

# CONNECT 24

04 March Issue, Term 2 (2015-2016)



**NEXUS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
PUTRAJAYA

# #HackNexus

Over the 22nd and 23rd February, Years 7 and 8 learners were invited to #HackNexus by coming up with ideas to change their school. Working in teams of years 7 and 8, they used Stanford's design thinking approach to come up with ideas, prototype and test them, before presenting their ideas in 1-minute 'elevator pitches'. During the 2 days, learners learnt skills in team working and problem solving, alongside consulting their teachers and other staff for support in areas such as costing their ideas, marketing, visual communication and body language when presenting.

The teams came up with ideas such as adapting our changing rooms to be more user-friendly, adding healthy vending machines on each floor and even developing an outdoor learning space. The best ideas have been invited to present to Ms Alison and Mr Chris, so that they might get funding from the school to put their ideas into action. Watch this space!



## Year 12 Visual arts sculpt Star Wars figures

Book week gave Y12's a chance to sculpt their favourite Star Wars Figures

Year 12 Visual Arts learners, sculpted Star Wars figures for the library counter at Nexus. Durring book week the theme has been science fiction and to 'dress up' the library counter, the Year 12 Visual Arts learners sculpted scaled down figures of Star Wars characters from polystyrene blocks.

Here are some of the Year 12 learner comments:

### Sarah Yanto:

At first we have to choose 3 from dark side and another 3 from light side. I chose yoda and at first yoda is the easier one to sculpture. However yoda is one of the hardest because it has more wrinkles to create. I have to reduce the size of yoda by using the crafting knife and filers.

### Arisa:

I chose bb8 as my character because I fell in love with the characteristic of bb8 when I watched the film. The process was difficult at the start because it was a block of polystyrene and I had to shape it into a sphere. Overall, it was very enjoyable and I would love to do another project similar to this.

### Kaylie:

Making two small partnering sculptures instead of one large sculpture of a singular character was challenging because polystyrene gets harder to work with, as the work gets smaller in scale. Since the piece consisted of two sculptures which had to fit together, the bigger character had to be made first.



## Feb 19-21: KLMUN VIII, Garden International School

Nexus Delegates: Riana Adams, Danial Shariat, Aiman Johanuddin, Jerrell Ong, Aris Zainul Azizan

Deterred by a packed calendar, workload issues and a rather prohibitive price of RM150, the Nexus MUN Delegation was only able to send 5 delegates to the 8th annual Kuala Lumpur Model United Nations at Garden International School, the delegation having been plagued by multiple pullouts. There was a quiet, albeit relaxed, air in the taxi as the delegation set off. The pre-conference tension and last-minute preparation was utterly lacking.

What proved remarkable was the class and skill with which the delegation conducted itself, both in and out of debate. Danial Shariat from Y13 and Riana Adams from Y12 took the breath of the audience away by performing on stage during the gala dinner. No one cheered louder than the seemingly imperceptible Nexus table of 3 at the back of the hall. In debate, at the end of three days, Nexus made a sweep of 4 awards in one of Malaysia's most prestigious conferences. While nowhere close to its best outings in terms of awards won, it was still impressive considering the minute size of the delegation.

It does not seem far-fetched to have "MUN Reviews" published as a genre in newspaper or blogs, considering the rapidly increasing following MUN now enjoys. The aesthetics of KLMUN were at their majestic best, but the price when juxtaposed against the quality of the food and the lack of a printed delegate pack was way too high. It later appeared that the intense and substantive debate enjoyed by some Nexus delegates in the Historical Security Council was in fact the exception, with the size of some committees impeding debate proceedings.

A huge thank you to Mr. Matthew and Mr. Rizwan for supervising the delegates on Friday and Sunday, and for Ms. Suzy, our omnipresent MUN advisor, for making the trip possible, and spending her Saturday with us.



## Year 13 IB English Revision Workshop

With the final deadline just days away, a number of keen Year 13 IB learners spent last Saturday working in our 3rd Floor Hub polishing up, tweaking, fine-tuning, and in some cases almost completely revamping their English Written Tasks for Language A: English Language and Literature. SL learners had one creative piece to finalise, whereas the HL learners had the creative piece and a formal essay. Ms Maureen and Mr Vincent were on deck all day, with Mr Kyle popping in for the morning session and delighting the learners by bringing along his very small, and very cute son. Ms Sarah made fleeting visits as the demands of the International Award training event kept her occupied. Tea, coffee and homemade cupcakes kept the energy levels up.



All in all, despite being ‘work’, the day had a relaxed ‘family’ feel to it as learners moved between teachers and their peers for individual feedback, all of which reflected the very cooperative nature of the Secondary English Department at Nexus. With a bit of distance between drafts it was interesting to see learners approach their work with fresh eyes and we look forward to their efforts paying off in the very near future.

**Ms Maureen**

## Form Photos

The Yearbook Team have been working hard to put the finishing touches to this year's edition. With the help of Mr Tom, they've completed the form photos. Here's another one of their favourites. The yearbooks will be available for collection to take home on the last day of Term 3.



## SOLAR ECLIPSE

There will be an almost total solar eclipse visible in Malaysia on the morning of 9th March. I thought it might be an interesting experience for the learners if they could watch how the eclipse progresses.

<http://planetarium.angkasa.gov.my/?q=en/article/partial-solar-eclipse-malaysia-9-mac-2016>

**Ms Hayley**



## Global Perspectives lesson at IOI City Mall

On February 24 2016, the Year 10s were given an exciting opportunity to have our Global Perspectives lesson at District 21, located in IOI City Mall. The aim of the day was to build on our Personal and Transferable Skills (PATS) as well as to survey the general public in the shopping centre regarding our project.

We were separated into 8 groups which meant that 2 GP groups were merged together. Firstly, we were asked to warm up then the team leaders were off to discuss the activities for the day which included: Launch Pad, The Maze, Free Fall and Tubby Ride. Getting paired to work with a totally different group in a relatively competitive environment meant that most of us were out of our comfort zone. The unfamiliarity between groups resulted in people questioning as to how we were supposed to communicate effectively with each other. This challenged our communication and collaboration skills. This will really enhance our performance in our GP project as it involves us collaborating with people we don't usually talk to. By separating us into new groups, it enabled us to step out of our comfort zone and take new risks together as a team. The activities that we faced at District 21 also allowed us to develop on our problem solving skills. In my opinion, the most impressive thing about the day was that we were all supportive of each other and this meant that we were able to overcome obstacles that we didn't even think we could.

**Nuha Azhar, 10E**



## International Award Trip

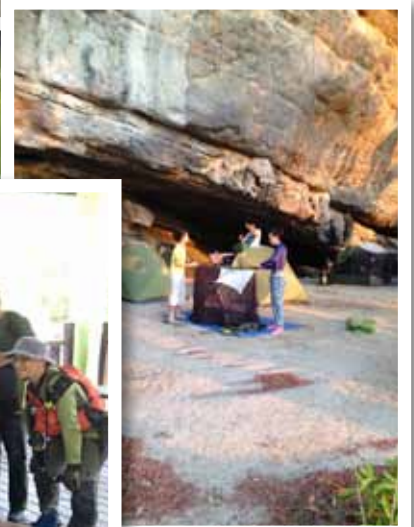
Over the weekend 18th to 21st February 2016 a group of 16 Nexus learners took part in an expedition as part of their International Award Program

Learners from years 10 and 11 braved hot sun, wind blown choppy seas and strong spring tides to complete a gruelling 45km kayaking route around the northern coast of Langkawi

They spent the evenings preparing meals on camp stoves, setting up tents, building fires and even Oyster hunting along the low tide line. At night all were able to relax on deserted beaches in the cool breeze under starlit skies!

All demonstrated a very high level of resiliency to complete the trip and enjoyed a chocolate shopping binge at the duty free shop in reward!

Interested in the International Award and would like more details? Contact our Award coordinator Mr Jim for more information: [harrison.j@nexus.edu.my](mailto:harrison.j@nexus.edu.my)





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## Y12 CAS Reflection

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This term, I signed up for Choir, which is led by Mr Stephen Maniam. Not having been in Choir for a couple of years now, I was quite excited and happy to be getting to join Choir once again. Due to this, I decided to set the goal of identifying my strengths and weaknesses and to develop those areas for growth.

I find the Choir here at Nexus to be slightly different compared to the one at my old school. For instance, here at Nexus, there are usually no vocal warmups at the beginning of the lesson. However, one thing that I like about the Choir here is the fact that the teacher makes sure you hit the right note; although the learners are separated into different groups depending on their voice range, he makes sure that all of the groups are able to hit a note correctly by making us sing again and again until we are able to hit the note.

After the first Choir session, I've come to realize that I am not able to hit the notes correctly at times; as I'm usually part of the Sopranos (back in my old school), singing in the Alto range was something I had to get used to. I find that I often have the urge to match the Soprano pitch rather than the Alto one. This is something that I'll have to improve. One thing I am glad about is the fact that I am able to quickly adapt; it didn't take me long to match the other Altos. Singing is a passion and hobby of mine, thus I do enjoy Choir. I hope to improve my singing techniques by the end of Term 2.

**Afifah Roswaidin Year 12**

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## SAT preparation Course - USA university applicants

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Monday March 28th-April 1st 2016, NISP.

For full details of how to sign up and pay for the course, please click on the website below.  
(An email has been sent out to all Y12 parents and learners)

<http://www.testtakers-sg.com/nexus-pj-satprep>

# Nexus Games

Feb 29th to March 10th

What a great week of house competition and we still have a week to go.  
So far we have seen:

## **Basketball**

Riang and Kreatif qualify through to the finals

## **Football**

Kreatif and Cemerlang qualify through to the finals

## **Benchball**

Riang and Cergas qualify through to the finals

## **Touch Rugby**

Cemerlang and Riang qualify through to the finals

## **Dodgeball**

Cergas and Riang qualify through to the finals

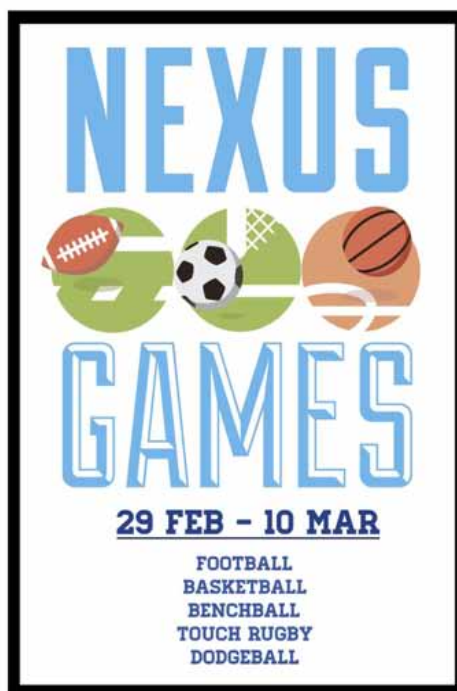
Don't forget to check out the schedule below and make sure you come along and support all our teams.

- 'rules and regulation' document where learners are advised to read this doc in order to understand how the week will go.
- schedule where learners can see which events are held on what day.

**Any queries about Nexus games please feel free to email the HOCs of sports council.**

Rachel - [rachel.low.17@nexus.edu.my](mailto:rachel.low.17@nexus.edu.my)

Aaron - [aaron.sim.17@nexus.edu.my](mailto:aaron.sim.17@nexus.edu.my)



# KLISS Secondary Athletics

5th March 2016 @ Nexus

Nexus play host to the 4th annual KLISS Secondary Athletics competition on Saturday 5th March.

8 schools from across KL will compete to be crowned champions in what promises to be a closely contested morning of sport.

Nexus have over 45 learners involved which will be their 2nd athletics competition in as many weeks.

The whole Nexus community is invited to come and share in the experience and support their peers. Let's make it a great atmosphere!

Good luck to all involved and Go Wolves!

## Salina and Raziq - Top referees

A huge thank you to Salina and Raziq who took time out of their busy weekend social schedule to come and take charge of the U13 boys and girls football tournaments at Nexus last weekend.

Many staff from around KL paid compliments to the way they handled themselves in what can often be an intimidating role.  
Well done to you both!

If anyone else from Yr 10 and up is interested in officiating games at Nexus please come and see the PE dept.  
Here is a picture of Salina looking less than impressed that I have asked her to pose for a photo! Raziq was camera shy!



## Morning Swim Club

Extracurricular swimming sessions have really taken off this year!

And it is all down to you, the learners and parents of Nexus.

Thank you to the continued support and effort from everyone involved. We are starting to build something very good and long may it continue.

Wednesday witnessed 30 learners in the pool from 7:40 until 8:20am, the highest attendance so far. Include the Thursday swim confidence and lunchtime sessions and those numbers start to look very impressive indeed.

If you are interested in learning or improving this valuable life-skill, then here is an outline of the sessions we offer.

### **Mon, Weds, Fri - 7:40 to 8:20am**

Team swim training

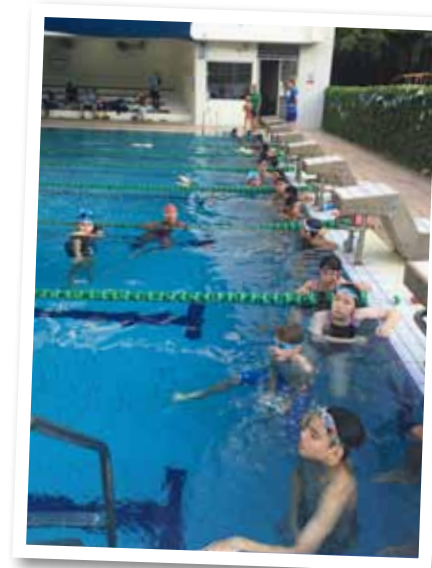
### **Thursday - 7:40 to 8:20am**

Swim confidence sessions

### **Weds, Thurs, Fri - Lunchtimes**

Open swim club - all invited

If you would like further details of the criteria for entry or the content covered in these sessions please speak to a member of the PE dept.



## ISAC Secondary Athletics

### Friday 26th February 2016

Last Friday the Secondary Athletics team competed in the ISAC Athletics event at the Panasonic Stadium in Shah Alam.

Learners worked hard to secure points for Nexus and showed persistence throughout the afternoon (and evening). At the end of the day the boys team finished in 5th position and the girls in 9th. Overall Nexus came 7th out of 10 schools. Well done to everyone involved, a fantastic achievement.

This year we had 63 learners representing Nexus at this event. This is a record number of participants from Nexus and great to see so many people getting involved.

A number of these athletes will be taking part in the KLISS athletics event which will take place at Nexus this weekend. Best of luck to all who are taking part.

Go Wolves!

## SPRING CONCERT - Wednesday 23rd March 7pm in the Theatre

Final preparations and rehearsals are happening for the Music Department's annual Spring Concert.

The Spring Concert is the Music Department's 'Showcase' Concert featuring our most advanced musicians and featuring all of our music ensembles including some very special items this year.

Please place the date in your diary now, tickets will be going on sale the week before the concert from Student Services.

## GCSE Practical Exams - Monday 29th February

The Music Department held its GCSE Music Practical Examinations on Monday 29th February. All the learners involved performed their best, well done! The GCSE Practical exams are all over now for another year!

## Dates For Your Diaries

Wednesday 23rd March	Senior Spring Concert - 7pm in the Theatre
Wednesday 27th April	Y2 Primary Showcase
Thursday 12th May	Young Performers' Concert - 7pm in the Theatre
Wednesday 18th May	Y1 Primary Showcase
Thursday 26th May	Rock Concert
Wednesday 8th June	Early Years Showcase
Monday 27th June	Very Young Performers' Concert

## Why Study Music?

The College Entrance Examination Board found that **students in music programs scored 63 points higher** on the verbal and **44 points higher** on the math sections of the SATs than students with no music participation.

source: [spreadmusicnow.org/the-importance-of-music.html](http://spreadmusicnow.org/the-importance-of-music.html)

#MIOSM2016

SPREAD  
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# Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra Trip - Saturday 27th February

On Saturday a group of 26 learners and 3 staff went to hear the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra at their concert hall in the twin towers. The programme included music for superheroes, including theme tune from film, TV and video games.

Audrey Mamelle (y10) describes the experience:

"I really liked the concert. The sound quality of the sound was amazing, and the music was beautiful. My favourite songs were the Spiderman and James Bond, as they were really dark and mellow songs. My favourite instruments were the double bass, bass guitar, tuba and flute/ piccolo, as I really like the really low and really high sounds."

Photograph from Wae Ren Goh (y7)



## What's coming-up

Here is how March is shaping-up!

### Weds 2nd

U13 Boys Football Vs KCLASS @ Nexus  
U9 Boys KLISS Football Finals @Tenby

### Thurs 3rd

U13 Boys KLISS Basketball Finals @ BSKL  
U13 Girls KLISS Basketball Finals @ IGB

### Sat 5th

Secondary KLISS Athletics @ Nexus  
U11 Boys ISAC Football @ ISKL,Melawati  
U11 Girls ISAC Football @ ISKL,Melawati

### Sun 6th

U18 Team Badminton @ Setia Badminton Academy

### Sat 12th

U11 Boys ISAC Football @ KCLASS, EP  
U11 Girls ISAC Football @ KCLASS, EP

### Mon 14th

Primary Swim Meet @ HELP

### Sat 19th

Primary KLISS Athletics @ IGB

### Weds 23rd

U15 Girls KLISS Basketball Finals @ TBC



As always the times/venues are liable to change. Please check out the fixtures calendar for up to date, detailed information.

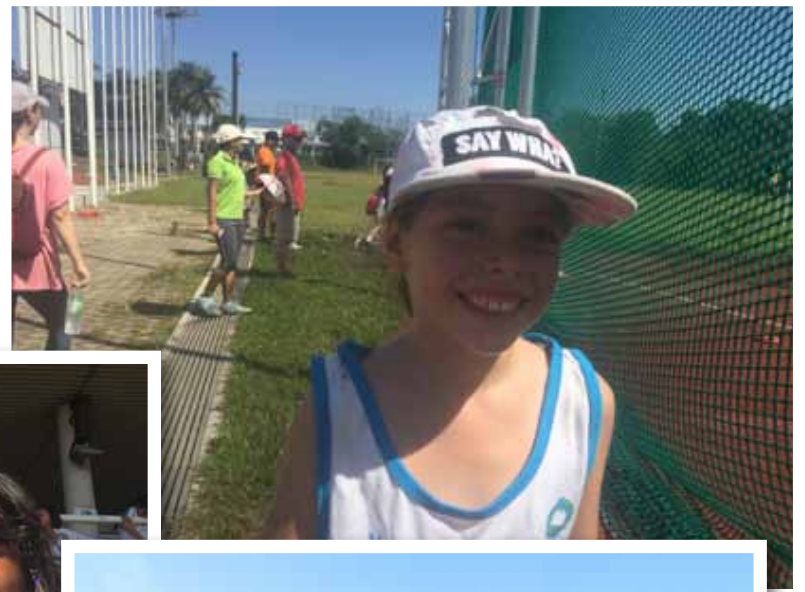
## U9 Boys Football

KTJ 6-0  
Tenby 2-0  
IGB 1-0



# ISAC Primary Athletics

Friday 26th February 2016



What a great day of Sport for our Primary learners!!! They have been training solidly since December and finally had the chance to showcase their skills at the ISAC Athletics Competition this year at the Panasonic Stadium, Shah Alam.

It was a very early start, meeting at Nexus at 6:15am and starting the day at 7:30am. Learners were enthusiastic and motivated to take part in their events, they showed good team spirit, cheering for each other and supporting their team when in events.

They took part in many events; for running, throwing and jumping across two age ranges, U9 & U11. Each learner demonstrated the desire to do well and compete to their best ability and this was evident in the overall results of the day!!

Well done to all of the learners that took part and have dedicated their time to developing themselves in their events!

Our KLISS Athletics competition is coming up in 3 weeks time!!!

Please see the Primary PE website for overall results of the day.

Also a huge thank you to the mums that came along and helped with officiating and looking after our learners.

## Primary Music News

Year 6 sang the song 'I Love Books' wonderfully to Early Years on Thursday 3rd March in celebration of Book Week





## Boarding Report



Last weekend the boarders visited Icescape Ice Rink at IOI City Mall to have a go at ice-skating. There were some tumbles and falls initially by a few; however, after a while everybody became more confident on the surface, skating at speed and with such grace!

The boarding house celebrated Terence's birthday on Sunday when he treated us all to Domino's Pizza and a beautiful chocolate cake.

Also this week the boarding Food Committee met with our caterers to discuss the food menu that we have here. Some slight changes have been made to the weekly menu with a wide variety of cuisines being available on certain days at dinner time. Local dishes will be available on Monday and Friday and international dishes on Tuesday and Thursday. On Wednesdays a new initiative has been introduced with a particular year group of boarders having the opportunity to select among themselves what they would like for dinner. The Year 13s were first to choose and they did not disappoint with their selection of Pesto Pasta, fried cheese sticks, falafels, salad, garlic bread and ice cream! The pressure will certainly be on other year groups in the weeks to come to decide upon a very satisfying and tasty meal that all will enjoy.

Finally this week, we would like to congratulate Year 11 boarder Liam for winning a bronze medal in the discus at the ISAC Athletics Event last week.

**Troy Looms**  
Director of Boarding