



KIS NEWS

At Kinabalu International School we are dedicated to providing an excellent education in a caring, respectful environment, challenging students to achieve their full potential as successful world citizens.

6th October 2017

Happy International Day!

The response to International Day has been terrific. The excitement amongst the students has been building all week and I know that parents and teachers have also been looking forward to celebrating on the day and enjoying a wide range of tasty treats from around the world.

The day will start at 8.30am with an international parade. Then, at 12.00 midday, the food stalls will open for Primary students, followed by Secondary students at 12.20pm. The food stalls promise a wide array of tasty foods from around the globe. Parents are invited to attend the parade in the morning and / or the food stalls and activities from lunchtime onwards. Please understand that students will be given priority at the food stalls and that we are unable to keep food aside for parents. A voucher payment system will operate at all food and activity stalls. Vouchers will be available for purchase from the PTA throughout the day.

On behalf of the school community I would like to thank the PTA for all their hard work in organising this fantastic event. I would also like to thank everyone in the KIS Community who has volunteered to help in some way. I look forward to seeing everyone wearing their national dress or colours. Happy International Day!

Deepavali Day

As we enjoy International Day today, we must not forget that our Hindu and Sikh communities are preparing to celebrate Deepavali during the Half Term break. To mark this celebration, I would like to invite all students to come to school on Friday 13th October wearing Indian inspired outfits. The PTA and parents from our Indian community will be decorating the school next week in preparation for Deepavali day.

Emergency Contact Details and Student Medical Records

Recently our School Nurse wrote to all KIS parents asking them to update the emergency contact details and medical records for their child (ren). This is extremely important in the case of an emergency and covers all emergency treatment deemed necessary, the use of specific medication for known health problems (e.g. asthma inhalers) and the use of non-prescription medicines (including the application of antiseptic creams) in accordance with school policy.

Parents were asked to complete the form found [here](#) and return it to the school by last Friday, 29th September. So far, we have had a very good response but there are still many forms outstanding. **If you have not yet completed and returned a form for your child(ren) please do so as soon as possible. This information is extremely important.** Please note that parents are not required to provide all their child's vaccination information again, if there have been no changes. Many thanks for your support and understanding.

Extra-Curricular Activities & Clubs

This is a gentle reminder that fees for 'Paid ECA's and Clubs' are now overdue. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could pay their children's ECA fees at the Main School Office as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Please be informed that ECAs and Clubs will not run today, Friday 6th October, due to our International Day celebrations.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Alan Connah
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 6th Oct:	International Day (no ECAs)
Tues 10th Oct:	A Level Information Afternoon
Weds 11th Oct:	Year 12 & Year 13 Talk by Jamie Simpson (Winchester Uni, UK)
Thurs 12th Oct:	Year 5 Trip
Fri 13th Oct:	Deepavali Day
Mon 16th - Fri 20th Oct:	Half Term Holiday - School Closed

PRIMARY NEWS

New Arrival

We were extremely pleased to hear the good news on Monday that Ms Nelly from Foundation 2 has delivered her baby. The little boy arrived early Monday morning weighing 3.75kg. I am sure the wider KIS community would like to join with the staff in sending our congratulations to Ms Nelly and her family at this time.

Primary Team Building

So much of a teacher's time while in school is spent quite rightly on concentrating on the education of the children. However, to be able to work effectively for the best of all children, teachers also have to work together as a team. With many new staff members in Primary this year, we felt that it was important to bring everybody together to work as a team early on in the term.

Local team building company Asia Ability joined forces with the Primary Staff recently to host a workshop called Beats Work. The staff enjoyed learning about the rhythms of a Samba band and seeing how, when we work together, great things can be produced. Class teachers, TA's and specialist teachers all joined together for this event and had great fun experiencing the pleasure of what can be created when we work positively as a team.



Parent-Teacher Meetings

The week after the Half Term break Primary Teachers will be holding Parent-Teacher Meetings. As in previous years, sign up boards for this will be in the covered walk way from Tuesday to Thursday next week. Please ensure you register for a time to see your child's class teacher, so you can find out how your child has settled in to their new class. Each appointment will be 10 minutes long. If you feel that you will need additional time to speak with your child's teacher, please make an appointment to speak to them on another day. Thank you.

Nicky Russell
Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

KIS Head Prefects and Deputy Head Prefects: 2017 to 2018

We are pleased to announce that our Head Prefects for this year are Vinay and Lois from Year 13. They will be assisted by Deputy Head Prefects Nishita and Michelangela [Miche] from Year 12. These are prestigious leadership roles within our school and all four students are keen to make a start in the role.

Here they tell us a little about themselves:

"My name is Vinay. I've been at KIS for about 9 years now so I know the school very well. During my time here I have undertaken many roles such as leading the 4Fest event and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Both have showed me the skills needed to be a leader— like taking charge, delegating tasks and leading by example. The best thing about this school is the skilled teachers. Not only do they help you with your studies but they also help you with other problems, such as university applications and personal problems. My previous schools never even mentioned these things! This will be my last year at school and my mind is on what I will be doing after my A Level exams. With all the help that I am getting here, I feel as though I am more than prepared to make the right choice of university in order to pursue Computer Science, especially since my subject choices of Physics, Chemistry, Applied ICT and Mathematics all contribute to it. I am looking forward to working with the team and contributing as Head Prefect!"

"My name is Lois and I am in Year 13. Currently I am taking 4 A Level subjects: Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry and in the future, I hope to have a career that involves Chemistry. Throughout my time at KIS, I have had the opportunity to take on some leadership roles, including Sports Day Planner, 4Fest Organiser, Student Librarian and Prefect. It is a great honour to be chosen as Head Prefect and I hope to enable positive change in the KIS community!"

"My name is Michelangela. I'm a new student here at KIS and am excited to be a part of the Prefect team! This is my fifth school and I have just moved here from Bonn, Germany. Being brought up as a third culture kid and international student has allowed me to learn English, Spanish, Italian and French and build an appreciation of different cultures, which makes me excited to explore and learn more about Borneo. In previous schools I was a member of the Student Council and had other leadership roles; I believe this kind of participation is an effective way to better our school community. I am currently in the first year of completing my A Levels and am taking Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Business and hope to study either Chemical Engineering or International Business and Economics at University."

My name is Nishita, I'm 16 years old and I have been a student at KIS for the past 13 years! It will be a great experience for me to be a Prefect this year. I've seen many changes at KIS during my time here but what has endured is the wonderful student spirit and how, despite the diverse range of cultures, there is a strong prevailing culture of unity. Previously I have been on the Charity Committee and a member of the Sports Council. I am taking A Levels in Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics and my ambition is to become a doctor. I am excited to be able to contribute to the student community here at KIS."

Congratulations to our Senior Prefects for 2017/18!

Mrs Renshaw
Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary

Changing Terminology: 'ESL' to 'EAL'

We have recently adopted the term 'English as an Additional Language (EAL)' to refer to our whole school English language programme that supports our linguistically diverse learners. The new English as an Additional Language (EAL) designation replaces the former designation of English as a Second Language (ESL). Although the terms are generally interchangeable in conversations, they do have distinctly different meanings.

The term 'ESL' is used primarily to describe English language learners who live in English-speaking countries, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, where students acquire English as a means to communicate in the dominant language. It also implies that English is a student's second language, which is not always an accurate description.

Conversely, the term 'EAL' acknowledges that the English language learners are already competent speakers of at least one or more home languages, thereby stressing their accomplishments and recognising that English is being learned in addition to those languages. EAL is also a more contemporary term that is widely used in the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia.

Therefore, we feel that the term 'English as an Additional Language (EAL)' is more appropriate for our diverse and multilingual student population. In light of this decision, we are in the process of up-dating our website and other documents to reflect this new terminology. It is important to note that only the terminology is changing, not the related services of the department.

Steven Morgan
Head of EAL

A Secondary Maths Update

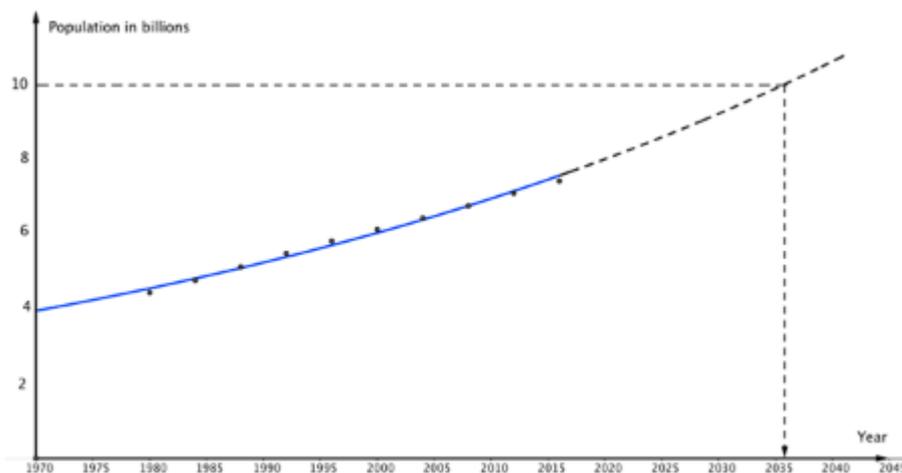
It's all systems go in Mathematics in the Secondary School! Our Year 7 students started with a tricky but important topic that saw them connect simple linear sequences to mathematical functions. Our Year 8 students started the year by looking at how to use prime factorisation to help them calculate Highest Common Factors and Lowest Common Multiples. Our Year 10 students have looked at ways in which arithmetic and algebra complement each other, and our Year 11 students have been looking at the many ways in which ratio and proportion problems can be tackled. Additional Maths students in Year 10 have been using Set Theory to help them solve logic problems, while Year 11 Add Maths students have taken their first look at differential calculus.

A Level mathematicians are equally hard at work – Year 12 students are busy on two fronts – handling the intricacies of statistical diagrams, while looking more formally at the structure of mathematical functions. Year 13 students are putting their knowledge of functions to work as they handle logarithmic and exponential functions.

The eagle-eyed reader will perceive that no mention has been made of Year 9 students. Here is where we might like to look at something in closer detail!

It has been long known that, for many people, mathematics is more interesting when it is more relevant. In our curriculum we try, whenever appropriate, to link our knowledge to the "real-world". Year 9 students were given a very simple, yet very relevant challenge recently – estimating when the population of the planet would reach the 10 billion mark.

One line of attack was to look at statistical data from reliable sources, detailing world population by year. This worked well – students plotted the data and saw, from the curved shape of the graph, that world population is increasing exponentially. Either by hand, or using technology, it isn't difficult to continue the trend (extrapolate) and read off from the graph when the population reaches 10 billion - as in the graph below:



The dotted part of the curve continues the trend shown by the data. This method suggests that the answer to the original question is some time around 2036.

Some students preferred a more arithmetical approach. Our original data suggested that the world's population is currently increasing at around 1.1% per year. Our Y9 students know enough about percentages to appreciate that, if you want to increase something by 1.1%, simply multiply it by 1.011.

By doing this multiple times (using their knowledge of indices to cut down on the labour involved), they came up with a similar answer to the graphical method. (Interestingly, older students who know about logarithms can cut the work involved even more!)

Our Y9 students are not lacking in tenacity! The more observant of them saw that, in fact, the year-on-year percentage increase is itself decreasing! In other words, in a few years' time the annual increase may only be 0.9% or even less. Our calculations were modified, in the light of this, and a more conservative answer to the question was forthcoming – somewhere between 2047 and 2052 we can expect the population of our planet to reach 10 billion.

Along the journey to our final answer we discussed what we mean about "reliable" data, we discussed why the original question was an important one and (my favourite!) why it's more useful and more fun to do this than just Google the answer!

Frank Davis

Head of Secondary Mathematics