

NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN D'INFORMATION

N° 2 – JAN / JAN 2017

2^{ème} trimestre / 2nd term: 2016 - 2017

All the team at BIS wish you an excellent year for 2017, hoping it brings you happiness and success. For the school, I hope that 2017 will see the start of the much awaited extension of the building, an indispensable step in the evolution of BIS and its continual process of improvement.

1- EXTENSION OF BIS PREMISES

BIS is doing well. Thanks to the quality of the work carried out by students and teachers, thanks to the dynamism and implication of parents and thanks to overall good management for the last 30 years. The controlled increase in student numbers, the quality of student achievement and the renewal of various accreditations, enable us to implement the building extension project initiated in 2013. The aim of this project is to provide better working conditions for the whole student community. By creating appropriate classroom space, it will allow us to continue to enhance our differentiated and collaborative teaching practices. These improvements were also recommended in the audit carried out by CIS (Council of International Schools) in 2015.

The extension will involve **adding another floor to the Secondary/Administration building** to provide 300 m² of classroom space for the Primary /Green group, Middle School and IGCSE/A Level. Building work will begin in June 2017, and will hopefully be completed before Easter 2018. During this time, the Secondary Section will be housed in suitable local premises.

The maximum number of students per group/class will remain at 15 for all Sections. The school fees for 2017 / 2018 will not be increased. The school is committed to maintaining reasonable fees for the years to come. We hope to end the letting of our nearby annexes (D1 & D2 – used by A Level).

Improvements provided by this project:

- * installation of a lift in the hall leading to the upper floors (conforming to legal requirements for accessibility).
- * creation of a floor (R+2) on the Secondary building, providing 300 m², mainly for the Middle School and Senior School.
- * a fully equipped Science laboratory, to be used by all (including Green group), with a separate preparation room.
- * a dedicated Media centre / Library / Study Area
- * extra and more suitable classrooms for students in A Level and IGCSE.
- * the older Primary children (Green) will benefit from improved comfort during split classes (1st language) with more space in the existing “secondary” building, also freeing space for the rest of the Primary classes.
- * A room for teachers which will facilitate coordination.

Building work will also take place in other sections:

- * replacing the bay windows in Early Learning as well as those in the Secondary and Administration building with the installation of insulated ones (sound-proof and thermal).
- * improving the space within the canteen – small enlargement; installation of a sound-proof partition to separate the canteen space.

Favourable conditions :

The need to improve the premises has been evident since 2013: lack of space; letting annex premises (D1 & D2); classes in the cantine or in the office for some Secondary classes... The school has explored many possibilities since 2013: relocation outside of the city centre; purchase of nearby buildings etc. The solution of adding an extension to the existing premises is the most favourable and the less onerous. Expected contributions from local authorities will also allow us to complete the project in favourable conditions.

During the work:

It is expected that the building work will begin in June/July 2017 (once a last administrative authorisation is confirmed). Building work on such a scale, will not be completed during the months of July and August. For this reason, we propose a calendar and solutions as follows:

- Summer 2017: Secondary section will finish on the 17th June as planned. For Early Learning / Primary, from 19th June and until 7th July, activities will take place on other premises.
- The Primary school trip will include Rainbow group and as an exception, we have chosen a close destination for the younger pupils. They will spend 5 days in the Verdon, close to the sea, from 19th to 23rd June. On their return, they will have classes in a nearby building for the last two weeks.
- Early Learning are lucky to be going to the "médiathèque" near to St Augustin, for the last three weeks.
- September 2017: Primary / Early Learning will return to their usual classes. Secondary will be housed in local premises until completion of the building work.
- Access to the building work site will be via the street, to maintain security conditions at the school.

This immense project which will help us to prepare for the future will require the support of the whole BIS community. Teachers have agreed to give up free time at weekends and holiday periods. For the children's interest, we seek your active support and count upon your understanding and cooperation during these changes.

Each section will provide appropriate information soon.

Information meetings: to present this project from all aspects (which are too numerous to mention in this newsletter) two meetings are planned for **Tuesday, 24 January: the first from 8h30 - 10h ; the second from 18h - 19h30.**

NOTE : Nous vous proposons de nous faire parvenir toute question ou requête par email pour le lundi 23 janvier.

2- SCHOOL YEAR 2017 / 2018

You will soon be receiving the renewal form for next year. The deadline for the reply-slip is the **1st March 2017**. For students who will be applying to a French college, parents must inform the school office as soon as possible, in writing, to receive appropriate advice.

Each section will soon receive information regarding the projects and orientations for 2017 / 2018.

3- OPEN DAY

Reserve the morning of **Saturday, 11 February (9h30 - 12h30)**, and take the time to discover the exciting projects completed by students so far this year. Your children will be delighted and proud to present their work to you. Exhibitions, mini-concerts, exchanges and meetings with teachers, parents, students... also hot chocolate! Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!

4 – IGCSE & A-Level Exams

Courses dedicated to IGCSE exams has been created on the ENT (**IGCSE Exams**) to provide parents with information about both mock and final examinations taking place at BIS. We invite parents to consult these pages for further information.

CALENDAR :

Please remember to regularly check all dates on the website calendar at: <http://www.bordeaux-school.com/en/events>

- 18.01.17 – 27.01.17 : Secondary – mock exams
- 06.02.17 – 10.02.17 : International Week
- **Saturday 11.02.17 : Open Day**
- 16.02.17 : Start of February Break
- 16.02.17 : 16h15 Early Learning – Parent-Teacher meetings
- 17.02.17 : No classes – Professional Development day
- 06.03.17 : Return from break
- 28.03.17 : Secondary Reps & Teacher meeting

Bien cordialement / Kind regards.

Christine Cussac
Directrice
18.01.17