SBS International School
Bangkok
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Message from Secondary Principal



Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal

Dear SBS International School Bangkok Families,

What a whirlwind couple of weeks to wrap up the first half of this term! It is hard to believe seven weeks have already flown by.

With one of those weeks spent at home due to the severe flooding, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your patience, adaptability, and understanding as we navigated those unexpected challenges together. We know the impact is still ongoing for some of our families, and our thoughts remain with you. Here's hoping that the upcoming break brings better weather and a smooth return to normality for our school community.

A major highlight of this term has been the fantastic attitude our students have shown toward our four vertical tutor groups. We are extremely happy with how this has helped ease the transition for both our Year 6 students and our new joiners across SBS Bangkok.

While the weather unfortunately delayed our planned launches for the Service Learning Projects and the 2026/27 Student Leadership appointments, we are excited to roll both of these major initiatives into the second half of Term 1.

We are excited to invite you into school for our first Parent:Teacher conferences which are taking place after the holidays. The disruption over the last two weeks has delayed this information being sent out to you, however, the Lower Secondary Parent Teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October between 3:20-6PM.

The form you need to make appointments can be found below.

OPEN THE APPOINTMENT FORM →

Tutor Time and learning at home

LS2



LS3



LS4



Year 7 Global English



Year 7 Thai Language



Art - The Getty Museum Challenge

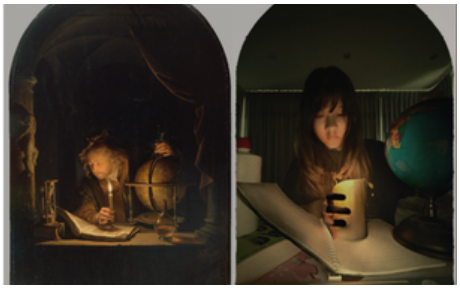
The Getty Museum Challenge was a viral social media campaign launched by the J. Paul Getty Museum in March 2020 that invited people to recreate famous works of art using household items and people from their homes during COVID-19 lockdowns. SBS Bangkok Artists were set the same challenge during home learning, where the rules of the challenge were simple:

1. Choose your favourite artwork from an online museum or gallery collection.
2. Find three everyday objects lying around your house.
3. Recreate the artwork using those items, family members, or pets.
4. Share your work

I am excited to share some of the fantastic work some of our artists created:






Year 9 PE



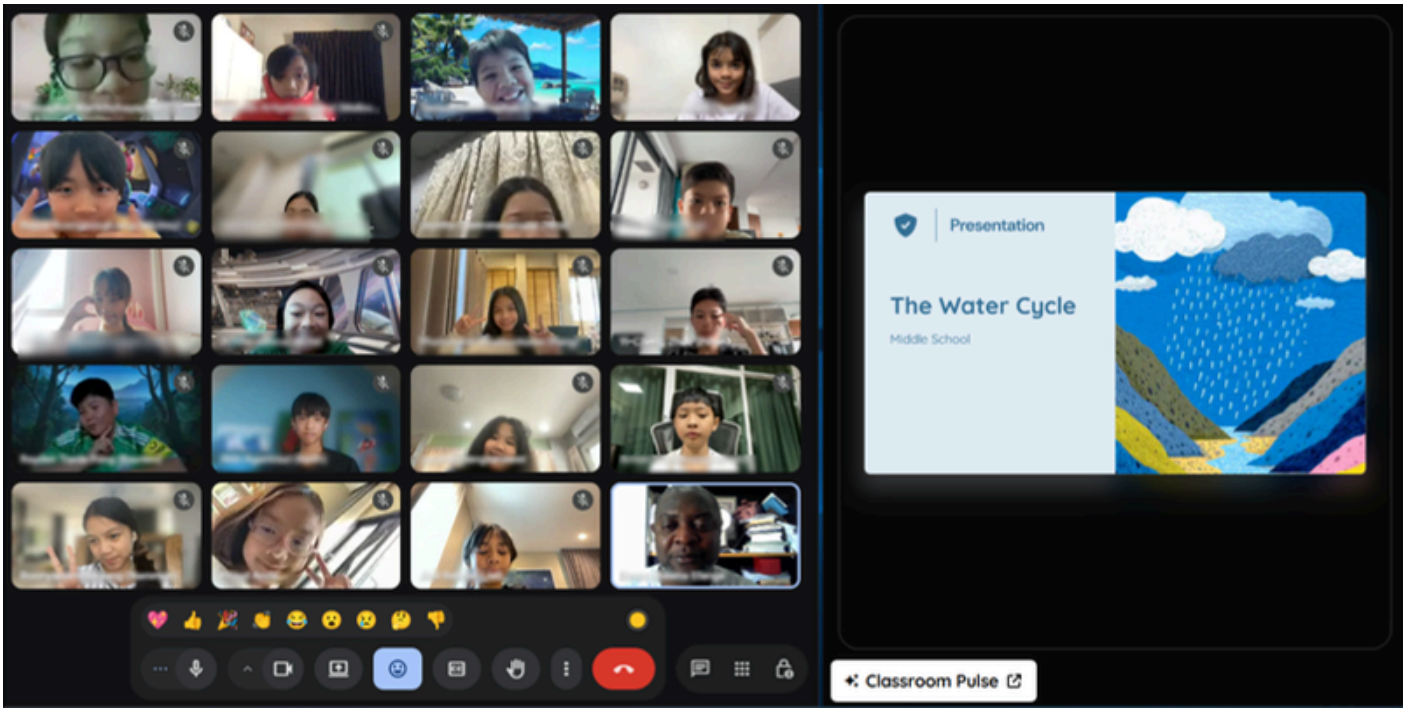
Year 7 Humanities



Science

Year 7





Year 8 Science



Year 9 Science



Year 7 Mathematics

Our students have made good progress in their secondary school algebra journey as we wrapped up our learning on Unit 2: Expressions, Equations and Formulae.

Developing algebraic thinking in Year 7 forms the foundation for all high school mathematics. Over the past week, students have shifted from using numerical arithmetic to working confidently with variables, simplifying expressions, expanding brackets, and solving linear equations and inequalities.

What We Covered This Week

2.1 Constructing Expressions: Translating real-world situations and geometric descriptions into formal algebraic expressions using variables.

2.2 Using Expressions and Formulae: Substituting numbers into algebraic expressions and practical formulas to calculate exact values.

2.3 Collecting Like Terms: Simplifying algebraic expressions by grouping and combining terms with identical variables.

2.4 Expanding Single Brackets: Applying the distributive law to multiply a number outside a bracket across every term inside, e.g., $a(b+c)=ab+ac$.

2.5 Constructing and Solving Equations: Setting up equations from word problems and using inverse operations to solve for unknown variables.

2.6 Inequalities: Understanding inequality symbols $<$, $>$, $\leq$ and $\geq$, writing inequality statements, and solving one-step and two-step linear inequalities.

Unit Assessment Completed
We are pleased to inform you that students have now completed their formal Unit 2 Assessment covering all six topics listed above.

Assessment results have been recorded in our academic tracking system. These marks and feedback will be a key point of discussion during our upcoming Parent Consultation Evening, where we look forward to celebrating your child's progress and addressing any target areas for development.

"The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics."
— Paul Halmos (Mathematician & Author)

OPEN THE YEAR 7 PARENT:STUDENT CORNER →

Year 8 Mathematics

Our students have made good progress, under the circumstances of flooding over the past week as we wrapped up our work on Unit 2: Expressions, Equations and Formulae.

Building algebraic confidence at Key Stage 3 is crucial for success in future GCSE topics. Throughout this unit, students have moved beyond basic arithmetic to master structural problem-solving, formula application, and equation manipulation across six core areas.

What We Covered This Week

2.1 Constructing Expressions: Translating written word problems and geometric descriptions into formal algebraic expressions using variables.

2.2 Using Expressions and Formulae: Substituting positive and negative values into algebraic expressions and real-world formulae to calculate unknown quantities.

2.3 Expanding Single Brackets: Applying the distributive law to multiply a term outside a bracket across every term inside, e.g., $a(b+c)=ab+ac$.

2.4 Factorising Single Brackets: Identifying the highest common factor (HCF) of numbers and variables to rewrite expressions back into bracketed form.

2.5 Constructing and Solving Equations: Setting up multi-step equations from word problems and solving them using inverse operations to isolate the unknown variable.

2.6 Inequalities: Reading, writing, and solving linear inequalities using $<$, $>$, $\leq$ and $\geq$, and plotting solution sets on number lines.
We are pleased to share that students completed their formal Unit 2 Assessment covering all six topics this week.

"Without mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers."
— Shakuntala Devi (Mathematical Prodigy & Author)

OPEN THE YEAR 8 PARENT:STUDENT CORNER →

Year 9 Mathematics

Our Year 9 students have worked exceptionally hard over the past week, under the circumstances of the flooding, as we completed our study of Unit 2: Expressions and Formulae. Algebra is a core pillar of Key Stage 3 and GCSE mathematics, shifting student thinking from numerical arithmetic to generalised mathematical reasoning. Throughout this unit, students have strengthened their problem-solving skills, precision with mathematical notation, and algebraic fluency across six key subtopics.

What We Covered This Week

2.1 Substituting into Expressions: Replacing variable letters with positive and negative numbers, applying BIDMAS/BODMAS rules correctly, and working with exponents and powers.

2.2 Constructing Expressions: Translating real-world situations, geometric shapes, and word problems into formal algebraic expressions.

2.3 Expressions and Indices: Applying index laws $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$, $a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$, $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$, $a^0 = 1$, and working with zero and negative indices.

2.4 Expanding Double Brackets: Using grid and FOIL methods to expand binomial expressions such as (x+a)(x+b), collecting like terms, and working with squared terms.

2.5 Simplifying Algebraic Fractions: Factorising quadratic expressions and single brackets to simplify algebraic fractions by cancelling common factors.

2.6 Inequalities: Solving linear inequalities, understanding how dividing by negative numbers flips inequality symbols, and representing solutions on number lines.

We are pleased to inform you that students have now completed their formal Unit 2 Assessment covering all six topics listed above.

Results for all students in the Lower Secondary have been recorded in our academic tracking system and will form a key part of our discussion at the upcoming Parent Consultation Evening. This will be a wonderful opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their strengths, and target specific areas for continued growth.

Thank you to all our parents for your continued partnership in your child's learning journey! If you have any questions before the parent consultation evening, please feel free to reach out to the Mathematics department

"Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding." — William Paul Thurston (Fields Medalist)

OPEN THE YEAR 9 PARENT:STUDENT CORNER →

Drama

This week in Year 7 Drama, students are exploring the importance of purposeful movement and stage positioning in performance. Through collaborative activities, they are learning how actors can use movement, distance, and stillness to communicate character intentions and relationships. Students are also developing their teamwork and creative decision-making skills as they plan and perform short dramatic situations.



Year 8 students were meant to be continuing their practice with blocking and stagecraft, with a particular focus on directing the audience's attention. However, the power outage on Tuesday put a damper on these plans! To make up for the lost lesson, we will revisit these skills when students return from their holiday. Hopefully, through practical performance challenges, as well as experimenting with positioning, movement, and physical expression, students will be able to highlight important dramatic moments. These activities encourage students to make thoughtful performance choices and consider how their decisions influence an audience's understanding of a scene.

It's an exciting week for Year 9 Drama, where students are exploring how actors and directors can use stage positioning, movement, and stillness to create tension and shape an audience's emotional response. Working collaboratively, they are applying their understanding of dramatic techniques to short performance challenges, making increasingly sophisticated choices about timing, focus, and character intention. Students are also strengthening their analytical skills by evaluating the effectiveness of different staging decisions.



PE – Year 8 | Week 3 Badminton Highlights

Building Confidence & Improving Badminton Skills
This week, Year 8 continued developing their badminton skills, focusing on serving, forehand and backhand shots, footwork and court positioning. Students participated in partner drills and rally challenges to improve their accuracy, consistency and control.

Students also applied their skills in modified games and friendly matches, focusing on communication, movement and decision-making. It was encouraging to see their growing confidence, teamwork and sportsmanship as they progressed through the unit.



PE – Year 9 | Week 3 Badminton Highlights

Applying Skills & Developing Game Strategies
Year 9 continued building on their badminton skills this week, with an emphasis on shot selection, court positioning, footwork and tactical awareness.

Students reviewed key techniques, including serves, clears and drop shots, before applying them in singles and doubles match situations. The activities challenged students to anticipate their opponents' movements, create space and make effective decisions during rallies.

It was a productive week, with students demonstrating improved game awareness, competitiveness and sportsmanship as they prepared for the final stages of the Badminton unit.



Thai Language

Over the past two weeks, flooding in several areas has affected our usual learning routines. However, learning has continued in a flexible way to meet our students' needs. We hope the situation improves soon and that everyone stays safe.

In Year 7 this week, we learned how to create a story map based on a story we have read. Students learned that reading with purpose helps them understand a story better by identifying the characters, setting, events, outcomes, and the lesson learned from the story.

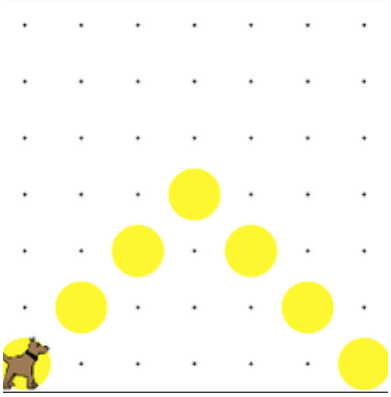
Our Year 8 students learned about word classes, with a focus on choosing and using words appropriately in different contexts. They practised through games and sentence-completion activities, making learning both engaging and enjoyable. Students also studied the Thai literary work Nirat Phu Khao Thong (นิราศภูเขาทอง). They practised reading for main ideas, answering questions, and analysing the text to identify lessons that can be applied to everyday life.

Finally, in Year 9, students developed their listening comprehension skills through a current news report about an announcement from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. They practised identifying main ideas and key information, answering comprehension questions, and giving an oral summary of the news.

Students also researched additional information about the current flooding situation and used their findings to support their own writing.

Computing

As Term 1A draws to a close, our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have shown resilience and enthusiasm, adapting to changes in learning routines during Bangkok's recent floods. Throughout the term, they have strengthened their programming and computational thinking skills through Cambridge Lower Secondary Computing, learning to break problems into smaller steps, test their ideas and improve their solutions.



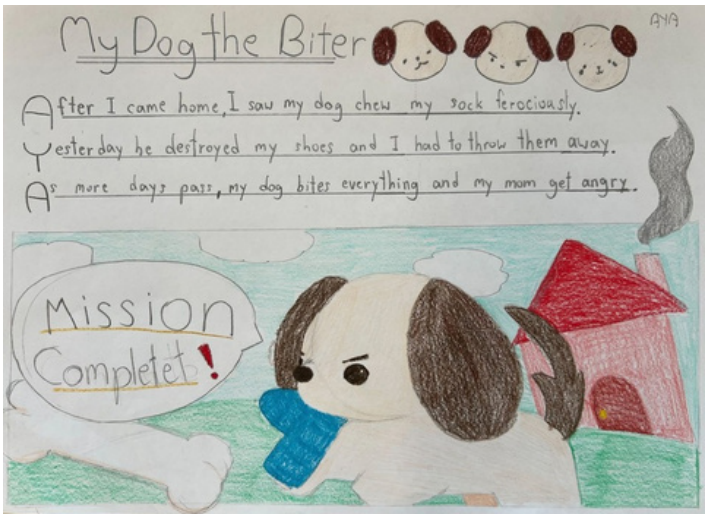
Year 7 students have progressed from block-based coding to introductory Python with Karel, practising clear sequences of instructions and using FOR loops to repeat actions. Finding and correcting errors has encouraged patience, persistence and growing confidence.

The Year 8 students pictured are developing their understanding of functions: named, reusable groups of instructions that make programs easier to organise, understand and improve. This idea extends across programming languages and into modern AI applications, where systems built with OpenAI and Anthropic models can request functions to access information or perform tasks. Through their own coding, students are building an understanding of the programming principles behind today's digital tools.



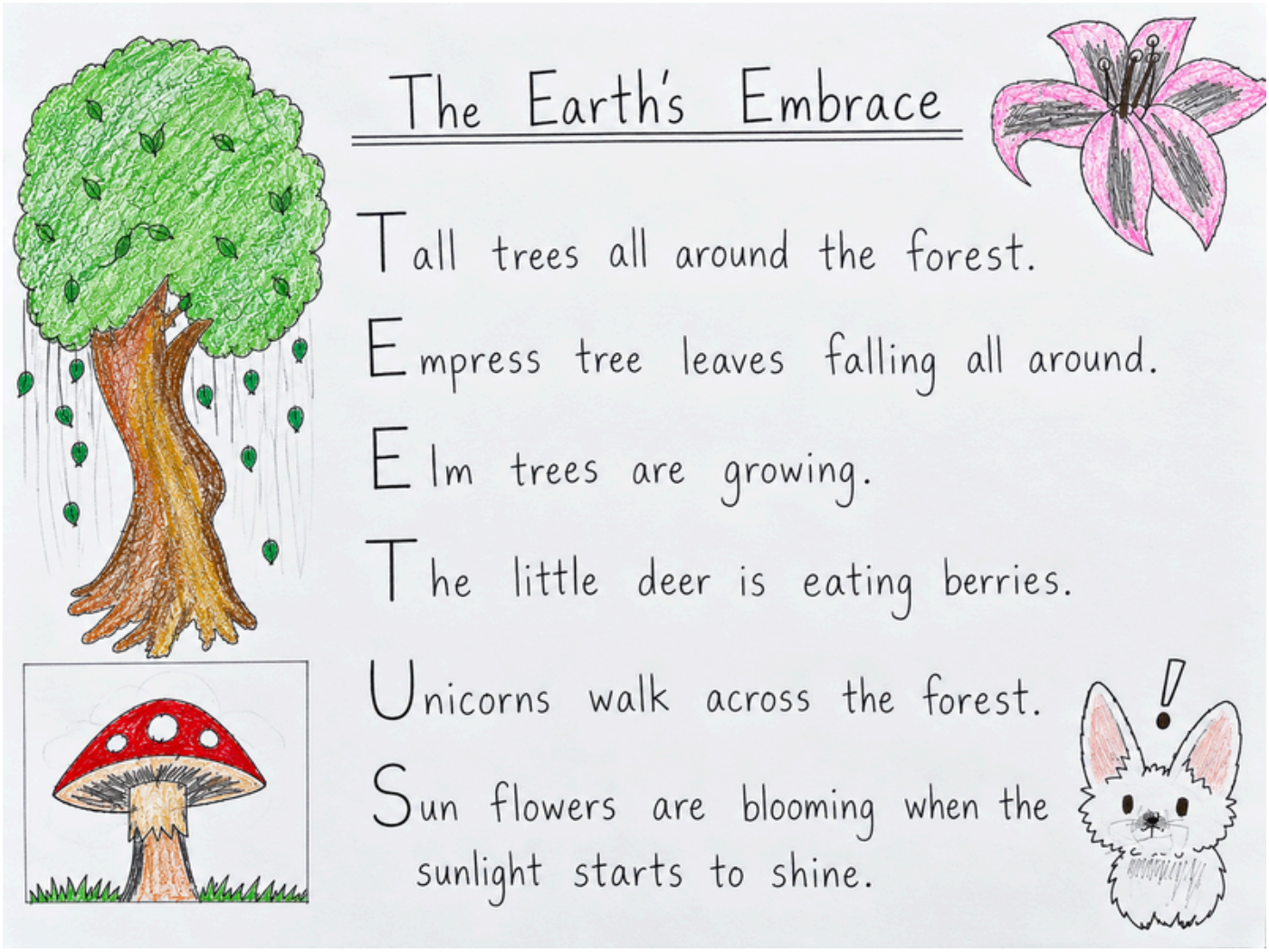
Year 9 students have developed their use of variables, input and output in Python, concluding the term with mathematical operations. They applied PEMDAS and BIDMAS to predict calculation results and explored how parentheses change the order of operations. Across all three year groups, the emphasis has been on understanding how code works, explaining decisions and becoming increasingly independent problem-solvers.

Year 7 Global English



This week we have started Unit 2, which focuses on communication. This week, students have been exploring the role of emojis in everyday communication, discussing how they help us express ourselves and whether they are appropriate in different situations. Students have also been developing their own opinions on the topic and practising how to express and support their ideas in English.

Despite the recent challenges, the students have shown great resilience and a positive attitude toward learning. It has been encouraging to see them getting back on track and making up for lost time!



Year 7 Students Teach Mandarin to Year 3

On 25 September, our Year 7 Pathway B Mandarin students taught Mandarin to Year 3 Pathway B students through four engaging themes: polite expressions, animals, drinks and food. Using songs, movement, games, flashcards and role-play, they helped the younger students practise Chinese words and sentences through fun and meaningful activities.

The students went through five stages of preparation and reflection: observing teacher-led model lessons, working as a team to prepare their lessons, practising through micro-teaching, delivering their lessons in a real classroom setting, and reflecting afterwards. Through this process, they not only came well prepared, but also developed a deeper understanding of the teacher's role through role-play and gained greater confidence in using Mandarin themselves.









Mandarin: Learning Beyond the Classroom

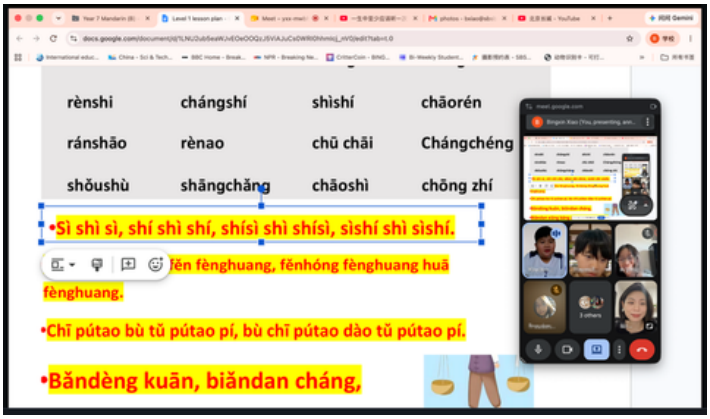
During Weeks 6 and 7, heavy rain and flooding in Bangkok made face-to-face teaching a challenge. In Week 6, we moved fully online and continued learning through a combination of asynchronous tasks and live online lessons. Students demonstrated their learning in a variety of ways, including recordings, written work and vlogs, allowing them to continue developing their Mandarin skills in flexible and meaningful ways.

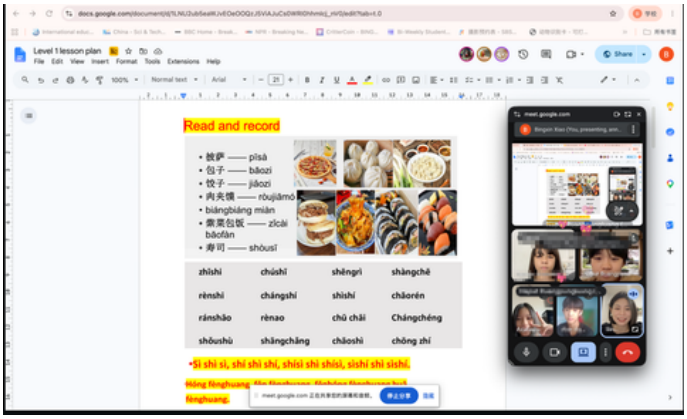
In Week 7, we returned to school while continuing to provide live online lessons for students who were unable to return. We also introduced HSK mock examination tasks at different levels, giving students an opportunity to check their current Mandarin proficiency and identify areas for further development.

Throughout this term 1A, our Mandarin learning has focused increasingly on using language in real-life contexts. Students have taken part in a Mandarin Coffee Shop interview project, a Student-Led Mandarin Teaching Project, and a School Tour in Mandarin, developing their ability to communicate, collaborate and use Mandarin with a real purpose.

Next term, we will continue to build our learning around authentic situations and practical communication. Mandarin Coffee Shop will take students one step further as they create and run their own shops, cafés or restaurants in Mandarin. We are also looking forward to a new Chinatown Challenge, which will give students the opportunity to use Mandarin beyond the classroom, as well as extending our School Tour in Mandarin project. Our Secondary Students Teach Primary Students Mandarin project will also continue, giving students further opportunities to take on the role of language teachers.

We look forward to seeing everyone back next half term for more Mandarin learning, challenges and real-world communication!







Congratulations

Anda Year 7 - participated in the TOKYO INT'L MUSIC & DANCE COMPETITION 2027 – Thailand Preliminary Round in the Piano Solo category.







... and qualified for the Tokyo Final Round, which will be held in Japan in April 2027.

Well done Anda - we wish you all the best in the final round!

Next Week

- Half Term holiday

Looking Ahead

- **Monday 19 October** - Term 1B starts
- Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on: **Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 October (3.30pm - 6:00pm)**
- **Friday 23 October** - House Cereal Box Challenge
- **Saturday 31 October** - BASIS Swim Meet

Reminders



We are excited to be working with the Gift of Happiness again to help support them and the invaluable work they are doing with communities in and around Bangkok.

Closing Note

As we wrap up the first half of Term 1, I want to thank all our students, families, and staff for their resilience and flexibility throughout these past few weeks.

I hope you all have a wonderful and well-deserved, restful half-term break with family and friends. Take this time to recharge, stay safe, and enjoy the time off!

We look forward to seeing everyone back energised and ready for Term 1B on **Monday 19 October.**

Warm regards,
Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal




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