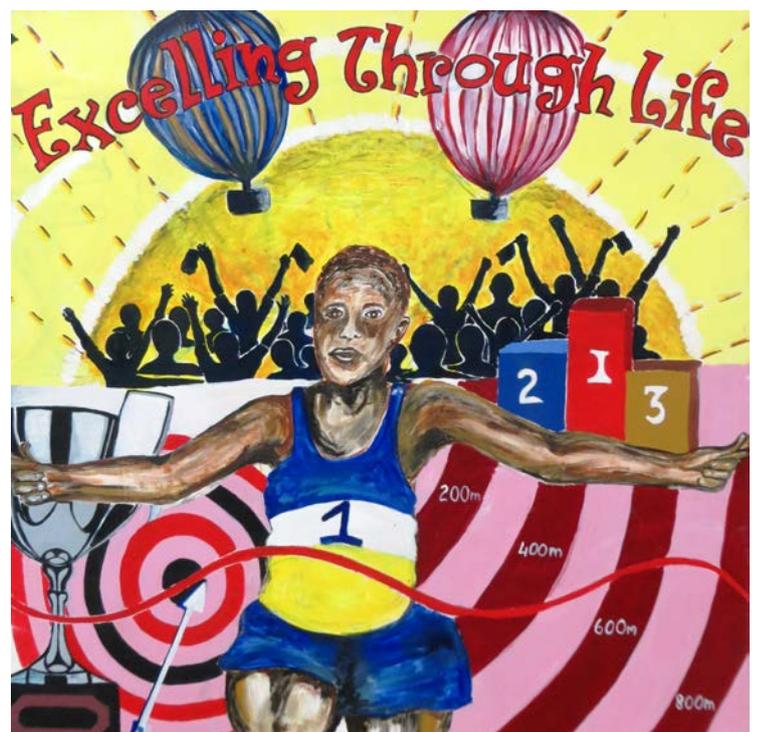


It may not look much now however total refurbishment of our main school ICT lab will be happening over the summer! By the end of August we will have a fully functional, state of the art, 25 capacity computer suite with interactive white board!

We are also installing 25 fixed digital projectors across the school. Every primary classroom will have one and most secondary classrooms. This is a fantastic tool aimed at improving teaching and learning here at BSL!

The school astro turf which is in constant use is being replaced!

One of our Maths classrooms is also being extended to provide a larger and better teaching space.



School Field Trips

Lots of exciting field trips took place this month with lots of opportunities for learning outside the classroom and a little fun!!



Year one visited Filo Park for some fun and the fire station to learn all about emergency services!



Year Two visited the 'Fauna Cultura' Zoo for some hands on experience with some wildlife!



Year 6 celebrated their graduation with a trip to O lodge!



Year 3 visited Club Hippique to learn about horses. They also got the chance to see or TRACKS sponsored horse 'Rio.'



The nursery class went to Ramco super market to learn about shopping! Year 10 students were treated to a special trip to the Go Cart racing track as their reward for raising the most money for our community project TRACKS at this year's International Weekend.

BSL New School Uniform

We are making some changes to our school uniform next year. New polo shirts with the embroidered school crest will be available from the school uniform shop from August 2015 for both primary and secondary.



Primary Blue Cotton Polo Shirt



Secondary White Cotton Polo Shirt

Please note that we are replacing blue and white striped dresses, blouses and skirts for girls. Old uniform maybe worn to school until October half term 2015 when it must be replaced with new uniform.

Primary Girls	Costs from school uniform shop
Pale blue polo shirt with school logo embroidered on it	6000cfa
Pale blue button up shirt with school logo embroidered on it	6000cfa
Blue 'skorts' (shorts with a skirt front) or blue shorts	10,000cfa/5000cfa
White, navy blue or black socks/tights	-
Navy blue sweater or cardigan	10,000cfa
Shoes –black or navy-blue closed-toed shoes or black or white sports shoes.	-
Primary Boys	-
Pale blue polo shirt with school logo embroidered on it	6000cfa
Pale blue button up shirt	6000cfa
Blue shorts	5000cfa
White, navy blue or black socks	-
Navy blue sweater	-
Shoes – black or navy-blue closed-toed shoes or black or white sports shoes.	-
Primary Sports Kit	
PE T-Shirt in house colours	3000cfa
Navy blue shorts (elastic waist)	3000cfa
Standard swimming costume	-
Sports shoes (black or white) and a change of socks	-
Hat or Cap	

Secondary Girls	Costs
White Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest	6000cfa
Navy A-Line skirt or navy blue tailored trousers	6500cfa
Black, brown or navy leather shoes with white, navy blue or black socks	-
Plain, knitted navy cardigan or jumper	10,000cfa
Navy blue or black hair band	-
Secondary Boys	-
White Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest	6000cfa
Navy blue tailored trousers	6500cfa
Black, brown or navy leather shoes with navy blue or black socks	-
Plain, knitted navy blue jumper	10,000cfa
Secondary Sports Kit	-
PE T-Shirt in house colours	3000cfa
Navy blue PE shorts	3000cfa
Sport trainers	-
Standard swimming costume	-

New PE and House T Shirts

We are also replacing the current house system with two new houses the 'Caracals' (a blue T Shirt) and the 'Cheetahs' (a yellow T Shirt). These T shirts must be used for PE and house events. Students will be organised into their houses early in the new school year. PE kits will be available to buy from the school uniform shop in August 2015.



Up-Coming Events at BSL!

1. Sunday 23rd August 2015: Boarding Houses Open
2. Monday 24th August 2015: School Opens
3. Wednesday 2nd September: Primary Parents Information afternoon
4. Friday 11th September: Primary Family Quiz Night
5. Friday 11th September – Sunday 13th September: International Award Bronze and Silver Expedition
6. Monday 21st September: Peace One Day
7. Wednesday 30th September: House Events
8. Saturday 3rd October – Sunday 4th October: International Award Bronze and Silver Expedition
9. Friday 10th October: World Mental Health Day
10. Monday 19th October – Friday 23rd October: Half Term Holiday
11. Friday 6th November – Saturday 7th November 2015: International Weekend

 The British School of Lomé						
August 2015						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				New Staff Induction	New Staff Induction	New Staff Induction
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
New Staff Induction	New Staff Induction	All Staff Report INSET Day	INSET Day	INSET Day		Boarding Houses Open
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
School Opens Week A S. Assembly	IB Induction	IB Induction		P. Assembly		
31						
Week B						

The full school calendar can be downloaded from our website:
Please go to the parents section of the site!

Have a great Summer Everyone!