

CONNECT15

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

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**Approved as an ABRSM
practical exam centre for 2014.**



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NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

Christmas Celebrations

The school council would like to announce that on **Monday 16th all learners may come to school in their Christmas clothes** (red or green). A donation for doing so is recommended and will go towards the Philippine appeal.

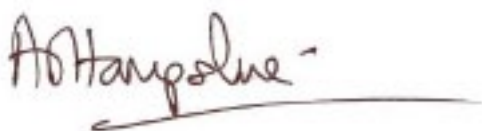
There will be a **performance from the Early Years learners, beginning at 9am** in the Theatre. Our friends from Myanmar will also join us, sing a few Christmas songs and be presented with their Christmas gifts from us.

Later in the day **Santa will be doing his annual visits to classes**, with some special treats.

Last Day

Please note that Tuesday is our last day and all learners will finish at 12pm. Farewell and good luck to all those families who will be leaving for other schools in other countries and in January we will also be welcoming a number of new families to the Nexus community. For those returning in January, have a restful break and see you in Term 2 for some more great learning.

Regards,



Alison Hampshire

Principal



Primary

Nexus Gains Mastering Status

After almost two years of reviewing and refining the way we use the IPC at Nexus to improve children's learning we were recently accredited as a Mastering school.

This is no small feat and **we are currently the only school in Malaysia to achieve this level** of accreditation. We now join a select number of schools around the world that have this status.

We are absolutely thrilled to have earned the accolade and congratulations go to the whole Nexus community, including many parents, who contributed.

Below are 9 criterions:

1. A clear focus on children's learning.
2. Shared outcomes about the kinds of children we are helping to develop.
3. Implementation of classroom practices that help children develop as we would like.
4. International Mindedness.
5. An appropriate balance between knowledge, skills and reflection leading to understanding.
6. Appropriately rigorous children's learning and teachers' high expectations of it.
7. Implementation of the brain-friendly elements of the IPC.
8. Implementation of themes through integrated yet separate subjects.
9. Assessment and evaluation that supports and informs learning rather than dictates it.

Swimming Notice

There will be no Swimming next week. Next Term swimming will be:

- Every week for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
- First half term for Year 3 & Year 5.
- Second half term for Year 4 & 6.

Year 3 Dinosaurs Theme

Year 3 learners have been very busy with their learning around the Dinosaurs theme. Amongst other things they have made some **fantastic 3D models of dinosaurs** and have shared and collaborated using Google in many ways to improve their learning, peer assessing their work against 'Top Tips'. All learners used similes to help to describe dinosaur claws, teeth, skin and eyes. Please **visit the Year 3 website** to see examples of the learning that is happening in Year 3.

Craft Sale Raises Almost 1000RM !!!

Congratulations to everyone who helped raised the staggering amount 954RM. We still have a few batiks to sell, so I am sure we will make the 1000RM. The learners, staff and parents worked very hard to make, pack and sell the items. We have decided to use the money raised to buy things for the children flood victims in Kuantan. EY1 will be going to Alamanda on Friday and they will buy the needed items. A lorry will come to school on Friday to collect the goods to take them to the needed areas.

Thank you to every one and what a lot of learning went on!

Secondary

Old Newspapers Collection

The Secondary Art department would like to appeal for Newspapers as we are starting a paper mache project with the Year 9's, and to cover the table while painting. We also recycle the Newspapers for paper making and printing activities. Please send them to the Secondary **Art room (122 or 123)** anytime during school hours. All contributions are highly appreciated.

Rules For Returning Secondary Learners

Once a learner has officially left the school, they are more than welcome to come back to visit. **However, they must ask permission in advance.** This can be done by email or by telephoning the school. Please direct all communication to the Head of Secondary. Returning learners are only allowed in the school for one afternoon annually starting from 1pm, we prefer if they only stay for lunch, as they are likely to disrupt the learning of our current learners if they join the afternoon classes. We need to know in advance so that we can inform security and our teachers.

School Uniform

All learners should wear the correct school uniform whilst in school. It has been noted recently that some learners are not changing back into their school uniform after PE. This is not school policy and is unhygienic. If learners come to school in their PE uniform as they have PE for their first lesson, they must also bring their school uniform to change into after PE.

Year 9 Parent Teacher Conference

The Year 9 PTC will be held in the **MPR** on **Wednesday 8th January** from **3:30pm** to **5:00pm**. Please make an appointment via your child. Year 9 Learners have been given a sign-up sheet. Learners are expected to make 5-minute appointments with each subject teacher as soon as possible.



CAS Reflections: “Ann Yap”

Recently, I've participated two overseas fencing competitions: Perth and Singapore. I've met new friends, learnt new tactics and most importantly experienced something I wouldn't normally get in Malaysia. My team and I received a Silver Medal for team events in Perth. It was an experience I can never forget because it was my first time fencing against the Australians. Singapore was definitely challenging because the fencers there are well prepared and strong. While fencing, I realised the amount of skills, stamina and strength that was needed to compete with them and I realised my current progress was insufficient to compete with them.

Despite my terrible performance in Singapore, it has definitely motivated me to train harder. Never giving up is an important thing in Fencing. I realised that no matter how far the point differences is, if I don't give up, nothing is impossible. My coach told me to work on my lunges and posture because these two are the key positions in fencing. If any of these went wrong, I will be unstable and fall. Working on my posture and lunges will be my focus for the next few weeks.

Overall, I really enjoyed fencing fencers in different countries because it provided me with new ideas and tactics to use.



Reflection Of Taiwanese Exchange Programme

Our school has been privileged to have the opportunity to welcome Taiwanese learners and teachers to Nexus on an exchange programme.

On the 4th of December, 24 learners and 4 teachers from the Taiwan Chudong Junior High School visited our school. On the first day, the Nexus learners and the Taiwanese learners engaged in an ICT project, where the learners either interviewed the teachers in Nexus or made an introductory video to a lesson in Nexus. As the learners were able to use both English and Mandarin to conduct and record the videos, they were able to apply their knowledge of the language to a real life situation. An interview with Ms Alison, Mr Steven, Mr Martyn and Ms Wong was filmed by the Nexus TV Production team. This was an interview regarding the exchange programme.

On the second day, the Taiwanese and Nexus learners were involved in a treasure hunt organised by the Year 12 IB Mandarin learners. The learners had fun in this activity as they were able to work in teams with their new friends to solve various quizzes. (Lee Jia-An, 13N)

Last week, the Taiwanese learners from Chudong School came to Nexus International School Putrajaya for a student exchange programme. Two Year 13 students and 3 Year 12 students from Nexus TV Production team interviewed Ms Alison, Mr Steven, Mr Martyn and Ms Wong as well as Mr Wu from Chudong School, Taiwan about this student exchange programme between Nexus International School Putrajaya, Malaysia and Chudong School, Taiwan. This was a great CAS opportunity as learners got to interact with the interviewees while the other learners filmed the interview. (Lee Yen Yi, 13N)

Accessing Learner Reports From Home

From today, 12th December, Parents will be able to have access to their child's/children's Academic Reports from home, through the Internet. A letter with the procedures and passwords will be sent to each parent, please keep this confidential. We are unable to give these procedures or parental passwords to learners, due to the confidentiality of the academic reports. If you have problems accessing your child's/children's report data, then please contact ict@nexus.edu.my

Arrangements For The Last Week Of Term

On Monday we have our "mufti Christmas themed day" this means that learners can wear non-uniform and should come to school dressed in the colours of red and green. We ask each learner to contribute a small amount of money that will go towards a charity chosen by the student council. On Tuesday 17th the Secondary school have their end of Term 1 achievement assembly, parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. The assembly will be in the theatre and starts at 10:20am to 11:30am. All learners can leave the school at 12:00pm midday. There will be no lunches served on Tuesday and the buses will leave no later than 12:20pm, please ensure your children are collect at 12:00pm. Term 2 commences as normal at 8:35am on Monday 6th January. We wish all our parents and learners an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

PE Notices

As we approach the Christmas break and bring an end to what has been an incredible first term of sport at Nexus, The end of year achievement assembly on Tuesday provides us with a good opportunity to look back on some of the individuals and teams that have worn the Nexus colours over the last 14 weeks, but first lets take a look how our teams got on this past week.

U15 Rugby

Sunday 8th December saw the new U15 Rugby team play there first competitive games in the ISAC U15 Rugby. Under the watchful eye of Mr Matt, the boys had a successful day beating KLASS and ISKL. They currently sit 3rd in the table with 1 weekend of fixtures remaining. Good luck to all involved on January 11th.

Indoor Athletics

On Monday 9th, the Primary school took part in the first ever Nexus Indoor athletics competition. All learners from Nursery through to Year 6 were involved. Parents were invited and showed up in their masses to support what was a fun yet competitive event. 67 races took place in total, from 1 lap sprints to 4 person obstacle relays but in the end only one class (N, E or X) could claim the trophy. This years winner of the Nexus Indoor Athletics competition for 2014 is.....X! Well done to everyone involved, in what was a fantastic event!



Senior Girls Basketball

The senior girls basketball team completed back-to-back victories on Monday here at Nexus. After beating KLASS away from home last Tuesday our girls pipped AISM 26-25 after a match winning basket from Wen Wen in the dying seconds. It was an exciting game that went to the wire...well done girls!

U15 Girls Basketball

Tuesday was the turn of the U15 girls basketball team. They were matched against ISKL 'A' and 'B' teams in a double header in Ampang. The girls fought hard in their first match but lost out to the more physical and experienced ISKL 'A' team. The girls were clearly hurt by this defeat and bounced back to inflict a 23 - 0 defeat on ISKL 'B'. Highlights included a typically feisty display from Azalea and wonderful 3 pointer from Lih. Our girls get chance to play the ISKL 'A' team again on Thursday 12th December here at Nexus.

Don't Forget

In January our Secondary basketball teams compete for medals, as they complete their respective seasons, as do the U15 Boys rugby team. Meanwhile, our Primary learners get chance to lace up their boots as they kick-off their football season with 4 teams in action through January, February and March. Athletics begins in January also, with the introduction of the whole-school athletics CCA on Tuesday afternoons. Please sign-up if you are interested in running, jumping or throwing for Nexus at the upcoming Track and Field events.

Don't forget you can keep updated with all the information regarding every single fixture and event at the Sports fixtures calendar by clicking on the link below.

[http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=smith.a%40nexus.edu.my&ctz=Asia/Kuala Lumpur](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=smith.a%40nexus.edu.my&ctz=Asia/Kuala_Lumpur)

Thank you for all your effort and enthusiasm this term. I wish you a restful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. From Mr. Andy



Music News

Piano Recital Friday 6th December 2014

At 3.30pm on Friday 6th December Miss Sam's learners took part in a Piano Recital in the Drama Studio.

It was a lovely, warm informal affair with an audience of mainly parents and staff. Well done to all the learners who played, you did a wonderful job and did yourselves and Nexus proud. Some recording from the concert will go on to the Music Department website over the weekend.

Thank you Miss Sam for organising it.

Mr. Jose

I am very happy to inform you that Mr Jose woke up from his medically induced coma on Thursday. He is lucid and was able to speak. Only time will tell how quickly he will recover further but this is a real positive step in the right direction for him.

Our fondest thoughts and good wishes are with him and his family.

Dates For Your Diaries

3rd Feb	Instrumental Reports go out to parents
18th Feb	Instrumental Parents' Evening
19th Feb	Auditions for Senior Spring Concert
20th Feb	KS4 & 5 Drama Production
12th March	Senior Spring Concert
9th & 10th April	Bugsy Malone - The Musical

Why Study Music?

"Musicians Are Quicker At Correcting Mistakes"...

<http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/arts/news/musicians-quicker-at-correcting-mistakes-study-1-3115611>



ABRSM Exam Centre

Great news, we have just heard that we have been accredited as a school as an **ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music) Exam Centre**.

Drama News

After a successful term of Drama trips and rehearsals for our **Musical 'Bugsy Malone'**, it's time for our learners to enjoy a well-earned holiday and learn their lines! We will be sending out a list of costumes and props needed for the show very soon. Please look out for anything on the list over the next couple of months; 'Bugsy Malone' is set in late 1920's New York if you'd like inspiration!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for support and wish you all a lovely holiday.
Ms Rachel

ELL Information

Play Board Games With Your Children Over the Holiday

As the holiday break rapidly approaches, families are busy planning activities for their children. Why not add some family time playing board games? Board games provide quality, non-rushed time together for family members. Most board games also provide important learning experiences. When you play games as a family you are teaching your children many important skills including communicating, sharing, waiting, taking turns and healthy competition. For younger children, games can help them focus and lengthen their attention span. Older children also enjoy board games and they can learn new skills and increase their problem solving abilities. Board games can be educational, challenging, and fun for all members of the family.

There are many websites that help families select games that match the ages and interests of their children. Some of these are:

[http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Best Board Games/](http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Best_Board_Games/)

<http://toys.about.com/od/games/tp/New-Board-Games-For-Kids.htm>

<http://www.mindware.com/c/educational-games-for-young-children/11>

<http://pollyc.hubpages.com/hub/best-board-games-families-with-older-children>



This crossword was created by learners in Year 7 during a recent game of Bananagrams. Bananagrams is similar to Scrabble but it is much played at much faster pace.