



# Secondary News

## A word from Mr Travis

### Block 2 Week 4

Halloween has descended on BISL this week! In just a couple of short hours the PTA magically transformed the school into a spooky haunted house using all kinds of weird and wonderful decorations. We have a plethora of events awaiting our students next week, including a 'haunted door' competition, food stands, games and other performances. Should be a week to remember!

Another event we are also preparing for is Remembrance Day. There will be poppies available from reception each morning next week and families can send a small donation to the Royal British Legion [via their website](#) if they wish. The Royal British Legion has been supporting service men and women, veterans, and their families since 1921.

Humanities block continues apace, the week beginning with their annual bumper quiz. The Humanities subjects offer limitless opportunities to inspire and motivate young people. Students at BISL are encouraged to investigate, ask questions and have the freedom to be creative. BISL Humanities teachers seek to broaden horizons by inspiring students to challenge the world around them and think outside the box. This philosophy has embodied all the lessons I've seen on my learning walks this week. Wonderful to see!

External examinations have been continuing this week with candidates coming from Zagreb, Ukraine, Vienna and Trieste International School. In addition to A Levels and IGCSE, we have been hosting admissions tests, assessments required for applications to top universities in the UK, including Oxford and Cambridge. This week candidates took

the Biomedical admissions test. Thank you also to Mr Batson and Mr Malden for hosting parents at our University Guidance meeting this week. It was very well attended and parents were treated to a wide range of useful information that will help students prepare for their university applications.

There have been more successes in Mathematics competitions, with our students receiving certificates in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) senior online competition. Congratulations to our Year 11 student Georgi who came top in the school, whilst competing against Year 12 and 13 Mathematicians. Well done to Georgi and good luck to him and the rest of the competitors in the intermediate Mathematics challenge on 1st February 2023.

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

### \*Important Message for all Secondary Parents\*

I wanted to provide some clarity regarding **Leave of Absence Requests** during term time.

BISL is a caring and compassionate community and we pledge to work with parents where possible on this issue. However, we have a duty to ensure that all children are meeting the attendance targets set, for the sake of their own learning. International research proves that there is a direct correlation between student outcomes and attendance and we want all students to achieve their very best.

Our provision at BISL is not optional and any requests for additional leave during term time, however small,

need to be sent **at least 3 days in advance** and submitted using the official school form.

While we cannot apply a blanket policy to approve or reject all applications, we must make it clear that leave of absence will only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**. We understand that a doctor's appointment is unavoidable, however additional holiday days will not be approved. Continual unapproved absences are a breach of BISL school policy.

Hopefully the table below will provide some clarity as to what we can/cannot approve. This is a 'best-fit' model and obviously doesn't cover every eventuality. We have to judge each request on its own merits.

Approved	Not Approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- *Medical Appointment (see below)</li> <li>- *Dentist Appointment (see below).</li> <li>- Participation in national or international level sporting events.</li> <li>- Religious events (Bar Mitzvah for example).</li> <li>- Weddings and other significant family events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sports clubs or matches (that are not national/international level).</li> <li>- Extended holidays outside the school holidays.</li> <li>- Time to study for exams/tests.</li> <li>- Driving lessons.</li> </ul>

*\*Medical and dentist appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, wherever possible. We understand that sometimes this is impossible due to availability.*

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Travis  
 Head of Secondary  
 Mr Jonathan Travis, Head of Secondary

Students, teachers and our wonderful leaders all dived headfirst into the fun of Hallowe'en on Thursday this week. Every year the costumes seem to get better and better. Here is a quick taste of some of the imaginations of our community.



## Hallowe'en Dress Down Day



## Sixth Form news

Monday morning started with a celebration of the success our year 11, 12 and 13 students achieved in their Cambridge external examinations, which took place in June 2022 and also the UKMT Senior Mathematics competition. Students were then asked to question themselves regarding their path to success. Mr Batson presented students with a timeline from now until their graduation and entrance into university, introducing the ideas of target grades and the methods by which those grades could be achieved. Students were briefly shown the work of Nate Kornell PHD, a psychologist who through his extensive research has indicated that if you want to successfully commit knowledge to the long term memory, to truly remember and understand the content taught in class, it is best to space out learning rather than cram.

Students were also shown the [VESPA model](#) for success and how this model can be used to improve student attainment.

You can see the presentation by clicking the following [link](#).



### English News:

**Year 9** have been preparing poetic responses to the question of "Who am I?". They did fantastic work on "Mr Dooper," creating cut out poetry, and reflected on who they are as people.

**Year 10** have been working on tension in "Crumbs from the Table of Joy," and have examined the aftermath of the racist attack on Godfrey.



**Year 11** spent the week looking at chapter 10, a critical turning point in the novel and the fall out of these events in "Purple Hibiscus."

### PE news:

Throughout PE lessons this week, we focused on playing for understanding in a competitive environment, across a range of sports. Year 7 undertook some competitive singles and doubles tennis matchplay, with Year 8 and 9 doing the same when playing badminton. Year 10 and Year 11 participated in a competitive, round robin volleyball tournament, focusing on teamwork and court positioning.



## Maths news

**Year 7** students displayed excellent knowledge of multiplying and dividing decimals with 10, 100, 1000 and were eager to crack the code on a decimals codebreaker. They also recalled how to add and subtract decimals and perfected their techniques.

**Year 8** students diligently performed the four operations with decimals, using appropriate techniques. With peer feedback, they corrected their errors and were confident to move on to a new topic, statistics.

**Year 9** students practised all four operations with decimals through an escape room activity. They had to demonstrate their skills in decimals, as well as to decode hidden messages. Starting a new topic, statistics, the students recalled methods to calculate the mean, median, mode and range on a list of numbers. They also recalled methods to estimate the mean, find the class containing the mode or median from a grouped frequency table. This was excellent preparation for the upcoming group Statistics project, led by Miss Jaarsma, a student intern from the Netherlands.

**Year 10** students battled their way through solving exponential equations successfully and were excited to learn an easier topic, standard form. They also started a two lesson project called study group, where students engaged in autonomous learning about Venn diagrams.

**Year 11** students learnt how to solve quadratic equations using three different methods: factorisation, the quadratic formula and completing the square. All three methods are an important part of the IGCSE syllabus and the students could be tested on all three of the particular skills in their external exam.

**Year 13** students practised applying their skills of logarithms and trigonometry and sat in their Block 2 quiz.

### Maths challenge wall:

All secondary students are welcome to solve problems published every week in front of room 316. The prizes for correct answers are House points, so do not miss the challenges!

## Science News:

Today our year 13 student did her practical AS Physics exam where she had to study the balance of a bottle on an inclined plane and studied the relationship between the electric current and the magnetic force. Y7 made copper sulphur crystals.



## MFL News:

### Slovene Advanced

It was a spooky week for Y9 Advanced Slovene lessons as they had to write a “Bu-hu” story for Halloween following the spooky reading aloud.

From Ms Kotnik - the teacher who is “afraid, very afraid.”

*Ms Kotnik, MFL Coordinator*

### Computer Science

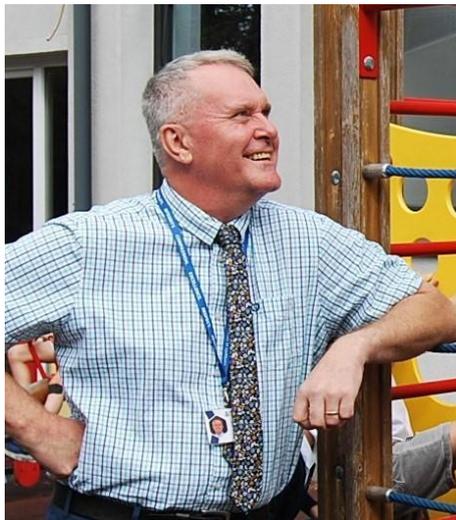
A small group of year 7 robotics enthusiasts submitted entries to our student-led Halloween robotics competition. The students only had 30 minutes across two lunchtimes to come up with the design. The winning entry was a spooky marshmallow over an open fire by Maarja-liis and Shadi in 7B, with a halloween carnival float as second runner up by Daniil in 7A.

*Ms Burtrand, Computer Science teacher*

## Principal's Message

# Principal's Update

Friday 28th October 2022



Dear Parents and Families,

Dear Parents and Families,

Given the effort, reward and energy that the school community developed during yesterday's thoroughly enjoyable Halloween Dress Up Day, I feel compelled to write how that event helped me to understand the strength of this school's climate and culture. Across the community, PTA, students and staff all supported the event so that it took on a happy, positive life of its own – it is always warming to be in school when 3 year olds right through to 18 year olds and beyond are committed to make things fun and effective, determinedly ensuring that everyone is able to enjoy a special occasion. Well done BISL for the positivity and willing involvement is a good sign of a very healthy school.

### School Attendance

As an entire school for this academic year, we are currently achieving an average student attendance rate of 93%. This again is a healthy number indeed. Most good schools aim for their individuals, classes and year groups to achieve an attendance rate of 95% or more. In education this number is generally used as a premium benchmark, and for good reason. Educational research regularly links a student's school, college and future success to a few, vital factors and school attendance rates are undoubtedly

one of those deemed the most important. For example, if a student were to have an attendance rate of just 80% (4 days out of 5 each week) over their entire 15-year school career, they would have received 3 years less schooling overall, than a child who had attended for 100% of the time.

Clearly therefore, it is always important for schools to monitor attendance data carefully and ensure that being at school is valued by all. I think it was Einstein who is quoted as saying 'The very best people are those who turn up!'. In view of that, please do be mindful of school absence and do please apply for planned absences using the necessary school forms. Thank you very much for your continued support.

### Polish Film Festival

Please see below for details of this film festival currently being held in Ljubljana and supported by the Polish Embassy. Films look to me as if they are for adults, rather than children!



Polish Film Days

28. October 2022 - 30 October 2022

From Jerzy Kawalerowicz's Night Train (1959), a masterpiece by one of the most famous directors of the so-called "Polish film school", to a range of genre- and genre-diverse titles by renowned contemporary Polish filmmakers.

<https://kinoteka.si/cikel/dnevi-poljskega-filma/>

Best wishes and have a lovely weekend and public holiday. We look forward to seeing all the students next Wednesday 2nd November.



Matthew Cox  
School Principal

## 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](#).

## Dates to Note

Mon	Oct 31st	Public Holiday - School closed
Tues	Nov 1st	Public Holiday - School closed
Thurs	Nov 3rd	Story Time in Early years
Fri	Nov 4th	Coffee with the Principal
Fri	Nov 4th	Dress down day - House Colours
Fri	Nov 4th	End of Block 2

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

