



# NEWSLETTER



**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

The British School of Lome has always been a close-knit community. It is important for both the Primary and Secondary schools to collaborate as much as possible, taking the time to enjoy one another's company and learn from each other.

With that in mind, we are excited to introduce our joint newsletter. If you enjoy this edition, it could be the first of many to come.

This term, our focus is on three key themes: Interest, Collaboration and Sustainability. We aim to ensure that our students are fully engaged in their learning and in initiatives that foster creativity, activity, and service. We also want to create as many opportunities as possible to benefit from each other's wisdom, experience and expertise. Finally, we are committed to making sure that our initiatives, resources and energy are used sustainably. We encourage the entire community to think more about reusing, reducing and recycling, as well as maintaining their health and wellbeing to ensure we can all be at our best for as long as possible.

There is so much happening at BSL, and there will be many opportunities for you to get involved. To make this easier, we are working on enhancing our digital skills and access to the school's platforms, including Class Dojo and Google Classroom. We encourage parents to connect with class teachers and form tutors, strengthening the link between home and school. Our vision is for students, teachers, and parents to form a strong partnership, enabling the school to thrive and each child to excel in their unique way.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Take the time to read it with your child(ren), and feel free to reach out to us to get more involved in what we have to offer.

All the best,

**Mr Gareth Jones and Mr Anthony Jackson**  
**Head of Primary and Head of Secondary**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN LAST SATURDAY'S COFFEE MORNING.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who attended last Saturday's coffee morning and transition meeting. A significant number of parents joined us, your presence and active participation are greatly appreciated. We are particularly grateful for the trust and support you have shown in us as the Head of School and in our school leadership team. Your engagement is crucial as we work together to make our school a better place for our children. We also want to express our thanks to the other leaders who presented their expectations, especially regarding the transition. Additionally, we appreciate the parents who took the time to consult about subject choices.

IBDP Coordinator, Mr Abdulaziz Ahmed



Cambridge Assessment  
International Education



Head of School, Mr Akif Naqvi



Head of Primary, Mr Gareth Jones  
Head of Secondary, Mr Anthony Jackson



# THE IBDP KNOWLEDGE TREE

This year, the IBDP English B classroom has come alive with the vibrant addition of a "Knowledge Tree." This tree symbolises the growth and development of students' learning throughout the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Each branch represents key information about the IBDP, including the IB mission statement and core components—Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and CAS. As the year progresses, the tree will flourish, showcasing the achievements of our English B students and reflecting both the depth of their learning and the IB's commitment to creating lifelong learners who make a positive impact on the world.





# LEADER IN ME

## SPOTLIGHT ON BSL LEADERS: INSIGHTS FROM LORRAINE AND ESSORONG

We had an inspiring visit from Engineer Olorode and his team, who are training our two students (Lorraine and Essorongin) for the upcoming World STEM Robotics Challenge in Athens.



An Interview with Leïla Lorraine Shirley Bossou in Year 11 and Essorong Bassoum in Year 10. What brings them together is that they represented Togo in the First Global Challenge Robotics Competition in 2023.



Leïla Lorraine Shirley Bossou



Essorong Bassoum





Today, we have the honour of hosting these two leaders at BSL, so it's a great opportunity to gain some inspiration as they prepare to join the competition again this year, organised by Micro P Lab Togo.

What do you want to become in your life?

**Lorraine:** I want to become an architect.

**Essorong:** I want to become a software engineer.

What is your favourite subject?

**Lorraine:** ICT and English.

**Essorong:** Computer Science and Drama.

What is your favourite food?

**Lorraine:** Mashed potatoes.

**Essorong:** Come (a local cuisine).

If you could become an animal one day, what would you like to be?

**Lorraine:** A dog, because dogs are faithful and brave.

**Essorong:** A cheetah, as I like their speed.

What do you like about BSL?

**Lorraine:** I like that everyone speaks English, which helps improve my confidence.

**Essorong:** Students at BSL are more organised, calm and well-behaved.

When someone is sad, how will you make them happy?

**Lorraine:** I will talk to them, listen to their problems, and try to help them.

**Essorong:** I will listen to them, reassure them that everything will be fine, and try to solve their problems.

Why did you want to join the robotics competition?

**Lorraine:** I like to solve problems. Joining the competition allowed me to meet students like me from other countries.

**Essorong:** I enjoy teamwork and the challenges of finding solutions. I learned a lot from my teachers and other students and enjoyed meeting people from other countries.

We are very proud of our students and our partners who are helping our students to gain these opportunities and international experiences, preparing them to become the leaders of tomorrow.

## TUESDAY TUNES AND THURSDAY TREAT



We hope you enjoyed our musical morning treats on Tuesday and Thursday. Ms. Rhoda Boateng (Roxanne A's parent) described them as "A refreshing morning welcome".

We thank our music staff, especially Mr Seid and Mr Ribouem, for enhancing the standards of this important subject. We will continue to provide enjoyable experiences for our children to make their time at BSL both fun and engaging.



## WISHING SUCCESS: MR ANQUANDAH AT INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

We wish Mr. Francis E. Anquandah all the best for participating in the international chess tournament.

We also wish three students from the SPES home in Lomé—Sandra, Sandrine, and Fanta—who went to Hungary to participate in the Olympic Youth Chess Tournament. SPES is an international home that welcomes orphans. Did you know Mr Guy, our French teacher, and many other staff members and their families have been working to support them?

We hope to see BSL students showcase their skills in chess and other international tournaments in the future.







Sandra, Sandrine, and Fanta

## **MEET & GREET – THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

We hope you appreciated the Meet & Greet session and had productive discussions with the teachers to guide you on your child's journey for the 2024-2025 academic year. You are encouraged to attend the parents' meeting to discuss any concerns you may have. Please feel free to make an appointment with your child's teacher by sending a message on Dojo, Google Classroom, or by calling the school.

## **STAFFING UPDATES AND CONGRATULATIONS AT BSL**

We welcome Ms Kirsten Gibbons, our new Year 3 teacher and SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), who has joined the Wellbeing & Learning Support team. Ms Gibbons recently arrived in Togo after a slight delay due to immigration. We now have the support of Mrs Jane Snell and Mr Nicholas Lambert as Aspects Coordinators for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and Round Square school partnerships. Congratulations to both!

We were fortunate to find a talented German teacher, Marie Charlotte Amabegnon, who, unfortunately, is unable to teach at BSL due to a lack of subject choices for German. We value supporting talented individuals and will contact her if the need arises. We wish her all the best.

A huge congratulations to our dedicated PE teacher, Mr Chris Aryee, who has demonstrated his ability to enhance the provision of PE & Swimming. He has led his hardworking team with success and has now been promoted to Head of PE & Swimming. Please join me in congratulating Mr Aryee. We are also planning trips abroad this year, and more information will be sent to you soon.

With this, our BSL Bus is now fully on board and moving forward and upward with a highly experienced and skilled group of staff, looking forward to another very successful year and scaling new heights of excellence.

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS: HONOURING OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS IN THE FIRST SECONDARY ASSEMBLY



Our first Secondary Assembly was dedicated to honouring our Year 12 students, who made us proud with their IGCSE exam results. The Head of Secondary, Mr Jackson, welcomed the secondary school with music played by our talented music department. It was also wonderful to see primary students joining us, as they were visibly inspired by their older peers.

In his opening remarks, the Head of School, Mr Akif Naqvi, reminded all students, particularly those in IGCSE and IB, to work hard, avoid repeating last year's mistakes, and learn from past lessons to improve. He thanked the students for their hard work and acknowledged the teachers who dedicated their time to offering evening and afternoon interventions. "Our results are high, and we must maintain this standard," said Mr Akif. The assembly concluded with Year 12 students receiving a handshake from everyone, a fitting end to a proud moment for the entire school.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWS

The DELF exams are designed to assess and certify the proficiency of French language learners across various levels, from beginner to advanced. This certification is recognized globally and provides students with a valuable credential that reflects their language skills and commitment to learning French.



## Benefits of DELF Certification:

1. Global Recognition: DELF is an internationally recognized certification, enhancing students' academic and professional profiles.

2. Enhanced Language Skills: Preparing for and obtaining the DELF certification helps students improve their French language skills, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

3. Educational and Career Opportunities: A DELF certification can open doors to further educational opportunities and can be beneficial for career prospects in French-speaking environments.

4. Increased Motivation: The structured preparation for DELF exams can boost students' motivation and confidence in their language learning journey.

We are excited about this opportunity for our students and believe that it will greatly benefit their language education and personal development. More details about the exam schedules, preparation classes, and registration process will be provided shortly.



## ENHANCING LEARNING WITH NEW RESOURCES AT BSL



We are excited to share that we are now equipped with books, addressing one of the concerns raised by parents and staff. These books will provide clear direction to teachers and serve as valuable resources, allowing them to be creative and bring their own experiences into the classroom to make lessons engaging.

BSL's Shanghai Maths Project books come from an initiative in the UK that brings effective teaching methods from Shanghai's high-performing schools to enhance mathematics education elsewhere. Known for its exceptional performance in international assessments, Shanghai's approach focuses on deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts.

The Shanghai Maths Project has been adopted by numerous schools outside the UK, particularly in countries looking to improve their mathematics teaching methods. The project has gained significant traction globally, with schools in the United States, Canada, Australia, and various European nations implementing Shanghai Maths principles and resources. BSL is the first school in Togo and among the few schools in Africa to initiate this invaluable resource.

Our Shanghai Maths books are appreciated by our students; Rokhaya in Year 6 finds them "challenging but fun, with lots of real-life problems to solve."

## PE NEWS



Walking is one of the simplest and most effective ways to stay active and improve overall well-being. It boosts cardiovascular health, reduces stress, and can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

With this in mind, our joyful, energetic and enthusiastic staff and students participated in a brisk walk last Friday, 6th September 2024, organised by our dedicated PE staff.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to promote fitness and strengthen the sense of community within our school.





# ENGLISH FOR EVERYONE!

Classes will resume on the 30th September.

Join us and improve your English in a stimulating and enriching environment.

Duration: 6months

Twice per week from 6.30 to 8.00pm

Direct entry in the beginners class.

Entry tests will be required for intermediate and for the advanced classes.

For more information, kindly contact the schools reception on +228 22264606



## COMING SOON

30 SEPTEMBER 2024



**UNLOCK GLOBAL  
OPPORTUNITIES  
THROUGH LANGUAGE  
PROFICIENCY**

## CAREER DAYS OFFERS ONLINE WORK EXPERIENCE AND CAREER ADVICE TO HELP YOU CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE PATH.



We are pleased to inform you about an excellent opportunity for our students to explore various career paths through Career Days. This platform offers online work experience and career advice for students aged 13-18 in fields such as medicine, law, business, and more.

Career Days provide students with insights into different careers, advice on subject choices, and guidance on university applications. The sessions include work experience in the afternoon to help students understand what each career might be like. At the end of the day, students will receive a certificate confirming their participation and work experience.

Students aged 13-18 can register for the online events by visiting [www.careerdays.co.uk](http://www.careerdays.co.uk).

The schedule is as follows:

- Midwifery Career Day – Saturday 21st September 2024
- Medicine Career Day – Saturday 5th October 2024
- Dentistry Career Day – Sunday 6th October 2024
- Business Career Day – Saturday 12th October 2024
- Psychology Career Day – Saturday 19th October 2024
- Architecture Career Day – Saturday 26th October 2024
- Performing Arts Career Day – Sunday 27th October 2024
- Law Career Day – Saturday 2nd November 2024
- Veterinary Career Day – Saturday 9th November 2024
- Computer Science Career Day – Saturday 23rd November 2024
- Engineering & Technology Career Day – Saturday 30th November 2024

These 1-day online events provide invaluable insights from experts and practical experience, boosting university applications. We encourage you to explore this opportunity with your child. For more information, please visit [www.careerdays.co.uk](http://www.careerdays.co.uk) or contact Mr David.

## PUPIL ATTITUDES TO SELF AND SCHOOL (PASS) SURVEY

We will soon be conducting a school-wide student survey using the Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS) measure. PASS removes the guesswork from understanding why pupils may be reluctant, disengaged, or even disruptive learners by sensitively exploring social and emotional wellbeing. It also provides interventions and guidance so you can start addressing issues immediately.



### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Schools consistently report that PASS identifies children who might otherwise have been overlooked for extra pastoral support.
- It takes just 20 minutes to administer.
- Delivers easy-to-read traffic light reports highlighting where action is recommended.



- Includes 70 ready-made interventions, applicable at the whole school, class, group, and individual levels.
- Nearly two million PASS assessments have been completed over the last five years.

According to Nicola Lambros, Director of Education at UK Cognita Schools, "PASS is a powerful tool because it measures the impact our school climate and culture are having on the development of our children. It tells us how our school climate and culture are making our children feel about themselves as learners and individuals."



You will hear more details soon. In the meantime, you can visit this website to find out more: <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/assessments/pass/>

## **MEET BSL'S ALUMNUS**



### **AYOTOLA OSIGBOGUN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY ZOE NKPA**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

**Zoe NKPA:** How did you get to know about The British School of Lomé?

**Ayotola OSIGBOGUN:** Through my mother, she brought the school's brochure home. She heard about it from a fair BSL had at Eko Hotel Lagos.

**ZN:** Was it the school you wanted to go to?

**AO:** Yes, I was ready to change schools for either A-Levels or IB.

**ZN:** How long were you at BSL for and how would you describe your time at the school?

**AO:** Two years. It was a great time and I enjoyed every bit of it. I made good friends and learnt a lot.

**ZN:** What extracurricular activities were you involved in during your time here?

**AO:** Swimming, Cooking, Volleyball and Football, and I also was a Prefect.

**ZN:** What were your subject choices for the IBDP?

**AO:** My Higher Level subjects were Math, Biology and Geography, and for Standard Level I did French, English and Economics.

**ZN:** Which teachers, boarding parents or staff in general had a long lasting impact on you during your time here?

**AO:** Auntie Mercy and Auntie Eunice, Messrs Aupoix and Ernest.

**ZN:** How did you find boarding life at BSL?

**AO:** I loved it - it gave me a sense of independence but in a controlled environment.

**ZN:** Did you form any lasting bonds with your classmates at BSL who you still keep in touch with?

**AO:** Yes, I did and I am still very much in touch with: Aminat Musa, Shalom Ayidu and Ezinwo Weli.

**ZN:** What university did you attend after BSL?

**AO:** The University of Toronto.



**ZN:** Did your IB experience facilitate things for you in university, if so how?

**AO:** Yes it did, I was able to get school credits from my HL courses and as a result did not need to take a few classes.

**ZN:** Where are you now, what do you do, and would you describe your current career path as fulfilling in any way?

**AO:** I live in Ontario, Canada and I am a Senior Data Analyst at Autodesk (the company that owns the AutoCAD software). I love my career path as I have mostly worked in tech all my career and I have been able to travel and work from anywhere, while learning and making impacts at work.

**ZN:** Do you have a family of your own?

**AO:** Yes, I do. I am married with a daughter.

**ZN:** Do you have any personal achievements, honours you would like to share with us?

**AO:** My personal achievement is being a mother to a beautiful baby girl and also mentoring over 15 students who studied Statistics as their major like me and have helped them get either full time work or internships successfully.

**ZN:** What advice would you give to someone who aspires to achieve this kind of success you've had so far in life?

**AO:** Be inquisitive and willing to learn. When life gives you lemons try to make lemonade as not all things are straightforward but things will always work out.

**ZN:** Thank you so much for taking the time in spite of your busy schedule to do this. Wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Thank you so much for taking the time in spite of your busy schedule to do this. Wish you all the best in your future endeavours.



Have you joined ClassDojo yet? Have you used it to communicate or look at your child's work?

In BSL Primary School we use ClassDojo as our main way to communicate with our parents. ClassDojo is a free App. for smartphones and tablets as well as a website that "connects teachers with students and parents to build amazing classroom communities." The App aims to give students a voice, share moments with parents, and create a positive culture in the classroom. Teachers have the ability to give students digital high-fives or reward students with points for a job well done, and parents can get immediate feedback on the projects their child worked on in class or their child's behavioural needs. All messages can also be translated into many different languages at the touch of a button. Here are two videos that may help:

ClassDojo Parent tutorial: [https://youtu.be/ZGsKw\\_rXnJg](https://youtu.be/ZGsKw_rXnJg)

How to change languages on ClassDojo: <https://youtu.be/DoKvfdvIX3c>

Don't forget though the best way to communicate is still face to face. So I would really encourage you to use this App to keep abreast of your child's work and communicate with your child's teacher.

In one of the Dr Seuss books it says "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you will go"

## FORGET ME NOT

- Mon 16th Sept: **ASEP signup begins**
- **Student Council Elections (TBC)**– New dates will be announced soon
- Wed 18th Sept: **Music on the Grass**
- Mon 23rd Sept: **ASEP starts**



# OUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH NIGERIAN FAMILIES AFFECTED BY RECENT FLOODS

We wish to express our deepest support and solidarity with the Nigerian families affected by the recent floods. Authorities have reported that approximately one million people have been impacted, with around 200,000 displaced from their homes (Ref. Al Jazeera). During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We hope that you find strength and comfort in the support of your community and loved ones.



## ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA NEW YEAR ENKUTATASH



On behalf of the Head of School and all staff members of the British School of Lomé, we would like to wish our Ethiopian families and friends a Happy New Ethiopian Year. Melkam Addis Amet!

May this new year bring you and your loved ones peace, joy, and prosperity.

Au nom du Chef d'établissement et de tous les membres du personnel de la British School of Lomé, nous tenons à souhaiter à nos familles et amis éthiopiens une Bonne Nouvelle Année Éthiopienne.

Melkam Addis Amet!

Que cette nouvelle année vous apporte, à vous et à vos proches, paix, joie et prospérité.



**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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