

# NEWSLETTER

## Guest Writers – Sai Nandhani and Francis Chardey (Year 10)

As we bid farewell to the month of January, we here at BSL would like to reminisce about everything we've already accomplished in just the first month of 2025! We would also like to wish our lovely Chinese students and parents a Happy Belated Chinese New Year! We commenced the year with some eye opening initiatives, such as our plans for a trip to the UK! This opportunity is something many of us are genuinely looking forward to, and would be most grateful if you considered permitting your child attend. This is a chance for your child to experience a new culture, learn from diverse environments, and grow both personally and culturally. This trip is one of many that will kick off BSL international presence and we are excited to see what will come of it!

We also had an enriching Education Day, where students came together and delved into engaging and thought-provoking discussions surrounding the importance of education in their lives. Students were given the chance to share ideas, exchange knowledge, and have some fun as well. Education Day not only forged the path for conversations over the true utility of education it gave students a sense of perspective. Overall Education Day was an experience we would love to replicate in the future, with some parental aid if possible!

This year, we here at BSL would like to reintroduce and amplify the presence of the Student Body. So far this year, our Secondary Representatives have met to discuss persistent issues that have yet to be addressed. Their meetings have been an excellent method of ensuring that each and every Year Group is heard and answered. To reassure them that their demands have not gone unheard. The impact they've had already is as clear as day, as this week, The Student Council Representatives of Y10 have taken it upon themselves to lead this week's Secondary Newsletter.

**Sai Nandhini**

**and**

## Francis Chardey



# A PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR FOR OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL: FELLOWSHIP OF THE UK'S CHARTERED COLLEGE OF TEACHING



The UK's Chartered College of Teaching, which holds a Royal Charter granted by His Majesty The King, occupies a unique and revered position within the educational landscape.

We are delighted to announce that our esteemed Head of School, Mr Akif Naqvi, has been awarded the distinguished title of **Fellow** by the **Chartered College of Teaching**.



This accolade represents the highest and most prestigious category of membership within this esteemed institution, placing Mr Naqvi among an elite group of educational leaders, many of whom have been recognised with honours such as the OBE and MBE in the UK Government's New Year's Honours List.

To be named a Fellow is to be acknowledged with the utmost distinction, a reflection of Mr Naqvi's steadfast dedication to academic innovation, transformative leadership, and his impactful contributions to educational reform.

In accepting this honour, Mr Naqvi graciously attributed this achievement to the students and staff of The British School of Lomé. He remarked, *"This recognition is a testament to the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of our extraordinary students and staff, who inspire me daily. It is their pursuit of excellence that fuels our success as a community."*

As a Fellow, he now stands alongside a select cadre of influential educators whose work has significantly shaped the trajectory of teaching and learning, both nationally and globally.



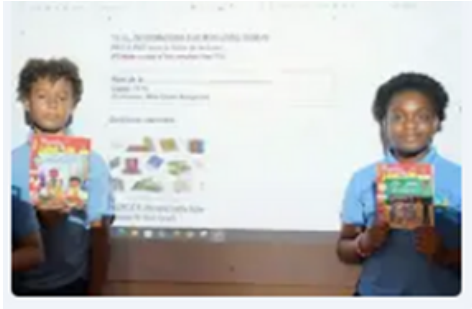
# THE BSL STUDENT COUNCIL LEADS THE WAY IN RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY

On January 28th, the BSL student council visited GIP Togo to deepen their understanding of recycling and explore ways to contribute to a cleaner environment. Under the supervision of Sixth Form Coordinator Ms. Laura Mairykova and CAS Coordinator Mr. Ernest Dagbovie, the council engaged in a productive discussion with the Director of GIP Togo, Mr. Gado Bemah, and laid the groundwork for a long-term partnership. The students also toured the recycling facility, gaining valuable insight into the processes and machinery in action. Inspired by the visit, the Student Council developed creative ideas as part of their CAS service to promote sustainability both within the school and the local community. This visit marks the beginning of an exciting collaboration aimed at fostering a greener future.



# Y6 HL, MODERN & FOREIGN LANGUAGE

These last two weeks the group of Y6 is involved in reading novels and magazines and this is a good opportunity for learners to be introduced to French Literature.



Beside , to continue improving their reading skills and their knowledge, students also dealt with the first term 2 topic: **Les animaux ( animals)**. Students discovered through watching a video some interesting facts on the fishing activity in Togo.

Please enjoy looking at interesting pictures displaying YHL students' efforts.



## COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE PROJECT

On Monday and Tuesday, the Year 12 and 13 learners completed the Collaborative Science Project. This was a compulsory part of their IBDP for all Group 4 subjects. They decided on their own group investigations based around the theme "Mythbusters". The learners investigated myths such as the "five-second rule" for food dropped on the ground, whether lemon juice can be used as a stain remover and whether it is more dangerous to swim in a swimming pool or fresh water when lightning strikes. Throughout the two days problem solving was a key skill developed as well as the ability to collaborate with people with different expertise and knowledge. Tuesday culminated with a successful exhibition of their projects attended by learners and teachers from primary and secondary as well as some of their parents.

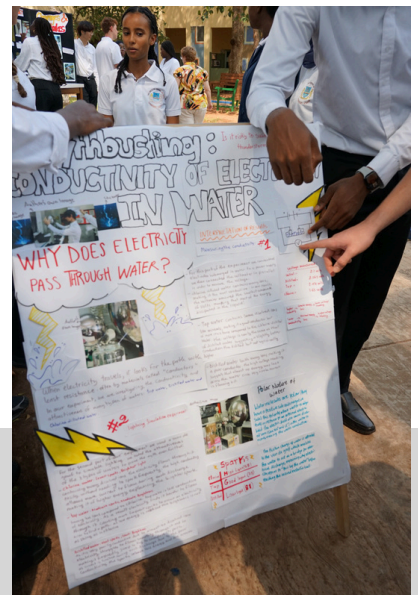
### **Meyyan:**

*We chose this project because that's what chat gave us....and it was the easiest and most ethical. The outcome was pretty surprising, we found out that listening to pop helps you to concentrate more followed by classical but that was like the average, at the end of the day it really depends on the person .*

*What I gain...I guess I was able to build a better relationship with the year 13 and I also found out that I prefer working with kids rather than older people (high school).*

*Something I think we could have improved is our time management, we had to rush at the end because we wasted so much time planning and overthinking the thing .*

*I also think we could have made the project better by using more students, we used 4 students per class and that's kind of little.*





**Yash:**

**What is it about:-** It is about investigating whether the surface of a toilet seat is dirtier than everyday items, e.g. ATMs, door handles, money etc?

**Why you chose this project:-** It looked interesting and was actually really fun to do when we watched videos about it so we decided to go ahead with this.

**What was the outcome:-** Unfortunately, we weren't able to see any bacteria growth on the Gar Jelly we used because the bacteria requires more than 1 day to grow, however, despite these results we were still able to present a beautiful exhibition.

**What did you gain from the experiment (experience):** Communication is key between people, different people have different qualities and speeds of working so one should adapt easily and not be fussy about it. I gained a lot of biology knowledge about bacteria as i didn't take Biology in IGCSE and in IB as well.

**What are the things you think you and your group could have improved:** We wished we did the experiment more times to improve the accuracy and reliability of our experiment. We also wished we had more time to let the bacteria grow.



**Alimah and Sadine:** Our project aimed to bust the myth that 'it is safe to swim during a thunderstorm.' We used a Van de Graaff generator to test how different types of water (chlorine, distilled, and tap) influence electrical discharge frequency. Since water can conduct electricity depending on its ion content, we wanted to see how different water compositions affect charge buildup and discharge. We chose this project because a lot of people believe that swimming during a thunderstorm is safe, but we wanted to test if that's really true. Since water can conduct electricity, we were curious to see how different types of water (chlorine, distilled, and tap) affect electrical discharges. Using a Van de Graaff generator, we could simulate lightning in a controlled way and see how water reacts. It was also a fun and unique way to connect science to real-life situations and safety. Our results showed that water with more ions, like chlorine water, had more electrical discharges, while distilled water had fewer.

This suggests that the more minerals and dissolved substances in the water, the better it can conduct electricity. Since most natural bodies of water (like lakes, pools, and oceans) contain ions, this proves that water can easily conduct lightning, making it extremely dangerous to swim during a thunderstorm. Our experiment successfully busted the myth that it's safe to swim when there's lightning. We learnt that it is dangerous to swim during a thunderstorm in a pool. Since chlorine water was the most conductive and attractive. But also because the human body is a good conductor as well. Moreover we found out that we could prove the same thing in different ways, which justify the use of our second experiment. During the process we thought critically together to find solutions when problems occurred but we realized that letting everyone have a second to think for a solution in depth before sharing it was more effective. Additionally we learnt that spontaneous organisation is key for effective group work when tackling issues with the experiments. Over all, we learnt to adapt to each other's rhythm to move forward as a group, and emphasized on developing our skills on an individual scale to make the best use of it. One thing we could have improved was making sure the conditions were exactly the same for each test. Since it was hot outside, some groups had to open windows to let in the AC, which could have affected humidity and temperature in the room. These factors might have influenced our results. We also could have tested more types of water, like saltwater, since oceans and pools are common places people swim. Another improvement would be doing more trials to get even more accurate data. Lastly, using better measuring equipment, like a conductivity meter, could have helped us understand why some water types had more discharges than others





**Shawn:**

Our project is about myth busting, we chose the 5 second rule because it was a clear and achievable task with the few days we had. From the experience I've learned that moist foods have an increased risk of higher bacterial growth as moisture is a breeding ground environment for bacterial growth. Our group could have improved a lot more on communication as the poor planning and constant change of ideas for the myth busting theme was all over the place. We decided our topic last second the day we had to do the experiment.



# PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Buzzing Spelling Bee winners!



Today we had a fascinating assembly by Year 4 who told us all about things South! It included a lot of information about different types of Penguins. We also heard about Antarctica and the discoverers that explored the South Pole.



Happy Birthday

Stars of the week



# CELEBRATING ALUMNI SUCCESS: BOCAR'S JOURNEY TO UNIVERSITY

We are delighted to share the inspiring story of our 2023-2024 alumnus, Bocar, who has successfully transitioned to the next chapter of his academic journey. This achievement reflects not only Bocar's hard work and determination but also the unwavering support of our dedicated team at The British School of Lomé.



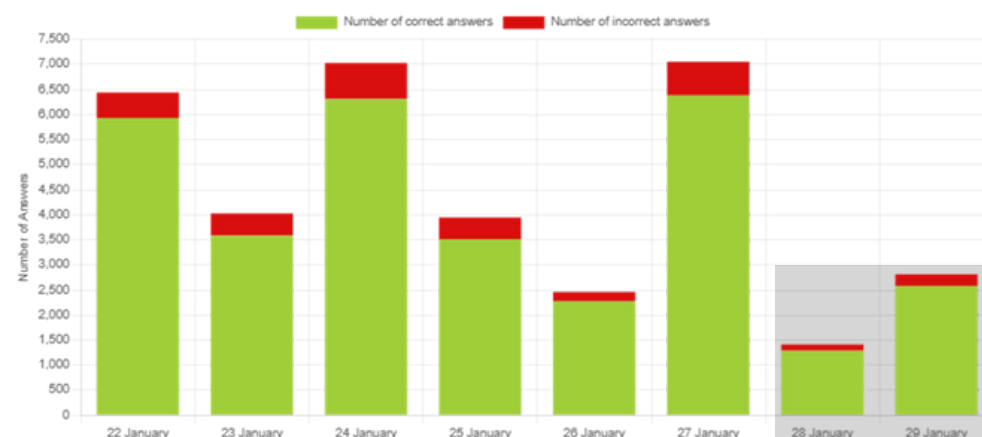
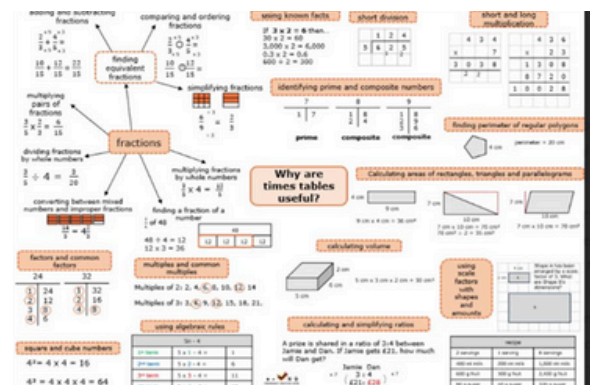
Special thanks go to our Career and University Counsellor, Mr David, Consultant Mrs Margaret, and Head of School Mr Akif Naqvi, whose combined efforts have been instrumental in guiding Bocar and many others towards achieving their academic goals. Bocar was also recently visited by Mr Ferdinand Maijja Sako, a team member working alongside Mrs Margaret, demonstrating the continued support and encouragement our alumni receive as they embark on new adventures.

Well done, Bocar! You will always be part of the BSL family.

## ROCKS STARS PERFORMANCE

This week, the band is made up of some top avatars. These are the style council and the fashionistas rolled into one! These are definitely not the plain white T's of the BSL Rockstars. Well done to Eyuel (Yr4), Divot (Y4), Nadia (Yr 3) Mia (Yr 6) on their stylish avatars. Keep playing, keep amassing those coins and keep improving your tables on TTRS!

Take a look at some of the stats from this week on TTRS.



# PE NEWS

## Last Saturday's Football and Basketball Matches: A Celebration of Team Spirit

Last Saturday, The British School of Lomé (BSL) hosted an exciting day of football and basketball matches against Cours Lumière School. The event was a fantastic display of skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship from both schools.

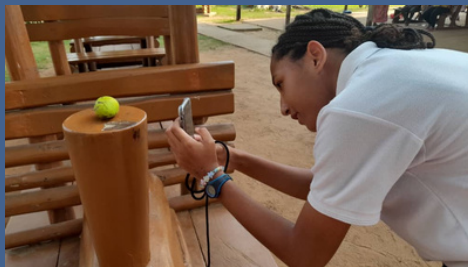
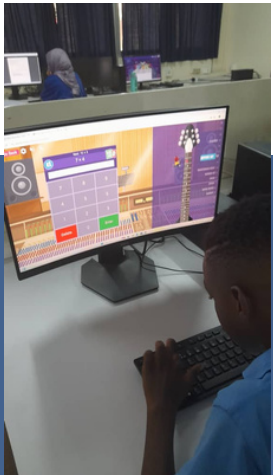
Both the boys' and girls' teams from BSL and Cours Lumière put on outstanding performances, showcasing their hard work and passion for the games. Every match was closely contested, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats and cheering loudly for their teams.

The atmosphere was electric, filled with energy and enthusiasm as players encouraged each other and demonstrated great team spirit. Beyond the competition, the event brought students, staff and parents from both schools together to enjoy the love of sports and foster friendships. Well done to everyone who participated and contributed to making the day such a success!

## EXCITING UPDATES ON BSL'S AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME!

We're thrilled to share that BSL's After School Enrichment Programme, led by Mr. Andrew, is going exceptionally well! The students are participating with great excitement and enthusiasm, engaging in a variety of enriching activities that foster creativity and teamwork.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to more fun-filled sessions ahead!





# LEADER IN ME

## VARDHNI AND GIDEON (YEAR 8)



Vardhni

Gideon



### • What is a leader to you?

**Vardhni** - A leader to me is a person who takes full responsibility and accountability towards their team. They make smart decisions and help their team in achieving their main goal.

**Gideon** - A leader is a person who inspires and guides others to their goals.

### How can you be more of a leader at BSL?

**Vardhni** - At BSL, I should encourage students to achieve goals higher than average and help build their confidence in speaking up for themselves and moving out of their comfort zone more.

**Gideon** - I could become more of a leader by helping keep the school clean and help other students with their needs

### • What should a leader be concerned about?

**Vardhni** - A leader should be concerned about achieving their team goals. A leader should believe in themselves and should know the right decisions to make based on the situation.

**Gideon** - I think a leader needs to be concerned on how his/she goals can be achieved

### • As a leader, are there any qualities or traits you believe you should have?

**Vardhni** - As a leader, I believe other leaders should have the quality of speaking with confidence and ensuring that all their teammates and peers are comfortable in the particular environment.

**Gideon** - I think as leader you be able to be responsible, have a plan, and be confident

# AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

## CRICKET CLUB: HOWZAT! (HOW'S THAT!)

The Cricket Club has now started in full swing! It's wonderful to see participants attending with such enthusiasm and a love for the game.

### Did You Know?

- The longest cricket match lasted 14 days.
- The youngest player to play for England was just 18 years old.
- The oldest player to play for England was 52 years old.
- The first Cricket World Cup was held in England in 1975.
- The first Women's Cricket World Cup was held two years earlier, in 1973, and it was England's women's team that won!

### The Basics of Cricket

**The Teams:** The game is played by two teams, each consisting of eleven players. A team is made up of bowlers, batsmen, a captain, a vice-captain, fielders, and a wicketkeeper.

**The Umpires:** There are two umpires on the field who have the authority to make decisions during the game. A third umpire, watching television replays, assists the on-field umpires with decisions that may have been missed.

**The Ball:** Cricket is played with a cork ball covered by a leather case with special stitching in the center, called the seam.

**The Bat:** The bat is a wooden implement used by the batsman to strike the ball.

**The Pitch:** This is the special area in the middle of the ground, between the stumps, where most of the action happens. It measures 22 yards (66 feet) in length and 10 feet in width.

**Wickets/Stumps:** Each set consists of three stumps topped by two bails. These are the targets for the bowler and are defended by the batsman.







# UNLOCK GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- ✓ General English Courses (Beginner to Advanced)
- ✓ English for Children and Teens
- ✓ English for Specific Purposes (ESP)
- ✓ Online English Tutoring
- ✓ English Language Immersion Trips
- ✓ Business English for Professionals
- ✓ English for Academic Purposes (EAP)
- ✓ Professional Communication Skills (Email, Presentations, Meetings)
- ✓ Online English Conversation Partners
- ✓ Intensive English Summer Courses
- ✓ IELTS/SAT Exam Centre

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE**  
RESIDENCE DU BENIN  
02 BP20050 LOME-TOGO



+228 22264606  
+228 22607770  
[www.bsl.tg](http://www.bsl.tg)



[englishcentre@bsl.tg](mailto:englishcentre@bsl.tg)  
English Language  
Institute