

HEATHFIELD Times

The Official Newsletter of Heathfield International School

Headmasters Headlines 14th September 2018

Welcome to the first edition of the Heathfield times for the 2018-19 academic year and my first Headmaster's Headlines.

I spent most of August in school preparing for the year ahead; an empty school is a strange place to be; the buzz and energy that we have when the students are here is missing. That intangible 'thing' that makes working in education so rewarding hides itself away, waiting until the gates open on the first day of the school year to reenter the building.

I have always found it hard to believe how quickly one day goes by in a school, let alone one week, and yet here we are into our second week of the school year settling into the daily routines; our Early Year' children's tears are starting to dry up quicker in the morning and homework is being set; making some students happy and others wish that it is still holiday time.

Reflecting on my first week at school, as all educators should, I realised that I was really impressed by the use of English our students use around the school and the confidence in which they were using it in the classroom to engage with their teachers and peers.

It reminded me of an article I read a few years ago about the benefits of growing up as a bilingual or trilingual child and the advantages a young person has in being able to switch between languages, particularly at a younger age, when they may not know the word in English, but they do know it in their mother tongue and so they simply use that word and carry on the conversation in English.



“A new study reveals that children who can speak more than one language have a learning advantage, with superior problem-solving skills and creative thinking than kids who only know one. According to the researchers from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, the mental agility needed to switch between languages may develop skills that boost other types of thinking”

The statement above really does highlight the opportunities our students have at our school, where they must learn in English, but also most are fortunate to have at least one other language that they are confident in using as well. Surely this bodes very well for their future, if they continue to learn two or more languages.

If over the next few years, your child is struggling for a word as they do their homework, but they know it in another language, be proud of them as they are demonstrating their enhanced cognitive ability, superior problem solving skills and mental agility.

I have listed three separate articles below which may be of interest to you on this subject area.

[7 Myths and Facts About Bilingual Children Learning Language](#)

[Bilingual children are better at recognizing voices](#)

[Are Bilingual Kids Are Smarter Knowing Two Languages?](#)



David Aitchison

Headmaster

Heathfield International School

Early Years

Wow! What a great start to the term with lots of new smiley faces in early years. We have had a very busy start to the term ensuring that all children settle in well with their new daily routines inside and outside the classroom. All the nursery children have adapted well to nursery life and are able to participate well in all the activities that they have been introduced to. They are particularly enjoying circle time and story time and show great enthusiasm to learn.



During this term we will focus on the letters of the alphabet and vocabulary. This week we are learning about the letter 'a'. The children will make and decorate apples and ants along with the songs '5 red apples' and 'The ants go marching'.

Also, for this half of the term our topic is based on 'All about me'. The children will learn about routines, family, homes, body shapes and emotions. So far the nursery children have started to learn about their family members and their names. We have focused on Peppa pig's family as an example due to many of the children showing great interest in the Peppa pig cartoon and toys. The children will bring in a photo of their family this week to show and share with the class.

Ms Sophie Eden
Nursery Teacher

Hello To New Teachers!

Welcome back to the first newsletter of this academic year. First of all I would like to welcome our new Headmaster, Mr David Aitchison.

We also welcome many new teachers to our ever expanding staff. I will start with our

Reception 1A teacher, Miss Kirsty Telfer.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. After completing a Journalism degree at the University of Edinburgh, I moved to Ghana to teach writing and communication skills to young people. After obtaining my Masters in African Studies I travelled extensively before moving to Thailand to teach English as a foreign language. Since then, I have completed my PGDE in Scotland and have taught in Scottish primary schools and nurseries.



Moving onto Year 1A and B where we have 2 new members of teaching staff:

Mr Bryans, Year 1A teacher



I am from Brighton in England; I graduated from the University Of Sussex studying Developmental Psychology. I have been teaching now for over 10 year. I first taught English as a Foreign Language in South Korea and Taiwan. I returned to England and taught children with SEN needs and then on to do my PGCE at East London University. Since then I have taught Reception and Year 1 professionally in International Schools in Malaysia and China.

Mr Warwood, Year 1B teacher

I come from Chester in England. I graduated from the University of Sheffield with a BA (Hons) in Journalism Studies. I then taught English to young learners for three years in Bangkok prior to coming back to the UK in order to complete my teacher training at Edge Hill University. Whilst in the UK, I have taught across a wide variety of challenging and ambitious schools and have extensive experience in creating a fun, nurturing and stimulating learning environment in my classroom.



Mr Timothy Laven is our new Year 2 teacher



I come from London in the United Kingdom. I graduated from Goldsmiths College University with a B.Ed (Hons.) in Education. I then attained an M.A in Education and Technology from the University of London. I have spent the last 17 years living in Thailand and working for a Hotel in Phuket and then in Bangkok managing their Social Media.



Mr Christie is the Year 3B teacher

I come from Inverness, Scotland, in the U.K. I graduated from the University of Aberdeen with MA (Hons.) in Politics – Sociology. I have also completed my PGCE from the University of Nottingham. This will be my first year of teaching at Heathfield International School, but I possess 17 years of experience working in education in various capacities in the U.K., China and Thailand.

Mr Han is our Mandarin teacher



My name is Han Jianxiong, I am from Liaoning province in China. I will be the Mandarin teacher for the pupils from Year 1 to Year 9. I have been teaching Mandarin in Thailand for over four years, and gained a lot of experience in teaching the students from different levels with a different language proficiency.

Also during the past four years, I have participated a couple of projects for public and private schools in Thailand, for instance foreign language curricula design, Chinese curriculum refinement, symposium of foreign language teaching methods, and currently I am cooperating with the FLTRP (Beijing) for my forthcoming Mandarin textbook (Hopefully it will launch Thailand next year.)

Mr Holmes is our new Physical Education teacher

I am from Milton Keynes, England and this will be my third year in Thailand. I have been involved in sports from a young age, not only participating but also coaching. I graduated from the University of Central Lancashire with a BA in Sports Development in 2011 and went into a Sports Development/ Aquatics Manager role at the local council working with schools and national governing bodies. I really enjoyed being in the school environment, following this I completed my PGCE with the University of Nottingham and I am currently in the final year of an MSc in Physical Education and Sports Pedagogy from the University of Birmingham. I hope that over the coming months we can build a strong PE department focused on learning a number of new sports and skills, becoming physically literate and most importantly having fun! I look forward to meeting you all soon.





Mr Rhandy, PE Assistant

Hi, I am Mr Rhandy, I will be assisting Mr Holmes with the Primary PE and swimming lessons. I look forward to teaching your children.

I hope you have a great start to term with our new and existing staff.

Kind Regards

Mrs Hodges

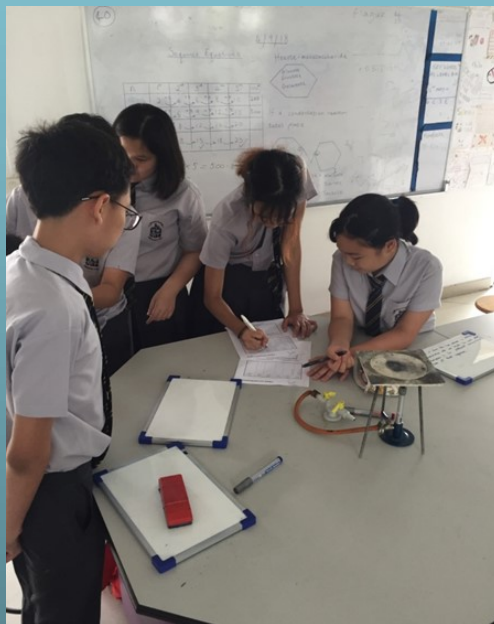
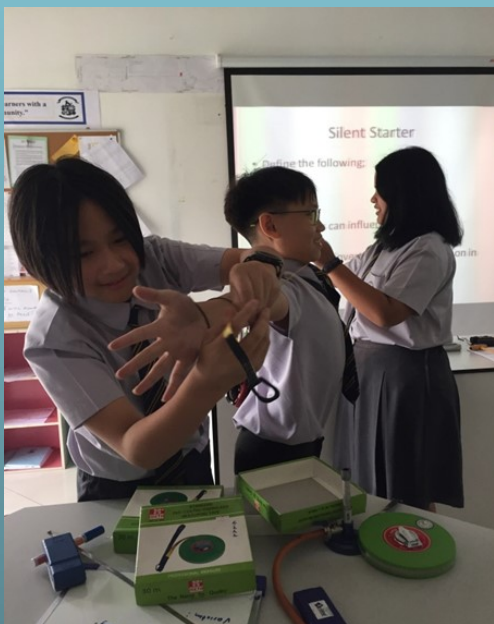
Deputy Head

Secondary

Mr. Davenport welcomed year 9 back to the school last week and we opened the academic year with our first biology topic; variation & evolution. Students used a variety of skills across the week to research and investigate different types of variation and the factors affecting this. All students demonstrated a great attitude to learning which allowed everyone to be introduced to IGCSE level questioning.

This introduction to IGCSE content one year early gave students an experience to the level they are expected to work at and furthermore, improve their scientific terminology. Within the class investigation, students investigated continuous variation. This relates to variation that can be changed depending the environment.

If you are curious about the investigation please call into our classroom, you might be shocked at the results. Who is the shortest and tallest in year 9 ? Who has the widest hand span? Does your arm span closely link to your height? The results might surprise you. Consider this investigation amongst your classmates, what type of environmental (continuous) variation do you have in your class?



Mr Robert Davenport
Secondary Science Teacher

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