

01 OCTOBER 2021

# IN THE LOOP

## Updates for the Secondary parents of BMIS



### OVERVIEW

### This week in our BMIS **community**

And there goes another busy and fun filled week at BMIS!

This week I have really enjoyed the meetings that I've been able to have with some of our Heads of Department, discussing their reflections on the beginning of the year and their goals for the year ahead. Equally, I have loved meeting with a number of our department teams to discuss the same, and talk about how they are working to improve student learning. Our teachers continue to raise the bar by reflecting on their practices in order to build on and improve what we are already doing.

Our teachers are also committed to research, and know that it should "drive our profession". We are lifelong learners here at BMIS, which is something that we model for our students. And because of this, we have just formed our professional learning communities (PLCs) for the year, where we will be focusing on:

- Student Support
- Highschool Pathways
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Wellbeing
- Approaches to reading and writing across the curriculum
- Referencing scope and sequence

Our teachers are looking forward to working together in a collaborative manner to set goals, review, research, inquire, understand, improve, learn, grow, and take action together in the best interests of our students! And speaking of our students, they too continue to raise the bar. There are some incredible achievements that I'm excited to share with you this week, so please settle in, grab a "cuppa", and stay "In the Loop!"

Kathryn Leaper  
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- STUCO elections and assembly
- What's been happening this week...?
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- A few updates and reminders...
- Put it in your calendar

**We are not  
what we know  
but what we are  
willing to learn**

Mary Catherine Bateson

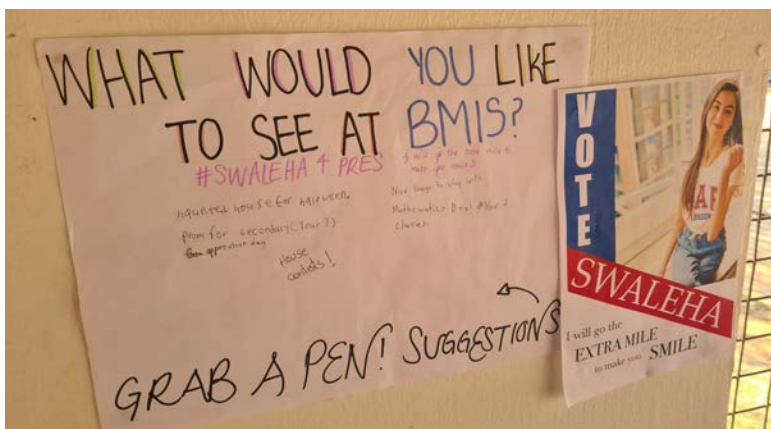
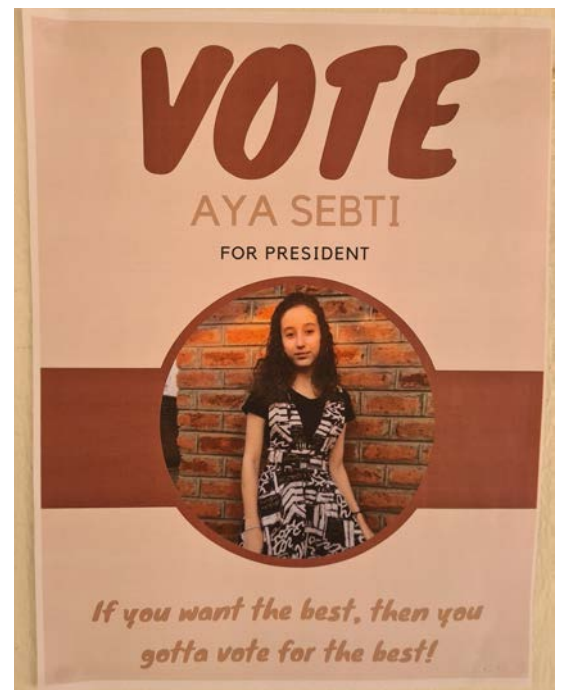
# STUCO elections and assembly

The campaigning for our new STUCO (student council) core is in full swing! I love this time of year, where we see students using their persuasive skills to show our students why they are the best person for the role! There are campaign fliers up all around school, suggestion boxes, notices, and we're looking forward to the speeches, which will be delivered at our first assembly next Thursday 7th October!

Those students running to form our STUCO core are:

- President: Mercy Jere; Aya Sebti; Swaleha Tayub
- Vice President: Atiyah Nathanie; Langelihle Nkhoma
- Activities Director: Mauro Frontini
- Social Director: Ammarah Aboobaker
- Service: nominated and selected by BMIS staff

If you see our students outside of school, please speak to them about their vision and goals for the role, and wish them the very best in the elections! We are looking forward to announcing our STUCO core in next Friday's "In the Loop" and working with our Student Council throughout the year, to help the BMIS student **community** thrive - and have a lot of fun!



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

### YEAR 12 UNIVERSITY PLANNING

Our College Counsellor, Charlie Bowles, held a "University Planning" information session for our Year 12 students and parents.

Charlie's presentation was informative, sharing his knowledge and experience of the college admissions process and included a good dose of facts, anecdotes, and tips to manage the process.

For those of you who weren't able to make it, we will be sharing the slides and a recording of the presentation to you, so please keep an eye out for this.



### CLASSROOM DESIGN CHALLENGE

Our Tutor groups' classrooms are starting to look better and better!

Each Tutor group was given a \$300 budget to renovate/design their classrooms. Check out a couple of the classrooms below!



# Extended Curriculum Program (ECP)

We have an exciting update from our ECP Coordinator Nate Cole. He shares:

**We are very excited to be launching our Extended Curriculum Program (ECP) in October. Activities will begin after school on Monday, October 25th.**

**Next week, students will have the opportunity to express their preferences for the ECP. While Covid restrictions have greatly reduced our ability to offer as many options as in past years, I am pleased to share that each secondary student will have multiple activities to choose from for each of the three days per week (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday).**

**Our first session will run from October 25th through December 9th. Please click here to preview the programs that will be offered. We believe the ECP will be an essential part of the BMIS community this year and we strongly encourage students to take full advantage by participating three days per week. A final version of the schedule will be sent out to students and families next week, along with a survey for registering for our various programs.**

**Thank you for your support of the Secondary Extended Curriculum Program!**

Thanks so much for all of your work on our ECP so far Nate, and to our teachers who will be leading these - we can't wait for October 25!

Year	Monday Option A	Monday Option B	Tuesday Option A	Tuesday Option B	Thursday Option A	Thursday Option B
7	Rugby Skills	Maths Help (drop in)	Ultimate Frisbee	Chess	Basketball	Music
8	Ultimate Frisbee	Spanish Conversation Club	Basketball	Maths Help (drop-in)	Rugby Skills	Orienteering
9	Yoga	Maths Help (drop in) and/or Music	Rugby Skills	Music	Netball	Boat Building
10	Netball	Maths Help (drop in)	Football	Spanish Help	Rugby Skills	Singing/Talent Show or Dungeons and Dragons
11	Rugby Skills	Singing/Talent Show	Netball	Eco Aware	Golf or Volleyball	Maths Help (drop in)
12	Volleyball	High Intensity Interval Training	Badminton	Dance Workout	Yoga	Maths Help (drop in)
13	Basketball	Chemistry Clinic	Yoga	High Intensity Interval Training	Badminton	Maths Help (drop in)

## Student Spotlight: Amanda Khondowe

Did you know that we have a national champion in our midst?

We are so incredibly thrilled to announce that our very own Amanda Khondowe, who is only in Year 9, has won Gold (multiple gold!) at the National Athletics Championship of Malawi.

Amanda shares with us:

*"Nationals has always been a big dream to me. Not just being able to compete, but meeting different people in a race and seeing their hard work and potential. It is almost as hard to believe how far I have got to and how much more I can do. The stress before a race is very scary, and I'm still not used to it. Making it to the finals is always the best feeling, although you know it's where you have to put in all your hard work together. Especially if you try to get a record or a new personal best. This year I made two new personal bests and from my experience, I understand it's important to keep going, whether you make a personal best by a second or a millisecond it still means a lot. I'm definitely looking forward to what I would like to achieve next. But always remember your hard work can do a lot and never give up on it!"*

Neil Barron-Black, our Head of Secondary PHE, shares:

*"Amanda won Gold in the 100m, 200m and Relay at the National Athletics Championship of Malawi at the weekend. Her sister Chisomo, who left BMIS last year, won Bronze in 100m and was also part of the winning relay team. Amanda is the youngest ever winner of these races, which is a huge achievement. A special thanks goes to Pachisi Nyasulu who has coached both girls for the last 4 years."*

Amanda, we are so impressed by you - the sky's the limit!



## More incredible achievements!

As reigning National Ladies Chess Champion in Malawi, Year 11 student Priyasha Shriyan was invited to participate in the African Youth Chess Championships in Ghana, which was held from 17 - 26 September.

We are so thrilled to be able to share that Priyasha won a silver medal and was only short of half a point to win gold. She won 7 games out of 9, drew one game, and lost only one.

Please join me in congratulating Priyasha on her achievements! Well done Priyasha!!



## What are you passionate about?

We need your help!

As the school takes steps to safely open up our campus to members of our **community**, we would love to start inviting in guests to speak to and work with our students (both in Primary and Secondary), which will be an incredible learning experience for all involved!

- What are you passionate about?
- What can we learn from you?
- What are you an expert or specialist in?
- What interests you?
- What hobbies do you have?
- What experiences could you share?
- What skills can you show us?

If you are interested in the possibility of ever coming up to school to share your knowledge, skills and experiences and/or lead mini workshops or sessions with our students, could you please share your details [HERE](#).

We are so excited about the prospect of inviting you onto campus, and can't wait to connect with and learn from you. Thank you so much for helping to build our **community** and strengthen the quality of learning for our students!

## Chess player wins silver at Africa Youth Championship

PLEDGE JALI  
STAFF REPORTER

Chess player Priyasha Santosh Shriyan on Sunday won a silver medal in the Africa Youth Chess Championship that took place in Accra, Ghana.

In an interview on Monday, the medallist said she was happy to have won.

"I gave out the best, considering that I was representing the country. All the games I played throughout the African Youth Championship gave me an opportunity to learn and improve my skills," said Shriyan.

On her part, Chess Association of Malawi president Susan Namangale, who accompanied the players, applauded Shriyan for putting up a good performance.

She said: "It is exciting news for the country because our representative did well. She won a silver medal and missed gold by 0.5 points."

The tournament attracted 150 boys and girls from 14 African countries who played in the nine-round Swiss formats.

It was played in the age categories of Under-Eight, Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, Under-16 and Under-18. She won seven games out of nine.

She won seven games out of nine, drew one, lost one and accumulated 7.5 points, less 0.5 behind the champion, Marape Naledi from Botswana who scored eight points in the



Namangale (L) and Shriyan hold the national flag.

Shriyan beat Bchir Ichrak and Bettaleb Salma from Tunisia. Sarah Mukeira of Kenya, Egypt's Mahmoud Noha, Petelele Motheo and Nel Hayley from Primpomas Louisa from Ghana. She drew against Naledi from Botswana and lost to South Africa's Abjum Savannah.

section and her brother Aayush competed in the Under-Eight category. He finished on 11th position of 12 players after winning of

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

Theatre, theatre, theatre!

We are loving our theatre at BMIS right now.

I hope that you had the chance to go and see the performance of "ART" at Madsoc Theatre, directed by our very own Rich Braithwaite, and also starring our very own, Grace Woods, Alice Leaper, and James Brown. I haven't laughed like that for a long time, and was so blown away by everyone's performances. It's also great to support our Lilongwe **community** theatre, while also helping Stepping Stones Primary School in Nkhata Bay, so a win all round!

And then I was equally blown away by our Year 12 Theatre students' monologues, which they performed this week. We have some incredibly talented students, and it was so great to see Mercy, Langa, and Mauro stepping out of their skin and into a role that they committed to with sensitivity, maturity, and conviction, which was so engaging for us as an audience. Well done! I can't wait to see what you do next!



# A few updates and reminders...

## October holidays

There's now less than two weeks before we are able to take our hard earned and well deserved mid-term break!

I would just like to take the opportunity to remind our families of our COVID safety and quarantine guidelines, if you happen to be travelling abroad during this break:

- Vaccinated students do not need to quarantine
- Unvaccinated students who travelled outside of Malawi by land borders will not need to quarantine
- Unvaccinated students who travelled outside of Malawi by air will need to quarantine for 10 days upon their return. The quarantine period can be shortened by taking a PCR test on day 5, and if negative they are able to return to campus. Please note that antigen tests are not accepted, and that the PCR test will need to be shared with administration before your child's return. Please also note that we no longer provide distance learning. If your child won't be able to join us on the first day/week back, we encourage them to reach out to their teachers before the October break for work that they can complete during their quarantine period.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support to keep our **community** safe!

## Virtual settling in conferences

Our conferences will be held on Thursday 14th October from 7.30am - 2.30pm, using Google Meets.

We will be emailing instructions about how to sign up next Monday morning (4th October), so please keep an eye out for this.

Each meeting is for 10 minutes, and we encourage you to meet with as many of your child's teachers as possible throughout the day.

Our students won't be attending school on this day, but they are also encouraged to attend the virtual meetings so that they can hear and contribute feedback, ask questions, and set goals. It's so important that they are playing an active role in these conferences, as we are all partners in their learning.

We are really looking forward to having this opportunity to meet with you and discuss your child's progress so far this year!



## Masks in PHE

Since Monday this week, our students have had the option not to wear a mask during our PHE lessons. Some students still prefer to wear a mask, and they are more than welcome to do so.

Our students continue to practice safe social distancing, to ensure that we are keeping our **community** safe during our PHE lessons!



## Put it in your calendar:

### Monday 4th - Friday 8th October

- "Appreciating Malawian Women and Girls" @BMIS
- BMIS' Girl Up Club are running a drive, to empower women through sustainable entrepreneurship. Please donate this week. Year 7: Clothing (new or second hand); Year 8: Popcorn (uncooked); Year 9: Table salt; Year 10: Sugar; Year 11: Flour; Year 12-13: Cooking oil
- "Biology Week" @BMIS

Including activities and guest speakers for some of our students!

### Friday 8th October

"Appreciating Malawian Women and Girls" @BMIS  
Chitenge themed dress up day, in support of "Girl Up". Please bring a MK500 donation.

### Thursday 14th 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.

### Friday 15th October + Monday 18th - Friday 22nd October

"Mother's Day" - no school + "Mid-Term Break" - no school

### Friday 26th October

PSAT for our Year 11 and 12 students

### Friday 29th October

"Fancy Dress Costume Dress Up Day"  
Students are invited to come along to school dressed up in their favourite fancy dress costumes.