

10 SEPTEMBER 2021

IN THE LOOP

Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



OVERVIEW

This week in our BMIS **community**

And just like that, there goes week 4; how time flies when you're having fun!

We've had another week of bustling activity at the school and beyond, including our Year 11 parent morning "The Road Ahead", which was hosted at Land and Lake Cafe, our Year 10 "Now You're in HS" student and parent evening held in our school canteen, and a number of listening conferences hosted by our Director, Adrian Moody.

The kids have been busy inquiring and learning, and I've enjoyed being in the classrooms again this week! I particularly enjoyed watching the Year 13 students unpack their TOK knowledge questions, one of which they will choose to write an essay on. There are more details on the next page!

We have also introduced in our staffroom this week, a "Come and See" whiteboard calendar, so that teachers can invite other teachers into their lessons, and share the wonderful learning experiences that our students are engaging in, so that we can all learn from each other. It's so inspiring to have a collaborative and open **community** of teachers, learning and growing together!

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
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“
**Sometimes
the bravest
and most
important
thing you can
do is just
show up.**
”
— BRENE BROWN

Year 10: "You're in HS Now"



On Wednesday evening we hosted Year 10 parents and students in the BMIS canteen, to talk about the transition to High School (Years 10-13).

Lead by our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles, and supported by Jo McClenahan, our DP Coordinator, and myself as MYP Coordinator, our discussions focused on MYP subject choices, the two diplomas offered at BMIS and the credit system, and also some initial food for thought with regards to career and college counselling.

It was so wonderful to have a full house at this event!

We also really appreciated the thoughtful questions from both parents and students, to dig deeper and understand what's in store over the next four years!

If you weren't able to make it, don't despair! We recorded the session and will share this, along with the presentation, via email, so please keep an eye out!



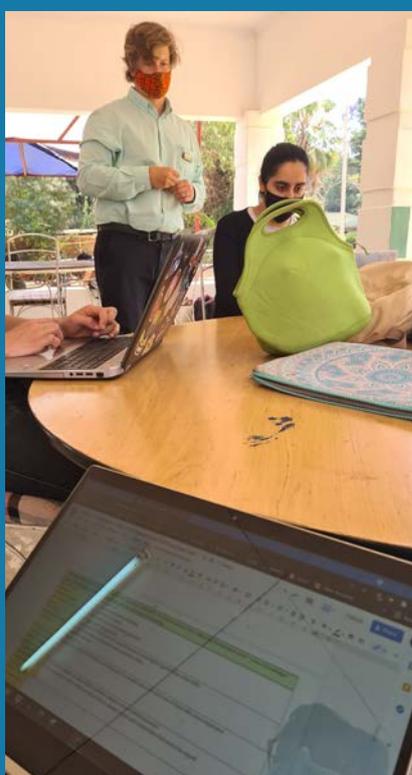
Year 11: "The Road Ahead"



While I wasn't able to attend this event in person, I heard really great feedback from those in attendance that it was a valuable morning for all!

Jo McClenahan, our DP Coordinator, with the support of Charlie Bowles, our College Counsellor, and the Year 11 Tutors (Miguel Perez and Neil Black), hosted a morning at Land and Lake Cafe, to discuss the transition from Year 11 to 12. He focused on the two diplomas that our students at BMIS are able to graduate with, and helped our Year 11 parents understand the IB DP subjects that we do and can offer at BMIS, whether face-to-face or through the IB recognised platform "Pamoja".

Thank you so much for hosting this incredibly informative morning team!



What's been happening this week...?

Our Year 13 students received their TOK (Theory of Knowledge) prescribed titles this week, one of which they will choose to write their 1600 word essay on. I've shared the questions below, because they are so interesting to think about and discuss. Try chatting about these at home as a family!

1. Can there be knowledge that is independent of culture?
2. To what extent do you agree with the claim that "there's a world of difference between truth and facts (Maya Angelou)?"
3. Is there solid justification for regarding knowledge in the natural sciences more highly than knowledge in another area of knowledge?
4. How do historians and human scientists give knowledge meaning through the telling of stories?
5. How can we distinguish between good and bad interpretations?
6. If we conclude that there is some knowledge we should not pursue on ethical grounds, how can we determine the boundaries of acceptable investigation within an area of knowledge?

Classroom design challenge

I just wanted to share an update on the classroom design challenge!

All of our tutor groups this year have a budget of \$300 to revamp their classroom, and it's proving to be a really fantastic opportunity to build **community**, and also a great chance for the students to develop a range of skills.

I was particularly impressed by 9RBR's proposal for their classroom renovations, which included a vision statement for their classroom design, and a table clearly explaining each of their choices, a justification as to why it was important, and a list of items and expenses.

Their vision is:

As a tutor group, our classroom should express creativity and intellectual diversity by implementing a sleek, clean, and comfortable classroom. It is stated by many in our class, the importance of a peaceful environment in which students feel relaxed. As they enter, they would like to work in a space that perceives snippets of their personal lives by combining quotes and images that they are passionate about.

I'm also loving the quotes they have chosen for their walls:

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right."
- Rosa Parks

"You can kill this dreamer but you can't kill the dream."
- Martin Luther King Jnr

"Don't feel stupid if you don't like what everyone else pretends to love."
- Emma Watson

"There's not much I can do except try my best, which I will always do."
- Tom Holland

"We all have two lives. The second one starts when we realize that we only have one."
- Tom Hiddleston

I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see their room once it's complete!

Watch this space for pics of the finished project!

Well done 9RBR - incredible vision and planning!

Secondary Open Evening

We are so thrilled to be able to invite you, our Secondary parents and guardians, up to campus next Tuesday 14th September, starting at 6.00pm in the Canteen, to meet your child's teachers.

While our students have been able to join you at this event in years past, it's important to let you know that they won't be in attendance this year due to our COVID guidelines, and as a means to keep our year level bubbles intact.

In preparation for our Secondary Open Evening you will need to take note of who your child's teachers are.

There is a quick and easy way to find this information through your ManageBac portal.

STEP 1: Login to your ManageBac account. The website link is [HERE](#)

STEP 2: If you have more than one child at BMIS, use the top left hand corner drop down menu to select each child.

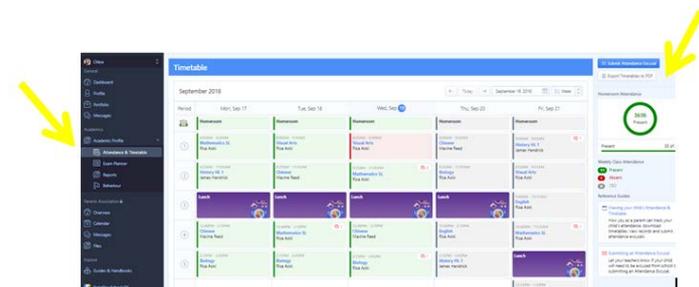
STEP 3: In the left-hand menu select "Academic Profile"

STEP 4: Select "Attendance and Timetable"

From there you will be able to see your child's timetable of classes and their teachers. You can also "Export Timetables to PDF", which is an option in the top right of the screen, and from there you can print your child's timetable.

Any questions, please feel free to reach out! k.leaper@bmis.mw

We look forward to seeing you next week!



Our Secondary Student Support Coordinators

This week we would like to introduce you to our Secondary Student Support Coordinators. In Secondary we have Matthew Hendriks (Years 7 - 9 and pictured top left) and Richard Ellis (Years 10 - 13 and pictured bottom left) who support our students when it comes to their educational, social, emotional, and physical wellbeing.

They share:

"We have a compassionately curious approach to getting to the cause of each situation and will then support students to see a way forward. We might include the secondary school counsellor, their tutor, curriculum coordinators, or educational support depending on the situation. We have regular meetings with staff to discuss the wellbeing of our student body, regular informal check-ins with all students and provide structured one-on-one support, where appropriate. We coordinate the secondary tutor time schedule, which includes our Year 7 - 11 personal, social, and physical education programme. We also welcome students to approach or contact us should they need support. We ask that you inform us of anything that you think might affect your child's academics or behaviour in school and will gladly assist them as best as we can."

Matthew and Rich, thank you for helping our parent community understand your roles, and thank you for the support that you coordinate and offer to our students.

From our English Department

Year 10 students have recently been studying the poetry of Ted Hughes, closely analysing the content, context, language, structure, style, and techniques used in his writing. We would like to share with you a paragraph written by Sophie Bilj in response to the question:

In 55 minutes of timed writing, please analyze elements of the poem "Thistles" by Ted Hughes, supporting an argument about the metaphorical use of thistles in the poem.

Scots are always ready to fight for their country and protect their people, no matter how much they have to go through. Their resilience and positive attitude is metaphorically represented by a thistle. Hughes describes the thistles blooming or opening as "every one a revengeful burst" (4). The word "burst" is generally used to portray an explosion of some sort. So, it is like the thistle is exploding open with revenge in the enemy's eyes. The effect of naming this a burst instead of an opening is that the diction gives the image more aggression and power. The word "revengeful" connotes that the thistles have bloomed due to the loss of the thistles that got defeated before them. These new thistles are metaphorically "their sons" (11). These thistles are ready to make the Vikings feel the pain that the first Scots had had to feel. Even though the thistles, or Scots, had lost some fighters, and with no time to be hurt or feel pity for these fighters, they had to "burst" open immediately to fight for these decayed thistles. Their loss, and so the loss of Scotsmen, had regrown as aggression immediately. The effect of metaphorically presenting this process with thistles connects living Scots with their ancestors through a constant reminder of a living thing they see every day, the Scottish thistle.



Service Activity Taster

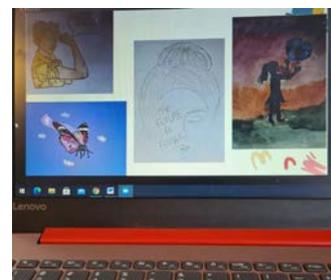
On Wednesday afternoon we held our virtual service activity taster session for Year 12 students, lead by our Year 13 leaders, and overseen by our CAS and Service Coordinator, Atu Mdeza.

This taster session offered our Year 12 students an opportunity to learn more about our service activities, including the impact statements and goals for the forthcoming year.

The service activities that were discussed included:

- Girl Up
- Health Awareness
- Eco-warriors
- Computer Coaching
- Interact
- Community Reading (& Literary Magazine)
- Community Paint
- Yearbook

We have such a strong service programme at BMIS, and it's so impressive to see that despite challenges (presented by COVID) our commitment to service still remains.

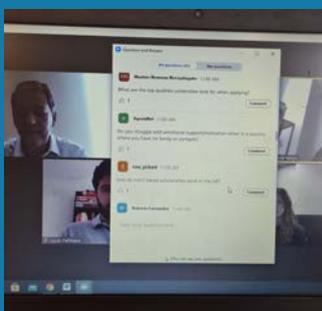


What else has been happening this week...?

I wanted to share the sentiments from an email that I received on Wednesday morning from our Year 13 Tutor Mrs Lees-Rolfe, which had the subject line "Year 13 - I am so proud of them".

She shared with us that the Year 13 students were busy early in the morning getting ready for their CIS University Fair, and that they were supporting each other by designing a google sheet that they could contribute to throughout the day. The intention was to be able to build a document sharing all of their individual experiences with universities throughout the day, which they could all then learn from and discuss at a later date if needed.

This warmed my heart to see that we have such a caring and thoughtful year level, who were taking the initiative to look out for each other and support one another. Now if that isn't **community**, I don't know what is! Well done Year 13!



And speaking of the CIS University Fair, what an amazing opportunity it was.

To start the day, our students in Years 11-13 attended the student panel session. There was a panel of four university students who were answering questions from the live chat, about all aspects of university life.

There were then four educational sessions which students could choose to attend, including:

- Business schools - finding your perfect fit
- Studying, student life, and admissions in the Netherlands
- Tips for the US Application Essay
- Study in Canada - A Grade "Eh" Education

And then finally our students had an opportunity for one-to-one chats with universities, and they were also able to watch presentations on 12 universities.

Our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles, has shared feedback surveys with all of the Years 11-13 students so that we can reflect on the experience and make it even better next year!

Year level parent representative/s

Unfortunately we haven't had any parents share that they are able to volunteer to help out as a year level parent representative. Please let me know if you are able and/or willing, or if there is any feedback on the role so that we can move ahead with this great initiative. I have shared the post from last week again (below) just in case you missed it. Thanks so much!

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:

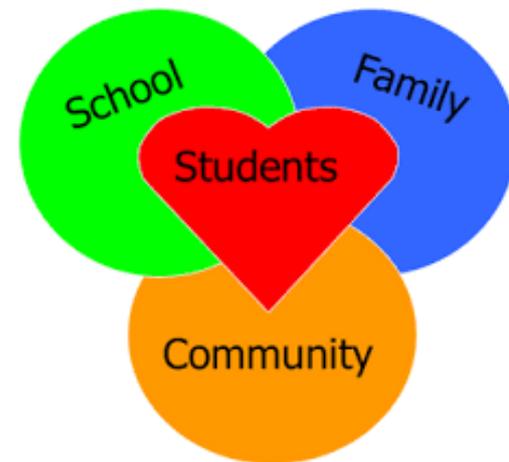
- Drawing up a list of contact details for all the parents in the year level, circulating this to the families, and keeping it up to date.
- Organising social events for families in your year level such as coffee mornings, meals out etc.
- Supporting transitions: welcoming new families to the BMIS **community**, 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).

Looking forward to hearing from you!



Put it in your calendar:

"Indemnity Form for Secondary"

If you haven't already, please remember to complete [THIS FORM](#) by today, for each child you have in Secondary. Thank you!

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. Please note that this evening is for our parents/guardians only, and our students will not be in attendance.

Friday 24th September

"International Day of Peace" @BMIS

We will be observing the UN's International Day of Peace (held 21st September) on Friday 24th September with a themed dress up day. Students are able to come in white or other peace inspired clothing. To learn more about International Day of Peace, follow this link [HERE](#).

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

Thursday 14 October

"Virtual Settling-In Conferences" @Virtual @7.30am - 2.30pm

Parents will be invited to sign up for virtual settling-in conferences with their child's teachers. Links for this event will be sent out closer to the time. Please note that there is no school for students on this day, and that students are encouraged to attend the virtual conferences with you.