



BROMSGROVE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
THAILAND

Early Years Campus:

344 Mu 12 Ramkamhaeng 164 Road, Minburi, Bangkok 10510

Tel: 0-2540-7122-3 Fax: 0-2540-7124

Primary and Secondary Campus:

55 Mu 9 Windsor Park Golf Club, Suwinthawong Road, Minburi,
Bangkok 10510 Tel: 0-2989-4873 Fax: 0-2989-4094

Email: enquiry@bromsgrove.ac.th www.bromsgrove.ac.th

15 September 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

It has been a very busy start to the new academic year and the students have started to settle in well to their learning. I have very much enjoyed getting to know all the staff and students these past few weeks. This is a very long Headmaster's letter again as I have much to write about – I promise they will get much more concise in future editions!

Bromsgrove UK Headmaster's visit and drinks reception

I am delighted to inform you that the new Headmaster of Bromsgrove School, UK, Mr Peter Clague will be visiting Bangkok on Tuesday 23 September and Wednesday 24 September. I would like to invite all BIST parents to attend a drinks reception on Tuesday 23 September at 7pm – 9pm at the Plaza Athenee Hotel. Bangkok based Bromsgrove UK parents, BUK alumni and BIST parents have been invited to attend. Please rsvp your attendance through the email that will be sent out this week.

On Wednesday 24 September, Mr Clague will be in BIST meeting with myself, Khun Thiti Pawakranond, our Chairman of the Board, my teaching staff and students.

Website

Our new website is now live and we will spend the next two weeks ironing out any issues or glitches. All sports team's fixtures will now be on the website calendar so please use it to check your child's upcoming fixtures. I hope you enjoy looking at all areas of the website and find it informative.

Booster Classes in English, Mathematics and Science

For many students, full participation in each lesson and maximum effort on each piece of homework is sufficient to ensure they achieve their potential by the end of the year or in their public examinations. However, for some students, additional help and support is required. For this reason, in the Secondary School, we will now be offering extra lunchtime lessons in English, Mathematics and Science, for those students who would like a helping hand. Initially, these sessions will be offered on a 'drop-in' basis, and there will be a separate session in each of English, Mathematics and Science for Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) and for Key Stages 4 and 5 (Years 10-13). By the half term break, however, we will also identify the individual students we feel would most benefit from this extra input - perhaps students who seem to be underachieving, or struggling with a particular skill or topic. These students will be actively encouraged to attend the relevant session(s) and their Pastoral Coordinator (Mr Denton, Mr Beanland or Mr McNaught) will communicate this to you directly as parents. We are also now offering booster classes in EAL and Mathematics for our boarding students that will benefit our boarders immensely with their academic progress.

This is an important and timely step for the school, as we seek to weave the net tighter through which no student at BIST should slip, in our efforts to ensure your child fulfils their potential. These booster classes will commence from Monday 15 September, and a timetable will be given to your child through their tutor. Should

you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Coordinator or the Head of Boarding if your child is a boarder.

Student Voice Re-Launch

Mr Swan and Mr Savage, our Deputy Headmasters, have been busy this week with student interviews for our new revamped student voice committee. Lots of excellent ideas and suggestions have already been made by students during the interview process and there is real enthusiasm from the student body. The student voice committee provides an opportunity for our students to work together on key areas of school life. These are learning, wellbeing and the House system. The learning committee will focus on ways to make all lessons at BIST as enjoyable and effective as possible. The wellbeing committee will ensure all students enjoy their time here and focus on issues ranging from anti-bullying to boarding, from meals to facilities. The House committee will organise house competitions and events across the school.

Parent Coffee Mornings

I hosted the first parents' coffee morning of the new academic year on the Early Years campus last Thursday and it was a pleasure to meet and talk with those parents who attended. During the session I asked parents to discuss and write down their views on what makes BIST a great school and what things they really like about the school. Conversely, I also asked them to tell me of areas where they thought we can improve as a school and anything that they were not happy about. For me as the new Headmaster, it is vital that I get to know parental views and opinions about the school in order for me to make informed decisions and changes as we start our journey to becoming an 'outstanding' international school. I will host the first Windsor Park campus coffee morning for parents with students in Year 3 – Year 13 on Monday 22 September at 8am in the Tudor (girls') boarding house lobby area and I look forward to seeing you there.

Communication

One of the main areas of current dissatisfaction among parents that came from my first coffee morning dialogue was communication. Parents feel that as a school we do not communicate clearly enough about what is going on and they do not know who to contact when they have a concern about their child. For me as Headmaster, good and clear communication is vital for us to improve as a school and I want to clarify below who you communicate with if you have a concern about your child.

- If your child is in Pre-Nursery to Year 6 the first person you should contact regarding a concern or issue you have is the class teacher. The class teacher will contact you within 24 hours of receiving your email or phone call. If the issue cannot be resolved through dialogue with the class teacher, parents can then contact either Ms Emma John, Head of Early Years at headey@bromsgrove.ac.th, or Mr Chris Pearce, Head of Primary at cpearce@bromsgrove.ac.th
- If your child is in the Secondary School, the first person you should contact about a general concern is their form tutor. If you are concerned about a specific academic subject, please contact the subject teacher in the first instance or the head of that academic department. If your concern is about your child's overall progress, please contact the relevant Pastoral Coordinator – Mr Denton (Years 7 and 8) at hdenton@bromsgrove.ac.th; Mr Beanland (Years 9, 10 and 11) at dbeanland@bromsgrove.ac.th; and Mr McNaught (Years 12 and 13) at gmcnaught@bromsgrove.ac.th. Again, any member of staff that you email should return your query within 24 hours
- Both of my Deputy Headmasters, Mr Savage (msavage@bromsgrove.ac.th) and Mr Swan (jswan@bromsgrove.ac.th), are available to speak to you if your issue or concern is of a serious nature that needs urgent attention
- All staff email addresses are on the website

- Each campus has parent liaison staff – on Windsor Park campus they are Ms Trini (rtarinee@bromsgrove.ac.th) - parent liaison manager, and Ms Aim (lnattaporn@bromsgrove.ac.th) - parent liaison coordinator
- On the Early Years campus the parent liaison coordinator is Ms Bow (ksinipa@bromsgrove.ac.th).
- The role of the parent liaison officer is to assist those parents whose level of English is not high enough to communicate directly with the teacher when they have a concern. They will be happy to assist you in passing on your concern or problem to the relevant teacher to get back to you regarding your concern or query if language constraints mean you are unable to do this yourself. In addition, they are available to translate for you if you wish to meet a member of staff in person and your level of spoken English is not good. Please note that the parent liaison officers are only available during school hours between 7.30am and 4.30pm and please do not contact them outside of these hours on their personal mobile phones.

It is also important to note that many concerns and issues are quickly resolved by talking face to face rather than through email dialogues or telephone conversations.

Departure time for students at WP campus

Once ECAs have finished and the buses have departed from the WP campus at 4pm (3pm on Monday and Friday), the only students that should remain on the WP campus are either those taking part in a school sports fixture, an extended ECA or those that are boarding students. Please ensure that you or your family driver (if your child does not take the school bus) collects your child on time. If for any reason you know in advance that you will be delayed collecting your child on a certain day (as a result of a pre-planned appointment), please inform the form tutor or class teacher in advance. Children that are waiting to be collected can wait in either the Tee Bar area or in the library – though the library is closed at 4.30pm when the librarian departs. Please ensure that you follow these procedures as for health and safety reasons, I do not want children on campus that are not supervised by teachers.

ID badges

As I wrote in my last letter, from 1 October, no parent or driver will be allowed on campus without wearing their ID Badge visibly around their neck.

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 badge. When your child leaves the school, you will be required to return all your family ID Badges before receiving your admissions deposit.

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

FOBISIA Under 15 Games

The FOBISIA Under 15 games on 14-16 November 2014 will be held at the Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok. This is a world class venue and will allow each student to experience competing in this grand arena. BIST will be competing in swimming, football, basketball and athletics against the following schools:

Garden International School, Ban Chang; Kinabalu International School, Malaysia; St Stephen's International School (Bangkok Campus); The ABC International School, Vietnam; The British School, Kathmandu; The English School of Mongolia; and The Regent's School Bangkok.

I look forward to our first FOBISIA games with excitement and I am confident our teams will do us proud!

Uniform and Appearance

For health and safety reasons, all girls are now required to tie their hair back if it's below shoulder length. Please can I ask parents to remind students to do this before they arrive on campus. Also a number of boys are wearing trainers and not black shoes as per our uniform policy. Again please could I remind parents to buy black shoes for students as soon as possible.

Bromsgrove Parent-Teacher Association (BPTA)

The new BPTA – Friends of Bromsgrove (FOB) will soon be launched and I will be inviting all parents from across the whole school to nominate themselves for positions on the new committee. I will send full details of the new FOB committee and this election process by the end of this week – I hope many of you put yourselves forward for consideration to join this committee and I am looking forward to working closely with our parents.

Finally, I have a new PA – Ms Jaa. Please do not hesitate to contact her at pa.hm@bromsgrove.ac.th if you wish to make an appointment to meet with me regarding any aspect of the school.

Warmest Regards



Dr Dan Moore

Headmaster

