



Message from Secondary Principal



Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal

Dear SBS International School Bangkok Families,

The energy across the school site from our youngest learners in Early Years to our Secondary students has been nothing short of inspiring. It's been a joy to see students and staff getting active, embracing the spirit of fun, and fiercely competing for those all-important House Points.

The Big Reveal next week, we will be in a position to share the full results from the week. This will include the data from today's amazing STRIDE event. With hundreds of thousands of steps logged by the entire community, the final total is going to be staggering. Stay tuned!

Last Friday marked our very first Bake Sale of the year! We are thrilled with the amount of money raised - keep an eye for the update in this week's newsletter. We look forward to sharing exactly how these funds will be used to support the children at the Wat Mai Si Muen Orphanage.

With regards to our other ongoing Service initiatives please keep the momentum going with our ring pull collection. With only a few weeks left in this year's competition, every single pull makes a difference for our service partners.

Students in Year 7 & 8 have all been working hard preparing for their English, Maths, and Science assessments, which officially begin next week. Mr Phillips has kindly put together some great top tips /advice for the students - look out for it later in the newsletter.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Tuesday's Parent Information Session. The term is flying by, and the excitement for Expedition Week is building! Students have already made an excellent start in their English lessons, preparing resources and activities to teach the local primary school students during our trip.

My sincere apologies for missing this morning's Coffee Morning. I hope those who attended had a lovely time connecting, and I look forward to catching up with you all at our next community event.



Assessment Preparation: Tips and Routines

As we approach the end-of-year assessment, starting on Monday, next week, it is vital that all students establish a calm and disciplined routine. Please follow these guidelines to ensure you perform to the best of your ability:

Health and Wellbeing

- **Rest and Nutrition:** Ensure you go to bed early during assessment week to remain sharp. Eat a healthy breakfast each morning to sustain your energy levels.
- **Hydration:** Keep a bottle of water with you to stay hydrated throughout the day, as this is essential for concentration.
- **Mindset:** Arrive at the assessment room early to allow yourself time to relax. Try not to be too nervous; take deep breaths and remember that we only ask for your best effort.

Practical Preparation

- **Equipment:** Check that all your equipment is working properly (pens, pencils, rulers, and calculators). Prepare everything you need the night before to avoid a morning rush.
- **Revision Checklist:** Use the checklist provided in class to highlight any specific topics you still need to practice.
- **Teacher Support:** If you have any last-minute concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to check them with your mathematics teacher before the mathematics assessment begins.

During the Assessment

- **Reading and Marks:** Read every question carefully before you begin writing. Always look for the total marks available for each question, as this indicates how much detail is required.
- **Showing Work:** Answer every question fully and, most importantly, show all your working out. Even if the final answer is incorrect, marks are often awarded for a correct mathematical method (in maths).

Thank you Mr Phillips for putting this together. All teachers in the Secondary School wish all students in Year 7 and Year 8 the best of luck. Work hard, stay focused, and do yourselves proud by doing your best.



Maths - Preparation for end-of-year assessments

Year 7 weekly Summary

Year 7 has been dedicated to a comprehensive review of our curriculum to ensure a robust numerical foundation. As an example, we have revisited the core principles of integers, decimals, and fractions, alongside a refresher on algebraic expressions and equations. In geometry, students have been solidifying their understanding of angles and coordinate transformations. Finally, we reviewed our data handling units, focusing on probability and the calculation of statistical measures, specifically the mode, mean, median and range. It has been a productive week of consolidating the year's learning.

Year 8 weekly Summary

Our focus in Year 8 has been on expanding foundational concepts through rigorous revision. Students have reviewed proportional reasoning and the more complex elements of algebraic manipulation, such as indices, linear sequences, and plotting $y=mx+c$. We also revisited our geometry units, particularly transformations and the calculation of area and volume. To conclude the week, we reviewed probability and statistics, focusing on the interpretation of averages and measures of distributions and the calculation of events and outcomes. The students have shown good progress towards mastering these more difficult topics.

Y7 & Y8 — Mandarin Resource Library Posters

Students have worked in groups to design and produce large Mandarin resource posters, each focused on a key vocabulary topic. The eleven posters covering Countries & Languages, Family Members, Food, Drinks, Hobbies, Sports, Seasons & Weather, School Facilities, School Subjects, Colours, and Animals will become a permanent classroom resource library that students can continue using throughout the year.

What made this activity especially valuable was not simply the vocabulary itself, but the process of building it together. Through repeated handwriting, visual organisation, discussion, and peer explanation, students strengthened their memory of Chinese characters and tones in ways that traditional drills often cannot achieve. As one student commented:

"I didn't realise how many food words I already knew until I had to write them all down."

The activity also revealed a great deal of student creativity and independence. Many groups chose to add speech bubbles, mini-dialogues, colour-coded categories, and cultural notes going far beyond the basic task requirements. Rather than simply completing an assignment, students began making decisions about how knowledge could be organised, connected, and communicated.

Most importantly, the posters now form a shared classroom language system that students can continually return to and expand. Instead of isolated vocabulary lists, students are building a visual Mandarin "library" that supports long-term language growth. As new topics are introduced, students will be able to add connections, extend ideas, and activate previously learned vocabulary in increasingly meaningful ways.





Y8 Pathway B — The Story Behind Animal Performances - A Four-Week Mandarin Inquiry Project

Year 8 Pathway B students have begun a four-week inquiry project exploring one of the most important ethical questions in animal conservation:

What really happens behind animal performances?

Using Mandarin as the language of research, discussion, and presentation, students are investigating the hidden realities behind entertainment industries involving animals.

The inquiry moves through several stages:

- **Phenomenon**
- **Domestication and training**
- **Harm and stereotypic behaviour**
- **Animal rights and legislation**
- **From awareness to action**

The project includes two major outcomes. The first is a conservation poster, with each student researching and advocating for one animal connected to the performance industry. Students are working at differentiated levels across four focus animals: polar bear (北极熊), elephant (大象), gorilla (大猩猩), and orca (虎鲸).

The second outcome is a TED-style presentation delivered entirely in Mandarin. In these talks, students explain the realities behind animal performances, present evidence from their research, and share their own calls to action.

This project encourages students to use Mandarin not simply as a subject to study, but as a real tool for thinking, questioning, and communicating. By researching, discussing, and presenting complex global issues in Chinese, students are developing both language confidence and the ability to engage thoughtfully with the world around them.





Y7–8 Mandarin Coffee Shop Activity — Mahjong in Mandarin

This Wednesday during break time, Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in a Mandarin Coffee Shop Mahjong activity — turning one of China’s most iconic games into a fully immersive Chinese-speaking challenge.



The rules were simple but highly motivating:

- English = lose points
- Correct Mahjong vocabulary such as 碰 (pèng), 吃 (chī), 听 (tīng), and 和了 (hú le) = gain points
- Meaningful communication in Mandarin = even more points

As students played in groups, the room quickly filled with real Mandarin interaction: imitation, quick questioning, peer coaching, strategy discussion, and spontaneous everyday language use. Because students genuinely wanted to win the game, they naturally pushed themselves to communicate more in Chinese.

The combination of immersion, competition, and play created an energetic learning environment where Mandarin became a real tool for interaction rather than simply classroom practice. Student feedback was extremely positive, with many commenting that the activity made speaking Chinese feel more natural, enjoyable, and memorable.

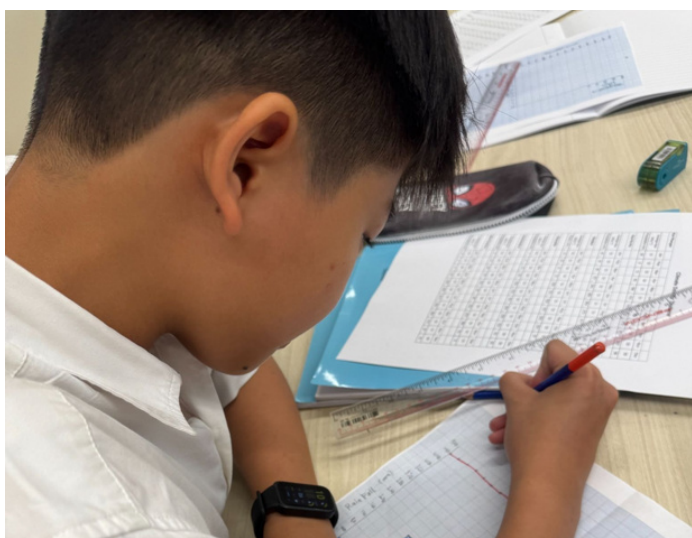


Humanities

Students have been busy this week continuing their unit on Tourism. Year 7 students continue to start every lesson with a presentation on 'A holiday of my dreams'

Paula was one of three students this week sharing details on her dream holiday to Iceland. A thorough presentation including two flight options to get to Iceland, one through the Middle East and one that took her via Scandinavia.

Students during class were busy looking at the climate across Thailand learning the skill of drawing Climate Graphs and comparing climates in two contrasting locations in the country.





Year 7 English: Getting Ready for Your End-of-Year Assessment

As we head into the final weeks of the school year, our Year 7 students have been preparing for their formal English assessments. These assessments are a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase the analytical techniques and writing formats they have mastered over the past year.

The assessment will require students to apply their skills to new, "unseen" texts, demonstrating their ability to navigate both Fiction and Nonfiction papers with confidence.

Part 1: Reading Comprehension & Analysis

The reading section focuses on three core areas: finding information, analysing language, and explaining the writer's craft.

- **Literal Retrieval:** Students must be able to pinpoint specific names, dates, or locations within the text. They should also practice comparative analysis, such as identifying how a subject has changed over time.
- **Language & Vocabulary:** We are looking for an understanding of how specific words create effects. This includes finding words that match a definition and identifying phrases that suggest a specific mood or emotion.
- **Literary Devices & Structure:** Students should be able to identify and explain the purpose of techniques like personification, repetition, and oxymorons. They must also understand structural choices, such as the impact of a one-sentence paragraph for tension.
- **The "Reason + Quote" Formula:** When providing evidence, students should give an original explanation in their own words followed by a direct quotation in marks.

Part 2: Writing Formats

Students will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in two distinct styles of writing:

- **Nonfiction (Reviews or Reports):** A strong response will include a clear background or context, a detailed analysis of specific elements, and a justified final opinion.
- **Fiction (Narrative):** Narrative writing should focus on sensory imagery (sight, sound, touch, and smell) and character interiority—showing the protagonist's inner thoughts and feelings. A clear beginning, middle, and end are essential for structural control.

Top Tips for Exam Success in English

- **Check Your References:** Always verify the specific line numbers mentioned in a question to ensure your evidence is accurate and relevant.
- **Use Your Own Words:** When asked to paraphrase, ensure you demonstrate your understanding by using different vocabulary rather than copying the text directly.
- **Plan and Pace:** Balance your time equally between the Reading and Writing sections. Use the provided planning space to map out your structure before you begin your full writing response.



Year 8 English: Preparing for the Cambridge-Style

End-of-Year Assessment

As we approach the final weeks of the school year, our Year 8 students have been preparing for their formal English assessments next week. These Cambridge-Style assessments are designed to test the mastery of skills developed throughout the year, requiring students to apply their knowledge to brand-new, "unseen" texts.

To help our students feel confident and prepared, we have outlined the core skills and expectations for both the Reading and Writing sections of the exam.

Part 1: Mastering Advanced Reading & Analysis

The reading section moves beyond simple facts. Students must demonstrate a deeper interpretation of how a text is constructed.

- **Linguistic Precision:** Students should be able to identify specific vocabulary, such as synonyms for given definitions or adjectives that describe complex emotions like embarrassment or confidence.
- **The "Mechanics" of Writing:** We are looking for an understanding of how punctuation (colons, semi-colons, dashes) and paragraph dynamics influence the reader's experience.
- **Literary Devices:** It is no longer enough to just name a simile or metaphor; students must explain why the author used it to suggest a specific mood or movement.
- **Textual Evidence:** When answering, students should use the "Reason + Quote" model—providing an explanation in their own words followed by a supporting quotation in inverted commas.

Part 2: Narrative and Analytical Writing

The writing section demands structural complexity and a clear, formal sense of purpose.

- **Nonfiction (The Analytical Essay):** If writing an essay, students must provide a clear introduction, maintain a formal academic tone, and use thematic paragraphs to support their arguments.
- **Fiction (Narrative Craft):** For story tasks, the focus should be on establishing a clear atmosphere through descriptive language and detailing how characters react emotionally to a crisis or change.

Key Tips for Exam Success

- **Manage Your Time:** Students should split their time equally: 45 minutes for the Reading section and 45 minutes for the Writing section.
- **Plan Ahead:** Use 15 minutes of the writing time to create a detailed plan before beginning the response.
- **Precision Matters:** Always double-check line numbers in the question to ensure you are analysing the correct evidence from the text.

We wish all of our Year 7 & 8 students the best of luck as they showcase their hard work and linguistic growth.



Thank you



Thank you to everyone who came along to the Y6-8 Expedition Parent information session this week. It was lovely to see so many of you there. You should have all received the presentation (via email). Remember to complete the Consent Form / necessary paper work (please refer to the link in email and presentation).

Thank you also to everyone who came along to the first Coffee Morning organised by the PTA. Apologies once again for not being able to attend, however, I trust it was a lovely morning.





Congratulations

Ruby in Y8 recently participated in the SiL English Level 8 Test and received the Top Performance Award. This is awarded to the top 1% of participants globally. She has also been given the opportunity to participate in the global final round in the UK this coming December. I also attach the certificate for your reference.



BAKE SALE EARNINGS

		000	
		Date <u>15/05/2026</u>	
Pay To The	<u>Wat Mai Si Muen Orphanage</u>	\$	<u>23,600 Baht</u>
Order Of	<u>Twenty three thousand six hundred Baht</u>		

Thank you to everyone for their efforts in baking and purchasing cakes at last week's bake sale! 23,600THB has been raised. We will keep everyone updated on how this is going to be used to help the children at the Wat Mai Si Muen Orphanage.



A TIME TO REFLECT

This school year has been nothing short of a whirlwind, and looking back, I am filled with an immense sense of pride. Opening a brand-new school is no small feat—new students, new colleagues, and new facilities bring a unique energy, but also a unique set of challenges. Reflecting on the past several months, I believe we did an incredible job of seizing every opportunity while gracefully navigating the hurdles that came our way.

Our community's strength was tested early on. We had to pivot and adapt quickly following the passing of the Queen Mother, which led to the somber cancellation of our Halloween festivities. However, the spirit of the school remained unbroken. We transitioned into a vibrant Christmas season, complete with multiple visits from Santa, moved into the colorful joy of Lunar New Year, and finally embraced the "reverence and wetness" of Songkran.



Beyond the major holidays, the school truly blossomed through:

- **House Competitions:** Building a new sense of identity and friendly rivalry.
- **Academic Theme Weeks:** Deep dives during Book Week and Science Week.
- **Active Learning:** Sports days and various engaging activities that turned our new campus into a home.

Entering the year, I was genuinely unsure what to expect. Teaching a group of students who had never been together before is always a gamble, but I can honestly say that every single student surprised and impressed me. They reminded me why I love this profession.

Year 7: From Basics to Broadening Horizons

We began the year grounding ourselves in the fundamental elements of literature through relatable short stories. However, the highlight was our deep dive into Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. By moving beyond a "pleasure read" and analysing the often-overlooked nuances of the text, the students developed a much more sophisticated appreciation for the craft of storytelling.

Year 8: Exploring Identity

After starting with short stories in Term 1, the Year 8s took on S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*. It was a joy to watch them connect with this timeless tale of teenage angst and belonging. In fact, their engagement was so high that many students couldn't help but read ahead to discover the fate of the Greasers and the Socs before we even finished the unit in class.

Finally, looking forward, it has been a privilege to watch the students grow from a collection of individuals into a cohesive, curious, and empathetic community. As this foundational year comes to a close, I find myself already excited for what's next. I truly look forward to stepping back into the classroom with my Year 7 and Year 8 students next year to see how much further we can go together.

Mr Robert Bowley - Lead Teacher of English



Safeguarding and Designated Safeguarding Leads

It can be a bit daunting for parents to see titles like Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in school newsletters or handbooks without a clear explanation of what they actually do. Think of the DSL as the school's 'North Star' for student safety - they are the specialist teacher responsible for ensuring every child has a safe environment in which to learn.

What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)?

While every teacher and staff member has a responsibility to look out for your child, the DSL is the senior member of staff who takes the lead on all child protection and safeguarding matters. They have specific training and experience to manage concerns and coordinate with internal and external agencies. Neil Crossland (Head of School) is the senior Designated Safeguarding Lead at SBS Bangkok.

Their Core Responsibilities:

- **The Main Point of Contact:** They are the "go-to" person for staff, students, and parents who have concerns about a child's well-being or safety.
- **Managing Referrals:** If there is a serious concern, the DSL is responsible for referring cases to Children's Social Care or other Thai/Expat support services.
- **Expert Advice:** They support teachers and staff in recognising the signs of neglect, abuse, or mental health struggles.
- **Record Keeping:** They maintain confidential, secure records of any safeguarding issues.

When should a parent contact the DSL?

You don't need to wait for an "emergency" to speak with the DSL. You should reach out if:

1. **You are worried about a child:** This could be your own child or another student at the school.
2. **Home life changes:** If your family is going through a difficult time (bereavement, separation, or financial hardship), letting the DSL know helps the school provide extra emotional support for your child.
3. **Safety concerns:** If you have concerns about bullying, online safety, or something happening in the local community.



HEART & SOLE WEEK IN PHOTOS





STRIDE EVENT IN PHOTOS - Friday 15th May 2026





Upcoming Events

Next Week

- Monday 18th May - Assessment Week begins (Y3-8)
- Friday 22nd May - SNAKES 'GREEN HOUSE' Birthday

Looking Ahead

- Monday 25th May - INSET Day - School closed to students
- Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June - Y6-8 Expedition to Sam Roi Yot
- Wednesday 17th June - Winning House Surprise Reward Day
- Friday 19th June - Final day of Term - 12.00pm finish

Service Reminders



Just a few weeks to still to run in this year's loose change and ring pull competition. All still to play for in terms of HOUSE points!!

Closing Note

As we look ahead to next week, I want to once again wish all of our Year 7 and 8 students the very best of luck as they begin their English, Maths, and Science end of year assessments on Monday. They have all worked incredibly hard to prepare, and now is the time to showcase their growth and dedication.

Please remind them to keep a positive mindset and try not to let nerves or stress take over; we simply ask for their best effort, nothing more. Encourage them to focus on maintaining a calm routine, getting plenty of rest, and staying hydrated to keep themselves feeling sharp. Most importantly, if they have any last-minute worries or feel they need extra guidance, please reassure them and ask them to seek out support from their teachers. We are all here to help them succeed.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend ahead.

Warm regards,
Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal





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Inspire Academic Success,
Nurture Holistic Wellbeing,
Cultivate Curiosity & Passion



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Admissions

Monday - Friday
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