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## The High School NEWSLETTER

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### Message from the Principal: Welcome to Academic Year 2016-17

I should like to welcome all new and returning students, staff and parents to the International School of Siem Reap. I am delighted to be working in a town which I hold in great affection and with which I have been associated for sixteen years; over that period I have seen it transform thanks to a burgeoning economy and almost exponential rise in tourism, and our school is set to expand in the near future. Consequently, my first task is to review the School and to formulate its short, medium and long-term plans. In the forthcoming months I look forward to reporting via the newsletter and our other social media as to what initiatives have been instigated to ensure that ISSR offers an increasing diversity of opportunities for the students who, in their industriousness and sociability, have impressed me from the outset.

### Staff

We welcome the following new staff and hope that they will have a long and successful association with the School.



**Mr. Alan Crombie**  
Principal  
IGCSE French



**Ms Hannah Hopkins**  
KS3 / IGCSE English  
Language & Literature



**Mr Max Ernest-Jones**  
KS3 Science  
Citizenship



**Mr Christopher Powell**  
KS3 / IGCSE  
Art & Design  
Technology



**Mr John Conrad**  
KS3 / IGCSE  
A Level  
Mathematics



**Mr Robert Nowak**  
KS3 / KS4  
Physical Education



**Ms Ivy Wu**  
KS3 / IGCSE  
Mandarin Chinese



**Mr Greg Amat**  
KS3 / IGCSE  
French

We welcome the return of **Mr Wim Engelen** (PSHE / ICT), **Mr Andrew Creasey** (Science) and **Ms Caroline Creasey** (History / Geography); the Principal thanks them for their support and advice prior to the commencement of the term and during the first weeks.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate **Ms Sinead Amat** upon her appointment as the Principal of ISSR Primary.



### **Alan Davidson Crombie, MA(Hons), PGCE, ALCM, RAFVR(T)**

Alan Crombie was born in Scotland, but has been resident in Kuala Lumpur since 2002. A graduate of the universities of Glasgow, Nottingham, Freiburg and Leningrad, he has worked for over 25 years in high achieving independent schools both in the UK and internationally in the fields of Modern Language teaching, faculty and pastoral management, co-curricular development and professional training. In his teaching he has enjoyed a 98% pass rate in French amongst his students and 100% in German and Russian, including many successful Oxbridge candidates.

As an educational manager and leader, Alan has had wide experience in the development of new international schools. In a Senior Management post in Malaysia official reports described the school as having undergone 'quantum change' under his leadership. Alan has been the Vice-Principal and Head of Secondary at the International School of Moscow, leading the school in its introduction of the IGCSE curriculum, and most recently the Principal of Austin Heights International School, Johor, Malaysia.

A holder of the Associate Diploma of the London College of Music and with many years' experience in theatre, Alan has directed and performed in a wide range of productions, his particular specialisation being musical theatre. Fluent in five languages, Alan has travelled extensively throughout South East Asia, Europe, the United States, Australia and Russia, and established one of the first UK school exchanges with Moscow which is now in its eighteenth year.

Recent achievements include the writing of four text books for the teaching of Malay, the leadership and organisation of highly successful study and charity expeditions to Cambodia and Siberia, the directorship of the stage musical 'Little Shop of Horrors', and a role in Malaysia's film '1957 Hati Malaya'.

Alan remains instrumental in the curriculum development, staff training and marketing of a local NGO school.



### **Mr Dave Linehan**

Unforeseen circumstances prevented the arrival of Mr Simon Corcoran, who was referred to in the Principal's letter of August 14<sup>th</sup>. However, we were immediately able to secure the services of **Mr Dave Linehan** as the teacher of ESL and Business Studies. Mr Linehan is a holder of a Masters' Degree in Business Administration and has over 20 years' experience in our profession; we are delighted to have his expertise on our team.

## Lockers

All students have been issued with lockers; they are given one key and the Tutor retains the spare. Students are expected to look after the locker and to store all their valuables in it. Should a student badly damage the locker or render it inaccessible s/he may be required to pay costs for replacement or repair. Students are not permitted to store perishable food in the locker and may not personalise the locker by the use of, for example, stickers.

## Curriculum Plans

Previously, the newsletter included monthly bulletins of the academic content of each subject. This has been replaced by a termly curriculum plan, which is common practice in secondary schools, and comprises an overview of all the topics covered during the term in each subject. The curriculum plan will be published on the School's website, and hard copies will be issued to every student.

## Communication

All members of our community are reminded that communication between Home and School is, in the first instance, via the Office, Teacher or Tutor in all but the most personal of matters. Thereafter, appointments can be made with the Principal by contacting the School Office. All students are issued with a homework diary, and it is the responsibility of students to ensure that their parents view and sign the diary on at least a weekly basis. Students know that they must show all messages to their parents – even if it is a message that they would prefer their parents not to see!

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

Nelson Mandela

## Team Building



Apart from fulfilling the usual administrative tasks associated with the first day back at school, every student and member of staff participated in team building exercises; this was the first of what will be many such activities designed not only to foster interaction and friendship between the year groups but also to reflect the universally held view amongst quality institutions that the work of a school cannot focus exclusively upon academic pursuits.



## Introduction of Extra-Curricular Activities

Students in Years 7 – 9 (Full Time) now have a dedicated point in the timetable for extra-curricular activities (ECA); this is an essential element in the curriculum of an international school, and it is the Principal's aim to widen this opportunity to all year groups – both full-time and part-time – by the commencement of Term 2. Students have been provided with the current ECA timetable for this term and the details of the various activities designed to develop skills under the broad headings of communication, confidence and creativity:

Year	Weeks 1 - 4	Weeks 5 - 8	Weeks 9 - 12	Weeks 13 -16
7	Journalism / School Newspaper		Film Making	Debating
8		Drama	Debating	Study Skills
9	Debating	Study Skills		Drama



Lawyers and politicians have powerful **debating** skills, and those skills have to be learnt. Here the students will learn to argue for or against an idea, research their facts, find the strongest arguments, and think about what the other side will say. They will also practise how to speak clearly and to explain their point of view.

**Drama** is one of the best ways of developing confidence and the ability to speak in front of a group. The students will learn about voice projection, gesture, facial expression and movement. They will also have the opportunity to perform in a short play, create characters, learn lines and work with a director.

The students will learn how to **make a film** – a good quality film about the School which can be shown to parents. They will work with the Principal and Directors of the School who will help them decide the content of the film, and they will be shown the techniques of film making, for example sound, editing and types of shot.

Students will begin a **newspaper** for the School and learn how to work as journalists. They will be divided into teams according to different sections of the newspaper and learn how to write interesting articles which are suitable for the readership, conduct interviews and take good quality photographs.

**Study skills** are very important in order to be successful at school. The students will learn and practise different ways of studying and revising using, for example, mind maps and key words. They will be shown the best ways to take notes, how to do proper research and how to manage their time.

## Report on the first ECA Drama Session for Y8

During our first drama lesson with Year 8, students looked at characterization. Students worked in groups of four, and created and presented their own unique news story.

Their main headlines included:

- Katy Perry ruins her latest music concert and Katy Perry and her fans are interviewed to find out why this happened.
- Miss Hannah gets taken hostage and police are investigating to find out who did this.
- A bully victim is talking about her experience of bullying and how she overcame this.

The students allocated each other different roles including: presenter, interviewer and interviewee. Students looked at different facial expressions, gestures and tones of voice and each performance was recorded. (HH)

## Establishment of the High School Council

It is the Principal's aim to introduce a High School Council comprising elected representatives from the Tutor groups. The High School Council is one of the most important bodies within a school. It is vitally important that the students give serious thought as to their candidates because being elected to Council is a prestigious position, and those who are members must act in a mature and responsible manner, strictly adhering to the Code of Conduct and Articles of Council. The members of Council will subsequently elect the Chair and Vice-Chair from the senior classes. Working directly with the Principal and the Staff Representative, the Council acts on behalf of the School in areas such as the development of the School's environment, fundraising and events. The students attended a presentation on the Council on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and the process for the selection of candidates is already underway.

## Meeting with Parents and Students: Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm

The Principal would like to invite all High School parents – and students – to attend a meeting at the High School at the above date and time. This will be an opportunity to meet new and returning staff, to see some displays of recent work, and to attend a presentation given by the Principal concerning developments in ISSR during terms 1 and 2 of this academic year; a number of changes will take place, and the presentation will explain in detail several initiatives including, among others, the reporting system, the introduction of Extra-Curricular Activities, the revitalisation of the House system, the formation of the School Council, curriculum plans and IGCSE examinations in native languages.

We hope to see a very good attendance at the meeting. As we formulate our plans for the years to come it is important that not only parents, but also the students – who will be the direct beneficiary of the developments – are fully aware of the projects currently being discussed.

Parents have been issued with an invitation letter and we would ask that the tear-off slip be completed and returned to the Tutor by **Friday, September 2nd** so that we have a clear idea as to the numbers attending in order for us to choose the best venue for the meeting.

We look forward to meeting you all on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## The School at Work: August 2016



Year 7 Touch Rugby



Year 7 ICT  
Not all ICT lessons are in classrooms!



Year 8 Physical Education



Year 8 Drama  
body language and gesture



Year 8 Science



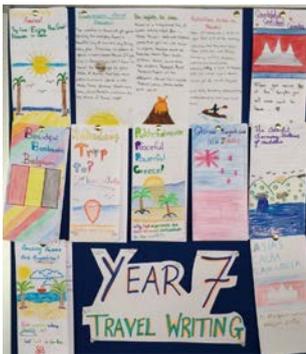
Year 8 Science



Y9 English: studying the topic of homelessness



Year 10 Physical Education



Year 7 English

Tarsia puzzles from Year 7 to AS / A2 Level Mathematics, generate dialogue, reactivate prior knowledge and - if thoughtfully designed - can encourage higher order thinking. They are ideally used in groups of three in order to encourage discussion and peer learning. (JC)



## The International School of Siem Reap

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