

BSM's Weekly Newsletter 13 February 2010

News From The Principal

Head Boy, Siddharth Gopakumar Offered Place at The London School of Economics - Head Boy Siddharth Gopakumar has been offered a place at the prestigious and world-renowned London School of Economics to read a BSc (Honours) degree in accounting and finance. Of the 2400 students who applied for a place on this course, Siddharth is one of only 118 students worldwide to be offered a place.

Siddharth is an extremely popular member of our school's community and as Head Boy, business studies student and young entrepreneur; he has led and been involved with a huge number of activities that have helped to move our school forward in recent years. Siddharth has been an active member of the Model United Nations and represented our school in conferences in Singapore and Harlem, Netherlands. He has also represented our school in several public speaking competitions. Last summer, Siddharth attended undergraduate courses at Harvard Business School. As well as leading countless school assemblies, Siddharth has organised the school's annual talent show, a Senior School lunchtime football tournament involving students from all year groups and staff, a Department of Business Studies curriculum enhancement day, chess tournaments and quizzes. In order to relax away from this busy schedule, Siddharth plays cricket and reads the Financial Times.

The offer of a place at one of the world's premier academic institutions could not have been given to a nicer person. Siddharth is a credit to our school, an effective head boy, and a real gentleman. Well done and congratulations Sidd!



Head Boy Siddharth Gopakumar at Harvard Business School

Double House Points – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary children for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Matt Doyle (6J) and Philipa Lambi (6J) for humanities and Joe Donald (5H) for English. Congratulations and well done!

Fire Drill – Last Tuesday we held our termly fire drill and I am pleased to say that everyone was evacuated from the school buildings into our lower evacuation shelter and accounted for within seven minutes.

Mufti Day Dress – Just a reminder please to send your children to school every day in safe shoes even on mufti-days, because they still take part in lessons like science and design technology for which closed shoes are required for safety reasons.

Primary School's New House Captains – Last week we held our second round of house captain elections. Each candidate prepared and then gave a short presentation to the members of their house. I was impressed by the number of children who stood for election; it is an indication of how well respected this role is within school.

Congratulations to the following pupils. Ruwi: Toby Andruskevicius (6H), Lotte Scholten (6J), Yitti: Rebecca McAtominey (6H), Wei-Han Chan (6B), Ghubra: Amy Stockton (6H), Matthew Onyike (6J), Bowsher: Ross Grieve (6J), and Molly Buttery (6H).

I would like to express my thanks to our outgoing house captains for a job well done! I have every confidence that they will support our new house captains as they get used to their new role. The house captains will be busy over the coming weeks leading their houses in forthcoming swimming galas and sporting events, starting with our Key Stage One Sports Day on Wednesday; Good Luck!



Ruwi: Toby Andruskevicius (6H), Lotte Scholten (6J), Yitti: Rebecca McAtominey (6H), Wei-Han Chan (6B), Ghubra: Amy Stockton (6H), Matthew Onyike (6J), Bowsher: Ross Grieve (6J), and Molly Buttery (6H)



Ruwi – Toby & Lotte



Ghubra – Amy & Matthew



Yitti Wei-Han & Rebecca



Bowsher Ross & Molly

Senior School Ski Trip to La Tsoumaz, Switzerland - 38 students from Years 7 to 12 spent seven extremely enjoyable days skiing and snowboarding in the '4 Valleés' ski resort of La Tsoumaz in Switzerland between 30 January and 5 February. Snow conditions were excellent throughout the seven days and despite a cold start to the week, the sun shone through brilliantly towards the end of the trip. Students' skiing and snowboarding skills improved considerably, and medals, awards and certificates were presented by the instructors in the final evening's awards ceremony.



The students were: Katie Jack (9CLU), Ellie Jack (11CB), Max Sibeijn (8JRO), Alexandre Amann (7AH), Lucy Ambrose (11SS), John Ambrose (8AJ), Alisha Baird (9TE), Ellie Baird (7AH), Jaifar Ben Othman (8CHL), Samantha Blee (11LS), Rachel D`Amours (7JWI), Caitlin Darke (9TE), Ed Douglas (9CLU), Clare Dudfield (11JIR), Kathryn Dudfield (11LS), Emily Field (11CB), Findlay Hulse (7AH), Innes Hulse (7JDR), Foppe Koper (9CLU), Thomas Lax (8CHL), Andrew Mackay (8CHL), Rebecca Mackay (9TE), Jessica Miln (10SM), Thomas Muijs (11SS), Barnaby Myers (8AJ), Carl Oprinsen (10KW), Emre Ozsoy (12MK), Katie Pohlen (7JWI), Daisy Richmond (7JDR), Renate Roeterink (9TR), Thomas Soek (11JIR), Mathijs Soek (9CLU), Elliot Turner (7JWI), Lewis Whitelaw (7AH), Floris de Kruijf (11JIR), Chieneke van Houwelingen (9CLU), Richard de Leeuw (11SS) and Anke de Leeuw (9TR).

International Award – Gold - Nine students from Years 12 and 13 took part in their Gold International Award expedition in early February 2010. The aim was to be dropped deep in the Wahiba Sands and walk out over 4 days with a camel support team. The students started their journey on Saturday 4 February and took turns to ride a camel and walk with the beast of burden. Each day the students moved northwards up and over dunes, with the night spent camping under the stars. A number of brave students even learned how to ride and guide their camel independently. The final night was spent at a Bedu house to enjoy a special goat meal prepared in the traditional manner. Most unusual for the desert was the rain that fell on the tents during the last night. It was an incredible trek completed by some of the Sixth Form's leading students. They were Mel Boyd, Ben Thomas, Tim Street, Noesjka Buitenkamp, Kirstie Hope, Kirsty Hulse, Veronica Karabazcek, Jared Jones and Laura Sharkey. They were accompanied by Dr. Bagheri and Mr Reeves (International Award Leader).



The students were: Mel Boyd (12JR), Ben Thomas (12MK), Tim Street (12JR), Noesjka Buitenkamp(12JR), Kirstie Hope (12JR), Kirsty Hulse (12AM), Veronica Karabazcek (13DA), Jared Jones (12MK) and Laura Sharkey (12AM).

Model United Nations Honour For Sixth Former Alex Hall – Last week sixth formers Dina Hanaey (12AM), Jae Ho Kwak (12AM) and Alex Hall (12JR) joined 400 students from around the world at the Model United Nations (MUN) conference in Doha, Qatar. Dina admirably represented the African Union, press reporter Jae Ho competently worked alongside Al Jazeera News channel, and Alex was awarded the title of Honourable Delegate because of his outstanding knowledge and negotiation skills. He was also selected to sit alongside the Palestinian Ambassador, H.E. Abdul Yunus, during lunch, and all three were congratulated by the Dean of Georgetown University, Qatar. The entire experience has been excellent personal development for the students.



BSM's Ladies' Are In The Pink – Last weekend five Pink Ladies, all teachers at BSM, entered the BG Challenge and completed several physically challenging events as part of their effort to help raise money for charity. Captained by Mrs Jilly Witcomb, the team Vice Captain Miss Clare Lutwyche, Mrs Emma Fenton, Mrs Jenny Reeves, and Dr Liz Bagheri - won their section of the obstacle race, won the 'Best T-Shirt' award, received medals for competing, and were praised for their sportsmanship and support of other teams.

At the time of writing we are waiting to receive the final set of results, but it is anticipated that the Pink Ladies finished in the top ten out of about twenty teams and can pledge OMR 4,500 towards a grand BG Challenge total of about OMR 90,000.

Mrs Witcomb said, "It was absolutely brilliant and something that everyone should experience: an excellent team building event and, yes, a lot of fun with lots of stories to tell..."

Well done and congratulations ladies!



Pink Ladies Team - Captain – Mrs Witcomb, Vice Captain Miss Lutwyche, Mrs Fenton, Mrs Reeves and Dr Bagheri

Under 12 Boys Win Arsenal Soccer School Trophy – Last weekend seven of our Year 7 boys joined two Omani lads to form an under 12 soccer team and win the high profile Under 12 Football Tournament at the Wave, hosted by the Arsenal Soccer School (as part of the Extreme 40 Sailing Event). Coach and parent Mr Glenn Perry said “Although this wasn’t a major tournament it was quite high profile with many teams subscribing to play in the different age groups, and it was an achievement for the lads to win. The matches were played on sand, in the heat of the day and the lads ran their legs off but it was worth it in the end, so well done to them.” He added, “We should all be proud of them and the way in which all nine integrated and played as a team. They are all a credit to their schools and fine ambassadors.” Well done and congratulations boys!



Coach and parent Mr Glenn Perry with BSM’s Aasir Osman (7JWI), Captain Adam Perry (7JWI), Cameron Holt (7AH) Daniel Goddard (7JWI), Daniel Occomore (7JDR), Gauher Ashraf (7JWI), and Matty Knowles (7JWI).

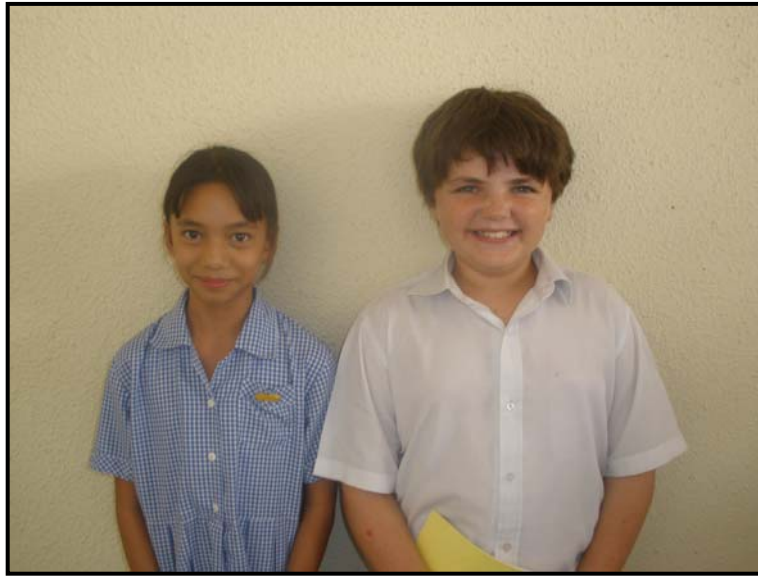
Evacuation to Homes - We shall be evacuating all children to their homes before the end of this academic year, and that the time and date of the exercise will not be announced. Please make sure that you know exactly what you need to do in the event of an evacuation and if you are not sure, please read the contents of your Child Collection Packs or contact my secretary, Mrs Karen Casemore, (email headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om) for a new set of packs for you and your family. Please be prepared. Thank you.

Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show – Members of our Sixth Form’s Fund Raising Committee have been busy planning for this year’s charity fashion show, which will take place from 6.00pm to 9.00pm on Wednesday 10 March at The British Ambassador’s Residence. Further details to follow.

The ‘Ruby Red’ Ball – Thursday 4 November 2010 at The British Ambassador’s Residence. The theme is ‘Ruby Red’ in recognition of Oman’s 40th National Day Celebrations. The cost will be OMR 40 per person. Already we have had 45 tables reserved (450 People), judging by the way the tables are being reserved don’t forget to book yours to ensure that you are not too disappointed. It promises to be a fabulous night. If you would like to attend, we are inviting you to reserve your seat(s) or table for ten by return email to my secretary, Mrs Karen Casemore, at headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om . Please pay Karen for your reservations on 2 October when tickets will be issued.

BSM – British Summer Madness - CAYC Informal Beach Party Wednesday 3 March 2010 - BSM are pleased to invite the School’s Community (over 21s) to a relaxed and informal Beach Party at the idyllic Capital Area Yacht Club on Wednesday 3 March from 7:30pm until 1am. The cost will be OMR 15 per person and includes a disco, BBQ, wine, beer and soft drinks. The evening will help to raise funds for a school multi-media suite as well as allowing the school’s community to socialise on a more informal basis. If you are interested, please reply by email to headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om or contact Karen Casemore on 24600842 for further details. Tickets are available from Angie Bham in Reception. Initially, I hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

Student Council Representatives - Each class in KS2 elects student council representatives, who meet every two weeks with Mr. Turley to discuss the issues which are important to the children. The student council reps have an important job, and they take their responsibilities very seriously. We thought it would be nice if we introduced them to a wider audience, so they have written short profiles of themselves. Each week we profile two members of the Student Council. This week it's Tanya Pongkanta and Arran Sundstrup from 6H:



Tanya Pongkanta was born in Thailand, and is 10 years old. She comes from a large family that includes 2 aunties who live with her here in Muscat. She loves swimming, gymnastics and ballet. She is a very good listener, and likes to work together and share ideas. She hopes to be able to improve the school uniform, especially for girls.

Arran Sundstrup is 11 years old and was born in France. He loves rugby, football and playing on a Rip-Stick. He is helpful, reliable and polite. When he grows up, he would like to become a pilot. As a student council rep, he hopes to be able to improve the Tuck shop, and make break times more fun.

Book Fair – 1 – 7 March 2010 - The senior librarian in collaboration with Pioneer house will be organising for a book fair to take place in the Senior School library, to commemorate the world book day which falls on the 3 of March. The book fair will run for a week starting on the 1 of March until the 7 of March {excluding the weekend} 2010. The book fair will be open from 7.30pm until 2.30 pm on each day of the week where you can come in, browse and purchase books. 20% of the profit made will be donated to both the school libraries to purchase books from the fair. We value your participation and look forward to seeing you there. Mrs Chandrasekera, Senior School librarian.

The British School Muscat - MEDDIA Event – Wednesday 5 May 2010 - The Media, English, Drama and Dance departments are pleased to announce the inaugural **MEDDIA** celebration evening this will take place at The Grand Hyatt Jabarin Ballroom on Wednesday 5 May 2010. It is designed to celebrate individual pieces of work by students studying subjects within these departments, rather than an overall award for continual excellence. The acronym **MEDDIA** stands for Media, English, Dance and Drama Innovation Awards.

The event will be run with an 'Oscars' night format, including black tie/posh frocks, red carpet, limousines, etc. and is designed to allow the students to experience how attending a media event like this would feel. It is also an opportunity for them to showcase their work, receive the accolades they deserve and for parents and staff to be entertained in a broad format.

As we go to press we are busy sourcing sponsorship for various stages of the evening in order to keep ticket prices at an absolute minimum with all nominees and award presenters being invited guests. If you are interested in being part of the event or if you have any questions please contact Mr Moul via Karen Casemore on headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om

News From The Board of Governors

At The Crossroads on our Road To Outstanding – Talks will be taking place this week in order to help us decide if we should a) stay and improve our existing site, b) extend and improve our site, c) split our site, or d) build a completely new school somewhere else. As soon as we have identified which path to take, we'll let you know.

Floodlights On The Astroturf – Discussions and considerations at committee level are in the final stages with respect to installing floodlighting on our Astroturf pitch so we can extend provision in the evenings to our children and let the pitch at night to community organisations. This investment has the potential to provide more sporting opportunities for our children and generate income from members of the community. A final decision will be made at the meeting of the full Board on 28 March.

Last But Certainly Not Least...

Swine Flu – Last week we had one suspected case of swine flu. Please consider having your children vaccinated, free of charge, at one of the Ministry of Health's health centres and if you do, please inform our nurse, Mrs Cath Healey, by text on 99432613.

Please keep your children at home if you suspect that they might have a flu-like illness and seek medical advice. The Flu Hotlines for Oman are 92466422 and 92466642. Please contact Mrs Cath Healey, our nurse, if your doctor suspects that your child may have swine flu. If so, then their brothers and sisters will be required to stay at home too.

Please reinforce the need to for your children to have good personal hygiene. Thank you.

Safeguarding & Absence From School – Please contact us before 8.00am on everyday that your children are absent from school. This ensures that you and we know exactly where they are and why. Thank you.

Parents are reminded that the Primary playground equipment is not supervised after school. We ask for your support and vigilance in ensuring that children are kept away from these areas. In the KS1 lower playground we would appreciate parents supporting the staff as they carry out their duties to maintain health and safety guidelines.

Low Attendance, Low Performance – That's the conclusion reached by Ofsted after inspecting thousands of schools in the UK. Please try to keep your child's attendance levels up but follow the advice on swine flu first. Thank you.

Tag Your Bags – Please remember to tag your school bags and name your lunch boxes.

Mark your children's Uniform Lost Property – Please ensure that all items belonging to your child are clearly named. The Primary lost property box has lots of items that are unnamed and therefore cannot be returned. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Car Parking - Parents are asked to observe the following when using the school's car parks:

- have security passes ready to show the security guards on arrival.
- do not park or stop for extended periods outside of the designated parking bays
- keep speeds to a minimum, no more than 20kph
- remain observant at all times
- pedestrians have priority at all times
- be patient and courteous to other parents, security guards and car parking assistants
- use the pedestrian crossings where provided when on foot
- **do not use mobile phones whilst driving**
- turn your engines off when leaving your car

Thank you for your co-operation.

Clunk-Click Every Trip – Please make your children wear their seat belts.

Cream-up and Hats On – Please protect your child's skin with sun block and a wide brimmed hat. Thank you for your co-operation.

Have a good week!

Steve Howland MBE
Principal.