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29 August 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back to another year at Bromsgrove International School! It is my pleasure to be writing my first letter to you as the new Headmaster of the school. I have been living on campus since arriving in Thailand with my family on 29th July 2014 and have been working tirelessly with both the administration and academic teams to make the school ready for the start of the new academic year.

I am pleased to report that our student numbers continue to grow week on week and our boys' boarding house is nearly full. This continued growth is testament to the quality of our educational and boarding provision at BIST and I look forward to seeing our numbers continue to grow throughout this academic year. I am confident that this is the year that sees BIST establish itself as one of the leading international schools in Bangkok.

There have been a number of changes and developments that have already happened at the school and I will outline these for you below:

Leadership Team changes and New Teachers

Firstly, we welcome Khun Mint Duenpen to the administration team as the new School Director. Khun Mint will work with both Khun Kaew Pawakranond (School Manager) and me in overseeing the administrative side of the school. Khun Mint brings a wealth of experience to our organisation, having worked as a Human Resource Director in a number of multinational companies within Asia. I look forward to working closely with Khun Mint and Khun Kaew to ensure there is more synergy between the academic and administrative sides of the school. This close alignment will ensure that our systems and processes across both sections of the school lead to better communication with all sections of our school community.

I will be meeting weekly with Khun Mint, Khun Kaew, Khun Boonlue (Finance Manager) and Khun Alice Law (Head of Marketing), as well as both my Deputy Headmasters, Mr Jamie Swan and Mr Matthew Savage. This new team will be known as the *Administration and Strategy Team (AST)* and will work with me to develop the whole school as we move forward this year, and will also be tasked with helping me formulate our new Five Year Strategic Plan.

My new *School Leadership Team (SLT)* will focus on the academic side of the school this year and will include myself, both Deputy Headmasters (Mr Swan and Mr Savage), the Head of Primary (Mr Pearce) and the Head of Early Years (Ms John). I am looking forward to working with this team to raise academic standards and the quality of learning and teaching across the whole school.

We also have made some changes to our Pastoral Team in the Secondary School this year. Mr McNaught is our new Head of Sixth Form (Year 12 and Year 13), Mr Darren Beanland is our new Head of Upper Secondary (Years 9, 10 and 11) and Mr Hari Denton is our new Head of

Lower Secondary (Year 7 and Year 8). I am confident this revised pastoral team structure will ensure each and every child is closely monitored and cared for in our Secondary School.

I would like to welcome the following new teachers to BIST this academic year:

David Williams (Head of Boys Boarding); Daniel Lyng (Head of Science); Andrew Williams (Head of Drama); Nicola Bennett (Teacher of Science); Matthew Bonnell (Teacher of Science); Sarah Cakebread (Teacher of Science); Matthew Vowles (Teacher of EAL); Mark Sweetland (Teacher of EAL); Philip Lee (Teacher of Mathematics); Catherine Frisbie (Primary Music Teacher).

Lastly, for personal reasons, Mr Dylan Jones, one of our Primary class teachers, was unable to return to BIST this academic year. This has resulted in the Year 5 classes being merged into one class until a replacement teacher has been recruited. This process is underway and I will update Primary parents once we have recruited a new teacher.

Signage, Buildings and Playgrounds

I have been working with my marketing team on rebranding our signage around both campuses and I hope you will agree that the new colourful and bold displays are a good start to this long needed overhaul. We have also undertaken large scale painting and decorating projects throughout the summer holiday on both campuses, which has made them look newer, fresher and more welcoming to our students. In addition, I have also carried out a campus wide Health and Safety audit on both sites and as a result have made some changes to the sites.

On our Windsor Park Campus, the wooden playground has been dismantled as a result of it becoming rotten and potentially dangerous to our students. This has been replaced by two wonderful 5m x 5m jumbo spring free trampolines – the safest trampolines in the world. These have been imported from the USA and ensure only the very highest levels of safety for our students. They will be available for use by our Primary School students only (Year 3-Year 6) during break and lunchtimes; they will be staffed by a teacher at all times and we will follow strict usage rules to ensure the safety of all our students. In addition, the Primary team has also ordered some additional mini football goals and table tennis nets for the students to use during break and lunchtime.

ID badges

Over the last two weeks the school has been conducting a complete campus wide security review of the procedures and systems we have in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your children. Part of this review has looked at ways in which we can make our campuses more secure and ensure that any adult on the campus has a visible ID badge that is always worn. All teachers, TAs and administration/auxiliary staff now wear these ID badges and I am rolling out this programme to all parents and families. From 1st October no parent or driver will be allowed on campus without wearing their ID badge visibly around their neck. If a person visiting the campus does not have their badge (or is an outside visitor/contractor) they will be asked to sign in and deposit some ID/or driving licence by our security guards and will be issued with a 'visitor' ID badge for the duration of their time on campus.

In order for the school to issue ID badges for both parents and a family driver or maid (if needed), please send a passport sized photograph by email to Ms Jutapak Gullasu (Bam) at gjutapak@bromsgrove.ac.th, clearly stating the name of the person in the photograph, the

position in the family (father/mother/driver/maid) and your child's name/class. Each family will be issued with a maximum of 3 ID badges free of charge. Lost ID badges will be charged at THB100 for a replacement. When your child leaves the school, you will be required to return all your family ID badges before receiving your admission deposit.

Please ensure the school receives your photographs and information by Friday 26th September in order for the school to process them by 1st October.

The safety and wellbeing of all our students is paramount to me as Headmaster, and I am confident that these new tightened security procedures will ensure that both campuses are secure from strangers and predators.

World Scholars Cup Success

I am delighted to inform parents that two of our *World Scholar's Cup* teams, who competed in the Global Round of this prestigious academic competition in July, against some of the very best teenage minds on the planet, have qualified for the stellar *Tournament of Champions* at Yale University in November 2014. Not only is this without precedent for our school, it also proves our status among the very best international schools in the region. I am sure the whole school community will offer our 'scholars' their full support as they prepare for this final challenge. As for this academic year, we hope to expand the programme further, so please ask your children to think about whether they would like to follow in these footsteps.

Learner Profile/Polio Points

Perhaps the most exciting development at BIST this year, and something that places us at the cutting edge of educational practice globally, is our new 'Learner Profile'. Attached to this letter, are details of the **eight** attributes we believe each student should master in order to become an effective global citizen. Throughout the year, teachers will be helping your child to develop these attributes in everything they do. Even more excitingly, we are now the second school in the world to reward these attributes through the promise of humanitarian aid. Further details will follow later this term, as we launch the whole BIST community *Polio Points*: so watch this space!

Changes to the Extracurricular Programme

We have made some exciting improvements to our Extracurricular Activities (ECA) programme this year. We have launched the Bromsgrove Challenge for Year 3 – Year 13 which unites the extracurricular activities programme, residential trips and community service projects into one challenging award that students work towards throughout the academic year. More details will follow in later newsletters.

Mobile phone usage

I have been reviewing the school mobile phone usage policies for our students and I would like to clarify these to you as parents:

- Any mobile phone must be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Mobile phones can be used around the school until 8.00am at the start of the school day and can be used at the end of the school day after ECAs have finished. At no other times are phones allowed to be used around the school campus.

- Years 5 and 6 only are allowed to bring mobile phones but these must be handed to the class teacher and locked away during the school day.
- If parents of students in Years 3 and Year 4 consider that it is absolutely necessary for their child to bring a mobile phone into school, they will be asked to write a letter of request to the Head of Primary, Mr Pearce (cpearce@bromsgrove.ac.th) in advance. The phones are to be handed to the class teacher and they are locked away during the school day.
- Secondary students - Years 7 to Year 13, can use mobile phones in lessons for educational and learning purposes at the direction of the individual teacher.
- Please note that BIST cannot be responsible for any loss or theft of mobile devices brought onto its campuses.

New Website

I am very excited to announce that the new school website will go live by the end of next week. This website has taken over 18 months to plan and develop, and I would like to personally thank our marketing team for their industrious work on this project. Please log on to the usual school web address www.bromsgrove.ac.th next week to look at the new site after next Friday.

Newsletter

This academic year I plan to publish the school newsletter every month to update parents and guardians on the exciting learning and extracurricular activities that will be taking place across both campuses. I hope you will enjoy reading the new newsletter format when the first edition is published at the end of September.

Bromsgrove Parent-Teacher Association (BPTA) to be reborn

Finally, I am currently reviewing the format and organisation of the BPTA and I will write with more details about how this important body will be run this year in my next Headmaster's letter. The one thing I can tell you about this new group is that it will be renamed 'Friends of Bromsgrove (FOB)' and will comprise elected parent representatives from across all sections of our school community.

I look forward to meeting you at the various school events throughout this term and please do not hesitate to contact my PA, Ms Enna at npraewphan@bromsgrove.ac.th if you wish to meet with me regarding any aspect of the school.

Warmest regards



Dr Dan Moore
Headmaster

