

CONNECT 19

22 Jan Issue, Term 2 (2015-2016)



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
PUTRAJAYA

CONGRATULATIONS !



The results of the November exams are out for Cambridge and we are delighted to report that in his eternal quest for A*s Shailinder Singh (Year 12) has achieved that in Additional Mathematics. And Johana Jarkulischova (Year 11) gained A* for French.

This is excellent news and well done to the learners and their teachers.

CAS REFLECTION

Events council

During the meetings for the summer bash, we discussed about activities that year 7-9 would enjoy and I suggested that we use paint power. The aim of the summer bash was to allow the younger years to have fun because they weren't included in the end of year dance. Therefore, this event is planned specially for them to have fun at the end of the year, welcoming summer. Since I was new to student council, I did not give as much suggestions as I could because I felt shy. This was a nice experience working as a group because we were all there to help each other out with things like, getting dinner ready for the younger years, preparing the paint powder, making sure that they had fun and cleaning up after the event in the watching stand etc.

In the summer bash, I suggested the use of paint powder and helped prepare the food for the younger years. During the process planning, watching experienced people such as Fiona has helped me consider minor things such as food they would like, what kind of activities would interest them, what music would they like etc.

The ethics of planning an activity like this was making sure that the dress codes, the food etc did not offend their religion.

Jia Miao Lee
Year 13



Grease Review

“Grease IS The Word!”

The email popped into my inbox back at the start of the school year. I was absolutely dying to check it out, because I'd been waiting for this – I knew it was coming. I was thrilled to read that the school would be putting on Grease this year. I had to audition. It was my first time auditioning for a school musical despite my age because I know it's something that I'm passionate about and it's something that I love to do. Somehow, I managed to get through the audition, but initially I wasn't cast. I was a member of the chorus with the responsibility of understudy for someone else's role; however, after several rehearsals, I was promoted to the key role of Patty Simcox.

This didn't disappoint me at all! I was delighted to play Patty Simcox due to her bubbly and (sometimes catty) personality which I can somehow relate to. At first, I thought I wasn't able to play her due to not being flexible enough to do all the dance moves, since Patty is a cheerleader. But I have to say, the outcome was above my expectation. It went way beyond my expectation!

I wasn't expecting that my part would be a crowd-pleaser, but the audience loved it! I was really proud of the whole performance. It was unusual that we had some new fans which we never knew before. I was really proud of my respective co-stars including the chorus. I've met even more new people and everyone is starting to become friends. Turns out, as the song goes: “We'll always be together, we'll always be together.”

I would like to say a huge thank you to:

the Performing Arts department for putting on this fun-filled musical which really gave all us performers a massive adrenaline rush all night long;

the Art department for making the magnificent props;

the backstage and technical crew for making sure that the show ran smoothly;

Ms. Grace and Ms. Maria for their awesome choreography;

and each and every one of the audience members who came to see us.

We all worked so hard on this and it was a blast!

GREASE is **still** “The Word”.

by

Marissa (Year 9)

Year 7 Textures in the environment

2-D and 3-D textures

Year 7 learners are currently working on their texture topic and have produced some interesting research by searching for textures outside the art studio. They have been introduced to natural and man made forms, and have recorded the textures they found by rubbing (to frottage) the watercolour pencils onto paper over the textures found.

Texture, is used to describe either the way a three-dimensional work actually feels when touched, or the visual “feel” of a two-dimensional work. Take rocks, for example. A real, 3-D rock might feel rough or smooth, and definitely feels hard when touched or picked up. A painter, depicting a rock, would create the illusions of these qualities through use of color, line and shape, to render the object.

The learners will be using colour pencils to create a patterned collage in their sketchbooks, before planning their final responses for this topic.

Below are some of the learners texture rubbing experiments which they have overlapped to make a collage.

Artwork shared and created by Terence Chow 7N, and Nina Mohd Ibrahim 7N.

Mauro Brooks and Saiful Ali Baki Year 7



Natural Forms



Texture collages. Frottage. From Man made forms.



Man made forms



Texture collages. Frottage. From nature.

Inquiry-based Learning in English at IB

What do our learners think of Inquiry-based Learning?



Here at Nexus, we follow an inquiry-based approach to learning. This approach permeates our teaching at the IB level, and in accordance with the Learner Profile, actively contributes to our learners' development.

“Inquiry-based learning (IBL) is a method of instruction that places the student, the subject, and their interaction at the center of the learning experience.”
E. Lee May, Salisbury State University

When commencing the study of a novel for their Paper 2 exam in English A: Language and Literature, our Year 13 learners have taken an inquiry-based approach. In getting to know the novel in more depth, they are developing their own “lines of inquiry” after being given some guiding questions from their teacher. The idea behind this is that it allows them to develop their own perspective on the novel and thus develops their ability to evaluate the text. Our learners are also very good at evaluating their own learning, though, so here are some of our learners' perspectives on developing their own “lines of inquiry”:

“Questioning questions until a developed answer is formed.”

“Developing lines of inquiry is like informed idea association.”

“Lines of inquiry = firing questions on all cylinders.”

“It allows us to ask ‘why’ on many different levels of understanding. Also enables us to pull everything together.”

“With the innocence and inquisitive nature of a five year old, ‘lines of inquiry’ is essentially asking adults, ‘why’ after every explanation and answer until you have fully developed your understanding (or until the adult gives up).”

Kyle Milliner
Year 13

Year 9 Options and PTLC

Tuesday this week was a significant day for our Year 9 learners and their parents as it was an excellent opportunity to find out further details about their possible IGCSE Options subjects as well as to consider what they may want to study beyond Year 11 whilst looking ahead towards as a possible career.

The Year 9s have been looking at how to approach these decisions and changes through some of their PSD sessions this year and there will be plenty future opportunities ahead for both the learners and their parents to really investigate what different subject choices may mean.

Nevertheless, our parental feedback on Tuesday has been very positive. Thank you to all teachers, the learners and their parents for an excellent event.

Ms Leilah



Mythbusting the IB

As many learners are now beginning to finish their mocks and start to think about what happens next I thought I might over the next few weeks dispel a few myths that surround IB and A-Levels.

Universities don't understand IB - total myth!

Universities completely understand, accept and welcome the IB. In fact 1,100 of Oxford's applicants for 2014 entry were IB diploma students. Indeed, the IB is so well regarded that in a recent survey by the Education Policy Improvement Center (2013) they found that of the top 150 universities in the UK the IB Diploma Programme was rated higher than other entry qualification.

It is easier to get a good degree from A-Levels - myth.

The Institute of Education research demonstrates that IB learners with points of 37 or more are 5.4% more likely to achieve upper second class degrees than their equivalent A-Level colleagues. <http://www.ioe.ac.uk/newsEvents/56526.html>

The IB is a new qualification - another myth!

The IB was founded in 1968. A-Levels have changed significantly. To get an A-Level now you will sit end of course exams very much like IB.

You have to get nearly 100% to get a Level 7 - the final myth for this week.

This is a strange myth but we have heard it! It is completely false – for example, in a subject such as Geography you might need around 76% for a Level 7, in Maths it may be around 83%, and in Chemistry 78%. In one particular History paper you only need 69% for a Level 7, so it really depends on the subject. It is also worth remembering that you need 90% in A-Level exams to get an A*.

I hope you have found this interesting and it answered some questions. More to come next week.

University Fair

Bringing delight to school tours

13 universities from Canada visited Nexus this week. A number of parents and learners from Y10-13 took the opportunity to ask questions and research the options available from a number of Canadian institutions.

If you attended the event and would like to learn more then please drop me an email.

Joel Conner



The Handlebards-A Midsummer Night's Dream

MONOPRINTING



The **HANDLEBARS** present William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night's Dream" at PJ Live Arts on Saturday March 5th at 3pm.

The Nexus English Department is very excited about seeing Shakespeare's work delivered by 'four guys, four bikes and Shakespeare.' This international production is said to be "outrageous" and "uproariously funny"!

Tickets are RM50 each. Nexus is happy to book and collect the tickets, but no transport will be provided - we will meet the learners at the venue on the day.

If you would like to go please see Ms Maureen in room 314 as soon as possible for more information and a pamphlet.

Year 7 Science trip to Aquaria KLCC

On the 13th of January, Year 7 went on a science trip to Aquaria. Our current topic is Adaptations, so we went to Aquaria to get a close-up look at the marine life that we might be using in our presentations. For me and my partner Immanuel, we weren't quite sure which animals to feature but in the end we decided on researching animals that used camouflage, such as the stonefish and octopus, and bioluminescence, such as angler fish and vampire squid

We got to the Aquaria as it opened and the teachers divided us into two groups to do a workshop on seahorses and jellyfish. We learnt how seahorses were basically cannibals (they eat their own young!) and about jellyfish that didn't have tentacles.

That took us the whole morning. After lunch, we had the afternoon to go inside Aquaria itself and look through all the different marine life and take in all the information we could use. I found that taking pictures and videos was a very good way to record information as we had to keep moving and there was no place to stop and write.

All the organisms found there were from all around the world. Of the ones I remember, I saw piranhas, starfishes, seahorses, moon jellyfishes (my favourite!), electric eels, stonefishes (they look like stones) and so many more!

Andrea 7E



Himalayan Leadership & Adventure Camp

An amazing life changing opportunity
for Y7 -10 nexus learners

9 Days 8 Nights

**Thursday 24th March -
Saturday 1st April**

6650 RM Inclusive of all activities,
accommodation, transport, flights*
*at time of publication

Hiking
Wild Camping
Yoga
White water rafting
Leadership course
Cultural sites

More information:

<http://gg.gg/NexusIndiatripinfo>

<http://gg.gg/Himalayatrippromovideo>

**To register interest or for enquiries
please contact Miss Rachel in ICT
burtrand.r@nexus.edu.my**

Haud yer wheesht!

Should you be venturing past the Hay or Sweeney house during your walk on this coming Monday evening, you may wonder at the joyful **stramash** (look it up – ed.) from within.

Burn's Night, in honour of Scotland's most famous poet, is celebrated at the end of January every year. The night is a way to celebrate the life of the 18th century bard and it falls on his birthday - Monday 25th January.

The tradition started a few years after the poet's death in 1796, when his friends commemorated his career. So began the **Burns Supper**, and more than two centuries later it has become a popular event in Scotland and in Scottish gatherings around the world with recitals of the poet's works, a haggis dinner washed down with plenty of good Scotch whisky.

Who was Robert Burns?

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet who is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland. Of all the poets who have written in the Scottish language, Burns is most well-known.

After his death he became a cultural icon in Scotland and among Scottish people around the world. Indeed, celebration of his life and work became almost a national cult during the 19th and 20th centuries, and his influence has since then grown even stronger. In 2009, for example, he was chosen as the greatest Scot by the Scottish public in a vote run by Scottish television channel STV, narrowly beating William 'Braveheart' Wallace.

His most famous poem "**Auld Lang Syne**" is often sung at Hogmanay (New Year's Eve) all over the world.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

How do you celebrate Burns Night?

By wearing a kilt of course! However, the full ritual consists of bagpipes, whisky, haggis and poetry. Those at the dinner table are ushered in with the skirl of the bagpipes in and then "**The Selkirk Grace**" – a prayer of thanks attributed to Burns - is said before dinner.

The prayer goes:

Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat
Sae let the Lord be thankit.

What's on a Burn's Night menu?

A Burns Supper begins with a soup, often **Cock-a-leekie Soup**. The haggis is then served with turnips and potatoes - known as **neeps and tatties** if you're a true Scot. The haggis, typically carried on a silver serving plate, also enters the room with bagpipes playing and a standing slow clap.

The haggis is known as "Great chieftain o the puddin'-race" according to the "Address to the haggis" (click the link) which is recited once the haggis has been brought into the dining room. During the Address (also written by Burns) the speaker draws a knife and at the line "An' cut you up wi' ready slicht", cuts the dish open. Once all the fanfare is over, the guests toast the haggis with a slug of whisky and then tuck in. The meal is followed by the **Immortal Memory** toast, in which a guest gives a speech in honour of the great poet. Then a **Toast to the Lassies**. A male diner offers an amusing but complimentary take on the role of women in general life, taking in quotes from Burns's works and referring to women in the group. Any man making the toast should tread with care, since it is followed by a reply from the women! The rest of the night is filled with thanks and guests reciting poems by Burns, ending with the **Auld Lang Syne**. The group stand and holds hands to sing it.

Happy Burns Night for Monday 25th January!



Robert Burns



Cock-a-leekie Soup



Haggis with a glass of whisky



Haggis, neeps and tatties

Grease the Musical

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL LEARNERS INVOLVED IN THE SHOW



A **HUGE** congratulations to all the learners involved in making Grease by far the BEST musical that Nexus has ever put on. The standard of acting, singing, dancing and general professionalism from the cast was outstanding! As was the amazing learners performances in the band, the sound engineering, lighting, the back stage crew, video crew and make-up, well done to everyone involved in making the show such a success.

A massive thank you must also go to the PTA for their help with the refreshments and help with the show in general, it would not have been such a great success without your help and involvement. Thank You!

The video will be available for you all to download free in the next couple of weeks.



Concert by SESMA High Performers School - Terengganu

The 60 strong SESMA Wind Band visited Nexus on Thursday night to watch the performance of Grease and then gave us a wonderful concert on Friday 22nd January to our Year 4 to Year 9 learners (which including some of our learners in the performance). It was a real pleasure to team up with such wonderful school and group of young musicians, thank you all so much!

The Music Department at Nexus is looking forward to working closely with SESMA and their Wind Band over the coming years.

GCSE and IB Music Recital

On Tuesday 16th February the Y11 GCSE and Y13 IB learners will be performing their final examination pieces at 7pm in the Theatre.

The concert will be free and no tickets are needed - please put the date in your diary as it is going to be an evening of high class music by our examination learners.

Instrumental Parents' Evening & Instrumental Reports

The Music Department's annual Instrumental Parents' Evening will be held on Tuesday 23rd February from 3.30pm to 5pm in the MPR. Letters will be sent home in the next few weeks with all learners who have instrumental lessons detailing the arrangements for the parents' evening. Please respond to the letter and request an appointment time with your son/daughter's instrumental teacher.

Instrumental Report will be given out this week, if you do not receive on then please email myself costello.t@nexus.edu.my to receive an electronic copy. The Instrumental Parents' Evening will be an opportunity for you to discuss the learner's progress and report with the teacher.

Dates For Your Diaries

Wednesday 27th January	Y4 Primary Showcase
Tuesday 2nd February	ABRSM Making Music Together Concert - 7.30pm Eastin Hotel, KL
Tuesday 16th February	KS4 & 5 Musical Recitals - 7pm in the Theatre
Tuesday 23rd February	Instrumental Parents' Evening 3.30pm to 5pm in the MPR
Wednesday 2nd March	Y3 Primary Showcase
Wednesday 23rd March	Senior Spring Concert - 7pm in the Theatre

Why Study Music?

Music is Science.

It is exact, specific; and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time. It embodies many levels of physics from acoustics to architecture.

Music is Mathematical.

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper, in a highly specific form with regard to exact placement and symmetry.

Music is a World Language.

Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French; and the notation is certainly not English. It is a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

Music is History.

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, taking on the emotion of a nation, region or a people. It is the only Art form we can hear as people hundreds of years ago had. Unlike paint, whose image is always there once created, Music is perpetually "Repainted" each time it is performed. The feelings and thoughts of countless generations are forever cast in Sound.

Music is Physical Education.

It requires fantastic coordination of the fingers, hands, arms, lips and facial muscles, and control of diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets. There are as many calories burned by a symphony trumpet player in one performance as there are by a player in a professional football game.

Music is Art.

It allows a human being to take technical and sometimes difficult areas of learning and translate them into human emotion. It helps every person to recognize and understand beauty, and to understand love, compassion and how to live more fully within this world.

This is Why We Study Music.

Not because we expect you to do a degree in music or become a professional musician. Not because we expect people to play music all their lives. Not so you can relax. Not so you can have fun.

BUT:

So you will be human, so you will recognise beauty, so you will be more sensitive, especially to all the thoughts and feelings put into sound throughout the ages, so you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world, so you will have something to cling to, so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good - in short, have a better quality of life!

新年快乐 xīn nián kuài lè “Happy Lunar New Year” or “Happy Chinese New Year”

As preparations for Lunar New Year are already well underway at Nexus, please note that the Lunar New Year Curriculum Day will be on Thursday 4th February NOT Friday 5th February as previously calendared.

We are extending the joy of the celebration as our Korean parents and learners are celebrating together for the Lunar New Year. (The Chinese New Year, or Lunar New Year is an annual celebration marking the start of the year according to the lunar calendar.) Teachers and learners may dress-up in traditional Chinese/Korean/Japanese/Vietnamese/Baba Nyonya costumes or any red or yellow clothing.

1. There will be learning activities and displays in the Main Library/LOTE Foyer on Thursday, 4th February.
2. We will be having the Lion Dance Performance at the Early Years play area at 1.30pm.
3. Primary will be having LNY Primary Assembly in the theatre on Thursday, 4th February, from 2-3pm.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you

Wong Yee Ping
Chinese Language
IB/ Secondary Teacher

Here are some photos from the Year 6- 7 Secondary Taster Day which took place on Tuesday 12th January 2015. Our Year 6 Learners had a great time as you can see!



U19 Girls Netball @ KCLASS

Saturday 16th January 2016

On Saturday 16th January the U19 netball team took part in their first ever tournament. A few learners had some previous experience of playing netball, however some learners were complete beginners.

The first game was between Alice Smith and Garden International School, which gave Nexus a chance to watch and learn about the game more.

Nexus played incredibly well right from the start and developed their understanding of the rules and their skills throughout. The opposition teams were very good and are both currently in training for SEASAC. However, this did not put off our girls as they persevered and scored 3 goals in the first game and 4 goals in the second game.

Well done to the following learners;

Fizzy
Yofern
Sue Yen
Afifah
Adeline
Charlotte
Rachel
Ling Ann
Yen Li
Jasmine F

Miss Grace Nichols
PE & Sport
Year 11 & Year 12



U18 Boys Basketball

Great improvement for the boys

On Tuesday night our U18 boys performed fantastically well against BSKL. The boys were defeated 33-32 with a last second buzzer beating shot. The boys displayed great discipline and made a steady improvement on their previous performances.

Man of the match was KeeVern. The captain displayed excellent leadership and was a constant menace to the BSKL defense.

Paul Beattie
Sports
12/13



U13 Girls basketball

KLISS Round 1

Some of the girls team were suffering a little with illness and it looked like we may only have a squad of 5 but in the end we managed to get 7 players to travel to Taylors, KL.

We performed well despite being under not feeling the best and beat Taylors 20 – 0 and KTJ 14 – 8. However, after all our hard work in the previous two matches, we were very tired and some of us got cramp. We lost the final game 6 – 2 to BSKL in a close encounter.

We have improved drastically from the last tournament we competed in. It was a real team performance with much better passing and movement.

We made it through to the finals by winning our pool and will and play against BSKL once more (and 2 new teams) and avenge defeat.

Again, well done to all the girls and let's win!!

Emily 7N
PE and Sport
Secondary



Sport Clubs and Training Schedules

Check out the Schedule for Term 2

You have all been emailed the new Term 2 Schedule for club practices.

Please take a look at the clubs and practices that we offer and come along to as many as you can. These clubs are not exclusive (unless stated) and are there to provide you with an opportunity to try new sports, improve individual technique, relieve stress and anxiety and help us work more effectively as a team.

We look forward to seeing you there!

PE Dept
All

Sports Fixtures for January

Check out the who you are playing and when

Saturday 23rd January

U15 Boys Basketball - ISKL

U15 Girls Basketball - ISKL

PE Dept
All

Inter-house Athletics Days

Primary and Secondary



The following dates are now confirmed for this year's Inter-house Athletics days.

Wednesday 3rd February

All Secondary - 8.35am - 3.10pm

Wednesday 16th March

MP2/3 Combined - First Race 9am - 12.20pm

Thursday 17th March

EY - 9am until 10.20am

MP1 - 11am until 12.20pm

Primary learners - Miss Gemma will be giving you more information next week in lessons.

Secondary Learners - Please continue to sign-up using the links emailed to you.

The expectation that everybody signs-up to at least 1 event. Athletics is a very inclusive sport. It suits a wide range of body shapes, interests and talents and so there is literally something for everybody. Athletics is also a fantastic way to represent your house team and work collaboratively with others.

Athletics will be taught throughout the term within your PE lessons and is an ideal to practice and improve your technique and to also try out new events you might not have considered before.

Check your emails on Monday for more news!

PE Dept
All



U13 Boys Basketball

Tough night at the office

An under strength U13 boys team lost three games in their playoff games on Thursday night.

Nexus Nets best players were Rasmus Lund and Maxi Marichal.

Paul Beattie
Sport
7 and 8

