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International School of Siem Reap

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The High School

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to Term #1 2017-18

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning students, parents and staff to the High School of ISSR, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in building upon the many developments that took place last academic year.

The school population has now increased to over 100 students, our Year 7 is full and we have an additional Y12 class comprising 11 students.

New Teachers

Our new teachers have an excellent range of skills and experience, and are able to contribute to the academic programme of the School in several subjects and at several levels. The appointment of an additional English teacher and two teachers of both Humanities and Mathematics who can also make significant contribution to other areas assists considerably in the diversity and stability of our curriculum as well as the flexibility of staffing. We welcome them and hope that they will have a long and successful association with the School.

Welcome Back

We welcome the return of Ms Hannah Hopkins (English Language / Literature / Drama), Mr Taliv Mo (Art / DT / ICT / PSHE), Mr Christopher Powell (DT / ICT), Mr Max Ernest-Jones (Science / Psychology), and Mr Rob Nowak (PE / IGCSE PE)

New Teachers



Mr Peter Greener
History / Geography
Mathematics / PSHE
Year 9 Tutor



Ms Christine Stacey
Humanities / Business Studies
Citizenship



Ms Danielle Crawford
English Language and Literature
Drama
Year 7 Tutor



Mr Manoj Joseph Vaz
Mathematics
Additional Mathematics



Dr Leonard Rogers
Science
Yr 12 Tutor



Ms Masa Scepanovic
French
ESL

Danielle Crawford

- Key Stage Three / Four English and Drama
- Key Stage Five English
- Year 7 Tutor

A teacher of English and Drama for 2 years, Ms Danielle has a First Class Honours Degree in Forensic Science, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. In addition, she is an Ambassador for Teach First as part of their Leadership Development Programme. This is Ms Danielle's first posting in Asia and we are pleased that she has settled into her new life so quickly and successfully. Ms Danielle will be in charge of the Debating activity for the ECA programme.

Peter Greener

- Key Stage Three Mathematics
- Key Stage Four History / Geography / PSHE
- Key Stage Three / Four / Five sports leader
- Year 9 Tutor

Well-versed in the expectations of quality global education, Mr Peter began his career in 1981 and has worked in international schools in South East Asia since 1994, prior to which he worked in Queensland, Australia. A holder of a BA (Honours) in Environmental Geography and a BEd, Mr Peter is highly adaptable and offers a range of experiences and skills from which the School will certainly benefit. Mr Peter will be co-leading the ECA programme in jewelry making and silver-smithing.

Dr Leonard Rogers

- Key Stage Four Science
- Key Stage Five Physics / Chemistry / Biology
- Year 12 Tutor

A holder of a PhD, MS and BS, and with experience in education, research, agriculture development and aquatic ecology, Dr Leonard brings considerable understanding and maturity to his roles as a teacher of the Sciences and as an individual well suited to guide our students through the Year 12 / 13 stage. It is already apparent that Dr Leonard gives considerable thought to the management and care of the students in this year group. He will be working with Mr Peter in delivering the jewelry making / silversmithing course in the ECA programme.

Masa Scepanovic

- Key Stage Three / Four French
- Key Stage Three ESL

Ms Masa has a French Bacalaureat and is fully qualified in teaching English as a Second Language. Prior to moving to Siem Reap she worked as a French and English teacher at the Institute for Foreign Languages in Belgrade, and, at the French School of Siem Reap, she has also been teaching both languages. An accomplished volleyball player, she has already expressed a desire to support the sports leaders. Ms Masa is devising a charitable project for the ECA programme.

Christine Stacey

- Key Stage Three Citizenship and Humanities
- Key Stage Four Business Studies

Ms Christine holds a BA (Honours) in Business Studies, and is well acquainted with Cambodia having worked for 6 years at HOPE International School as a Teacher of ICT. We greatly welcome Ms Christine's positive attitude and experience as our school continues to grow. Ms Christine is introducing Chess as a regular part of the ECA programme.

Mr Manoj Joseph Vaz

- Key Stage Three / Four Mathematics
- Key Stage Four Additional Mathematics
- Key Stage Five Mathematics

Mr Joseph holds a BSc in Mathematics, a Bachelor's in Education and an MBA in HR and Finance. He has been in education since 2011 working initially at Gateway International School, Chennai, and most recently he taught at the Australian International School in Laos and the British International School of Phnom Penh. Mr Joseph also holds a TEFL qualification. He will be jointly leading the ECA programme in international cookery



Mr Jasper



Mr Pan

Subsequent to the Principal's letter published on Facebook, we received the good news from Mrs Ivy Wu that she is to become a mother; congratulations, Ivy. This, of course, meant that we needed to find a new Mandarin teacher who displayed the same skills and enthusiasm to which the students responded so well. We were delighted immediately to secure the services of Mr Jasper who was already in Siem Reap and who is a graduate of Massey University (New Zealand). Owing to Mr Jasper's other commitments he will be teaching at ISSR from Mondays to Thursdays, but will be collaborating with Mr Pan, Mandarin teacher at the Primary School, who will teach two remaining hours of Mandarin on Fridays. Thank you, Jasper and Mr Pan, for stepping up to the mark. We're sure you will carry on Ms Ivy's dedicated work.

Refurbishment

All classrooms are now equipped with projectors, and a new DT workshop and adjacent classroom (Room 104) have been built; therefore, Art and DT are now separated allowing for far greater space for each subject. The courtyard area continues to be enhanced with an impressive overhanging display of images from last academic year in addition to the new banners for the Council and Houses.



The new DT room has two separate areas, one being a workshop, the other a classroom which can also be used for private study by Y12.



A new set of laptops has been acquired.



IGCSE results

The results for the Cambridge IGCSE examinations were issued on August 10th 2017. Our Year 11 students performed extremely well, attaining 84% passes A* - C which was the predicted percentage after the trial examination period; although the average varies from year to year, the UK equivalent would be approximately 65%.

The following students in particular are to be congratulated:

- Heerim Han: 12 passes including 9 x A*/A grades
- Koki Yoshimoto: 11 passes including 9 x A* /A grades
- Siv Hong Lor: 11 passes including 8 x A*/A grades
- Gaeul Kim: 11 passes including 7 x A*/A grades
- Watchray Yin: 10 passes
- Pei Shan Taing: A* in Mandarin Chinese - one year earlier than would normally occur.

Maylis Benoit and Heerim Han both entered as independent candidates for First Language French and Korean respectively, and both attained Grade As. We are grateful to Mr Raphael Plocque for guiding Maylis prior to the examination. We would like to encourage more students to consider entering as independent candidates for examinations in their native languages – even if it is a language that the school does not teach – because such a qualification can be a valuable asset especially if the student plans to return to his / her home country.

Every student passed both First Language English Language and First Language Literature, which will be of enormous encouragement to them since most do not have English as their first language; this will be a valuable qualification for them in future.

We thank the teachers who worked so hard to raise the achievements of the students throughout the academic year; those efforts have certainly reaped rewards.

Year 9 Checkpoint results

Cambridge Checkpoint Examinations for Year 9 assess the students' progress in English, Mathematics and Science. The results indicate whether the students are performing as expected for that age group, or whether they are achieving higher or lower results. Checkpoint scores range from 0.0 to 6.0, the latter being the highest results.

Score range			
5.0 – 6.0	Excellent understanding of curriculum content	5.0 – 6.0	Excellent
		4.0 – 5.0	Very good
3.0 – 4.0	Sound understanding of curriculum content	3.0 – 4.0	Good
		2.0 – 3.0	Satisfactory
< 2.0	Basic understanding of curriculum content	1.0 – 2.0	Poor
		0.0 – 1.0	Very poor

The table below indicates the numbers of students (total 13 candidates) achieving each grade per subject.

Score range	English	Mathematics	Science
6.0		7	3
5.5+	2		1
5.0+	3		2
4.5+	1	3	2
4.0+	2		3
3.5+	4	2	1
3.0+	1	1	1

The results clearly indicate that all Year 9 students – without exception – are performing either as expected or, in the majority of cases, better. No student is underperforming in any subject, and it is particularly encouraging to analyse the results in English given that almost all of our students are not native speakers despite which they are responding well to the challenge, being on a par with or achieving more than their UK counterparts. The following students are to be congratulated on attaining 6.0 scores:

Yuvan Theo Dumas (Mathematics; Science); Jonghyun Lee (Mathematics)
 Sokcheathong Yem (Mathematics; Science); Yin Mon Thway (Mathematics)
 Mollika Chhunsrey Khun (Mathematics; Science); Sanya Yang (Mathematics)
 Vireak Bodh Yay (Mathematics)

Our thanks go to Ms Hannah, Mr John and Mr Max for successfully leading the students through to their next phase of study in Key Stage Four.

News from last term

A number of events took place last term after the publication of the final newsletter for 2016-17:

End of term excursion



Students in Years 9 -11 had a relaxing end to the year with a few rounds of mini-golf at Angkor Putt.

Final Assembly and Concert: June 23rd 2017



Year 11 Graduates 2016-17



Gaeul Kim, Head of Angkor Wat House, receives the House trophy as the overall winners for 2016-17



Phalla Teav (Y13) speaks on behalf of the entire student body.



Maylis Benoit (Y11) receives the certificate of completion from Mr Neville.

Team building activities: August 16th 2017

On the first day back at school, the students were welcomed by their tutors and first attended an assembly where new students and teachers were introduced. We also welcomed back our teachers from last year and awarded students with certificates of recognition of their achievements at the very end of last academic year. The students participated in a series of team-building activities, and it was very encouraging to see how our new students quickly became so enthusiastically involved.



Progress and Attainment Awards were presented to students in recognition of their achievements towards the end of last academic year:

Centina Caboor
 Pei Shan Taing
 Mahe Leclerc
 Sokcheathong Yem
 Elise Ilott

Christine Minjoo Bae
 Sophia Himm
 Sokheng Sreng
 So Theary Seng

Certificate of Special Merit (for her contribution to the High School Yearbook 2016-17)

Reaksmey Morgan



Dr Len and Mr Peter explain the jewelry making and silversmithing activity as part of the ECA programme



Students were introduced to the extra-curricular programme on August 18th, the Principal presenting an overview of the role played by extra-curricular activities in achieving a balance between academic abilities and personal skills and attributes. The teachers in charge of each ECA gave a brief description of the content and value of the activities being offered. ECAs are in four blocks of eight weeks and students are expected to choose a different activity for each block ensuring that they experience at least one ECA under each of the headings of communication, creativity and community.

The activities available for Term 1 / Block 1 are as follows:

- Choir
- Theatre Production Skills
- Jewelry making / silversmithing
- International cookery
- Art in the Open
- Guitar ensemble
- Chess
- Debating
- Elementary spoken Khmer
- Charitable project

- Ms Hannah
- Mr Alan
- Mr Peter / Dr Len
- Mr Chris / Mr Joseph
- Mr Taliv
- Mr Max
- Ms Chris
- Ms Danielle
- Ms Nimol
- Ms Masa

The ECA programme began on August 25th



One of the debating teams prepares the arguments



Dr Len gives the first demonstration in Jewelry Making



The courtyard walls are the next target for Art in the Open and they began their design research.



International Cookery



Guitar Ensemble



Chess



Theatre production skills; the students must design and build a stage in the courtyard area.



Now with their own keyboard, the choir practises for performances later this term.



Brainstorming for the Charitable Project

New venue for weekly sports

All students now take part in team sports on a weekly basis and we are pleased to announce that the Chun Lung Sports Club will be used exclusively for sport. Its superior facilities meet the needs of secondary students and the venue will be used for football, volleyball, badminton, skills training and inter-house activities. Minibuses have been arranged to transport the students to the Sports Club which is approximately 10 minutes' drive from the High School.



Our thanks go to Mr Taliv, Mr Max and Mr Peter who are leading the sports activities this academic year and who have planned the logistics of transporting the students to the new venue.



New Uniform Policy

As part of the School's programme of continuous improvement, new stipulations are now in place with regard to uniform; these are not major changes but they do, nevertheless, ensure that all students consistently maintain a professional appearance. Students are expected to dress in the following manner:

- [1] Loose-fitting. plain-coloured black, dark grey or navy blue long trousers or shorts below the knees
- [2] If female students wish to wear skirts that is acceptable provided they are of one of the listed colours, are loose-fitting and extend below the knees.
- [3] It is not permitted to wear any clothing that is ripped, patterned or displays any form of logo.
- [4] The current regulations in respect of footwear remain.

The School accepts that not all students may be able to procure such clothing in the first week of term. Therefore, a grace period of seven days is granted from the commencement of term; parents or students who are unsure as to what would be considered acceptable should consult with the Principal.

New Lateness Policy

With effect from August 16th 2017 any student who arrives late must in the first instance **report to the School Office** and not to the Tutor. Late arrivals will be noted in the School diary and repeated lateness will result in action being taken by the school. Students are expected to be in the Tutor Room by 0750.

Introduction of the House Points and Merits system

HOUSE POINTS

			
1	2	3	4
5	10	15	20
25	30	35	40
45	50	55	60
65	70	75	80
85	90	95	100
105	110	115	120
135	140	145	150
165	170	175	180
195	200	205	210
210	215	220	225
230	235	240	245
250	255	260	265
270	275	280	285
290	295	300	305
310	315	320	325
330	335	340	345
350	355	360	365
370	375	380	385
390	395	400	405
410	415	420	425
430	435	440	445
450	455	460	465
470	475	480	485
490	495	500	505
510	515	520	525
530	535	540	545
550	555	560	565
570	575	580	585
590	595	600	605
610	615	620	625
630	635	640	645
650	655	660	665
670	675	680	685
690	695	700	705
710	715	720	725
730	735	740	745
750	755	760	765
770	775	780	785
790	795	800	805
810	815	820	825
830	835	840	845
850	855	860	865
870	875	880	885
890	895	900	905
910	915	920	925
930	935	940	945
950	955	960	965
970	975	980	985
990	995	1000	1005

This year we introduce the next phase of the House system with the awarding of individual house points to students who make a valuable contribution in academic lessons or activities. House points are recorded in the student's diary and are included in the overall points total for the House competition. Students are recognised for their achievements in this area with the awarding of merit certificates (bronze, silver and gold) when they reach a certain number of house points.

"Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."
Vince Lombardi.

Meeting with all parents

There will be an informal meeting with all parents and staff on the evening of **Friday, September 8th** at 6pm and will begin with a presentation by the Principal. This will provide an opportunity for parents to meet the new teachers, reflect upon the developments in 2016-17 and to have an overview of the aims and objectives for this academic year. More details will be given on the School's Facebook page. As always, the newsletters will keep parents updated on a regular basis.

The School back to work: August 2017



Year 11 Design Technology students in the new workshop



Year 12 Art students are allocated a personal space and computer access.



Year 12 students begin the new course in AS Psychology.

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