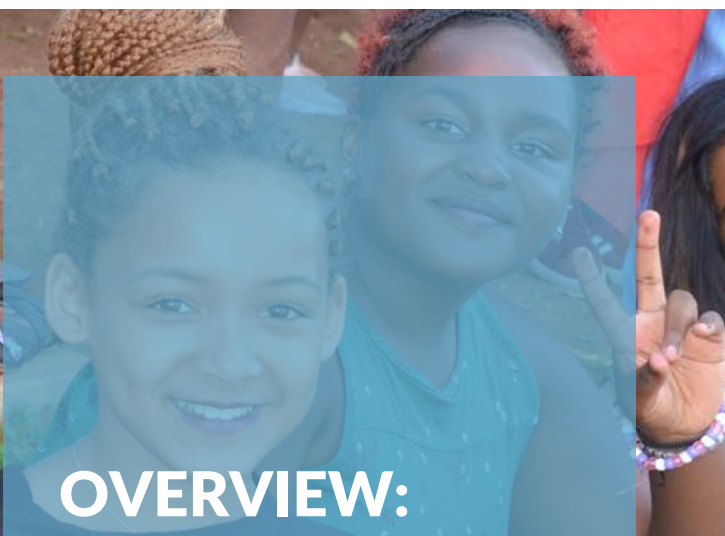


20 AUGUST 2021

# IN THE LOOP

## Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



### OVERVIEW:

- This year's theme - community
- Celebrating our first day back!
- Celebrating our DP results
- What's been happening this week
- Coffee morning
- Uniform shop
- Health Declaration
- Meeting the Secondary teaching team
- Pick up and drop off
- BMIS COVID Safety Guidelines
- Put it in your calendar

## Welcome to our BMIS community

**WELCOME** to the 2021-2022 school year!

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; my name is Kathryn Leaper and I am the Acting Secondary Head Teacher. During my interim Headship I will continue in my role as MYP Coordinator.

I have now been living and working in Malawi for eight wonderful years, during which time Malawi has brought so much joy and love to my life. I live here with my husband and two year old daughter (whose Chichewa is already proving to be very impressive!).

I am really looking forward to working with and getting to know you all in my capacity as Secondary Head until a permanent appointment is made by our new Director, Adrian Moody.

My door is always open (both physically and virtually), so please feel free to reach out at any time. I also hope to meet you at one of our coffee mornings scheduled throughout the year (for more details take a look at "Put it in your Calendar" on the final page).

Until then, grab a cuppa (Australian slang for a tea or coffee) as you read and stay "In the Loop".

Kathryn Leaper  
k.leaper@bmis.mw



## Community

We are very excited about our theme for this coming school year - COMMUNITY!

What is a **community**? What does **community** mean to you?

What does a successful **community** look like? Sound like? Feel like?

What are the benefits of being a part of a **community**?

How can we work together to build our **community** at BMIS? What challenges might we face?

We look forward to exploring these questions with our BMIS community of parents, students, teachers, and staff this year, which will help to create actionable insights to continue building our community!

Author Francis Moore Lappe describes that, to her, community means "nurturing human connection", which is a poignant description, particularly given the challenges that we have faced due to the pandemic.

Now, more than ever, we need to strengthen our **community** by nurturing our **connections** through **communication**, **collaboration**, and **celebration**.

Be sure to look out for and create your own opportunities this year to build our BMIS community, because "alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much" (Keller).

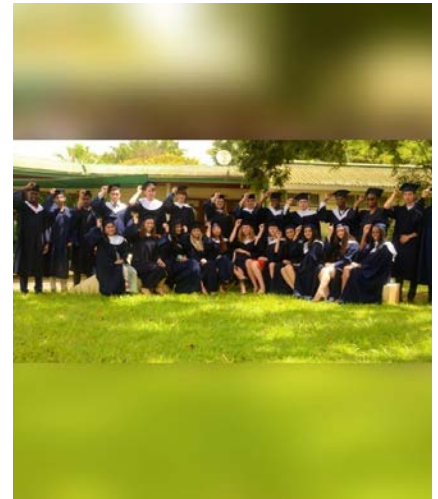
## New Family Orientation

It was fantastic to be able to welcome our new families to our beautiful campus on Monday 16th, just before the start of school.

All families (Primary and Secondary) received a warm welcome from our Director, Adrian Moody, before we split off into our respective sections of the school to learn a little more about life at BMIS.

New parents were introduced to ManageBac and asked some burning questions, while our students enjoyed getting to know their Tutors while exploring their year level bubble area!

We also had an opportunity to meet those families who couldn't join us on campus on Zoom. Overall, it was a special way for our new families to get to know our BMIS community.



## Celebrating our DP results

Wow! Our graduating class of 2021's DP results were simply phenomenal! During a year of uncertainty and immense challenge, our students, teachers, and parents truly shone!

A snapshot of our students' success has been shared below. Join us in **celebrating** their outstanding achievements!

**Average total points  
(out of 45)**

**BMIS: 34.4  
WORLD AVERAGE: 33**

**1 student achieved 44 points  
2 students achieved 43 points  
1 student achieved 40 points**



## What's been happening this week...?

Our STUCO President and Vice President, Rose and Hana, prepared a very warm welcome for our Secondary students on Tuesday. They gave each student (and teachers) in Secondary their very own BMIS bracelets, which was a thoughtful gesture to help build our sense of **community**. They also made welcome signs and a special music playlist to help create a fun and energetic vibe as children entered the school grounds. Look out for our Secondary School pinterest board in the portals, which will be a place for our students to "pin" their inspirational quotes, photos, and images, and will be a way to further build and connect our **community**.



## Coffee Morning

To connect with our **community** of families, Eloise Engel, the Head of Primary, and I would like to extend an invitation to all of our parents and guardians for a relaxing coffee morning at Kaza Kitchen (Area 10) on Tuesday 31st August from 8.00-9.00am.

This morning will give us an opportunity to meet in person, catch up, and nurture our connection with one another, while also having an opportunity to talk about what **community** means to you.

We will provide some baked goods; parents will be asked to pay for their own drinks.



## Uniform Shop

Many parents and students have been asking about our Uniform Shop opening hours.

The opening hours are:

Monday - Friday 07.00-08.00am  
Monday: 12.30-2.00pm

A reminder that you are able to find our uniform policy in our BMIS Student and Parent Handbook, which can be found on our school website under the tabs "Learning" > "Secondary" > "Documents".

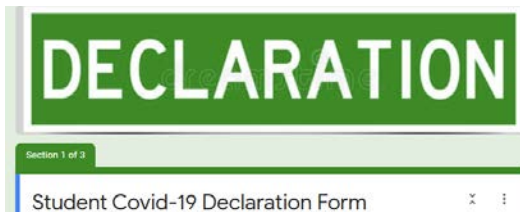


## Meeting the Secondary Teaching Team

Normally at the beginning of an academic year we host a Secondary Open Evening, which is a meet and greet for parents and teachers. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we aren't able to do this this year, so please keep an eye out for our "Teacher Intro Videos", which will be shared the week beginning 30th August, which will allow you to put a face to a name!

You are also welcome to reach out to your child's teacher via email. All teachers' emails are in the front of the Student Planner, which your child received a hard copy of this week.

## Health Declaration



A reminder that if your child has not yet returned to campus, they will need to complete our COVID Health Declaration form no more than 72 hours before their arrival. The form can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

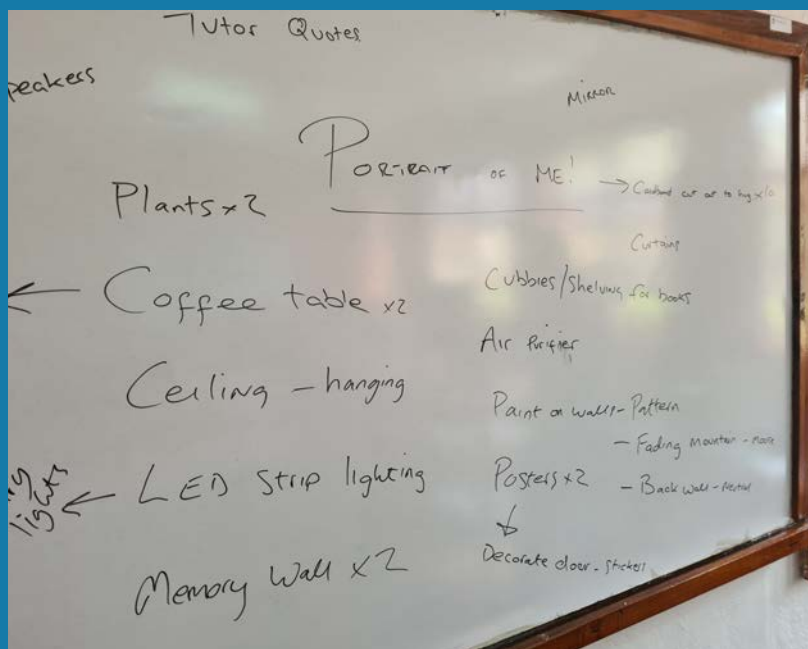
## What else has been happening this week...?

All of our classes are excited for their DESIGN CHALLENGE. Each class has a budget of \$300 to use to design their own classrooms!

Our students were thrilled to hear that they would be able to create a space that reflects their identities, and realised that it was also an opportunity to build their own little Tutor class community!

To the left you can see one of our Year 11 class' brainstorm!

Please do have a chat with your child to learn more about their class' design ideas!



## Pick up + drop off times

Thank you for your patience this week, as we get back into the swing of morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups.

While we haven't changed our afternoon timings, we did bring our morning gate opening forward this year, to help cater for the needs of our whole school community.

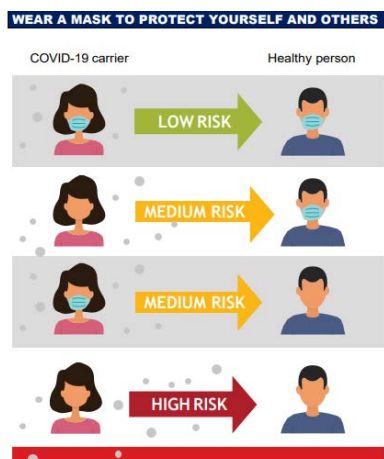
We have heard your concerns though and as a result, from Monday 23rd, the gate in the morning will now open at 06.50am. We hope that this will help to alleviate the pressure on morning drop-offs.

Our afternoon pick-ups will remain the same for now as these timings worked well last year, so it's a case of everyone working together and arriving in their designated time to ensure a smooth pick-up. Your cooperation here is much appreciated. And please don't forget your signs.

YEAR LEVEL	DROP OFF	PICK UP	PICK UP
	MONDAY - FRIDAY	MONDAY - THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7	07.00am - 07.15am	between 1:50 pm and 1:55 pm	between 12.15-12.25pm
8		between 1:55 pm and 2:00 pm	
9		between 2:00 pm and 2:05 pm	
10	06.50am - 07.00am	between 2:05 pm and 2:10 pm	between 12.25-12.35pm
11			
12		between 2:10 pm and 2:15 pm	
13			

## BMIS COVID Safety Guidelines

It was so wonderful to be able to start face-to-face, and our students have done an exceptional job caring for our community this week! Thank you for making BMIS a safe place to learn, by wearing your masks (according to our guidelines) practicing good hand hygiene, staying home if you are sick, and keeping safe social distance!



## Put it in your calendar:

### Tuesday 24th August

Personal Project for Y11 Parents @Zoom @8.00-8.30am  
Year 11 Parents are invited to join our PP Coordinator, Wayne Kovacs

### Tuesday 31st August

Community Coffee Morning @Kaza Kitchen @8.00-9.00am  
All parents and guardians are invited to join our Primary and Secondary Heads, Eloise Engel and Kathryn Leaper

### Wednesday 1st September

"Applying to University" @BMIS Canteen @6.00-7.00pm  
Year 13 parents and students are invited to join our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles

### Thursday 2nd September

An introduction to the MYP @BMIS Canteen @6.00-7.00pm  
All new parents to the MYP are invited to join our MYP Coordinator, Kathryn Leaper

### Tuesday 7th September

"You're now in High School" @Zoom @6.00-7.00pm  
Year 10 parents are invited to join our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles, to learn more about credits and our High School Diploma

### Wednesday 1st October

"University Planning" @BMIS Canteen @6.00-7.00pm  
Year 12 parents are invited to join our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles

**PLEASE NOTE: For virtual events, Zoom invitations will be sent directly to parents/guardians' email addresses**