

# CONNECT02

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**NEXUS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

# Whole School

## CIS International Accreditation



I am delighted to announce that Nexus International School Putrajaya has been accredited by the Council of International Schools with immediate effect.

Gaining this prestigious accreditation has been a three year long process and I would like to thank the staff at Nexus for all their hard work over this time.

The Council of International Schools (CIS) is a global non-profit membership organisation that provides services to schools, higher education institutions and individuals focused on international education.

Schools that have achieved a mark of high quality and rigour gain **CIS International Accreditation**. This recognition signifies that the school has completed a comprehensive self-study and international peer review as part of a continuous improvement process focusing on standards and indicators that promote the development of student knowledge, skills, attributes and actions aligned with the CIS definition of Global Citizenship. Colleges and universities worldwide acknowledge that a CIS Accredited School meets internationally-agreed and recognised standards and develops global citizens with the qualities and skills that they are seeking in students.

CIS International Accreditation is recognised by the National Association of Independent Schools (USA), and by many government and non-government agencies around the world.

Extracts from the report:

“The Visiting Team witnessed a high level of **student**

**engagement**, student support from teachers and teaching assistants, with the focus being on individualised learning. Observations of students demonstrated them to be **engaged** in discussions about their learning and next steps and how they are able to take **responsibility** for their own learning. This is further enhanced by the ELL department’s support of students to **access** the curriculum. **Enquiry-based** learning is evident throughout Primary and Middle Schools, which allows students to have control over their own learning journey. The use of **ICT** is firmly embedded within the curriculum and students are comfortable with its use. The use of interactive technology assists students to engage through visual media and activities are designed to meet varying **learning styles**.

In the Primary School it was observed that the **Nexus Neuron** substantially overarched the Teaching and Learning programme and that it was used to actively drive student learning. The IGCSEs provide an appropriate level of **challenge** and there were good examples of the use of **critical thinking skills**. The IB Diploma offers a **wide range** of subjects that all embed ideas of **global citizenship**. They observed many **excellent IB lessons**, a great **relationship** between teachers and students and many examples of enthusiastic teachers and engaged learners. There is significant evidence of intercultural **harmony** in the relationships between parents, students and staff.

The Visiting Team was also impressed with the facilities and specialised equipment which is made available to learners. The Visiting Team was impressed with the emphasis and investment in professional development for staff”.

Initially we will be looking forward at financial donations. Once a clearer picture of the requirements on the ground becomes apparent we may look to collect resources required in the relief effort.



## NEPAL EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

On Saturday 25 April a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. It severely shook the lives of at least 5.3m people & left many homeless. Nepal's major cities, including the capital Kathmandu, have been badly damaged & rural areas near the epicentre have been completely cut off by avalanches & Landslides. Already over 3000 people have been confirmed dead & the figure is likely to rise significantly in the coming days. Even those whose homes are still standing are sleeping in the streets because they are terrified by regular aftershocks. Many agencies are working urgently to provide emergency shelter, food, clean water & blankets. Once immediate, life-saving needs met they will work with individuals, families & communities to support them to rebuild their lives.

**How can we help? We will update you when a decision has been made about we will support the relief effort but starting next week we will be collecting donations with classrooms & at the payment counter in the administration office.**

**If anyone has any fundraising activities that may extend to the wider community. Please contact Ms Claire Heap or Mr Steven Maniam  
heap.c@nexus.edu.my | maniam.s@nexus.edu.my**

## The Star Online: School Gets Award for Digital Engagement and Teaching



NEXUS International School Putrajaya recently received the Apple Distinguished Award from Apple Inc for its use of technology to enhance and deepen learning across the whole school.

The Apple Distinguished School designation at Nexus is valid from 2015 - 2017.

It is reserved for programmes that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments.

“At Nexus we believe young people today must learn to be adaptable in a fast-changing world,” said school principal Alison Hampshire.

“Being digitally literate in our technological age is critical and in order to prepare our learners for success, we have identified and embedded the competencies, mindsets and skills we want them to develop in the learning experiences.

“The selection of Nexus International School as an Apple Distinguished School highlights our success as an innovative and compelling learning place that engages students and provides tangible evidence of

academic accomplishment.”

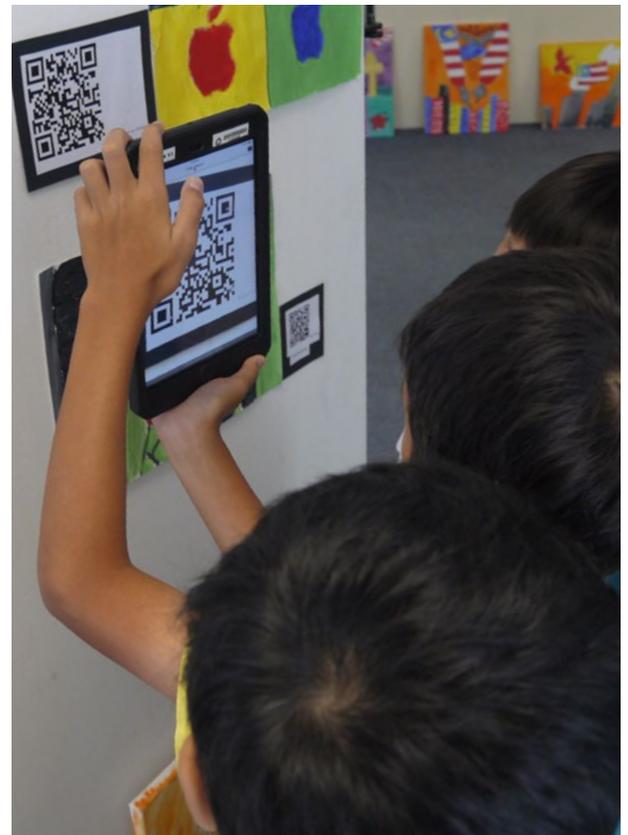
Hampshire said students at Nexus are called learners' for a reason, as they are actively involved in the process of finding, creating and understanding content.

Established in 2008, Nexus International School Putrajaya presently has an enrolment of some 730 students aged between three and 18 who represent 40 nationalities.



**Distinguished  
School**

Reference: <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Education/2015/05/03/School-gets-award-for-digital-engagement-and-teaching/>



# Primary

EARLY YEARS EXIT POINT:

## AQUARIA KLCC MALAYSIA

Active learning and fun is happening to the very last minute of each topic in Early Years! So was the exit point for the Sand and water topic.

All learners were extremely excited and fully focused during our trip to the KLCC Aquarium. Learners had an opportunity to consolidate their learning, but at the same time they gathered more facts about their specific interest. For example, we found out that the giant ink octopus eats mackerel. We watched how it was fed. We also had a chance to see a real electric eel, as it was the center of interest for many children. Giant carps, stingrays, turtles, sharks and various small sea creatures swam directly above our heads as we were passing through the water tunnel.

Early Years are ready for their final topic this academic year! Well done everyone for great learning!



## Guidelines for Parents in school

These have been updated and sent to all parents via email. Please inform us if you have not received them.

## Year 4. From Tree to Treat



The Year 4 learners had a very unusual experience last week during their Entry Point for the IPC theme 'Chocolate'. Over three lessons the learners got the chance to experience the working conditions of people at different stages of the process of turning cacao beans into chocolate "From Tree to Treat": the cacao farmer; the chocolate factory worker and the advertising executive. The following lesson was spent reflecting on their feelings during the activities, to enable them greater empathy for the people such as cacao farmers in preparation for the introduction of the concept of Fair Trade.

The learners decided that farmers worked very hard in hot conditions and that they deserved to get paid well for their hard work. Many felt the farmers deserved more pay than the factory workers and advertising executives. They

were shocked to learn that many farmers don't get a fair price for their cacao beans and don't have enough money to buy food and clothes for their families. The learners felt it was very unfair that sometimes children are made to work on farms without pay because the farmer hasn't got money to pay farm workers.



The Year 4 children showed how resilient they could be and used their flexible thinking skills when they put themselves in other people's shoes.

This week learners have tried fresh cacao beans, raw

chocolate and a raw chocolate drink. The response to the various unfamiliar forms of chocolate was mixed; many learners really enjoyed eating the fleshy, sweet cacao fruit but found raw chocolate and the chocolate drink too bitter.



## Year 5 Collaborative Languages Learning day with Alice Smith

On Wednesday all of the year 5 learners went for the day to Alice Smith to take part in a collaborative learning day. After having arrived, both sets of learners performed dances, sang songs and recited poetry at a welcome assembly in Bahasa Malaysia, Mandarin, French and Spanish.



Next up was a QR code treasure hunt where our learners were put in teams with their Alice Smith counterparts and raced around the school following clues hidden in QR codes in all 4 languages.



After lunch we had a Nexus vs Alice Smith Language Perfect tournament where learners had to answer as many vocabulary questions as possible in all 4 languages in an hour.

The day was a tremendous

success and all of the learners thoroughly enjoyed themselves and all learned some new language skills. They also worked collaboratively with other people which they excelled in and we are looking forward to building on all these skills in our LOTE lessons.



## Young Performers' Concert Poster Competition

The Young Performers' Concert is taking place on Thursday May 21st at 7pm, and we're looking for a creative design to advertise the event on posters around the school.

Learners in Year 4 - 9 are invited to submit an entry to our Poster Competition, and they have received an email about this. The closing date is **Monday May 11th**, and the winning design will be announced soon after this date.

# Secondary

## CAS Reflection By Nicholas, Jie Chin

At the start of the year, I volunteered as a part time teacher in Promise Home, a Christian organization which serves as a second home to unprivileged Orang Asli (Malaysian aboriginal) children. The purpose of this organization is to provide education for these children, raising their chances of being able to be enrolled into public schools in Malaysia- as they may not receive the sufficient education they need back at home. Therefore, the part time volunteers and teachers serve in promise home to help tuition the children in subject of Bahasa Melayu, Math and English.



As a part-time volunteer, I visit Promise Home twice a week for an hour. Initially, I was unsure of how to communicate with these children due to our cultural differences, having come from villages in rural parts of Malaysia. However, to my surprise, these children were extremely enthusiastic the moment the lessons started and did not at all seem to bother about our differences but embraced diversity between both student and teacher.

The first two students I was assigned to mentor was Nisan (9) and Ka Seng (8), which were both very excited when I first introduced myself to them. Although they could speak proficient Malay, however they struggled to read and write. We started of with the alphabets, which

they remembered based on the familiar song, but couldn't when I changed the sequence of the letters. Though it was a slow process at first, gradually they could recognize the alphabets on sight and could write them without peeking at the book. We progressed to suku kata (pronunciation of words) and simple sentences after they were confident with words.

It was not just the achievement of helping Nisan and Ka Seng in learning something that made me proud, but more of the friendship we built despite being teacher and student. Instead of being known to them as a teacher, I was glad that they saw me as more of a friend, being able to have conversations freely as if putting behind the authority of a teacher to a student. Furthermore, these children knew not of discrimination, and did not care what the color of the skin of others were, but treated everyone with equal respect regardless of race. To me, this was the most valuable experience that I had picked up from volunteering in this children's home, along with the pride of teaching these children how to read and write.

Promise Home to me is not simply just a chore to complete the CAS, but instead a discipline and a responsibility to fulfil. The name 'Promise Home' does not carry an empty meaning, but as a volunteer, it is my duty to unlock the potential in these children of promise.



# PE NEWS

The Music Department and learners provided With the first sports fixtures of the new term happening this week we are a little light on results and photos for school teams, however during the half-term ex-pupil Alexander Marichal represented the Flemish Representative Rugby team at a multi-country event in Brussels. We should all celebrate Alexander's selection in the team and also his shiny bronze medal for finishing third overall. A fantastic achievement!



Thanks also must go to Sofie and Bart (Mum and Dad) for the photos.

## Terry Fox Run 2015



This years Terry Fox run has been scheduled on the 15th June. It is complimenting the International Day celebrations that the PTA have planned. The start of the race will be 8.45am and we should be all finished for 9.30am.

The sign-up to buy your Terry Fox run T-Shirts will be sent out soon via email. Please donate as much as you can to this very worthy cause. Last year 2 local cancer charities received large cheques from the money raised. With your help, hopefully we'll be able to do the same again this year.

## Sports Fixtures for May

U15 Boys Badminton at ISKL Bus leaves at 6.30am Returns at 5pm approx U15 Girls Basketball at KLASS Bus leaves at 7.15am Returns at 5pm approx	Sat 9
U9 and U11 Boys Football at Nexus Kick off at 4.30pm	Tue 12
Yr5 and Yr6 T'Ball at Nexus First game at 4.30pm	Wed 13
U13 Girls Volleyball at ISP Bus leaves at 3.00pm U13 Boys Volleyball at Tenby Bus leaves at 3.00pm	Thu 14
Primary Team Badminton at ISP Bus leaves at 6.30am Returns at 5pm approx U15 Boys Touch at Nexus Kick-off at 8.30am	Sat 16
Yr5 and Yr6 T'Ball at Nexus First game at 4.30pm	Tue 19
U9 Boys Tball at ISP Bus leaves at 2.30pm	Wed 20
U15 Boys Badminton at ISP Bus leaves at 3.10pm	Thu 21
Team Badminton at Tenby Bus leaves at 6.45am U15 Boys Touch at Nexus Kick-off at 8.30am	Sat 23
Nexus Triathlon Volunteer registration at 6.30am	Sun 24

Please check the sports fixtures Google calendar for the latest information regarding sports fixtures. The information above is liable to change.

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**Book Covering  
BLITZ**

**When: Wed 13 May**

**Anytime from  
8.35 am to 3.10 pm**

**Where:  
Library @ Level 2**



**Dear parents,**

**Your help is  
needed again to  
cover library books**

**No prior experience?**  
**No problem,  
as training  
will be provided**

# MUSIC NEWS

## Why Study Music?

"The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact that music can make beautiful children."  
- Cheryl Lavender



## Young Performers' Concert on Thursday 21 May

We have our Young Performers' Concert on 21 May to showcase our younger learners who are in Year 9 and below.

If you would like to take part then please sign up on the form here before Saturday 9th May:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MRL56B01C6QkXdR5UAUYoE-0TY1h56LzA4kU8IT9XuY/edit>

Tickets will be available in a weeks time, more details to follow.

## Y7 Musicals 3rd, 10th and 17th June

On the 3rd, 10th and 17th June we are putting on 3 Musicals performed by the 3 Y7 classes.

If any parents are skilled in set building, painting or prop making/sourcing then we would really appreciate your help.

Please contact Mr Tim, [costello.t@nexus.edu.my](mailto:costello.t@nexus.edu.my) or Mr Jason [HUDSON.J@NEXUS.EDU.MY](mailto:HUDSON.J@NEXUS.EDU.MY)

## Dates For Your Diaries

Mon 11 May	Trial for the Suitability of Pieces for the Young Performers' Concert
Thu 21 May	Young Performers' Concert 7pm in the Theatre
Wed 3 Jun	First Y7 Whole Class Musical 7pm in the Theatre - Class TBC
Wed 10 Jun	Second Y7 Whole Class Musical 7pm in the Theatre - Class TBC
Wed 17 Jun	Third Y7 Whole Class Musical 7pm in the Theatre - Class TBC
* Wed 24 Jun	ABRSM Music Practical Exam @ Nexus
* Thu 25 Jun	Rock Concert - 7pm in the Theatre

## Lunchtime Music Clubs

**ALL WELCOME! No Invitation Needed! Just Come Along and have FUN!**

Primary	
Mon	Recorder Group with Miss Ann
	String Group (Violins, Cellos) with Mr Mervin
	Guitar Group with Mr Afiq & Mr Hafiz
Tue	Drumming Group with Mr Jared
Wed	Flute Group with Miss Yem Voon
	Ukulele Group with Miss Ann
	(After School) Clarinet Group for ALL Learners with Miss Kit
Thu	Primary String Group (Violins and Cellos) with Mr Mervin
Fri	Primary Singing Group with Miss Ann & Miss Audrey

Secondary	
Mon	Drumming Group with Mr Jared & Mr Tim
Tue	Guitar Group with Mr Afiq
	Brass Group with Mr Gerold
	(CCA After School) Jazz Band with Mr Tim & Mr Steve
Wed	Flute Group with Miss Yem Voon
	Fun Vocal Group (Acapella/ accompanied singing, 3/4 part singing) with Mr Steve & Mr Tim & Miss Audrey
	Guitar Groups with Mr Hafiz
	(After School) Clarinet Group for ALL Learners with Miss Kit
Thu	Senior String Group (Violins, Cellos) with Mr Mervin
	Jazz Band/Group with Mr Tim
	(CCA After School) Music & Theatre Technology Club with Mr Tim & Mr Tom
Fri	String Orchestra with Mr Steve & Mr Mervin

## What's On

Pan Productions are staging the award-winning musical 'Cabaret' at KLPAC (<http://www.klpac.org/?p=14452>) on **May 8 - 17**. Suitable for adults and older learners, this tale of a cabaret performer and her affair with a novelist is set against the backdrop of 1931 Berlin, when the impending war looms large.

