



# Message from Secondary Principal



**Gary Crumbie**  
Secondary Principal

### Dear SBS International Bangkok Families

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It has been a busy and inspiring first week back as we settle into our new routines. This week marked a significant milestone as we began migrating across to the Secondary Building. With the classrooms now fully equipped with interactive whiteboards, our students have officially begun occupying the space on a more permanent basis.

It has been wonderful to observe the immediate sense of ownership and pride the students are taking in their new environment. Seeing them treat the space with such respect and enthusiasm confirms that this transition is about much more than just a move—it's about building our community.

We are excited after months of planning to finally launch two Service Learning projects this week that allow our students to make a tangible impact:

Project	Goal	How to help
<b>The Ring Pull Project</b>	Supporting livelihood programs for the Tondo Dumpsite community in the Philippines.	Drop off your drink can ring pulls in the containers at Main Reception. Speak to your local restaurant / cafe - ask them to get on board and collect ring pulls for you. Taking a flight anytime soon - ask the cabin crew to collect the ring pulls from drink cans during the flight.
<b>Loose Change Appeal</b>	Building on the success of Global Reef Day and our Artificial Reef design competition.	Add any spare coins/loose change to the collection bins at Main Reception.

Both initiatives are house events, meaning there are points up for grabs for the house who collects the most ring pulls and raises the most money from collecting as many loose change / coins. Look out for the posters inside this week's newsletter.

We are super excited to be see you all next week on Tuesday (Y7) and Thursday (Y8) at our second PTC of the year. We are looking forward to the conversations around student achievement and progress to date.



## Highlights of the Week

### Science - TEDtalk style presentations continue - round 2

We were very excited today with round 2 of our Science TEDtalk style presentations. S (Y8) and Nam Oon (Y7) took to the floor to discuss the pros and cons to the title **'Science does more harm than good'**

Both speeches were excellent and extremely thought provoking, referring to issues linked to genetics to nuclear war. The audience listened attentively and participated well through question time at the end.





## Thai

Year 7 learned how to create a story map to summarise the main ideas from a story "กว่าแผ่นดินจะกลบหน้า" from ภาษาวาทีย์. They answered questions and shared their thoughts about the story. They also learned important lessons about the consequences of corruption.

They created their work in pairs using Canva, practising teamwork and developing their critical thinking skills.

Year 8 practised presenting their report writing based on Thai literature in front of the class. This week, they also practised typing in Thai using the Thai keyboard. It was challenging at the beginning, but they kept going and showed great effort.



## Maths

This week, Year 7 immersed themselves into the world of mathematical patterns. They looked at sequences and function machines as the "logic puzzles" of math - once they found the hidden rule, they could predict the future (or at least the next number in the list)

### 1. Function Machines

A function machine is a way of showing what happens to a number (the input) to turn it into a new number (the output).

- The Input: The number you start with.
- The Operation: What the machine does (e.g., +5,  $\times 2$ ).
- The Output: The final result.

### Two-Step Machines

Sometimes, a machine has two parts. For example:

Input  $\rightarrow$  Multiply by 3  $\rightarrow$  Add 4  $\rightarrow$  Output

If the input is 5, the calculation is  $(5 \times 3) + 4 = 19$ .

### Reversing the Machine (Inverse Operations)

To find the input when you only have the output, you must work backward using the opposite (inverse) operations.

- The inverse of Addition is Subtraction.
- The inverse of Multiplication is Division.



## Maths

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### 2. Number Sequences

A sequence is a list of numbers that follows a specific pattern or rule. Each number in the list is called a term.

Linear Sequences

In a linear sequence, the difference between the terms is always the same.

- Example: 3,7,11,15,...
- The Rule: Add 4 each time (the "common difference").

Key Vocabulary

- Term-to-term rule: This tells you how to get from one number to the next (e.g., "Add 3").
- Ascending: The numbers are getting larger.
- Descending: The numbers are getting smaller.

### 3. The $n$ th Term (The Master Rule)

The  $n$ th term is a formula that lets you find any number in a sequence without writing the whole list out. If  $n$  is the position of the number (1st, 2nd, 3rd...), the formula tells you the value.

Example: If the rule is  $3n + 1$ :

- The 1st term ( $n = 1$ ) is  $(3 \times 1) + 1 = 4$
- The 10th term ( $n = 10$ ) is  $(3 \times 10) + 1 = 31$

### The Challenge Question

Ready to test your skills? Try this multi-step puzzle:

The Problem:

A function machine takes an input, multiplies it by 4, and then subtracts 3 to get an output.

1. If the input is 7, what is the output?
2. If the output is 37, what was the input?
3. Mega Challenge: If the input is  $n$ , write the output as an expression. This expression is actually the  $n$ th term of a sequence! Can you find the first three terms of that sequence?

This is a Year 8 guide to Shapes and Symmetry, from this week's work, where geometry gets a bit more "3D" and we started looking at the hidden rules that govern everything from a simple square to complex solids.

### 1. Symmetry: Reflective & Rotational

Symmetry is all about balance. We look at it in two main ways:

- Reflective Symmetry: A shape has reflective symmetry if a line of symmetry (mirror line) can be drawn through it so that both sides are identical.
- Rotational Symmetry: This is how many times a shape looks exactly the same as it is rotated a full  $360^\circ$  around its center. This is called the Order of Rotational Symmetry.
  - Example: A square has rotational symmetry of order 4. An equilateral triangle has order 3.



## Maths

### 2. Properties of Quadrilaterals

Quadrilaterals are four-sided polygons. Each has unique "personality traits" regarding their sides and angles:

Shape	Parallel	Equal Sides	Angles
Square	2 pairs	All 4 equal	All 90o
Rectangle	2 pairs	Opposite sides are equal	All 90o
Rhombus	2 pairs	All 4 equal	Opposite angles equal
Parallelogram	2 pairs	Opposite sides equal	Opposite angles equal
Trapezium	1 pair	Varies	Varies
Kite	0 pairs	2 pairs of adjacent equal sides	1 pair of equal opposite angles

### 3. Parts of a Circle

A circle isn't just a round line; it has specific components you need to name:

- Radius: The distance from the center to the edge.
- Diameter: The distance across the circle through the center ( $D = 2r$ )
- Circumference: The distance all the way around the outside edge.
- Arc: A portion of the circumference.
- Chord: A line segment joining two points on the circumference.
- Sector: A "pizza slice" piece of the circle.
- Segment: An area cut off by a chord.

### 4. 3D Solids and Euler's Rule

For any polyhedron (a 3D shape with flat faces), there is a mathematical relationship between its Faces (F), Vertices (V), and Edges (E).

Euler's Formula:

$$E = F + V - 2$$

(Note: You may also see this written as  $F + V - E = 2$ . They are the same thing!)

- Faces: The flat surfaces.
- Vertices: The corner points.
- Edges: The lines where two faces meet.

### 5. Elevations: Front, Side, and Plan

To describe a 3D object on 2D paper, we use elevations. Imagine looking at a house:

- Plan View: Looking directly down from the top.
- Front Elevation: Looking directly at the front.
- Side Elevation: Looking directly at the side.

### The Year 8 Challenge

A mystery 3D shape has 6 faces and 8 vertices.

1. Use Euler's Rule ( $E = F + V - 2$ ) to calculate how many edges this shape has.
2. Based on your answer, what is the most likely name of this shape?

Bonus: If this shape is a cube, what is its Order of Rotational Symmetry if you rotate it around an axis passing through the centers of two opposite faces?



## ENGLISH

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It has been another spellbinding week in Year 7 English as we dive deeper into the halls of Hogwarts with Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Our discussions this week moved beyond the plot and into the complex social and psychological layers of Harry's new life. Here is a look at what we covered.

Moving from a cupboard under the stairs to a magical castle is more than just a change of scenery; it's a total linguistic shift. We explored the new social language Harry is encountering.

From wizarding idioms and technical jargon (like "Muggle" and "Quidditch") to the formal etiquette of the Great Hall, students analyzed how Harry must "code-switch" to fit into a world he didn't know existed. We discussed how being a "fish out of water" affects his confidence and how he uses language to bridge the gap between his two lives.

One of our most profound discussions focused on Harry's upbringing with the Dursleys. We examined how years of childhood trauma and neglect have shaped his personality, specifically leading to "people-pleasing" tendencies. In The Lesson: We discussed why being a "people pleaser" isn't always the healthiest way to build authentic friendships. Students reflected on the importance of boundaries and how true friends, like Ron and Hermione, value Harry for who he is, not just for his compliance.

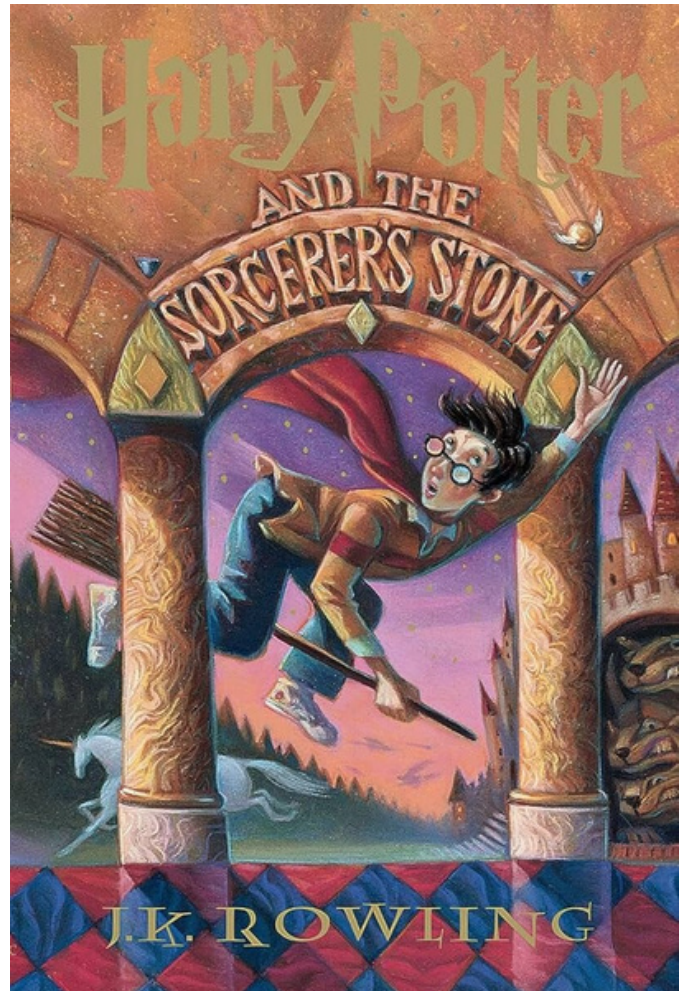
### Vocabulary Power with Membean

Our quest for "word mastery" continues! Students have been working hard on Membean to strengthen their vocabulary.

By engaging with personalized learning schedules, they aren't just memorizing definitions; they are learning the nuances of word roots, context clues, and connotations. It's been great to see some of these sophisticated new words popping up in their classroom discussions!

### Looking Ahead

Next week, we will be analyzing the introduction of Professor Snape and exploring the concept of "first impressions"—and whether they can be trusted. How you can help at home: Ask your student: "If you were dropped into a world where everyone spoke a language you didn't understand, what would be the hardest part of fitting in?"





## ENGLISH

Even with a shortened week, our Year 8 scholars didn't miss a beat. We dove deep into Chapter 5, following Ponyboy and Johnny as they navigate the cold reality of life as fugitives.

The atmosphere in the classroom reflected the tension on the page. We explored the palpable anxiety the boys feel while hiding out in the abandoned church at Windrixville. It's no longer a game of "Greasers vs. Socs"—it's a matter of survival.

The highlight of our week was a heated discussion surrounding the boys' hair. For a Greaser, hair isn't just a style; it's an identity.

- **The Sacrifice:** We discussed why Ponyboy felt that cutting and bleaching his hair was akin to "cutting off a limb." \* **Loss of Self:** Students analyzed how S.E. Hinton uses this physical change to show the boys losing their connection to their "hood" and their pride.

### Boosting Vocabulary Power

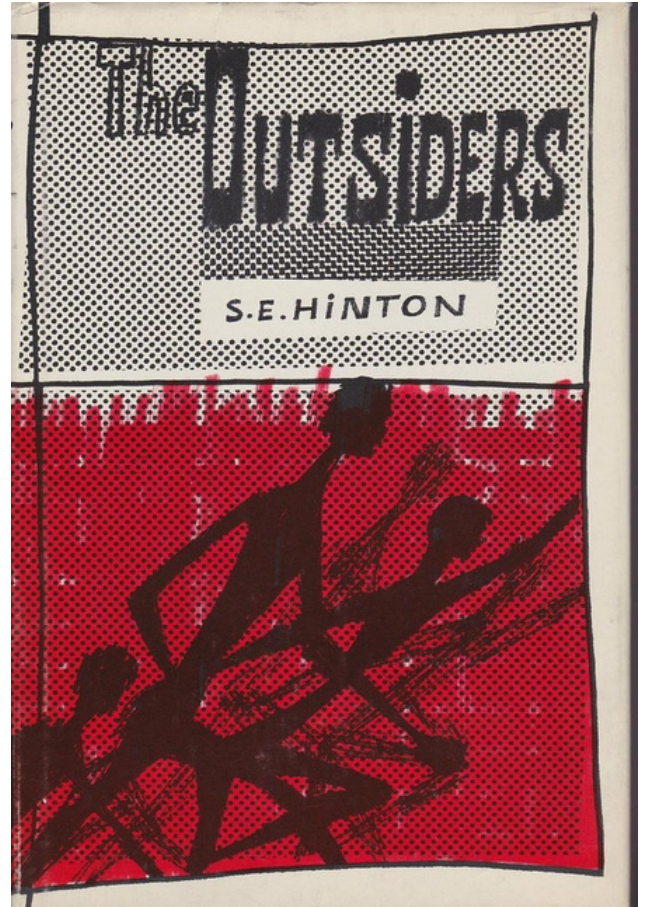
The short week didn't stop our quest for linguistic mastery! Students have been logging onto Membean to sharpen their word-attack skills.

We are seeing a fantastic increase in "Vocabulary Power" across the board. By engaging with word trees and context-based learning, students are moving beyond simple memorization and truly "owning" their new words.

**Pro Tip:** Ask your student which Membean word they found most challenging this week—see if they can use it in a sentence at the dinner table!

As we move into the next phase of the novel, we will be looking at:

- The arrival of Dally at the church.
- The shifting power dynamics between the two gangs.
- Preparing for our mid-novel analytical paragraph.





## MANDARIN

This week in Mandarin, our learning extended beyond vocabulary and grammar. We focused on culture, creativity, communication, and leadership development through two key areas: Chinese Characters & Calligraphy and the launch of our new “Welcome New Students in Mandarin” Project.

This week, students successfully met the objectives of our Chinese Characters and Calligraphy unit.

Students were able to:

- Understand the concept of pictographic characters and how early Chinese writing evolved from images
- Design their own simplified character based on visual prompts, using minimal strokes and clear logic
- Demonstrate correct brush-holding posture
- Practice the five fundamental strokes (点、横、竖、撇、捺)
- Apply stroke knowledge to write basic characters (人、山、水、火、小)
- Write the character “福” with attention to balance and structure

Through this sequence — understanding origins, creating their own characters, and practicing traditional brush writing — students developed both cultural awareness and technical control. This week we officially launched a long-term initiative aimed at developing:

### 1. Language Ability

Clear and structured self-introduction in spoken and written Mandarin.

### 2. Social Communication Skills

Active listening, meaningful questioning, and authentic interaction.

### 3. Leadership & Student Agency

Representing the school with confidence and building a welcoming environment.

Students completed:

- A structured self-introduction mind map
- Paragraph writing
- Oral presentation practice

They demonstrated improved organisation of ideas, clearer delivery, and growing confidence.

### Next Week

Students will move into Phase 2 of the project:

- Developing interview outlines
- Designing structured question banks
- Preparing to interview new students

The focus will be on thoughtful questioning, active listening, and positive representation of our school community.

### Developing Student Agency: Mandarin Coffee Shop (Y8 Initiative)

To strengthen student ownership, Y8 students will begin brainstorming and planning the upcoming Mandarin Coffee Shop event.

- Y8 students will lead organisation
- Y7 and Y6 students will participate
- Mandarin will be used in real-life social interaction

Students are developing not only language skills but also initiative, collaboration, and leadership.





## HUMANITIES

We kicked off the week by diving into the data! Students put their hypotheses to the test, using scattergraphs to uncover relationships between different development indicators. We ended the week on a more personal note, challenging students to think critically about their roles as global consumers and how their daily choices impact communities and ecosystems around the world.



## PE

This week, students began Term 2 - Unit 3: Net and Wall Games, with a focus on Table Tennis. Lessons introduced the fundamental skills required for the sport, including the correct grip, basic serving techniques, and forehand and backhand strokes. Students practised controlled rallies to develop consistency, coordination, and accuracy.

In addition, some students participated in Short Tennis activities, where they learned similar foundational skills such as proper grip and serving techniques. These activities provided an opportunity to apply transferable skills across different net and wall games.

It was a positive start to the unit, with students demonstrating strong engagement as they began developing their technical skills and game awareness.





## Congratulations - Pichcha (Y7)

Asian Ballet Competition (ABC) Thailand 2026 held on February 21-22!

It has been an incredible journey, and we are so grateful for the recognition she received in the Performance B category.

- Contemporary: Gold Medal & Grand Award
- Ballet: Silver Medal

In addition to the awards, she was selected for several prestigious international opportunities:

- 100% Scholarship (3 Weeks) - Hong Kong Youth Ballet Academy
- 100% Scholarship - BIP Thailand (Ballet Intensive Program): 20-26 April 2026
- Selected for Summer Intensive & Performance 2026 at Sensational Ballet Company (Osaka, Japan): July 2026

Well done Pichcha!



## Congratulations - S (Y8)

I am pleased to share a written summary of his own experience at the 13th Hong Kong International Performance Arts Festival & Music Competition (Final Round) HKYPA on 7 February 2026 in Hong Kong, where he achieved Fifth Place in Grade 6 (Piano).

### S' account:

“I was really nervous even though I had practiced this song and could play it with my eyes closed. Honestly just the setting kind of spooked me out. And with the room being hot and the person next to me talking all the time made my hands sweat. When I handed the piano score to the judges, and bowed, then sat down, I wiped my hands with my pants and started playing. I started too fast but couldn't change it anymore so just went with it. When we finished the competition, the places were revealed. I was extremely happy to have been placed fifth out of twenty eight people.”

Well done S!!





## CONGRATULATIONS - SBS TIGERS DOMINATE ON COURT

Our SBS U13 Girls Basketball Team competed against one of the top-tier international schools, Bromsgrove International School, and delivered an impressive performance, securing a 26–8 victory. The girls demonstrated strong defensive skills throughout the game, while showing growing confidence, teamwork, and positive communication on the court. Well done to our U13 girls for their excellent effort.

In the second game of the double-header, our SBS U13 Boys Basketball Team also faced Bromsgrove and achieved a convincing 43–24 win, improving their season record to 4 wins and 1 loss. The boys continue to show great progress in their skills, teamwork, and game confidence.

Every game provides a valuable learning experience for our players, helping them develop not only in performance but also in sportsmanship, teamwork, and resilience. We would also like to extend our appreciation to our dedicated coaches and the entire SBS community for their continued support during the games. Well done, SBS Tigers! Go Tigers!





## Loose Change competition

To assist and raise funds for the deployment of our very first Artificial Reef on the ocean floor in Koh Tao we are excited to announce a school wide house competition.

Dig deep, search all the places where coins end up - in the car, down the sofa or your loose change pot at home.

Please add your contributions to our collection containers which can be found close to the main reception.



## Ring pull collection launch

We are extremely excited to be finally ready to launch our House ring pull collection competition.

Start removing the ring pulls from drink cans and add them to your house collection!! Which HOUSE will win - you DECIDE!



## Service Learning

A gentle reminder for students across the school to design and enter our first Artificial Reef Design Competition. The deadline is March 13th!





## Upcoming Events

- Monday 16th - Friday 20th March - Book Week
- Friday 20th March - Book Week Character Dress Up day

### ♥ Next Week

- Tuesday 3rd March (Y7) & Thursday 5th March (Y8) - PTC meetings

### ♥ Looking Ahead

- Monday 16th - Friday 20th March - Book Week
- Friday 20th March - Book Week Character Dress Up day
- Friday 3rd April - End of Term 2
- Monday 20th April - Start of Term 3

## Reminders

We are currently in the process of putting together some information workshops for parents linked to the safe use of mobile phones, social media and much more. We aim to deliver these as part of a coffee morning series - therefore please keep your eyes out for more details here.

In the meantime did you know these social media platforms all have an age restriction?

## Closing Note

It has been a week filled with remarkable achievements, from the thought-provoking Science TEDtalks to the outstanding sporting victories by our U13 basketball teams. We also celebrate individual successes like Pichcha's ballet awards and S's piano performance in Hong Kong. As we look ahead to Book Week and our next week's parent teacher conferences, I encourage everyone to get involved with our Artificial Reef (Loose Change Appeal) and our long awaited Ring Pull project to help our students make a tangible global impact. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend ahead.

Warm regards,  
Gary Crumbie  
Secondary Principal





# **SBS International School Bangkok**

AN ARTHIT OURAIRAT INSTITUTION





**Inspire Academic Success,  
Nurture Holistic Wellbeing,  
Cultivation Curiosity & Passion**



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## Admissions

Monday - Friday  
8.30am - 4.30pm

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