

CONNECT01

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

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NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

Primary

Meet and Greet

During these morning sessions parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's new teachers and assistants, be given important information about the curriculum, trips and day to day routines. It is also an opportunity for you to ask general questions. On Friday 13th all parents are invited to a short talk about the IPC and the way in which we use it at Nexus.

All sessions will start at 9am and will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room on the ground floor.

Here are the dates:

Tuesday 3rd September	Year 5
Wednesday 4th September	Year 4
Thursday 5th September	Year 3
Friday 6th September	Year 2
Monday 9th September	Year 1
Tuesday 10th September	Nursery
Wednesday 11th September	Reception
Friday 13th September	Curriculum talk

Hari Raya Curriculum Day

On Monday (2nd) we invite all learners and parents to attend school in traditional Malay costume. There will be several events during the day when learners are finding out about the festival, including trying a sample of traditional Malay food at lunchtime. We do however still recommend that the learners take their school lunch in addition to the sample of food.

Instrumental Music Demo

On Wednesday all learners from Year 1 onwards will attend a demonstration of different musical instruments in the theatre with the possibility of them joining up to learn how to play.

The format of the afternoon will look like this:

- 1.15pm to 1.45pm Demonstration to Year 1 to Year 3 - Voice, Violin, Piano/Keyboard, Ukulele.
- 1.55pm to 3.15pm Demonstration to Year 4 to Year 13 - A wide range of instruments.

Nexus Neuron and Personal Goals

This week we have been talking with the learners about respect and how it fits into our school playtime and lunchtime rules. Here are some of the things that we discussed:

To show respect to others we should:

- Play sensibly around others
- Play thoughtfully and carefully
- Refrain from hitting, kicking, pushing or pulling others
- Speak to people calmly without shouting

To show respect to our environment we should:

- Play on the equipment that is meant for us
- Swing on the swings if you are below Year 4 and not the gates
- Climb on the climbing equipment and not the fence, gates or playhouse roof
- Only eat at the table or when sitting down
- Tidy away after ourselves and always throw litter in the bin

To show respect to ourselves we should:

- Always wear a hat in the sun
- Stay safe and site of a teacher. Not play in the corridors or classrooms unsupervised
- Ask for a nurses pass and visit the nurse if we feel ill or get injured
- Wait in the classroom or cafeteria to be collected at the end of the school day



The Learners in Year 6 have been looking at adaptability and took part in an activity about tolerance with Ms Tam and the Year 6 teachers. The learners communicated thoughts and ideas on how to become more tolerant of other people. The whole of year 6 shared some very honest thoughts and opinions about people whom they thought were different in the way they looked, spoke and learnt. It was a great opportunity for learners to use the new huge learning space on level 4, which gave them the opportunity to work as an entire year group in one space using the latest audiovisual technology.

Spotlight on Learning in the IPC

This week we are talking to Daniel and Ethan from 4N. The learning goals Y4 are covering are:

- International
- Know about some of the similarities and differences in the homes and habitats
- between our home and host country.

What is your current IPC theme?

Habitats

Why are you learning about that?

Daniel: "It's useful to know where other living things live and find out about different environments. It will help you in your future if you want to visit other countries and environments."

What are you learning about today?

Daniel: "The teacher is actually going to learn from us today because we are sharing information about ourselves."

Ethan: "We will learn how houses look in different countries. We will see how they use different materials because of the different climates."

Daniel: "For example if you used metal to build a house in the North Pole it will be freezing!"



What knowledge/skills are you learning?

Ethan: "We are gaining new knowledge about what houses look like in different countries."

What personal goals have you been working on?

Ethan: "We are using our communication skills because we are going to share and compare our information about houses in different countries. We will have to listen respectfully when our friends answer our questions."

Is it fun?

Daniel: "I like doing this because it gives us a chance to be creative and share information about ourselves also."

Ethan: "I'm really enjoying drawing my house because I like using my art smarts."

Thank you Daniel and Ethan

Learning with the IPC in Year 4

Year 4 took part in a very exciting Entry Point into their topic on Habitats. Whilst watching a clip from the Croods movie about a cave man, a mysterious time machine appeared and started to shake. A caveman had strayed into the time machine whilst trying to find a better shelter than his cave. He described the problems of living in a cave to the learners who then tried to resolve his problem by designing and building shelters using a range of different materials. By the end of the afternoon, the learners could not wait to begin their topic finding out about how and why shelters have changed.



Reminders

Please read the Parent and Learner handbook that was sent last week:
Here are a few reminders from it:

- Shoes
- Learners should wear closed in shoes for outdoor play please. Sandals, flip-flops or open toed shoes are not suitable or safe for outdoor play at school.
- Early Years play area
- Children (of any age) are not allowed to use the play equipment in the EY areas before 8.20am or after the end of school. Children may use the age appropriate equipment in the Hang Out area.
- Morning exercise: Learners have made a good start to the term getting used to the morning routine. As we are encouraging independence we ask that if possible, parents do not follow their Year 2 to Year 6 children up to Morning Exercise in the gym. We find that not all learners are as enthusiastic about joining in the exercise routines if their parents are there.

Secondary

News

Welcome back to everyone this week and welcome to all our new families. We had a great start, as all our learners quickly settled-into their new timetables. The school is rapidly expanding and I am very pleased to say that we now have about 665 learners in the whole school. We are also reaching capacity in some year groups especially in the IGCSE courses. Our IB Diploma Program has greatly expanded to 45 students in Year 12. In addition, as part of the Government's plan to make Malaysia a central hub for educational excellence in Asia, we were selected by the Irian Jaya Ministry of Education who have paid for 10 learners and 2 teachers to stay in our school for one term to learn about our innovative technology based classroom teaching and learning. The Papua learners, who are staying in our Boarding House were selected by the Irian Jaya ministry for their gifted and talented abilities.

Please can I remind all parents to read this year's Parent and Learner Handbook, as it contains important information on communication protocols and dates for different events.

Hari Raya Celebration Day

Monday 2nd September the school will be celebrating Hari Raya. We invite all learners to dress in traditional costume and experience many of the activities, which are taking place. Some of the activities we are going to have are:

1. Ketupat weaving session
2. Photo booth session (Malay traditional costumes)
3. Display of Malay Culture, Food , and religion in the MPR
4. Display from Art, Music and Humanities Dept
5. Malay Traditional Games (gasing, congkak and batu seremban)
6. Cooking session (Roti jala and chicken curry)
7. Malay traditional costume fashion show (secondary cafeteria)

We would like to ask for donations of the following items - traditional cookies e.g. Loyang, bijan, Bahulu, dodol (pre-packed), semprit, etc. These along with other food items will be given to the students on Monday. Please take the items to the PTF Pantry or to Ms. Hidayah in her Bahasa Classroom.

Careers and University Applications

Thursday 5th September, 1pm (location TBC). A representative from UBC (University of British Columbia, Canada) will be visiting the school to take questions and give a short presentation on the University to our learners.

KS4 & 5 Greet and Meet

On Thursday 5th September at 3:15pm to 4:00pm we will hold the Year 10,11,12 & 13 tutor meet and greet. If you would like to meet the tutor of your child, please attend this session for an informal discussion. The meeting will be held in the Multi Purpose Room.

Jeram Basu trip: A gentle reminder that payment for the Year 7 trip to Jeram Basu was due on the 30th August. Please visit the school office on the second floor to make your payment. This is a compulsory trip for all Year 7 learners, please contact me for further information zahedi.l@nexus.edu.my Thank you - Ms Leilah - KS3 Coordinator

Year 12 CAS Induction

On the second day of school, the new batch of Y12's were given a very hands-on introduction to the CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) element of the IB Diploma with an excursion to the Putrajaya Lake for Dragon Boat Racing.

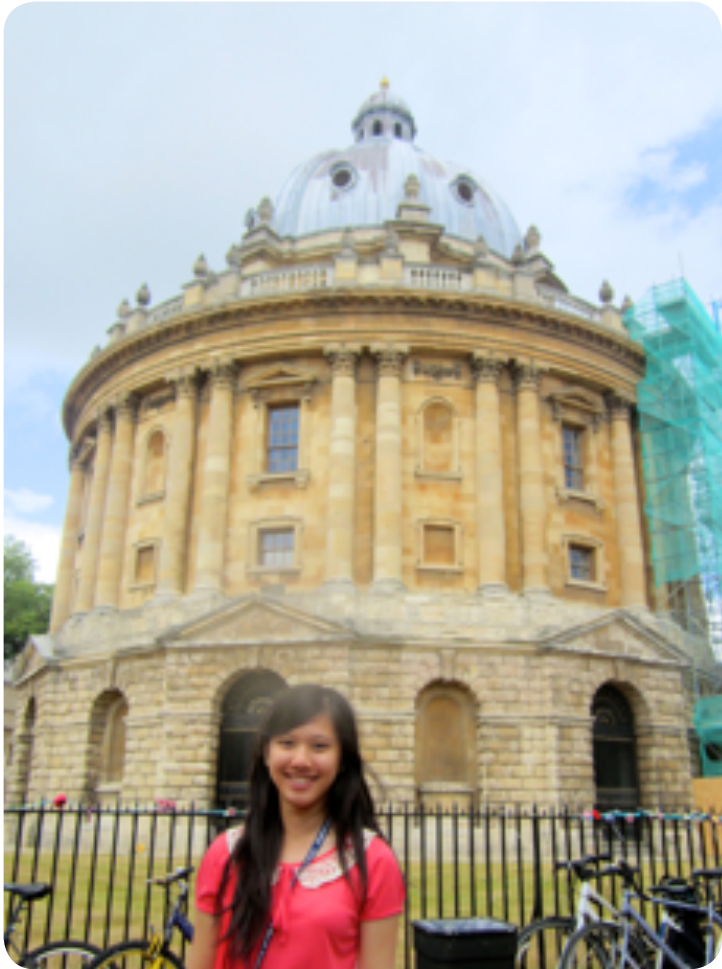


First on the agenda was a water confidence exercise, whereby all learners, safely clad in life-jackets, took a quick swim in the lake. Then, the real fun began! In four teams, the Y12s paddled their dragon boats out into the lake and familiarized themselves with the techniques involved in paddling the boats. After four intense dragon boat races along a 120m stretch of the lake, all learners were exhausted! The Pink Team came in first with the Green Team following closely behind in second place, losing out by mere milliseconds. The Purple Team, which came in third, marked their fine finish with an accidental capsizing of the boat! Needless to say, no learners were hurt but everyone had a good laugh about it. For many learners, dragon boat racing was an entirely new challenge. Nonetheless, everyone embraced it and through systematic communication and cooperation within their respective teams, all learners went on to perform amazingly and have great fun. As a whole, it was an enjoyable day and a great induction to the CAS program!

By Arrisa James (Y12)

Summer in Oxford, UK

The summer of my dreams was no longer a dream, as it came true this summer! The month that I spent in Oxford flew by: it seems just like yesterday when I received two full scholarships to attend two summer programmes in Oxford, the City of Dreaming Spires!



The classes, seminars and lectures that I attended throughout the two summer programmes really stretched my grey matter! They were not only informative, allowing me to learn about issues that we would not necessarily learn in a typical classroom, but also thought-provoking. I had the opportunity to discuss controversial issues such as, 3D printing of organs, the issue of where to draw the line between arts and ethics, as well as the issue pertaining to the effectiveness of austerity measures and fiscal policies in the EU countries. With friends and classmates that I have made in Oxford from all over the world, it was certainly very interesting to listen to different perspectives of different countries about these matters. It also provided an excellent platform for me to learn about other people's countries and cultures.

Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

During my stay in Oxford, learning was not just confined in classrooms of colleges. The visits to the Ashmolean Museum, Pitt Rivers Museum as well as the famous British Museum certainly expanded my horizons. I have learnt a lot from the wealth of artefacts and knowledge confined in these museums, such as the Stadivarius instruments from the Golden Period, Totem Poles, shrunken heads, the Rosetta Stones and the Elgin Marbles (also known as the famous Greek Parthenon)!

To say that I have had an amazing summer in Oxford is certainly an understatement and I don't think any single word can encapsulate the wonderful moments and experiences that I have had: punting in the rain in River Cherwells, having my fair share of Ben's cookies and Moo-moo's milkshake in Covered Market, visiting Christchurch's dining hall, which was replicated in Hogwarts Great Hall of the Harry Potter films, watching the Lion King in West End, walking to the college in the rain in Oxford, playing a game of croquet, visiting the Old Sheep Shop that was in Carroll's Alice in the Wonderland and the long list goes on... This summer has given me a taster of living abroad, broadened my horizons, enriched my life with not only cherished memories, but also friendships of a lifetime with friends from all over the world as well as a better understanding of the world.

By (Nicole) Lee Yen Yi

IB World Student Conference

This summer I travelled to Hong Kong to attend Asia's first IB World Student Conference at Hong Kong University from 11 to 16 August 2013 under a scholarship by the university. It was an honour to be selected as one of the winners of the competitive video-making competition organized by the university.

I applied to attend this conference because the conference theme-iResponsibility: Explore How We Engage in the Online World- appealed to me. As an IB student whose daily routine and studies revolve around using online tools, I was very excited to meet IB students from all corners of the world to discuss about this increasingly important piece of technology at Asia's number one university.



Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

With 150 IB students from 26 different countries including US, New Zealand, Bosnia, Spain, China, France, Taiwan, Vietnam South Africa and Fiji, this IB conference provided me the golden opportunity to network with global IB students. Housed at the Residential College of Hong Kong University, I shared rooms with my Korean roommate. With neighbours from India, United Arab Emirates and Japan, it was truly a wonderful experience being able to immerse myself in this cultural melting pot. In short, student life at the Residential College was amazing!



The content of this conference was absorbing and thought-provoking. One of my favourite talks was 'Social Media and News: How to be a Discerning News Consumer' by Mr Masato Kajimoto from the Journalism and Media Studies department of the university. He revealed that social media users today are becoming more like journalists because they constantly update news onto their social medias. We used to rely on news broadcasting companies for news- now, the tables have turned and news agencies are depending on us social media users for newsworthy information through our Tweets and Facebook posts. I was also taught to question the reliability of new sources, where we might be easily duped by sites such as The Onion, a news satire organization, who mischievously named Kim Jong Un as 2012's Sexiest Man Alive. Such talks were really insightful and it reflected the IB learner profile of being an inquirer and critical thinker.

Another highlight of this conference is the Global Cultural Show. It was a very culturally vibrant and entertaining night as we took turns to perform our cultures through dancing, singing, acting and playing musical instruments. My group performed the New Zealand Haka dance, a Maori ceremonial war dance involving chanting that is now performed by the New Zealand All Blacks rugby teams before a match. I had an amazing time learning the chant and dance moves and have learnt to appreciate this unique culture. Again, I can relate to an IB learner profile- risk takers. On the following days, we had the opportunity to visit some of Hong Kong's finest tourist attractions such as The Peak and Ocean Park, though the strong typhoon winds were a bit of a disruption!

Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.



In the spirit of CAS, we brainstormed ideas for CAS activities that incorporate knowledge about the online world that we learnt during the conference. We had to sell our idea and get as many people as possible to vote for our proposal. My group proposed a project involving raising funds to improve pet shelters.

This mock project involved selling T-shirts, wristbands and brownies on niche social medias, sites that target a specific audience, which we learnt about during our seminars. Our creativity, persuasiveness and presentational skills were definitely tested in this activity. It was good fun listening to ideas from a variety of perspectives.

All in all, the IB World Student Conference at Hong Kong University was an amazing experience for me. I met like-minded students, made long-lasting friendships, immersed myself in cultural vibrancy and gained insightful knowledge on the online world. I would definitely recommend attending an IB World Student Conference to any IB students. Conferences will take place at University of Queensland in Australia, McGill University in Canada and University of Bath in the UK in 2014.

What are you waiting for?

By Bryan Chen (13N)

Boarding House

Experiences in Boarding

This is my first year at Nexus International School, and also my first experience in boarding. My first impression of the Nexus Boarding house was that it was a very spacious place that had provided us with various activities. When I first walked in, I was greeted by a lot of wonderful and kind teachers and house parents. I also became close to a lot of new boarders that are in the same year as me.

After a few days living here, I've become closer to my roommates and I learned to like the food. At first the only meal I liked was Lunch and dinner but soon I got used to the breakfast here. We have so many activities to do during our free time. There's a Ping-Pong table and a billiard table. I haven't had the opportunity to play yet but hopefully I will soon. I hope that the rest of the year would always be filled with fun activities.

By Permata (Year 10)

Being in a boarding house for the first time is an interesting experience. So far I've been enjoying my time here. The people I live with here are very helpful. They are definitely great when I need help on anything or have questions that I want to ask. I am enjoying my time here although in boarding the boarders have breakfast every morning. As much as breakfast is an important meal I don't usually eat breakfast and I have to cope with it. The other thing that I'm trying to manage is my bedtime because I used to have a really late bedtime. But despite those things I'm really enjoying my time here.

By Aranti Sati (Year 10)

ELL Information

I hope you've all had a restful break and are all set to start the new year. There have been many exciting changes in and around the school, one of which is the ELL department. Learning Support and English as an Additional Language have merged to form the Extended Language and Learning department or ELL. We will still be working in close partnership with teachers to ensure that all learners are extended and able to achieve their potential.

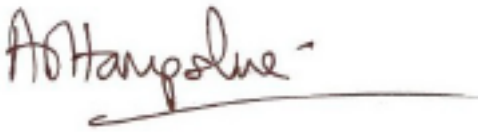
Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

我们希望大家度过了一个愉快的暑假，并且已准备好要开始新的学年！学校在新的学年里有许多变化，而其中一个是我们的ELL部门。我们之前的EAL部门与学习协助部门在今年共和，成为了我们的ELL部门。我们还是会与老师们密切地合作以确保学生们可以达到以及好好发挥他们的内在潜能。

Saya berharap anda semua telah mempunyai masa rehat yang mencukupi dan telah bersedia untuk memulakan tahun yang baru. Terdapat pelbagai perubahan yang baru di sekolah, antaranya termasuk jabatan ELL ini. Skema Bantuan Pembelajaran dan Bahasa Inggeris Sebagai Bahasa Tambahan telah digabungkan untuk membentuk jabatan Bahasa Lanjutan dan Pembelajaran ataupun ELL. Kami akan bekerjasama dengan guru-guru bagi memastikan semua pelajar dapat mencapai potensi mereka.

Ms. Angela and The ELL Team

Regards,



Alison Hampshire
Principal