

Secondary School

Director of Secondary: William Bradley

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Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of our new parents and students to the school and to welcome back all of our returning parents and students. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that our students are rested and ready to take on the rigours of the year to come.

The school has much to celebrate as we start the new academic year and the first thing I want to tell you about is our incredible results.

The Graduating Class of 2015 finally emerged from the shadow of the year above them by getting the best IB results the school has ever enjoyed! 100% pass rate in the full Diploma Programme for the third consecutive year. An average IB points score of 33.4. The top scorers were Chiara Vivaldi with 44 points, followed by Anne Blanken and Hannah Watson with 41. Hannah Watson has taken up a place at Cambridge University. I know you will join me in wishing all of our Graduating Class of 2015 the very best of luck as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

The IGCSE Class of 2015 also broke all the school records! 96% of all our IGCSE examination grades were between A* and C and well over 50% of all of our grades were A* or A, and 33% of all our grades were A*. Many of our students scored multiple A* and A grades, including Ashutosh Bhadouria, Sophie Schmitz, So Hee Park, Lieke Blanken, Mare Blanken, Yu Jin Bang, Berke Turkay, Elahe Hosseinzadeh, Serra Peker, Elena Vivaldi, Umit Abdulkasim and Sheida Kiran who between them had no less than 119 A* and A grades!

Congratulations are due to all of our students however, for the fantastic effort they put in last year and, of course, our expectations are very high for the coming year! But fantastic students need to have fantastic teachers and congratulations are due to my staff who worked incredibly hard to bring our students to the level where such grades are in their grasp.

Talking of staff, each year we have some staff leave us for pastures new and we bring in new teachers to replace them. So we say goodbye and we say welcome:

Goodbye to Eileen Aydinlar who decided to retire at the end of the year.
And welcome to Aftab Hamid, her replacement.

Goodbye to Holly Garner who has moved to Ghana.
And welcome to Paddy Williams who replaced her.

Goodbye to John Brain who has moved to Spain.
And welcome to Alan Reid who replaced him.

Goodbye to Darren Clark who moved to the Caribbean.



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And we also two new positions that we have filled;

Welcome to Dr Kathleen Hawthorne who will be our University and Careers Counsellor.

Welcome to Scott Cosnett our Teacher-Librarian.

Please join me in wishing all of our departing staff the best of luck wherever they have gone and please welcome our new members of staff when you get the opportunity to meet them.

We have had quite a lot of physical changes to the campus over the holidays also – the inside has been spruced up with a very welcome new coat of paint for most classrooms and offices. You quite simply won't recognise the library, a huge amount of work has been carried out there, please do come in to see it – both the Primary and the Secondary libraries have been extensively modernised. We have new changing rooms for the swimming pool which I am sure our students will like, a new set of storage rooms in the theatre foyer allows us to create proper changing rooms for our students to use during their theatrical performances, and there are many more small cosmetic improvements around the place which all help the campus to be a better, more welcoming environment for learning.

Over the summer I wrote a Parent's Handbook which I will put on the website and I will make it available to you all. This is the first Secondary School Parent's Handbook we have had at BISI so it is in a somewhat fledgling state. Perhaps, once you have read it, you may have ideas for other information I could put in there that would be useful to parents. Please do let me know.

I am looking forward to a great year to come in the BISI Community and I hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely,

William Bradley
Director of Secondary

