



# Secondary News

## A word from Mr Travis

### Block 4 Week 1

I believe it was Charlemagne who said 'to speak another language, is to possess another soul.' Well our intrepid MFL team has certainly got Block 4 off to a flying start, with a whole host of activities designed to inspire our students to study languages. While the Primary School will enjoy a puppet show, our Secondary students will be treated to a private viewing of the famous Slovene film *Vesolje med nami* (the universe between us). Not only that, but rumour has it that the director of the film and lead actor will be hosting a post-film workshop with our students. We also have scheduled a visit to the National and University Library of Ljubljana for our Year 8 students. What a treat.

Assemblies are an important part of school life. They bring us all together, students and teachers, to celebrate achievements, promote school values and to build school culture. We will be holding more assemblies this term on a variety of topics, including the BISL Values, that we hope will inspire students. On Monday I led an assembly inspired the GB Olympic team, challenging our students to build a new habit through 1% marginal gains. Tutors are leading a follow-up with students to help them commit to a new target this term. The MFL assembly on Friday was fun-filled and informative, reminding all of us of the importance of diversity, inclusion and culture - the very values that bind BISL together as a kind and caring community.

Mock exam week is almost over and students have behaved impeccably well. Following the marking and a detailed moderation by departments, parents and students will receive the raw marks/percentage results. This is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25th January. The most important element of the mocks is not the result, on the contrary, it is what the students **do** with the result. It is vital they reflect deeply on the experience, interrogating the effectiveness of their revision strategy. This is the moment to recognise changes needed to their learning approach before the all-important summer exams.

Finally, on Thursday 19th January at 3pm, I will be delivering an important presentation about Assessment and Reporting in the Secondary School. I would be very grateful for your attendance. Specifically the presentation will focus on:

- The purpose and value of assessment in the learning journey of every student.
- How the curriculum (and disciplinary knowledge) is the progression model.
- Adjustments made, and further planned changes to, Assessment and Reporting at BISL in 2023/24.
- The value of home learning and how parents play a vital role in helping students make progress.

I look forward to seeing you all there!

Please be sure to read the latest Update from the Principal and I wish everyone an enjoyable year ahead.

*Mr Jonathan Travis, Head of Secondary*

## Modern Foreign Languages block

### Slovene news:

The Y7 Slovene Advanced class has been working diligently on the description of a person's life. As an example, we studied the life of Slovenian rapper Terkaj. The students have gained a deeper understanding of the language through this exercise. Now, they will be writing their own piece and I am excited to see the unique perspectives and creativity they bring to their work. I look forward to reading their final pieces and seeing their progress in the language.

Miss Kotnik

Y8 students in Slovene Intermediate group were learning about verb - "glagol" this week.

The grammar might not seem very exciting at first, but we did various activities in groups

to make lessons more fun and memorize new vocabulary.



Ms Jakup

### *MFL - Slovene Foundation*

In Year 9 at Slovene Foundation we have been talking about students' houses or apartments where they live at the moment. Students had to describe their rooms and furniture. At the end of the week they also created an interview about the apartment they would like to rent. This was a good way to practice the use of cases, *adjectives and spread a vocabulary with new words.*

Ms Drogenik

### Creative Arts News:

#### Prop design club

This week our prop designers have been busy starting the props for our much anticipated summer show. On Thursday they worked together to produce a boombox out of cardboard, next week we will work together to paint and add details to bring it to life! The prop club is a great opportunity for students to be creative as well as working individually and as a team. Can you guess what the production will be?



### English News:

**Year 7** continued their study of Shakespeare in the form of "The Tempest."

**Year 8** wrote a speech from the perspective of Mrs Johnstone, describing her difficult life and the impossible choice she was forced to make.

**Year 9** looked at how connected Dennis Kelly's DNA play was in the context of a Post 9/11 world and the concept of "in yer face Theatre."

**Year 10 A** looked at Boey Kim Cheng's poem "The planners and the effects of progress in the life of a modern city."

### PE news:

During PE this week, students continued their respective sporting blocks this week, developing their understanding of gameplay and positioning. **Year 7** took part in some 3 v 3 basketball match play scenarios, with **Year 8** continuing their handball unit with some conditioned games. **Year 9** progressed their floor hockey unit, developing their understanding of spatial awareness and passing

sequences, whilst **Year 10** focused on the importance of possession when playing football.

*Mr Hayes, PE Department*

### Maths news

Year 7 students were exploring units for area and how to use them to calculate the area of squares, rectangles, triangles and compound shapes. They noticed you must divide a compound shape into two or more smaller shapes, calculate their individual areas and then add them together.

Year 8 students worked with stem-and-leaf diagrams, line graphs and recalled how to calculate angles in pie charts.

Year 9 students recalled formulae for shapes and solids through Quizizz. Then they worked in pairs and solved more difficult questions involving the area of shapes and volume of solids.

To help them prepare for their upcoming assessment, Year 10 students engaged in a feedback task on selected chapters and provided peer feedback.

Year 11, 12 and 13 students sat in their mock exams this week. Next week, we will analyse the mocks and address the topics the students performed the worst at.

### **Maths challenge wall**

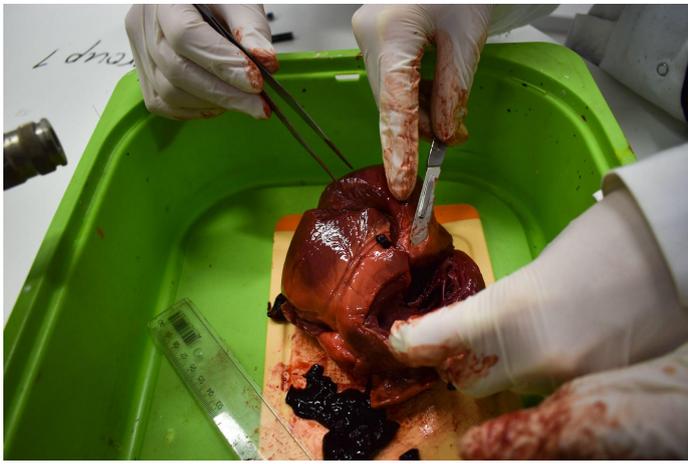
Well done to 7A students who continue to solve the weekly challenges. Do not forget to check out new challenges next week in front of room 316.

*Ms Zupanc, Maths Department*

### Science News:

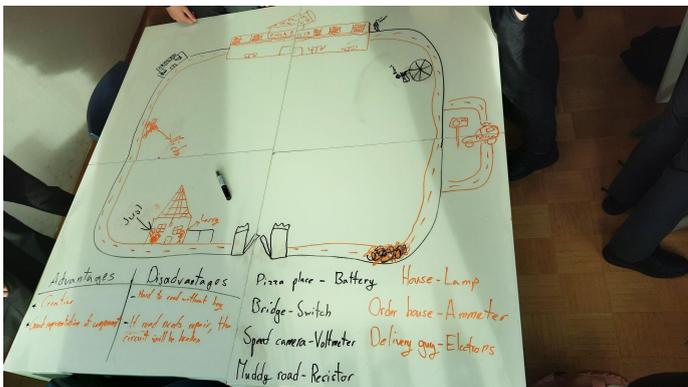
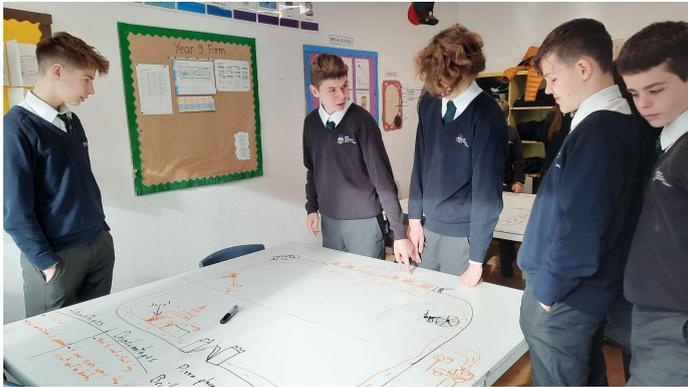
This week year 10 dissected a pig's heart to understand the different structural and functional components of the heart as part of their chapter on transport in animals.





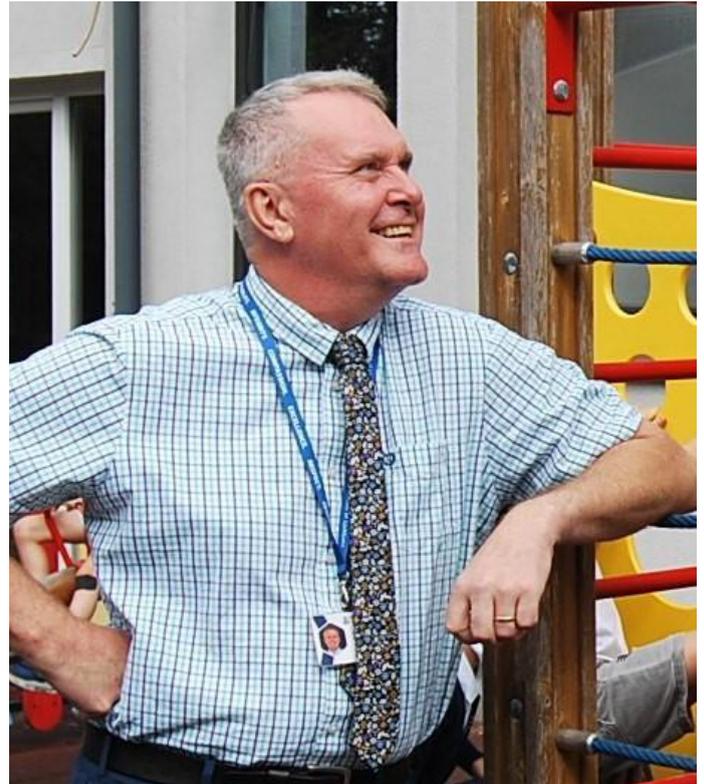
Ms Jones, Science Department

In Year 9 students were learning about electricity and electrical circuits. As current, voltage, resistance and effect of circuit components are difficult to imagine Y9 students used models to demonstrate this. They used a pizza delivery route, McDonald's delivery and distribution, gas and cooking stove connection and a city road to model electric circuits. Interesting examples included: a bridge and traffic light representing a switch, a pizza place representing a battery and a speed sign representing a resistor. They also identified the advantages and limitations of their models. Here are some pictures of their work and students presenting the models to each other.



Ms Tušar, Head of Science

## Principal's Update



### Principal's Update Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Families,

The new term has started well for our students. Many of our senior secondary students have been undertaking 'mock' iGCSE, AS or A Level exams during the past two weeks, and during the same period, our Primary teachers have been conducting their pupil progress meetings with you, our parents.

These activities are trying to achieve similar goals. The mock exams are designed to give our seniors the chance 'to experience' what public exams are like, to challenge themselves to demonstrate what they have learned previously, and of course to learn from their mistakes and challenges in order to improve and be ready for the 'real' exams that will take place in May and June. The main point is to ensure that our students understand the feedback carefully and adjust their approach so that they perform to the best of their ability next time.

In much the same way, our Primary Parent-Teacher meetings are designed to review your son or daughter's past learning, efforts and achievements, as well as identify the next steps or actions that will enable even greater success in the future.

These important activities form part of what a good education must be about. Surely in life, all of us, at whatever stage of life we have reached, should reflect on our successes and failures, and challenge ourselves to improve, 'do better' next time. If we don't get the result or outcomes that we desire, it seems important to learn, reflect and try again. Just like the famous spider that builds, and rebuilds, and rebuilds her beautiful silk web, trying over and over until we succeed is a wonderful thing!

### Head Lice

As many Primary parents in particular are aware, unfortunately we have had regular outbreaks of head lice in some primary classes at the end of last term. This is both upsetting and frustrating for everyone involved. In view of that there are a few things that we can all do to prevent the spread of head lice.

Firstly, please can I ask all parents to ensure that children with longhair come to school with their hair tied back, and keep it tied back during the school day. This action is essential for all primary children and class teacher will be reminding their classes in the coming days and weeks.

Secondly, please can all families please check their child's hair on a regular basis. If lice are found, every family must treat their son or daughter immediately following the advice provided by school. Please note that medicated shampoo and careful combing of the hair must be continued until all of the eggs are removed. The hair then must be checked again frequently in the following days. On behalf of the entire BISL community, many thanks in advance for your assistance with this unpleasant but important task.

**Y6 & Secondary Parent Assessment Workshop  
– Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January – 3.10pm**

As mentioned at the recent 'Coffee with the Principal' meeting, do please come along to our Head of Secondary, Mr. Travis' interesting workshop on the BISL philosophy, approach and latest thinking on how best to assess student learning – Assessment is most certainly much more than just tests and grades.

The workshop will be held next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January after school, and will help our parents to understand much more about how, why and when we assess each child's progress and learning. We believe that parents will find this most informative, and it will certainly help them to know how support their son or daughter at home, as well as understand why our teachers say, plan and do certain things. You are all welcome.

All best wishes for a relaxing weekend,



Matthew Cox  
School Principal

### Dates to Note

Mon	Jan 16th	BISL at Oxford University Computing Challenge
Thurs	Jan 19th	BISL at Oxford University Computing Challenge
Fri	Jan 20th	Year 7 and Year 8 Winter Sport trip
Fri	Jan 27th	Year 9 and Year 10 Winter Sport trip
Thurs	Feb 2nd	Story Time in Early Years

Fri	Feb 3rd	Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 Winter Sport trip
Fri	Feb 3rd	Coffee with the Principal
Fri	Feb 3rd	Block 4 Ends. Dress Down Day House Colours

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

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Principal: [principal@britishschool.si](mailto:principal@britishschool.si)

## School Calendars

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

