



31-05-24

Head of Secondary Message

The British School of Lomé **Secondary Newsletter**



Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff of the British School of Lomé,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the same pride and joy that we experienced during our recent school events. Our community came together to learn more about the ways in which we will propel the 'BSL Bus'. In addition, we also came together to enjoy a remarkable display of talent and unity, and I am thrilled to share the highlights with you.

On the evening of 24th May, we gathered at Le Patio for our much-anticipated talent show, 'Harmonic Harmony.' The night was a true celebration of our students' diverse talents and I am sure it will be an occasion that will live long in our minds and hearts. We were dazzled by moving spoken word performances, enchanted by skilled instrumentalists, and inspired by powerful choruses that beautifully reflected our collective spirit. Of course our students are deserving of the spotlight but a special thanks needs to go to our creative and facilities team who made all of the aforementioned possible.

The following morning, 25th May, brought another valuable experience with our Head of School hosting a 'Coffee Morning Workshop on the GL Assessments feedback session. This event was a significant opportunity for parents and staff to engage in meaningful dialogue. Our staff listened attentively to parents' queries and thoughts, and parents gained insightful knowledge about how we have addressed their previous concerns as well as the GL assessments and their significance in the progress of our school. We discussed the importance of modernising and innovating to meet international standards, emphasising the need for our students to be globally minded and prepared to compete with the best students worldwide.

As you read this letter, your child may have already completed some or all of their GL assessments. In the coming weeks, you will receive an end-of-year report that will detail your child's performance. This report will not only highlight their achievements but also provide a tailored outline of their strengths and areas for improvement, guiding them on how to excel further.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community.

Warm regards,

Mr Anthony Jackson

Head of Secondary

The British School of Lomé was represented at the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award 2024 Africa Regional Conference.



Togo's Country Director of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (DofE), Mr Michel Adopre, representing Le Mérite International de la Jeunesse – Togo and all the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Operators in Togo, including The British School of Lomé, attended the 2024 Africa Regional Conference in Kampala, Uganda, from 19 to 20 March 2024.

The Conference, named 'Afrika Olukiko Tabamiluka', was held at the Speke Resort and Conference Centre in Munyonyo. It was honoured by the presence of the Patron of the Award, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Edward), the Foundation's Secretary General, Martin Houghton-Brown, and the Africa Regional Advisory Board Chair and Foundation's International Trustee, Muhoho Kenyatta.

The agenda for the Conference focused on the following key areas:

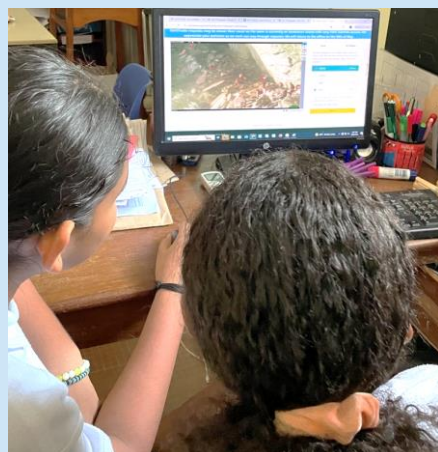
- NAOs Strategic Plans
- Sustainability and Growth of the Award
- Essential Licence Standards
- The Role of Digitisation in the Growth of the Award
- The Role of Young People in the Growth of the Award
- Award Visibility and Brand Relevance
- Strategic Leadership
- Fundraising and the Special Projects Three Fund Grant
- Volunteer Recognition and Motivation

In his speech, the Country Director for Togo acknowledged the importance of adult volunteer support to the success of the Award and explained how volunteers are recognised and motivated in Togo.

By way of illustration, he pointed out that during the celebration of the 40th anniversary of The British School of Lomé, certain key stakeholders who have contributed to the advancement of the Award (DofE) programme in Togo, in particular within the British School of Lomé, were publicly recognised and thanked. These stakeholders are mainly Mr Akif Naqvi, the Head of School who not only recruited a suitable teacher with a very good experience in successfully running the programme in his previous school as Award Coordinator, but who also supported him to ensure the delivery of a high quality Award programme; Mr Scott Fairlie, the current Award Coordinator and Mr John Gareth and Mr Idriss Kondi, respectively former Award Coordinator and Deputy Award Coordinator, who were for several years mainly responsible for managing the operation of the Award to the young people within The British School of Lomé.

Prior to the conference, he attended a reception celebrating the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Commonwealth Day in the presence of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on Monday, 18 March 2024, at the British High Commissioner's Residence in Kampala.

Humanities Department News



Our Year 7 students used 15 minutes at the end of the school day to undertake research as citizen scientists. Using the projects created by professional scientists on Zooniverse, they travelled to a Rockhopper penguin colony in southern Argentina and to protected areas in northern Kenya. In each location they used photos from camera traps to identify and count species as well as noting the behaviour and whether there were young present. Many of the animals seen are categorised as endangered or vulnerable.

Anyone can support global scientists in their research in a diverse range of projects including medicine, space, language, biology, climate change, literature, physics, history, arts, and social sciences. Just click on [zooniverse.org](https://www.zooniverse.org) and begin to participate in real world research and add to our knowledge and understanding.

Join in and make a difference!



Utilising GL Assessments for Tailored Student Progress and Development

Our newly introduced end-of-year GL Assessments have gone smoothly. Teachers will use this invaluable data to plan individualised lessons, drawing on the strengths and weaknesses of the students to ensure termly progress for every child. Class grouping for differentiated teaching, highlighting the G&T (Gifted and Talented) students, and identifying those who are behind their age-related expectations, as well as implementing remedial measures, will take place. Using external data is important to make informed, evidence-based decisions.

With the data available, teachers will have evidence to provide individualized learning experiences in class and appropriately challenging work will be provided. These Age-Related Expectations are:

1. Students who are **Exceeding** as per their Age-Related Expectations.
2. Students who are **Secured** as per their Age-Related Expectations.
3. Students who are **Emerging** as per their Age-Related Expectations.
4. Students who are **Developing** as per their Age-Related Expectations.
5. Those students who are either below the Developing Age-Related Expectations, need ESL support, have potential SEN needs, or have Gifts and Talents.

There is no pass or fail, as the analysis reports are based on Age-Related Expectations, comparing them with thousands of students in the UK and international schools against the curriculum expectations. Parents' and students' reports (School and GL) will be sent as PDFs, while a printed copy will be placed in the student's file for instant reference.

GL Education

Progress Test in English

Progress Test in Maths

Progress Test in Science

Rapid

New Group Reading Test

CAT4

PASS



Harmonic Harmony @ Le Patio



BSL's HISTORICAL HARMONIC HARMONY AT LE PATIO FRI 24TH MAY

A special thanks to our students who showed their talents and confidence at Le Patio, making history at BSL for such a performance outside the school.

A big thank you to our staff, especially Mr Seid, Mr Ribouem, Mr Silver, Mr Obaro, Mr Leo and Mr Jackson, for not just organising but also participating in this beautiful evening. We also appreciate our parents who came to support us - we received huge appreciation from the parents, and they told us that they were impressed to see their children performing in public and had tears in their eyes. We have been receiving positive responses from members of the public after our performance at Le Patio. It was a good way to bring families together to lift their spirits after a long working week. This is what being at BSL is all about. A big thank you to Le Patio staff!





<https://www.bsl.tg/>

BSL Radio- *Tune in to Student Talent and Inspiration!*

Please enjoy some students' recordings on BSL Radio by clicking on <https://www.bsl.tg/>.

There are new songs sung by our students as well as inspiring readings in different languages by our talented students. You can also appreciate the new photos on the website. We would appreciate your feedback on the developments. You can send us an email, call, or use Class Dojo. Your feedback will encourage us and help us make further improvements.

YEAR 13 GRADUATION DAY AND PROM: STUDENT FEEDBACK

While we received very encouraging feedback from our esteemed parents and guests showing their appreciation for this year's ceremonies, we would also like to mention our graduates' feedback. Congratulations once again to our Year 13 students for completing their BSL journey. We look forward to seeing them thrive in universities and further education.

Peggy Y13: *The graduation ceremony was short, concise, and nice. The decorations were much better compared to last year; it was a really nice improvement. The idea of throwing the caps on the grass was great because it gave the graduates a lot more space, and it was a nice area for pictures. That's all, and thank you Ms. Laura for working hard to make graduation the best you could.*

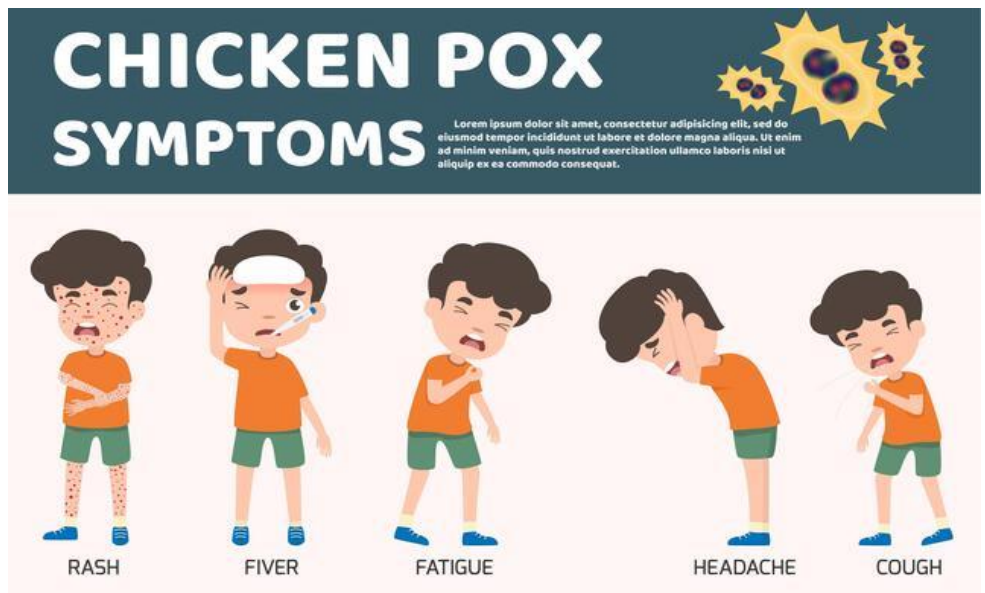
Prosper Y13: *The graduation was excellent; it was brief without much delay. I also loved the decorations because they were beautiful, and the new seating arrangement was very effective as every student's face could be seen without one blocking the other. I must also acknowledge how the photo booth area was set up remarkably with the picture frames. Overall, the graduation was very well done and enjoyable.*

Whitney Y13: *This year's graduation was better than last year, from the organization to the decoration. However, the cocktail area was still as hot as last year, and the presentation was bad. I personally suggest that next year they focus on a new venue and put more effort into the cocktail, including the finger foods and drinks.*

Alexandra Y13: *This year's graduation was very well organized. The decoration was beautiful, and we could see that there was real work behind it. Overall, it was really different from previous years, which was great to see.*

Kofi Y13: *The graduation was very enjoyable for both the students and the teachers. I personally liked how the chairs were arranged, ultimately making all the students of the class visible to the parents. Maybe if the organization of going outside to the circle area was stricter, the event would've moved more smoothly, but apart from that, I truly enjoyed the graduation setup and would recommend something similar for the current Year 12s.*





Chickenpox Notice

We are writing to inform you that we have identified a case of chickenpox in our primary school. Chickenpox is a common childhood illness that typically affects young children. While it can be uncomfortable, it usually resolves on its own within a week or two.

Symptoms of Chickenpox: Itchy, blister-like rash that appears in waves over several days, starting on the face and trunk and spreading to the limbs.

- Mild fever
- Loss of appetite
- Headache

Caring for Your Child at Home:

- Keep your child home from school until all blisters have scabbed over, typically around five days after the first rash appears.
- Dress your child in loose-fitting, comfortable clothing.
- Encourage them to scratch as little as possible. Apply cool compresses or calamine lotion to itchy areas.
- Offer plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Over-the-counter pain relievers like paracetamol or ibuprofen can help manage fever and discomfort (always follow dosage instructions for your child's age).
- Do not give aspirin to children with chickenpox.

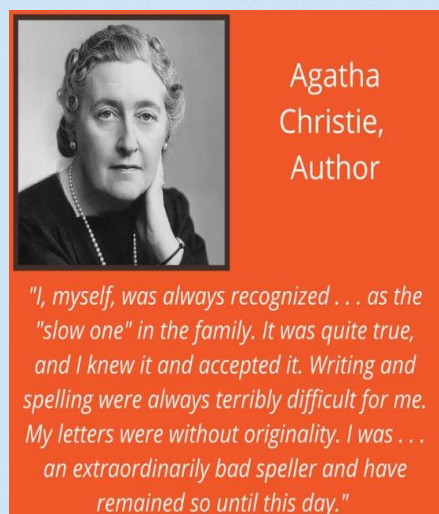
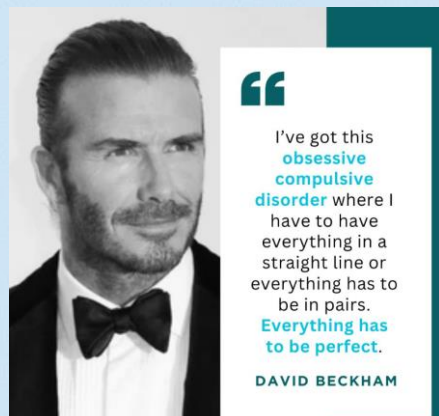
Please contact your doctor if:

- Your child experiences a high fever (over 38.5°C)
- The rash becomes red, swollen, or tender
- Your child has difficulty breathing
- Your child is lethargic or confused

Most healthy children recover from chickenpox without complications. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school's infirmary or your child's doctor. For more information on chickenpox, including treatment and prevention tips, you can visit the UK NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>





Understanding SEN and Gifted and Talented Students:

Unlocking Potential for All- Endeavour is All

We commit to creating an inclusive environment where every child can thrive, regardless of their learning needs or background. We will continue to combine academic support with a focus on social and emotional wellbeing. We understand that true learning flourishes when our students feel safe, supported and understood. You as parents create a crucial role in the success of our efforts. Your insight, feedback and active involvement are invaluable.

As parents, we all want the best for our children. However, sometimes children learn and develop in different ways. This can lead to concerns about Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Gifted and Talented (G&T) abilities. Here's some reassurance:

What is SEN?

SEN refers to children who have a learning difficulty or disability that requires additional support in school. These needs can be physical, sensory, or cognitive. The crucial thing to remember is that SEN is not a barrier to achievement. With the right support, children with SEN can flourish and reach their full potential.

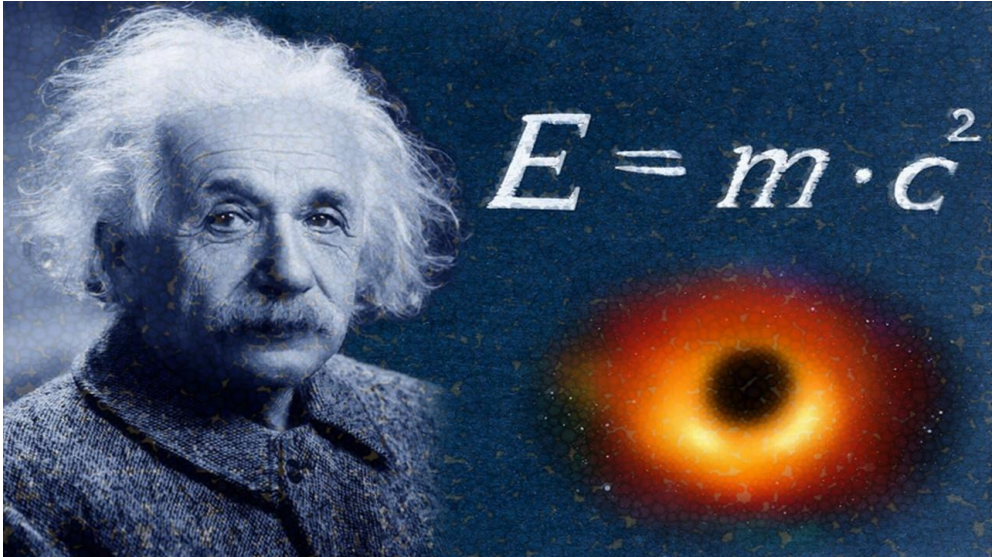
What is Gifted and Talented?

Gifted and Talented (G&T) students demonstrate exceptional abilities in specific areas like academics, creativity, or leadership. They may learn at a faster pace and require more stimulating activities. Identifying and nurturing these talents is essential for their development.

Success Stories: Many successful individuals have overcome challenges related to SEN or thrived due to their G&T abilities. Here are a few inspiring examples:

- **Albert Einstein (Dyslexia):** One of the most brilliant physicists, Einstein struggled with language processing as a child.
- **Whoopi Goldberg (Dyslexia):** A renowned actress and comedian, Goldberg overcame dyslexia to achieve incredible success.
- **Stephen Hawking (ALS):** Despite being diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) at a young age, Hawking became a world-renowned physicist. (ALS is known as Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in British English)
- **Agatha Christie (Dyslexia):** The "Queen of Crime" excelled at storytelling despite her dyslexia.
- **Richard Branson (Dyslexia):** The British business magnate is another example of a successful individual who battled dyslexia.
- **David Beckham (OCD):** has revealed how living with his "tiring" obsessive compulsive disorder leads him to spending hours cleaning and organising his home while the rest of his family are in bed.





The Power of Support: Both SEN and G&T students benefit greatly from targeted support. Schools can offer specialised programmes, additional resources, and differentiated learning approaches. As parents, you can champion your child's needs and work closely with teachers to ensure they receive the right support.

At BSL Every Child Matters. Provisions are a part of BSL's WB&LS (Wellbeing and Learning Support) department **Wave support programme**. This includes additional resources, specialist teaching, and, where necessary, the involvement of external professionals such as speech and language therapists, educational psychologists and occupational therapists. The goal is to create an inclusive learning environment that meets their individual needs and helps them achieve their full potential. You are welcome to contact the WB&LS team for more information or any concerns

The WB&LS team welcomes your inquiries. Should you require further information or confidential advice, please do not hesitate to contact them.

Every child is unique! By understanding SEN and G&T, we can celebrate each child's strengths and ensure they have the tools they need to reach their full potential.

BSL Uniform reminder

Our school uniform is on sale from the school uniform shop, at the front office.



Primary Blue Cotton Polo Shirt



Secondary White Cotton Polo Shirt



Primary Girls:

Pale blue polo shirt with school logo embroidered on it
Pale blue button up shirt with school logo embroidered on it
Blue 'skorts' (shorts with a skirt front) or knee length skirt or shorts
White, navy blue or black socks/tights
Navy blue sweater or cardigan
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
Pale blue button up shirt
Blue shorts
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 Shirt in house colours
Navy blue shorts (elastic waist)
Sports shoes (black or white) and a change of socks
Hat or Cap

Secondary Girls:

White Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest
Navy A Line skirt or navy blue tailored trousers (not jeans)
Black, brown or navy leather shoes with white, navy blue or black socks
Plain, knitted navy cardigan or jumper
Navy blue or black hair band

Secondary Boys:

White Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest
Navy blue tailored trousers (not jeans)
Black, brown or navy shoes or trainers with navy blue, white or black socks
Plain, knitted navy blue jumper

Secondary Sports Kit:

PE Shirt in house colours
Navy blue PE shorts
Sport trainers

IB:

Black trousers or skirts (leggings and jeans are not appropriate).
White cotton shirts and blouses (T-shirts, vests or string tops are not appropriate).
Black, brown or navy leather shoes.

PE and House T Shirts

Our current house system has two 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 once students have been allocated to their house team.



Please note: It is recommended that each student purchases 3 Polo Shirts and at least two sport shirts.

We kindly request your cooperation in ensuring that your daughters adhere to the school's policy regarding hair tying. Encouraging them to tie their hair neatly not only cultivates a sense of discipline and readiness for study but also contributes to a smart and professional appearance.

Additionally, it serves to prevent any potential health and safety concerns. Tying hair neatly reflects

readiness to learn and presents a professional image. Prevents distractions and potential hazards during classroom activities. Thank you to those students who always adhere to this and for your support in maintaining a conducive learning environment for all students.



LEADER IN ME – An Interview with Alimatou Opeyemi GBADAMASSI (Year 11) and Francis Mathieu CHARDAY (Year 9).



Alimatou is appreciated for being hardworking, very respectful and a good time manager who sets realistic targets. Francis is appreciated for being hardworking, his personal demeanor and his outstanding abilities in Art and Drama.

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

Alimatou: *Watch movies and read books.*

Francis: *Relax and hang out with my family*

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

Alimatou: *Crochet and working with beads.*

Francis: *Looking at the news.*

What's the best thing about school for you?

Alimatou: *Studying and meeting friends.*

Francis: *Learning things.*

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

Alimatou: *Teleportation to get where I want to go easily.*

Francis: *Super speed or reading minds in order to have the upper hand in situations.*

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

Alimatou: *Going to the movies together.*

Francis: *Going out to the park.*

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

Alimatou: *A doctor so that I can help people.*

Francis: *A politician so that I can help people.*

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

Alimatou: *Skateboarding.*

Francis: *To always be able to win a debate.*

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

Alimatou: *Purple Hibiscus because it shares aspects of family life.*

Francis: *Horrible Harry, the life of a third grader. The author has gone through the same things as we [as a class] went through.*

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

Alimatou: *Cats. My room.*

Francis: *Giraffe. Waterfalls.*

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

Alimatou: *Listen to their problem and try to comfort them.*

Francis: *Try to understand why they feel what they are feeling.*

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

Alimatou: *Mathematics. Writing short stories in English.*

Francis: *Learning how to ride a bike.*

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

Alimatou: *Understanding people and my studies.*

Francis: *Staying focused on the task at hand.*

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

Alimatou: *A cat.*

Francis: *A guinea pig.*

What is your favourite food?

Alimatou: *Edamame.*

Francis: *Pizza.*

Special **ROBOTICS** SUMMER CAMP



Imagine your children immersed in a world where **technology, creativity, and entertainment** come together.

Give your children an unforgettable adventure with our
Robotics Summer Camp!





For more information and registration, please contact
us at: **+228 93 57 6212** or via email at:
infos@wequipuinternational.com

Join us for a week of discovery, innovation, and fun!
Don't miss this unique opportunity to give your children a
rich and memorable experience. Register now to secure
their spot in our Robotics Summer Camp and be part of
this exceptional technological adventure.