



# Secondary News

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## A word from Mr Travis

### Block 3 Week 3

Christmas has come to BISL! Thank you so much to the PTA for doing a wonderful job of decorating the building. You have made the entire team feel incredibly festive. With the BISL Christmas Fayre, dress-down day and other winter activities scheduled for Week 5, we all excitedly await a very merry end to Term 1. Mr Hulse has begun the process of creating the Christmas song and I can't wait to share it with everyone during our final assembly. Many thanks to him, it is quite an undertaking that involves a considerable number of people.

Less fun but extremely important, Year 11 to 13 students are preparing for Mock examinations in Week 2 of Term 2. Mocks are designed to give students a genuine experience of formal examinations and also to give teachers a clear indication of where each student is at with their learning. Armed with the results, teachers will tailor their final few months of tuition accordingly, ensuring that each lesson is used to maximum effect to suit the needs of all students. Year 11 to 13 students are currently focusing on study skills and revision techniques during form time, a process that will undoubtedly help them with the revision process. We wish them success in this endeavour.

Parent-Teacher interviews start next week via the site: <https://bisl.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. Please can all parents ensure that they log in and book an appointment to see teachers before the deadline on Sunday. These interviews are a wonderful way to connect with the teachers and plan targets in each subject area. Students need to know where they are in their learning and where their learning needs to go next in order to ensure that their potential is realised.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Creative Arts team for continuing to inspire us with musical treats every morning! The 'On This Day' musical history has been a wonderfully reminiscent journey back in time through the musical greats. I look forward to it every morning! Peter Pan is also fast approaching and the dedicated team of actors and musicians are putting huge amounts of effort into their rehearsals. We can't wait to see the final result!

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

*Mr Jonathan Travis, Head of Secondary*

## Creative Arts block

Peter Pan update - dress rehearsals are well underway and students are looking fabulous in their costumes.

Next week will be the first of two performances, on Thursday afternoon to primary and on Friday afternoon to secondary, with the final performance for parents on Monday 12th December at 16:30.

This week the winning poster for Peter Pan went up around school.



And the winning ticket design was also chosen.



Congratulations to Emma from Year 9 for the design of the winning poster and to Daniil from Year 7 for the ticket design.

Next week many classes and budding singers will be busily recording their parts for the Christmas cover song "I wish it could be Christmas everyday" by Wizard.

Students are encouraged to practise at home, especially the chorus.

Watch this space for the final product.

### English News:

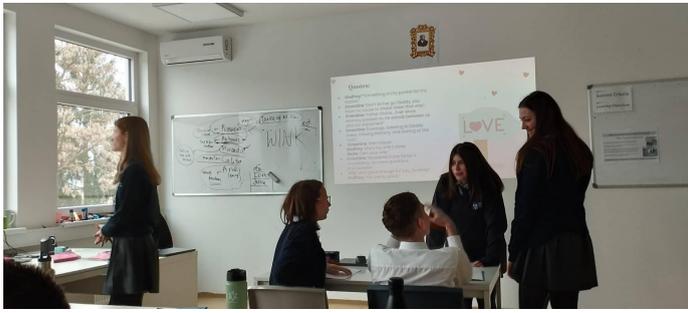
**Year 8** began "Blood brothers" and explored status by creating freeze frames for a variety of scenarios. They also created small role play versions of the whole play.



"This is a reenactment not a genuine photo".

**Year 9** continued their study of "DNA" and had a superb debate on whether Phill was a good or bad person. They used evidence effectively to support their arguments, and a few even changed their views based on what they heard.

**Year 10** finished off their lessons on the key themes of "Crumbs from the Table of Joy". After being taught how to teach last week, they used what they had learnt about the fundamentals of teaching to teach their own lessons. It was particularly impressive to see the quality of their questioning and modelling, and how well they supported each other to learn.



these new concepts, delivered by our student intern, Mrs Jaarsma.



**Year 11** finished “Purple Hibiscus” and reflected on the impact of the novel. All were glad to see that the tyrannical Papa finally died.

### PE news:

Across secondary PE this week, students developed their overall skill levels, across their new sporting units. Year 7 focused on passing and dribbling when playing football, whilst Year 8 developed their understanding of possession when playing basketball. Year 9 focused on spatial awareness and shape when playing handball, whilst Year 10 were introduced to the fundamentals of floor hockey and Year 11 focused on understanding the rules of the game when playing rugby league.

*Mr Hayes, PE Department*

### Maths news

**Year 7** students learnt how to solve linear equations with one and two operations. Students who finished first solved simple equations involving squares and square roots. They learnt that some equations can have more than one answer!

**Year 8** students used flow diagrams to solve simple equations and then solved equations with the variables on both sides. They challenged their peers through a round of Quizizz.

**Year 9** students learnt how to solve more difficult linear equations, linear inequalities and simultaneous equations. They demonstrated good understanding of



**Year 10** students compared methods to solve linear equations of various difficulties and RAG rated their skills. They practised solving equations to ensure they can carry out correct methods with no mistakes.

**Year 11** students learnt the algebraic properties of quantities in direct and inverse proportion and used appropriate formulae to solve problems.

**Year 13** students were introduced to numerical methods. Sometimes we cannot use algebra to solve equations, however we can estimate an approximate solution and improve it through an iteration process.

### **Maths challenge wall**

Do not miss new challenges published next week in front of room 316.

*Ms Zupanc, Maths Department*

### Science News:

Year 12 students created models out of plasticine and gave presentations on the semi conservative replication of DNA as part of their chapter on nucleic acids and protein synthesis.



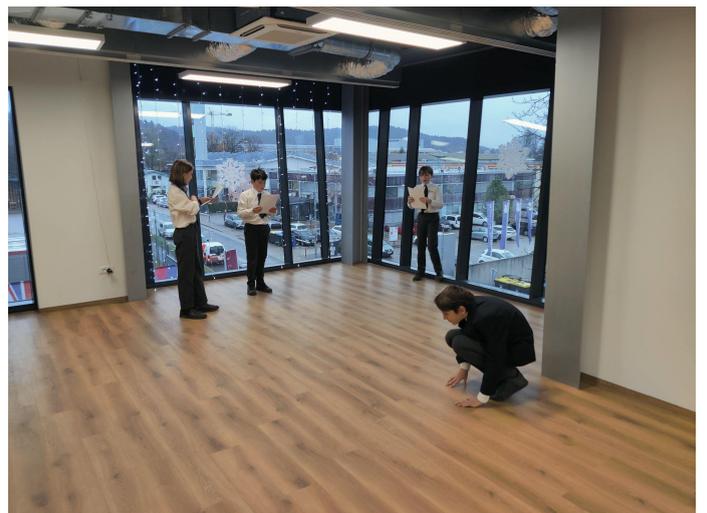
Year 13 students created their own habitats and used sampling techniques such as the quadrat to sample each other's habitats to calculate percentage species coverage. This supported their understanding of their unit on classification, biodiversity and conservation.





## Humanities News: History

Year 7 history enjoyed getting to act out the story of Mansa Musa and his brother on a buffalo hunt!



## MFL News:

“Koliko je ura?” What time is it? **Year 7** students in Slovene Foundation lessons have learned how to tell what time it is in Slovene. How do you think they did? “Zelo dobro!”



*Ms Drogenik, Slovene teacher*

In **Year 9** Slovene Advanced Lessons the students are reading a book translated from French, “*Le temps des miracles*” - “*Čas čudežev*”. Our readers are following the story of Kumajl who is running away from Kavkaz during war time to save his life. In order to understand the feelings of the main character, the students had to write dramatizations and act out one of the events. Some of the students put artistic notes into their acting and it was great to see their creativity.



*Ms Kotnik, Slovene teacher*

## PTA News

Dear parents,

Christmas preparations are now on full speed. This week PTA volunteers were decorating the school so that the kids would feel the Christmas atmosphere in the air. And the planning for BISL Christmas Fayre is underway. Don't miss it on Thursday, 15th of December, from 14.00 until 16.00.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

Many thanks to those parents who attended our 'Positive Parenting' workshop this week. These are occasions that are about sharing experiences as well as picking up tips for how best to manage our children. The great thing I find about this type of workshop is most definitely discovering that, as a parent, 'you are not alone' and that other families also have similar concerns or doubts.

Parenting workshops are regularly requested in school communities, so we will certainly be holding further workshops on this subject in the near future.

### **'Make A Xmas Wish' Project**

Thanks also to all those students and parents who have sent in or are currently wrapping gifts for our 'Make A Xmas Wish' Project. Your support is appreciated. Please do keep them coming in and if you need further assistance or would like to provide another gift please do not hesitate to contact your son or daughter's class or form teacher.

### **PTA**

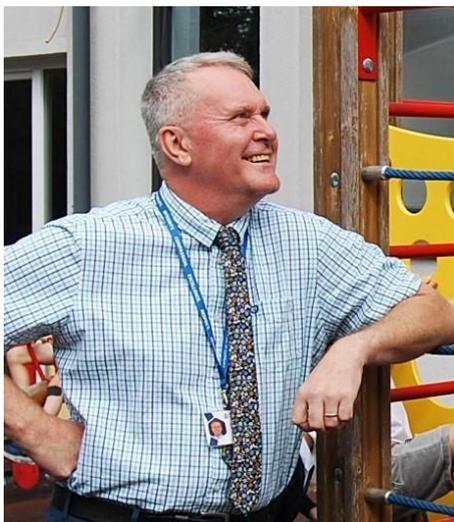
A huge thanks to our PTA who came into school recently to put up the Christmas decorations. The school is looking very festive as a result, and I have heard many Xmas songs and tunes being sung and played.



The PTA would kindly ask each family to contribute baked goods or snacks for the Fayre that can be either taken to the class teacher or dropped off in the morning on the 15th of December. Please ensure that all the food is nut-free as some children at our school have allergies, including severe cases of peanuts allergy. For those parents, who would like to join to help during the event itself, you're more than welcome to contact us on [pta@britishschool.si](mailto:pta@britishschool.si). Your support will be highly appreciated indeed.

Your PTA

## **Principal's Message**



## **Principal's Update**



I must say that the staff yoga session this week was a particular delight; the new building assembly room was atmospheric with its Christmas tree lights flashing in the gathering darkness. Yoga at Christmas is a good way to manage your wellbeing for sure.



### Parent Portal & Reports

Our Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 reports will be sent out next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, and the Early Years and Primary reports in the final week of this term.

As with recent reminders to parents, all BISL school reports are now published via the 'Parent Portal' – please click [BISL Parent Portal Access](#) to enter. The registration, username and password guide has been emailed to parents already. Contact [it@britishschool.si](mailto:it@britishschool.si) for further assistance as necessary.

### Parent-Teacher Meetings

In order to book an appointment with your child's teachers, parents must login to the Meeting booking system by clicking this link - [Register for BISL Parent Teacher Meetings](#)

- Secondary Parent Teacher meetings are from 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Early Years and Primary Parent Teacher Meetings will take place in the first week of January 2023

### School Attendance

Thank you for your supportive and thoughtful responses concerning my message last week over the need for a high level of school attendance. As ever your support is very much appreciated. A full attendance rate really is an important factor in a student's success in school.

### Observing Learning

Members of the School's leadership team have been observing a great number of lessons recently, and it is reassuring that so many of them have included great learning opportunities. I have enjoyed seeing both PE and History lessons when the students have peer-evaluated each other and provided amazing feedback. Facilitated by some skilled teaching, our Key Stage 3 students, working in groups, were guided to give precise and specific comments that supported improvement...EBI for example = 'Even better if...', ABC = 'Add to, Build Upon, or Challenge'



There is no doubt that building each other's knowledge and skills together is powerful learning; whether our students are practicing to 'retain possession and move in an invasion game such as Handball or Basketball or Year 7 re-enacting the adventures of Mansa-Musa and his brother (Malian Empire) in History.

### Last Day of School Term

Whilst we will be ensuring we are maintaining standards and working right up to the end of term, please note that, as per the published academic calendar, school finishes for all students at 12pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Finally, do remember to come along to the BISL Xmas Fayre on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022,

which will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at school between 2pm and 4pm.

All best wishes,



Matthew Cox  
School Principal

## Dates to Note

Thurs Dec 8th School Art exhibition

Thurs Dec 8th + Peter Pan production  
Fri Dec 9th

Mon Dec 12th Peter Pan production

Thurs Dec 15nd PTA Christmas Fayre

Fri Dec 16th Block 3 Ends

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](#).

