

03 SEPTEMBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

This week in our BMIS **community**

Week 3 has been wonderfully busy, with so many events allowing all members of our **community** to feel connected!

This week I've loved visiting our classrooms, watching students share and engage in their learning, and seeing our teachers do what they do best!

It was also a highlight to meet with our parents from both Primary and Secondary, and come together to connect and speak about our **community** over coffee and cake!

And our evenings have been busy with our monthly Board Meeting, Year 13 university family evening, and our MYP information evening, all of which we have safely hosted on campus.

I'm excited to share our Secondary updates with you this week, so settle in, grab a "cuppa", and stay "In the Loop!"

Kathryn Leaper
k.leaper@bmis.mw

- Community, coffee, and cake!
- What's been happening this week?
- From our Maths department
- DP Theatre
- Our new counsellor
- An introduction to our teachers!
- From our English department
- What else has been happening this week?
- Year level parent representative/s
- Put it in your calendar

BEAUTIFUL MINDS.

CONNECT
INSPIRE
SUPPORT

Community, coffee, and cake!



What a wonderful morning that we had on Tuesday @ Kaza Kitchen!

We had an opportunity, as a **community**, to meet over coffee and cake, and welcome each other to the new academic year. We had almost 50 parents in attendance, from across Primary and Secondary, including families who are new, those who have been with us for a while now, and those who have been with us for a long while! It was so great seeing everyone mix, chat, catch up, and engage with one-another.

A highlight of the morning was when we discussed our BMIS **community**. Our first step was to brainstorm all of the words, phrases, and ideas that we associate with community. From there, our parents created six statements about **community**, using these three sentence starters:

- **Community** must be...
- **Community** must have...
- **Community** must show...

And then the final step was to reflect on these six statements and identify those that BMIS are already doing well, and which ones need our attention for improvement.

We will be collating and sharing all of this information with our **community** in the near future, so that we can take steps to strengthen our **community** at BMIS! Please also keep an eye out for more upcoming **community** events!



What's been happening this week...?

I had the pleasure of popping into one of our Year 11 I+S lessons this week! Students were using a fantastic program called "NearPod", which provided their teacher, Mr Nate Cole, immediate feedback on each class member's learning and understanding, all while having fun! The students are currently inquiring into the concepts of democracy and dictatorships, which Mr Cole was quizzing them on (check it out on the left).

And our Year 8 French students (to the right) were presenting their tantalising food and drink menus to the class. I was really impressed by their confidence when speaking in French, and also the warm and supportive environment in the classroom!

Merci de m'avoir reçu!



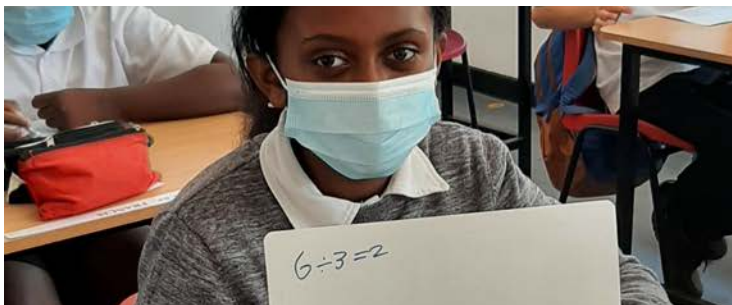
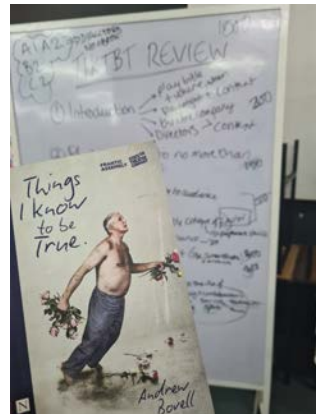
From our Maths Department

All of our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been given a mini whiteboard to use in class.

This is such a fantastic teaching tool, because it is a way for students to record and share their learning, and also offers another way for teachers to check each students' understanding of the concepts we are exploring in class. And it's an even more important teaching tool right now because teachers and students currently aren't able to freely move around our indoor classrooms (a COVID safety measure).

These whiteboards will be staying with the student's at their desk so that it is ready to use in any class (not just Mathematics).

We will be offering each student their first whiteboard marker, but would be grateful if you could please buy their replacements (when the needs arises) and also help your child find a soft cloth that they can use to clean their board.



DP Theatre

Our Year 12 DP students recently viewed the theatre production "Things I know to be True" (by Andrew Bovell) through out online subscription to [Digital Theatre Plus](#).

I popped into their lesson when Ms Grace Woods, our DP Theatre teacher, was discussing an upcoming assessment task, which was a theatre review. She was deconstructing the criteria strands with the students, and the class were identify where each strand would feature in the review.

We also had a wonderful conversation about the text, particularly focusing on the motifs (and metaphors) in the play, and the ideas that it was exploring in relation to the concept of family. After leaving the studio I was definitely intrigued to read and watch the play!

I'm looking forward to reading their reviews in the coming weeks, perhaps part of which we may be able to share with you all.

Watch this space!



Our new counsellor: Mariella Vittetoe-Castillo

This week we would like to introduce you to our new Secondary Counsellor, Mariella.

Mariella shares:

"I am originally a psychologist and family therapist, with a passion and special interest in working with children and adolescents in the field of emotional counselling and mental health.

My role in school is to support students from years 7-13 with any emotional and personal issues that may get in the way of their learning and academics. I mainly provide 1:1 support to students but also support students through mediation and group work, when needed. I also currently co teach the wellbeing curriculum for Y12 and 13 students.

I am originally from Honduras but have lived, with my family, in various places including the UK, Malaysia and Greece, before joining the BMIS team!"

Welcome to our community, Mariella!

An introduction to our teachers!

All of our teachers in Secondary have created a short video to introduce themselves, which will help you put a face to a name. Please follow the links below!

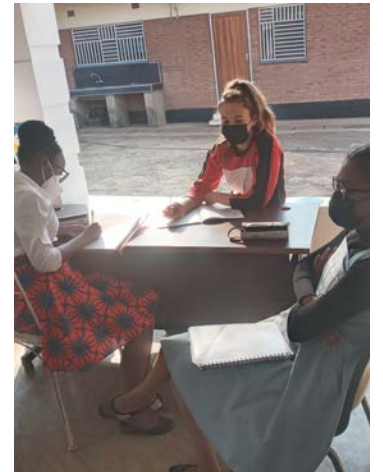
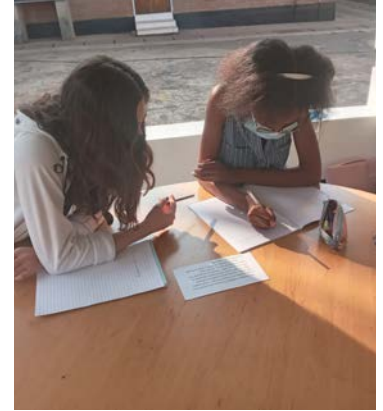
We are also pleased to announce that we will host an open evening on campus (in the canteen) on Tuesday 14th September from 6.00-7.00pm, where you'll be able to meet your child's teachers. Please save the date and come along!

[Neil Black](#)
[Charles Bowles](#)
[Richard Braithwaite](#)
[James Brown](#)
[Mariella Castillo](#)
[Sandra Climent](#)
[Raquel Constenla](#)
[Richard Ellis](#)
[Sam Giblett](#)
[Toby Gilbert](#)
[Angelica Jones](#)
[Patricia Lees-Rolfe](#)
[William Lester](#)
[Caitlin Macmillan](#)
[Blessings Maguire](#)
[Jonathan McClenahan](#)
[Dave Montreuil](#)
[Francis Mponda](#)
[Sabira Nathanie](#)
[Pascale Pereira](#)
[Miguel Perez](#)
[Samantha Phipps](#)
[Sam Richards](#)
[Steve Robson](#)
[Komal Thakkar](#)
[Grace Woods](#)
[Mayamiko Zainga](#)
[Design Department; Wayne Kovacs, Matthew Hendriks, Nate Cole](#)

From our English Department

Check out our Year 13's (below) creating Global Issues from unseen literary and non-literary extracts, and then linking those global issues with other extracts.

This was a mixed class of HL Lit and HL/SL Lang Lit. students. Class went really well, as students shared ideas about the best ways to frame complex Global Issues from difficult extracts. It's so great to see students in our different courses coming together to learn!



What else has been happening this week...?

Wellbeing...

During our DP wellbeing lesson this week, students were invited to take part in various activities such as a 'mindful stretch and walk' exercise and game of tag to continue exploring the five components to wellbeing (see image to the right) and how by practising these on a daily basis we promote a sense of wellness in our daily lives!



Year level parent representative/s

Calling all parents - we need your help!

We would love to have parent representatives in each year level!

Volunteering as a year level rep is a great way to bring together your child's year level **community** of parents and students, and a great way to enrich school life and support the BMIS **community**.

Think this might be something you're interested in doing? Want to know what's involved? Keep reading!

Job responsibilities and roles:

- Drawing up a list of contact details for all the parents in the year level, circulating this to the families, and keeping it up to date.
- Organising social events for families in your year level such as coffee mornings, meals out etc.
- Supporting transitions: welcoming new families to the BMIS **community**, and bidding farewell to those moving on.
- Coordinating collections as needed eg. gifts for children who are leaving the school.

Qualities of a year level representative:

- Enjoy building positive relationships with others
- Likes to share ideas and be creative
- Enjoys organizing
- Has some extra time on hands

If this sounds like something that you'd like to do, can you please send me an email (k.leaper@bmis.mw) by next **Wednesday 8th September**.

Thanks so much!



Put it in your calendar:

Friday 3rd September

"Indemnity Form for Secondary"

Please remember to complete [THIS FORM](#) by today, for each child you have in Secondary. Thank you!

Tuesday 7th September

"Year 11 - The Road Ahead" @Land and Lake Safaris @7.30am

All Year 11 parents are invited to join our DP Coordinator, Jo McClenahan, College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles, and our Year 11 Tutors Neil Black and Miguel Perez. You will have an opportunity to discuss the transition to Year 12, and ask any questions.

Wednesday 8th September

"Year Level Parent Rep"

Please email k.leaper@bmis.mw by today, if you are interested in being a year level rep.

Wednesday 8th September * please note date change and that it is now face-to-face on campus

"You're now in High School" @BMIS Canteen @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

Tuesday 14th September

"Secondary Open Evening" @BMIS Canteen @6.00-7.00pm

All Secondary parents are invited to campus to come and meet your child's teachers. Teachers will be set up outdoors in their departments, and you will be able to move around for a meet, greet, and chat.

Wednesday 29th September * please note date change

"University Planning" @BMIS Canteen @6.00-7.00pm

Year 12 parents are invited to join our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles