



# Secondary News

## A word from Mr Travis

### Block 1 Week 2

At the Secondary School assembly on Monday morning, I invited the students to consider the life of the humble Bar-Headed Goose. These incredible birds embark on a momentous journey every year, migrating across the Himalayan mountain range, typically climbing between 4,000 and 6,000 metres in 7-8 hours. They achieve this astonishing feat at high altitude by flying in a 'V' formation, each bird providing uplift for another member of the team. They fly in perfect synchronicity, rotating the leadership, caring for one another when sick and providing feedback for the birds at the head of the flock. They are gritty, enjoy the struggle and rely on the power of the team. I challenged the students this week to 'Be More Goose', displaying the attributes and values of these successful birds.



I am delighted to report that the students have risen to the challenge. Enthusiasm for learning has permeated every inch of BISL this week as students plunged headlong into their studies, engaging with their teachers and their peers in a professional and productive manner. After School Activities have begun with gusto, with a huge number of students signing up to a plethora of activities. A big thank you to Ms Hawkins, Ms Predan and Mr Hulse for the Peter Pan auditions - it promises to be quite a spectacle! Thank you also to Ms Tušar and Mr Astbury for the informative MEPI meeting. There is no question that these activities help students forge new friendships, experiment with new ideas and develop resilience. Character development is an integral part of BISL life and I do hope students take full advantage of the opportunities available to them.



Additionally, this week, all Year 7, Year 10 and new students to BISL sat the CAT4 tests. This is a Cognitive Ability Test which provides a snapshot of a student's academic potential at a specific point in time. This information will help teachers shape an appropriate curriculum to meet the needs of all students, regardless of starting point. Thank you to Ms Štrok and Mr Siter for coordinating these CAT 4 tests. Our EAL evaluations are also an incredibly important part of our provision and from Week 3, students who need this additional support will be allocated to the appropriate Tier. Our EAL provision is

outstanding and BISL students make incredibly quick progress across the curriculum as a result of these interventions.

Mr Cox had the pleasure of hosting his Coffee Morning on Friday this week in the new building. Many parents were in attendance and it was wonderful to be able to show them how the new building is adding a new dimension to the BISL experience. It is a truly inspirational place to teach and learn and I hope students are feeling inspired, not least by the panoramic views from every classroom!

As always, please be sure to read the latest [Update from the Principal](#), which features some incredibly important updates on COVID-19.

Have a super weekend everybody and don't forget to 'Be More Goose'.

*Mr Jonathan Travis, Head of Secondary*

## SUBJECT NEWS

### Maths Block

#### Maths News:

We had another fantastic week in Secondary mathematics, as the students have settled into the learning routine. They have been diligent with their homework tasks and other learning responsibilities, and overall demonstrated an enthusiastic attitude.

Year 7 students learnt how to add and subtract integers and were introduced to the order of operations. They were more than happy to share the teaching spot light and support their peers.

Year 8 students confidently identified the lowest common multiple and highest common factors by utilising prime factor trees.

Year 9 students were introduced to the index laws and practiced their application through Quizizz and MyiMaths.

Year 10 students impressed us with their knowledge of fractions while explaining calculation methods to their peers. We are looking forward to a round of Fractions Jeopardy next week!

Year 11 students have grasped the tough pace of learning as an examination year group and practised examination-style questions on various topics.

Year 13 students mastered division of polynomials and are cementing their knowledge through independent learning.

#### **Maths Block**

Next week, the students will investigate various maths challenges in morning form time - it is time to think outside of the box!

#### **Maths challenge wall**

All students are welcome to participate - there will be two new challenges posted every week (in front of room 316) - share your solutions with the maths team via email or in lessons. Remember, always give a reason for your answer.

#### PE news:

##### Week 2

During PE this week, we introduced the topic of net and barrier games across a range of sports. We focused on badminton and volleyball across the year groups, developing our fundamental rallying skills in conditioned competitive environments.

We progressed to match play in some year groups, challenging students to work effectively in team and individual environments.

*Mr Hayes, PE Department*

#### English news:

**Year 7:** Year 7 continued enjoying the adventures of Link and Ginger in the novel "Stone cold" by Robert Swindells

**Year 8:** Year 8 worked on creating their own monsters using detailed description as part of their evaluation of "A Monster calls"





**Year 9:** Year 9 work on persuasive writing via the medium of trying to convince readers to try “unusual” flavoured soft drinks (such as “Ranch Dressing Flavour” and “Bacon”) to tie in with the use of Propaganda in George Orwell’s “Animal farm”



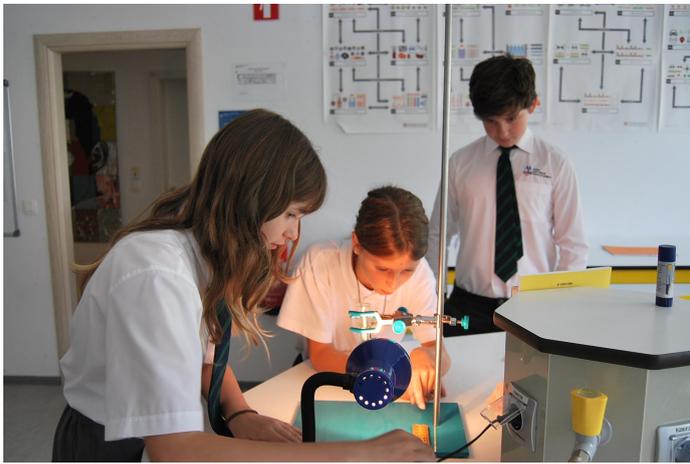
**Year 10:** Year 10 examined the character of Godfrey from “Crumbs from the table of joy”, debating whether or not he deserved any sympathy from us or if he was simply a misogynist we should dislike.

*The English Department*

**Science News:**

In Science year 8 classes took a close look at the fascinating world of “pondweed.” As you can see by the following pictures, the students really enjoyed this lesson.





Our Year 13 students also enjoyed some practical work in their lessons this week. Here are some highlights:



## MFL News:

Slovene

Y7 students in Slovene Foundation have started with basic information this week. They learned how to introduce themselves in Slovene and became familiar with different Slovene greetings. For some of the students it was their first time speaking in Slovene and they have already made a brilliant start. Zelo dobro, le tako naprej!

*Ms Drogenik*

It is only our second week back at school and Year 8 students in Slovene Intermediate Group have already been really creative. In accordance with our topic "In a restaurant - V restavraciji", the students did some research about unusual dishes around the world and made a presentation for their classmates. Some dishes were quite interesting indeed. Bi si jih upali poskusiti?

*Ms Jakop*

In Year 11 Slovene Advanced lessons we had productive lessons about European Romanticism. The students learn about characteristics of the literature of that time, motives and writers. Next week we will start with poem analysis and historical influences in the literature.

*Ms Kotnik*

*Slovene Teacher*

*Slovene Team*

### **Year 12 Form time**

On Wednesday Dominic celebrated his birthday. In form time Year 12 sang "happy birthday" and listened to some German rap, which was a unique experience.

Dominic, stay as you are and keep on rockin'.



Ms Kotnik , Year 12 Form tutor

## PTA News

### PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale -Monday 5th September:

Please remember we are holding the first PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale of this school year next Monday, 5th September from 3.00pm.

If you wish to send in unwanted, clean uniform for the sale please bring it to School Reception during the day on Monday if you have not already done so.

Many thanks in advance,

Your PTA

## **Latest Covid Guidance**

Please check the latest updated guidance for Covid 19 here

Updated webpage:

<https://britishschool.si/news/2021/covid-19-update-from-the-principal>.

## **Principal's Update**

Dear Parents and Families,

As the many of you who attended our first, and very enjoyable (personally speaking) 'Coffee with the

Principal' event earlier today are aware, this week has again been positive and busy for everyone. I have been into classes this week across the school and have enjoyed the engagement and focus of our students and staff. I hope very much that this motivation leads to new learning and further curiosity and motivation. The week started for me at the Secondary Assembly last Monday hosted by our Head of Secondary, Mr. Jonathan Travis. Mr. Travis outlined for the students the challenges faced by Bar-Headed Gees and how they work together, whilst each bird also needs a huge amount of personal grit and determination to safely cross the high altitudes of the Himalayan Mountain range. That type of resilience and grit is indeed required to get the most out of life – 'Be More Goose' as Mr. Travis implored the students!

I was also delighted to attend an exhibition of photographs taken of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Slovenia in 2008. The exhibition is being hosted by Ljubljana's City Hall as part of the Queen's 70th on the throne celebrations. Happily, there was a picture of the Queen meeting some BISL students. I found the photographs interesting from both a British and Slovenia perspective. We hope to get the exhibition to come to school for our school community to enjoy once it has finished its tour of Slovenia. Once we have confirmed that the photographs can be displayed here in school I will, of course invite the whole community to come and see it.

As discussed with parents this morning, safety for all has also been on top of our priorities this week, and I and the School Leadership team have been thinking hard about how to make the collection of your children safer at the end of each day.



Here are some **important traffic instructions** we ask all our families to follow carefully:

- Observe the 10kmh maximum speed allowed in school.
- If you are waiting for children inside the school grounds the driver must stay in your car, *with the engine switched off*. This is very important for our traffic flow
- All families collecting Secondary children

please park in the public car park next to school. In this way we will keep the traffic flowing inside the school grounds.

- Early Years parents only are permitted to park in the parking bays near the Early Years entrance.
- All students must walk inside the cones, next to the school building (not walk between the cars). Secondary students must follow this route to the public car park as necessary.
- Older families are encouraged to travel to, and from, school by bus or bicycle.

Many thanks for everyone's consideration and thoughtfulness towards making the school collection as safe as we possibly can. We will also renovate the bicycle 'house' and make this more appealing to our bicycle users.

Finally, I have an appeal to our parents and their friends. As mentioned at the Coffee morning, we are currently seeking to recruit a temporary school nurse (part time). If you have skills and experience in this medical area and are allowed to work or volunteer in Slovenia, do please contact Katja Dincic in our HR Department.

Similarly, if you are aware of EU citizens in our community who are suitably qualified, highly able English-speaking teachers and are keen to explore possibilities for working at BISL, please ask them to contact our HR too.

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

*Matthew Cox, Principal*

## Dates to Note

Tues	Sept 6th	SEN Presentation
Weds	Sept 7th	G+T (Gifted + Talented) Presentation
Thurs	Sept 8th	Story Time at BISL
Thurs + Fri	Sept 8th +9th	Adventure Days Yr 7 and 8

All upcoming events and details are available on our [website](#).

## School Contact Details

Reception Hours: M-F 07:15-16:00  
General Telephone: +386 40486548  
Admissions: +386 40618356  
General Enquiries: [enquiries@britishschool.si](mailto:enquiries@britishschool.si)  
Accounts: [accounts@britishschool.si](mailto:accounts@britishschool.si)  
Principal: [principal@britishschool.si](mailto:principal@britishschool.si)

## School Calendars

For Term dates and school holidays, [click here](#).

