Message from Secondary Principal



Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal

Dear SBS International School Bangkok Families,

It has been another vibrant and action-packed week across the Secondary School at SBS Bangkok. Our student-athletes have plenty to celebrate as we head into a thrilling afternoon supporting our U15 Boys basketball team in their matchup against TSI. Meanwhile, anticipation is building for next month as we await the conclusion of the postponed U13 Girls game, where our team holds a strong 10-4 lead against AISB.

On the academic front, all secondary students have now successfully completed their Cambridge Baseline Assessments following initial technical delays on the Cambridge testing platform. We appreciate your patience during this period, and individual parent reports will be distributed over the course of next week to share these insights with you.

Throughout this week and continuing over the next fortnight, members of the Senior Leadership Team are spending time visiting classrooms to observe the fantastic learning taking place across all curriculum areas. It is a wonderful opportunity to see our students engaged, challenged, and thriving in their day-to-day academic pursuits.

Looking ahead, next week also marks an important step in our school community as students discover their Service Learning Groups. They will come together for their first official meeting to brainstorm initiatives and outline their core focus areas for the year ahead, kicking off what promises to be an inspiring year of student-led community impact.

Finally, we look forward to coming together next Thursday to honor one of Thailand's most cherished educational traditions, our annual Wai Kru Celebration. This meaningful ceremony gives our students a wonderful opportunity to express their gratitude and respect to their teachers for their continued guidance and dedication.

Look out for the Membean Parent Handbook link as well as the Parent:Student Corner for maths - a series of maths problems linked to learning that has taken place this week for you to work on with your sons and daughters.

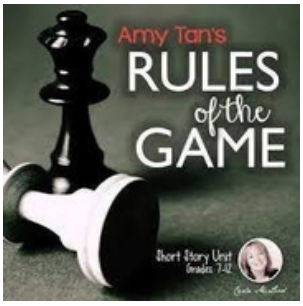
English

It has been a busy and engaging time in Year 7 English as our students continue to develop and hone their vocabulary skills through ongoing Membean training. In grammar and writing, students have been exploring various sentence structures, including simple, compound, and complex sentences. They learned how to use the FANBOYS acronym to construct compound sentences, noticing how a small tweak in the chosen conjunction can completely shift a sentence's meaning. To master complex sentences, students used the mnemonic I SAW A WABUB to memorise key subordinating conjunctions, and they are now actively practicing when to select each sentence type to make their writing more effective.





Alongside their language work, the class has been reading Amy Tan's short story, "Rules of the Game." The narrative offers many rich, relatable themes that have allowed students to connect with the text on a deeply personal level.



It has been an exciting period of learning in Year 8 English as students continue to hone their vocabulary skills through ongoing Membean training. In literature, students recently finished reading Edward P. Jones' moving short story, "First Day." Throughout this unit, they explored narrative point of view, analysed how an unreliable narrator shapes a story, and discussed the rich imagery and central themes embedded in the text.



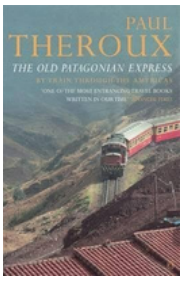


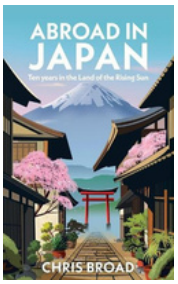
The class has now transitioned to Madeleine L'Engle's classic novel, A Wrinkle in Time. Before diving in, students explored the history and origins of the fantasy genre to build context for their reading. With Chapter 1 now underway, stay tuned for some out-of-this-world updates in the coming weeks!

It has been a productive start to the term in Year 9 English as students continue to refine their vocabulary through daily Membean training.

Recently, the class concluded their study of two excerpts from Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. While navigating this challenging text, students analysed a broad array of literary devices, including simile, metaphor, irony, sarcasm, hyperbole, personification, and vivid imagery. They also worked closely with central literary elements, examining how Conrad uses symbolism, mood, and tone to develop the work's darker themes.

We have now transitioned to a brand new unit focused on travel writing. Students are exploring how travel authors weave humour into their narratives to balance the unexpected challenges and delights of exploring new places. As part of this unit, they have learned the distinction between juxtaposition and paradox, applying these concepts to excerpts from Paul Theroux's and Chris Broad's Abroad in Japan.





Thank you for your ongoing support of all our secondary students.

Please note that our first Membean assessment of the school year is scheduled for next Friday, 25 September. Nothing needs to be done to prepare for this assessment as the Membean program will be using the assessment feedback to analyse the students vocabulary acquisition and retention.

For parents interested in learning more about Membean please find the Parent Handbook - here

Maths

Year 7 Maths - Unit Spotlight: Integers & Number Properties
Our Year 7 students have been working hard this week as we wrapped up our unit on **Integers.** Understanding integer properties builds the scaffolding for almost every topic students will encounter later in secondary school mathematics, from algebraic simplification to working with complex rational numbers. Here is a summary of what we covered this week, along with details about our recent assessment and practice problems you can explore together at home!

What We Covered This Week
Students explored how to find the smallest shared multiple between two or more numbers. We linked this directly to fractions, demonstrating that finding the **Lowest Common Denominator (LCD)** allows us to add, subtract, and accurately compare fractions with different denominators.

- **Key Strategy:** Listing multiples or using prime factor trees to identify shared factors efficiently.

Students practiced identifying the largest whole number that divides evenly into two or more integers without leaving a remainder.

- **Key Strategy:** Creating complete factor lists and using Venn diagrams or prime factor decompositions to spot common factors quickly.

Students mastered quick mental shortcuts to check if large numbers are divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 without doing long division (e.g., checking if the sum of digits is divisible by 3 or 9).

Students learned the inverse operations of squaring x2 and cubing x3 integers, exploring square roots

$\sqrt{}$ and cube roots $\sqrt[3]{}$ up to 202 and 103.

Unit Assessment Update
This week, students completed their formal Unit Assessment on Integers, covering all subtopics from 1.1 through 1.5. These assessments provide valuable insights into your child's individual strengths and areas for further improvement.

Quote of the Week
"Mathematics gives us hope that every problem has a solution."

— Shakuntala Devi

Turn to the Year 7 section in this week's Parent:Student Corner - here

Year 8 Maths - Unit Spotlight: Integers, Roots & Indices
Our Year 8 students have had an engaging and productive week as we deepened our study of Integers and introduced the fundamental properties of powers and roots.

Building on their Year 7 foundations, students moved beyond basic arithmetic to master directed numbers, prime factor structure, root operations, and the core laws of indices. Here is a breakdown of what we covered this week, information regarding our latest assessment, and practice questions you can explore together at home.

What We Covered This Week
Students advanced their understanding of number structure by performing Prime Factor Decomposition (expressing composite numbers as products of prime factors using index notation). They applied prime factors to efficiently solve real-world problems involving the Highest Common Factor (HCF) and Lowest Common Multiple (LCM).

Students investigated the rules governing directed numbers (positive and negative integers). They extended these rules to multi-step calculations, understanding why multiplying or dividing two negative numbers yields a positive result, and how to handle expressions with mixed operations.

Students revisited square roots ($\sqrt{}$) and cube roots ($\sqrt[3]{}$) as inverse operations to powers. They evaluated roots of perfect squares and cubes (up to 20^2 and 10^3) and explored why negative numbers can have real cube roots (e.g., $\sqrt[3]{-27} = -3$ but not real square roots.

Students established index notation (base and exponent) and mastered the fundamental Index Laws:

- Multiplication Rule: $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$
- Division Rule: $a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$
- Power of a Power: $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$
- Zero Index: $a^0 = 1$

Unit Assessment Update
This week, students completed their formal Unit 1 Assessment on Integers & Index Laws, covering topics 1.1 through 1.4. This assessment highlights key strengths as well as specific areas where students can refine their skills as we transition into our upcoming Algebra unit.

Quote of the Week
"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas."

— Albert Einstein

Turn to the Year 8 section in this week's Parent:Student Corner - here

Year 9 Maths Unit Spotlight: Number Calculations
As students progress through Key Stage 3 and prepare for higher-level algebraic concepts, mastering working with very large/small numbers, root structures, and complex index laws becomes critical. Below is an overview of what we covered this week, information regarding our latest assessment, and practice questions to explore together at home.

What We Covered This Week
Students explored the distinct classification between rational numbers (which can be written as a fraction ab) and irrational numbers (non-repeating, infinite decimals that cannot be written as fractions). We focused on working with surds (such as $\sqrt{2}$ and $\sqrt{5}$ and constants like π, identifying them on number lines, and simplifying surd expressions.

Students learned how to express extremely large and extremely small numbers efficiently in standard form ($a \times 10^n$, where $1 <= a < 10$ and n is an integer). They practiced converting between standard and ordinary form, as well as multiplying, dividing, adding and subtracting numbers in standard form without a calculator.

Building on basic index laws, students extended their knowledge to negative and fractional indices:

- Negative Index Rule: $a^{-n} = 1/a^n$
- Fractional Index Rule: $a^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a}$ and $a^{m/n} = \sqrt[n]{(a^m)}$
- Combining multiple index rules to solve exponential equations.

Unit Assessment Update
This week, students completed their formal Unit Assessment on Number Calculations covering topics 1.1 through 1.3.This assessment highlights key strengths and highlights specific areas where students can refine their skills ahead of upcoming topics.

Quote of the Week
"Mathematics is the language in which God has written the universe."

— Galileo Galilei

Turn to the Year 9 section in this week's Parent:Student Corner - here

PE





PE - Wrapping Up Basketball & Prepping for Badminton across Lower Secondary
Year 7 students wrapped up their final full week of basketball with fantastic energy and focus. Building on our foundational work with dribbling, passing, and shooting, this week's emphasis shifted to defensive positioning and putting everything together in dynamic circuit training.

This Week's Highlights

- **Skill Refinement:** Students refreshed their core mechanics before taking on new challenges.
- **Circuit Challenges:** Working in pairs, students navigated full circuit courses that integrated fast passing, controlled dribbling, and crisp jump-stop shooting mechanics.
- **Game Play:** Every lesson concluded with spirited mini-games, letting students test their skills under friendly pressure.

Looking Ahead to Next Week During our first session next week, we will conduct quick individual assessments covering basic dribbling, passing, and shooting techniques. Immediately following these brief check-ins, we will pivot to our next unit on **Net & Wall Games,** with a primary focus on **Badminton.**

Weekend Practice Checklist for Students To shine during next week's assessments, students are strongly encouraged to practice these three skill sets over the weekend:

1. **Passing Variety:** Work on clean execution of the chest pass, bounce pass, and overhead pass.
2. **Jump-Stop & Shooting Form:** Practice landing on two feet simultaneously into a solid triple-threat position, then popping up into a shot with a straight lead arm and a high follow-through.
3. **Controlled Dribbling:** Practice right- and left-hand dribbling, ending in a clean jump-stop while securing the ball back into the triple-threat stance.

Year 8 focused on reviewing the **fundamental basketball skills** developed throughout the unit, including ball handling, passing, shooting, movement and game awareness.



Students also completed their **Basketball Skills Assessment,** giving them an opportunity to demonstrate their progress and understanding of the key skills covered during the unit. On Monday, students will conclude the unit with a **mini basketball tournament,** where they can apply their skills, teamwork and sportsmanship in competitive game situations.

Putting Our Basketball Skills into Action
Year 9 continued their final week of the Basketball unit by reviewing key drills and applying their learning through a **mini basketball tournament.** Students demonstrated their ball handling, passing, shooting, teamwork and decision-making in competitive game situations.

The mini tournament provided an opportunity for students to put together the skills and strategies developed over the past few weeks. Students will complete their **Basketball Skills Assessment on Tuesday,** marking the conclusion of the unit.



Next week, all students across the Lower Secondary school will move into **Unit 2: Badminton,** where we look forward to developing their racket skills, movement and game play.

Thai Language





Year 7 students practised reading and identifying the main ideas from the text, as well as learning how to create a to organise and summarise key information.

Year 8 students practised listening for the main ideas and writing their opinions and feelings about what they listened to and watched. They also gave presentations in front of the class. This week, many students showed greater confidence and used appropriate language and tone for the situation.

Year 9 students learned about speaking on different occasions. This week, they practised introducing themselves in front of the class by organising personal information and presenting it confidently and naturally.

Mandarin

Y9 Pathway - A School Tour in Mandarin

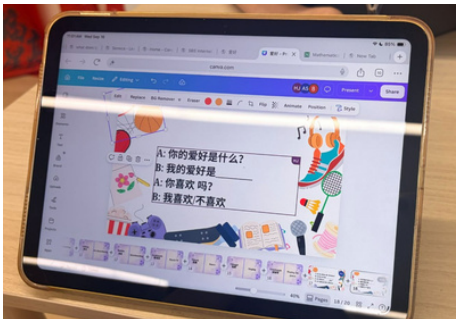
Students successfully introduced key secondary facilities in Mandarin, including their locations, directions, functions and activities, while practising friendly, spontaneous interaction with their “visitors”.

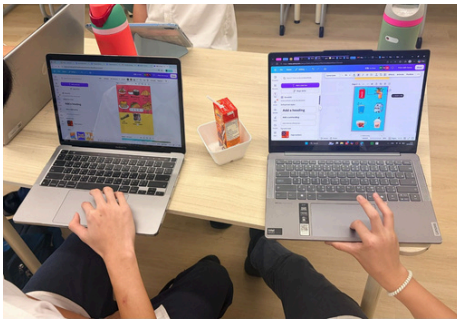





Y9 Pathway B Student-Led Mandarin Teaching

Students worked in groups to choose a topic, design their own lesson plans and prepare teaching materials. Next week, they will put their plans into practice by teaching Mandarin to Y6 students.



Y8 Mandarin Coffee Shop

Students completed a full learning cycle: preparation → interview → poster creation. They interviewed Ms Elaine, Kaleb and Ethan in Mandarin and transformed their conversations into posters. Next week, they will present their work and complete a self-reflection.






Y7 Pathway A Mandarin Foundations & Chinese Culture

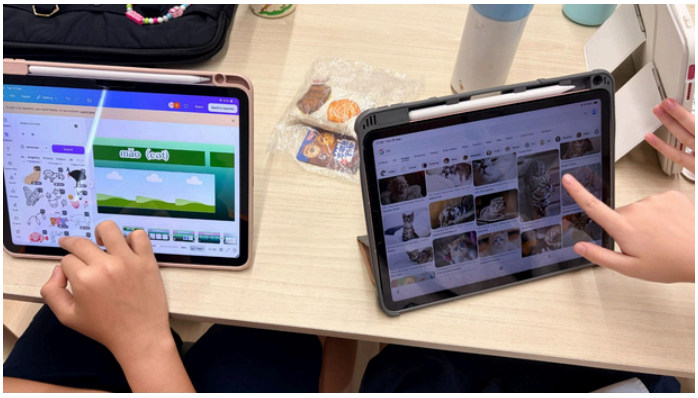
Students explored the foundations of Mandarin through pinyin, Chinese characters, English-picture puzzles, and an introduction to Chinese calligraphy. They practised strokes, simplified characters, the character “福”, and pictographic characters through hands-on writing activities.





Y7 Pathway B Preparing to Teach Mandarin

Students are preparing their own student-led Mandarin teaching activities. Next week, they will take on the role of teachers and deliver their lessons to Y3 Mandarin students.









Across Y7–Y9, students are not only learning Mandarin they are using it, creating with it, teaching it, and connecting with others through it.

Important Information

COVID-19 Cases Rising, Department of Disease Control Reports

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) has reported that COVID-19 infections in Thailand are currently on an upward trend, with approximately **15,000 new cases reported per week.** A total of **26 deaths** have been recorded, including a **9-month-old infant.** Authorities are also monitoring the **PQ.16.1.1 variant,** which has been classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a **Variant Under Monitoring (VUM).** Thailand has reported **six cases** of this variant so far.

Dr. Weerawat Manosuthi and Dr. Jurai Wongsawasdi jointly provided an update on the COVID-19 situation in Thailand, noting that the country is clearly entering an upward phase of the current wave, with approximately **15,000 new cases reported each week. Young children are currently among the groups with the highest infection rates.**

Dr. Jurai reported that from **1 January to 15 September 2026,** Thailand recorded a cumulative total of **135,667 COVID-19 cases,** with an incidence rate of **205.96 cases per 100,000 population.** There were **26 deaths,** resulting in a case fatality rate of approximately **0.02%**. Over the past four weeks, the number of cases has increased by an average of **15,000 cases per week,** with **2–4 deaths reported each week.** Cases have been reported across the country, with the highest numbers recorded in **Chonburi, Bangkok, and Phuket.**

The **highest incidence rate** has been reported among **infants under 1 year of age,** followed by children aged **1–4 years.** Among adults, the **20–29** and **30–39** age groups have the next highest rates.

Of the 26 cumulative deaths, **21 cases (80%)** were among the **"608 high-risk group",** consisting primarily of people aged 60 years and over and those with underlying medical conditions. COVID-19 deaths have generally occurred among people aged 40 years and above. However, during the past **2–3 weeks,** one **9-month-old infant with no underlying medical conditions** died from COVID-19. The child had a previous history of **influenza A infection.** Health authorities therefore emphasised the importance of protecting young children from COVID-19 infection, as severe illness can potentially lead to death.

There have been a total of **27 COVID-19 outbreak clusters** reported. The highest number occurred in prisons, with 11 clusters and **1,046 cases,** followed by **educational institutions,** with 8 clusters and **602 cases.**

The Epidemiology Division forecasts that the country is currently in **week 38,** which is considered a peak period. Without preventive measures, the number of COVID-19 cases could potentially rise to **more than 20,000 cases per week.** The public is therefore encouraged to continue following personal preventive measures to help reduce transmission and the number of cases.

Regarding circulating variants, Dr. Weerawat stated that the **NB.1.8.1 variant remains the predominant strain in Thailand,** followed by **JN.1.** Both are currently associated with generally non-severe illness.

However, health authorities are also monitoring the **PQ.16.1.1 variant,** which has been designated by the **WHO as a Variant Under Monitoring (VUM).** Thailand has so far identified six cases of this variant. Although the number of reported cases has increased slightly, **there is currently no evidence that PQ.16.1.1 causes more severe disease.**

Covid

COVID-19 is the disease caused by the virus known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). This virus can cause fever, cold-like symptoms, and other types of respiratory infections. People infected with the virus may develop symptoms within 2–14 days after exposure.

How It Spread?

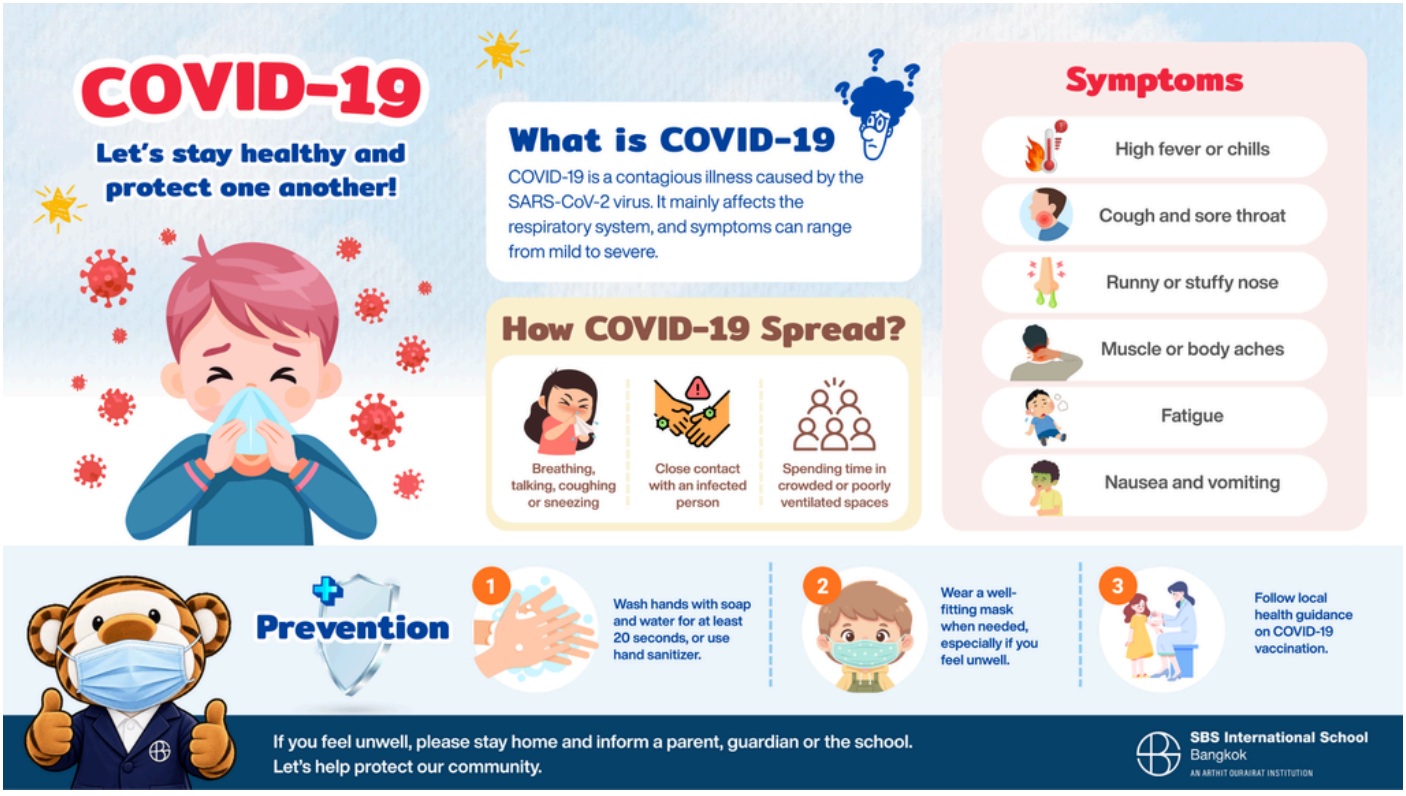
It is a virus that spreads through respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing, or through contact with contaminated surfaces.

Symptoms:

1. Headache, muscle ache, tiredness
2. Voice changes and phlegm appears
3. Fever
4. Runny or stuffy nose
5. Dry itchy throat, cough
6. Sore throat
7. Fatigue
8. Diarrhea
9. Nausea and vomiting

Prevention

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitiser.
- Wear a mask.



Congratulations



We are extremely proud of Parc (Y8) who travelled to New York over the holiday to participate in the Youth World Challenge 2026. He was selected as an All-Star Player from Asia to represent Team Asia in the U12 category. Parc was the only Thai player selected to represent Team Asia.

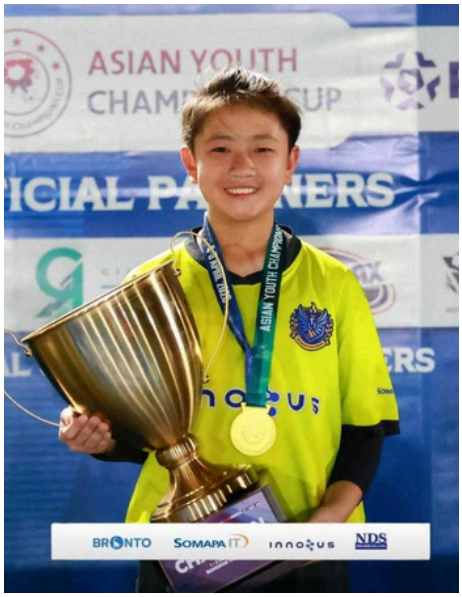
This selection gave him the opportunity to play alongside selected young players from across Asia in an international environment, adapting to new teammates, coaches and playing styles while representing Team Asia in New York.

Shortly after returning from New York, Parc then competed in the U11 category at the Asian Youth Champions Cup 2026 in Bangkok, representing Somapa 4 Sports Thailand.

The U11 competition featured 40 teams from more than six countries, with Somapa 4 Sports Thailand finishing the tournament as U11 Gold Division Champions.

Congratulations Parc, what an awesome experience and achievement!







Congratulations to PB (Y7) in his achieving his Silver Certificate (Mathematics category) & Bronze Certificate (Math Olympiad category) from the GMEC 2026 - Global Mathematics Elite Competition which was held at the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang.

We are extremely proud of you! Well done.



Upcoming Events

Next Week

- **Thurs 24th Sept** - Wai Kru Celebration

Looking Ahead

- **Thursday 8th October** - Last Day of Term 1A
- **Friday 9th October** - Staff INSET - no school for students
- **Friday 9th October** - Report 1 published
- **Monday 12th - Friday 16th October** - School Half Term holiday
- **Monday 19th October** - Term 1B starts

Closing Note

As we bring another fantastic week to a close, we send our absolute best wishes to our U15 Boys basketball team in their matchup against TSI this afternoon - go TIGERS! Thank you as always for your continued support across all our academic, sports, and community endeavours. Have a restful, safe, and lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone for another exciting week ahead.

Warm regards,
Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal




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If you have any questions or would like to discuss this amazing opportunity, then please do not hesitate to contact:
Ms. Ainsley
ahenderson@sbsbangkok.ac.th


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• Certification
• Flights, transfers and accommodation
• Costs for the Open Water Dive trip to Koh Tao
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If you have any questions or would like to discuss this amazing opportunity, then please do not hesitate to contact:
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