

## NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN D'INFORMATION

N° 6 - JUIN / JUNE 2015

3<sup>ème</sup> trimestre / 3<sup>rd</sup> term : 2014 - 2015

**The year 2014/2015** has come to an end for our students and we wish them all a wonderful summer.

**For 2015/2016**, each section has given a rapid overview of the past year and a presentation for future projects.

In general, we will continue to build on the good practices of the school, as confirmed and encouraged by the recent audit visit in May and which will lead us to the renewal of the BIS's accreditation in 2020 with CIS (Council of International School – see : <http://www.cois.org/page.cfm?p=2044> regarding the advantages for parents and students at accredited schools). At the same time, BIS endeavours to introduce improvements and innovations, such as those practiced in other international schools, and with the specificities of a bilingual international school.

We will continue to organise outings and trips abroad, and the Secondary section should be receiving the Canadian partner school in March 2016.

The work of raising the Secondary building is an enormous project for which we are awaiting approval in the coming weeks. We need to update the technical and financial file, and search for financial support, with a view to carrying out the works in 2017/2018.

The **school office** will be open during the summer, except during the last week of July and first week of August (from 24/07 to 10/08/15).

The BIS school calendar has been updated and may be consulted on our website. Please ensure that you have the updated version, with recent changes made by the Education Authorities : <http://www.bordeaux-school.com/uploads/PDF%20test/Calendrier%20scolaire%20Ang.pdf>.

**Theme 2015/2016** : "Cooperation" : to further develop the sense of belonging to a community and for everyone to make a positive contribution ! Likewise, the "Positive Discipline" will be introduced throughout the school – see Primary below for more information.

**The PTA** had another exceptionally active and successful year. The report on the PTA's activities for 2014/2015 will soon be available on our web site at : <http://www.bordeaux-school.com/en/parents>. Projects for 2015/2016 are ambitious and presented below :

### **PTA : projectgs for 2015 / 2016**

*Bordeaux International School is a small school with global reach. From as far as New Zealand and as close as rue Judaïque our children are becoming equipped to be global citizens empowered with language, knowledge and the interpersonal skills required to live in our multicultural world. At BIS, the small class sizes allow for close mentoring between teacher and student. To achieve this, BIS allocates 77% of tuition towards staffing. This strength, however, has implications on the breadth of resources available within the school. With your support, the PTA wishes to engage in activities to financially support the structure to enrich the learning environment for all students via two methods: **a)** the first via your child; the PTA will be initiating **several educational and fun activities** for all age groups to engage students in the activities of one another, as well as enhancing the sense of belonging within the BIS community, **b)** our second method proposed is to ask parents to support the school with **an annual financial donation**. With a guaranteed minimum annual income, we can plan effectively for the year and as a result can identify at an early stage what we can support.*

*We are aware that the cost of a BIS education is a significant expenditure for some families and sacrifices are already being made in order to afford tuition. However, we open this door to those ready to contribute and the PTA commits to transparency and follow-up on every Euro received from you.*

**Sports Day:** some photos of this wonderful event are available on: <https://dropevent.com/gallery/go29252>  
(Password is : Judaique252)

## **PRIMARY**

**Overview :** The school year has passed extremely rapidly, with many successes. We hope that you are as satisfied as us with the progress of the wonderful pupils that we have at BIS. We hope that you have all had a great year!

**Jersey 2015 :** our annual school trip was a huge success this year. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed visiting the wonderful island of Jersey. We had good weather, and were able to take part in many activities. Photos of this fun event are displayed in the hall of the school.

**2<sup>nd</sup> language English Writing Class :** since September 2014, we have added an hour to the timetable dedicated to writing skills for the advanced English 2<sup>nd</sup> language group. This extra hour has allowed the students to make significant progress using the Hotspot method. This will greatly help the pupils moving up into Middle School at the end of this academic year.

## **2015-2016**

**Positive Discipline :** Pedagogic training for BIS teachers has been organised for the beginning of next term. This training will concern pupil self-discipline, co-operation, and methods to encourage students. Workshops will be for all teaching staff at BIS, and will be held during the week before the pupils begin class, the object being to give the staff ideas and methods that can help them develop day to day practices that encourage positive discipline. In addition, a conference will be held at BIS in October, an event that all parents will be welcome to attend. If you wish, the school is also offering to organize workshops for parents (to be decided after the conference). One of the BIS pupil's mothers, Mrs McPhilemy, has already been involved, and has found it to be a fascinating subject. She has very kindly accepted to answer any questions that you may have! If you would like to find out more about this subject then you may visit the following website: ([www.pedagogieparlencouragement.com](http://www.pedagogieparlencouragement.com)).

**Pupil Numbers:** Primary pupil numbers are stable for next year, with a very balanced Francophone / Anglophone ratio!

**The Teaching Team in Primary / Early Learning** remains the same, apart from the year 2/3 Anglophone teaching post which will be taken up by Danielle Browne, who is an American primary school teacher. Harriet Cook will be staying with us to teach the English 2<sup>nd</sup> Language group (intermediate) and our new "letsGoEnglish" (former Wednesday Club) on Wednesday afternoon.

## **SECONDARY**

The planned expansion of the school should now take place in 2017/2018. This will include a purpose built Science lab, but with the increase in numbers in the school next year, we are refurbishing the present school laboratory to allow more space for practical work and for the provision of Advanced Level Biology and Physics.

All schools develop and adapt their curriculums according to different criteria, and perhaps international schools, more than most, but sometimes changes can lead to confusion with parents, and it is important to state and clarify the exact situation – particularly regarding external examinations.

For the foreseeable future, i.e. at least the next 7 years, BIS will continue to offer IGCSE exams at age 16 and Advanced Level exams at age 18. At present these examinations are all with the Cambridge Examination Board. It may be that for some subjects we will change examination boards, but this will have no influence on the final examinations achieved – all examination boards are equivalent, it is just that some have a greater stress for example on coursework, or have a syllabus more relevant to an international school.

It may be that in the future (from 2020) the school will consider offering the International Baccalaureate (IB), but if/when this happens the school will continue to offer Advanced Levels in parallel with the IB.

In addition, reflecting the international dimension of the school, we will continue to offer the Brevet examination for French students intending to transfer to the French system. This involves slight changes to the syllabus in the Middle School years with inclusion of vocabulary and notation in French for example in Maths, and a greater emphasis on France in the History and Geography syllabi. But for students wishing to take the Brevet, the major change is in the first year of IGCSE1 (the equivalent of 3ème), when they will follow an additional option course designed to ensure that all aspects of the Brevet are covered.

### **Head of Secondary - departure and replacement of Tony Woodcock**

As previously announced, Tony Woodcock will be retiring from his function as Head of Secondary as from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015. Tony will be much missed - his numerous years of service to the school and to the students who have benefited from his varied and remarkable skills - firstly as teacher of Mathematics and Physics, enthusing students with a thirst to learn and a passion to teach; then as Head of Secondary where he developed a very special learning environment – stimulating, benevolent and yet rigorous - in which all thrive ; and finally, as an active member of the school governing body with the competence of his organisational skills.

He will leave a permanent imprint on the whole school and we should like to wish Tony a long and happy retirement.

Next year, Mme Lucinda Bergey (teacher of History / Geography / Business Studies, Head of Humanities Faculty and Deputy Head of Secondary) will take over the role of Head of the Secondary School. For the first month, she will nevertheless be assisted by Tony Woodcock, the current Head, in order to ensure a smooth transfer and continual efficient running of the school.

The whole teaching team joins me in wishing you all an excellent summer and the pleasure of seeing you on :

- Monday 31.08.15 for the Secondary and Middle School
- Tuesday 01.09.15 for the Primary school
- Thursday 03.09.15 for the Early Learning

Christine Cussac  
Directrice

13.07.15