



NETWORK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Kindle the fire, brighten your future

Network Newsletter T1

October 2022



Not so ordinary

After an extraordinary couple of years, in which our children's learning has been incredibly disrupted, it is wonderful to write that we have had an "ordinary" term. Whilst "ordinary" is not usually a word that is associated with exciting, fun packed or engaging, in this context it is apt precisely because school should ordinarily be all of these things.

Over the course of this term we have seen house captains elected, inter school sporting competitions return, record numbers of students engaging in a wide range of ECA activities, parents engaging in our triangular partnership and, most importantly, lots of good learning.

I am sure that you, like me, are very much looking forward to an "ordinary" Term 2.



Reading for pleasure is important, and is something that everyone should make time for. Drop Everything And Read.



During Term 1 we have welcomed parents and students from each phase to our new secondary campus.

Thank you

for welcoming me into the Network community. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and your children and will continue to be available for you, should you wish to discuss anything.

We place great value in the School-Parent-Student triangular partnership and will continue to develop this relationship over the coming months. We also value transparency and honest communication. If you do have any concerns please communicate them directly with the school through the appropriate channels and we will be happy to reply.

Principal Stephen

www.networkinternationalschool.com

Term 1

We have made it to the end of Term 1! I don't usually write a message in the newsletter, but this term has been so special that I feel the need to have a voice and share my thoughts.

I need to express to you all how this term has been for me...

It has been amazing!!!!



Thank you to our new Principal Stephen. Thank you so much for your fantastic leadership. I know that he has had wonderful support from our Heads of School over three campuses; Teacher Alice, Teacher Jay and Teacher Jon. They have all worked incredibly hard.

Thank you to all our teachers, both international and Myanmar, who have worked tirelessly to deliver engaging learning experiences and help our children develop.

Thank you to our hard working support teams. We do have a fantastic team of people at Network!

I will close now, but not without acknowledging all of our students, who are and always will be the "backbone" of Network.

I love you all and wish you a very happy holiday.

Teacher Carole



Results 2022

The last two years have been far from normal for school students and no student should expect to complete the entirety of their GCSE or A Level studies online and yet, that is exactly what last year's Year 11 and 13 students had to contend with. It was with great pride that we received our students results with 53% of IGCSE grades being A* or A, and a remarkable 80% of A Level grades being A* or A.



Class of 2022

One of the first events in the term was the Graduation event of the Class of 2022. Having achieved magnificent results in their A-Levels, we were absolutely delighted to be able to celebrate with the Class of 2022, first with a Graduation ceremony at the school, then with an alumni basketball match against the current students, and finally with a dinner at Melia Yangon. We wish them all the very best of luck as they head to universities all around the world.

Student Leaders

The graduation of both the Student President and the Heads of Houses has led to the appointment of new Student Leaders. The Student President and Vice President were appointed last term and each House now has a House Captain, Deputy House Captain and KS3 House Captain. We have also appointed a Sports Captain and Student Librarians. It is imperative that students have leadership opportunities and that we have students as role models across the school. These Student Leaders also help and support younger students in various areas of school life.

Year 7 Tea Party

The inaugural Tea Party was a wonderful event, which allowed our Year 7 students to host their teachers from Year 6 in the Primary School, as well as Tr Jay and Tr Carole. It was particularly significant as Tr Nicola and Tr Lucy had only seen the students online last year, so everyone was extremely excited. The students had decorated the tables with their chosen theme, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory for 7A1 and Romeo and Juliet for 7A2, and a great time was had by all. Parting may be such sweet sorrow, but before their former teachers left, the Year 7s were able to give them a tour of the new campus and talk about how well they have been settling in.



House Events

Having conducted all House events online last year, it has been wonderful to relaunch House events in person this year. As is traditional, the first event was the House Display and each House did an amazing job in showing House spirit through their Display. After some tough judging, Sapphire were declared as the winners. As the term came to a close, we also hosted the inaugural House Choral. This event gives the whole House the opportunity to work together, especially important at this stage in the year with so many new students. Each House prepared to perform a song of their choosing. With staff and students both in and surrounding the Plaza, the event was fantastic, with Sapphire declared as the winner. After a term of physical sport again, there was an unbelievable amount of noise as House sport returned to the Sports Hall, with Basketball and Volleyball. Both players and spectators thoroughly enjoyed each event, which were ultimately won by Emerald in the U14 Basketball and Sapphire in the U19 Volleyball.

T1 Sport Round-up

Our main sports have been U14 Basketball and U19 Volleyball. It has been great to see our students back in action. Playing as part of the MISAC Conference, our teams have had a number of opportunities to represent the school and there have been some extremely competitive fixtures and well-fought victories. Several Table Tennis players joined the citywide tournament, with Htoo winning the Middle School category (and beating the High School champion) and Thar Nyo coming second in the Middle School boys category.



Parent Events

There has been a buzz about the new campus since the start of term and it has been lovely to host both Primary and Secondary parents and siblings to the campus to have a look around. We have already expanded our calendar of parent events and hope to continue to develop these as the year goes on. Already, as well as the initial tours, we have hosted parents of Key Stage 3 students, for the Meet the Tutor event, and parents of Year 10 and 12 students for a check-in with their entrance into a new Key Stage. This has been along with the first Parent-Teacher meetings of the year, which were for parents of Year 11 and 13 students. There will be further Parent-Teacher meetings for parents of other students next term, as well as a Parent Talk on “Why do we do tests?” on 2nd November.





'Kindle The Fire, Brighten The Future'

What an action packed Term 1 we have had in Primary.



Tr Jay
Head Of Primary

After over 2 year online, both staff and students were excited to be back on campus and into classroom learning. With our school theme of “**Kindle the fire, brighten the future**” guiding our way, students have been exploring new interests, setting learning goals and making friends.

Our focus for Term 1 has been around the Network value of '**Respect**'; with assemblies, lessons and guest speakers helping students to unpack what it means to show respect and apply this to their actions in and around the classroom. I have seen students across the school demonstrating wonderful examples of respect, including speaking kindly to each other, treating everyone equally and looking after the shared equipment. We encourage you to take some time to ask your child how they have been demonstrating respect at school and home this term. Our Network values for next term will be '**Responsibility**' and '**Creativity**'.

On behalf of the primary team, I would like to wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable break.



Student Wellbeing

This term students have been improving their wellbeing, physical abilities and social skills through a range of energetic PE lessons.

Year 3 enjoyed thinking about their '**physical cog**' and practising their throwing and catching skills in games like benchball.

Year 4 had to use all of their patience when improving their '**personal cog**'. This cog encouraged students to persevere and to not give up when choosing tricky one-handed catching and fast reaction challenges.

In **Year 5** Teamwork was the name of the game, with students using their '**social cogs**' to support each other and work together in games like dodgeball. While in **Year 6**, they have been using their cogs to think tactically in a variety of invasion games.

Key Stage 1 have also been making a splash this term with their weekly swimming lessons.

The students have been learning important skills such as floating on their backs and fronts, as well as practising their kicking techniques.

As their confidence in the water grew, the students had a pool-party with lots of fun pool games and floating equipment.

Improving our physical wellbeing doesn't just end in our lessons, with students using the outdoor spaces for games and competitions with their friends at break times and taking part in ECAs.





Teaching Through A Text

In the Primary school, we utilise teaching through a text in English to immerse children in a single story for an extended period of time.

This term, students have enjoyed listening to and reading a wide range of genres and authors, developing their writing and grammar skills in the context of their story. Each text is carefully selected and linked to the year groups' overarching theme and inquiry statements.

Across the term, Year 6 students have explored a dystopian society through 'The Last Wild', embarking on a journey with wild animals and a brave boy to find a cure for a virus that has destroyed the world. In Year 5, students journeyed with Homer in 'The Odyssey'. Engagement with this story was clear to see in the chameleon class assembly!

Year 4 students explored their theme of 'Pioneers' through 'The Lion and the Unicorn' and 'The Matchbox Diaries' whilst the Year 3 texts, 'Cloud Tea Monkeys' and 'Cinderella of the Nile', linked perfectly to their inquiry statement, 'How I approach challenges affects my progress.'

In KS1, Year 2 read two fantastic stories: 'The Minpins' and 'The Bear and the Piano' to explore the theme of bravery. Year 1 read 'Cave Baby' and enjoyed using adjectives to create new characters for our story.



Music To My Ears

In term 1 students have been developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of music, working to become more confident performers, composers and listeners. They have enjoyed working in groups and performing in front of the class. Everyone has worked hard to learn new songs to sing in our whole school and phase assemblies.

Students have also been performing solos to their classes. building their confidence in preparation for our upcoming lunchtime piano recitals. There is lots to look forward to in term 2 including regular lunchtime recitals, ukulele ECA, recorders and a violin lunchtime club.





Year 1 - What A Journey

Our inquiry topic in Year 1 this term has been 'What a Journey', with students exploring the journey they have been on both physically and emotionally since leaving the early years. They have learnt how to create a timeline, the parts of the body and what it means to be a great friend. Our culminating task involved creating a poster all about their journey over the past year, which they then presented to the class.

In English, we have been exploring adjectives, nouns and writing longer sentences through our stories 'Cave Baby' and 'The Naughty Bus'. Students were asked to make predictions on what might happen in the stories and demonstrate their understanding of the key events. In maths, students worked hard to develop their understanding of number, comparing numbers using the greater and less than symbols and identifying number bonds to 10.



Year 2 - We Can Be Heroes

Our inquiry statement this term has been 'Heroes don't always wear capes', with everyone being able to demonstrate the qualities of a hero and have a positive impact on their community. With the above statement to guide us, we learnt about different kinds of real-life heroes such as firemen and rescue divers. Students were able to explore the equipment they use to help them do their jobs, as well as personal characteristics they possess.

Our case study for the term focused on the Thailand cave rescue, where 12 boys and their soccer coach were trapped in a cave for 19 days. This was a great way for students to see real life heroes in action and what it takes to be one.

Our culminating task was to interview a real-life hero while pretending to be a news reporter. Students were able to demonstrate a wide range of skills and showcase their learning from the term.



Year 3 - Overcoming Adversity

This term, Year 3 have been looking at overcoming adversity, examining the inquiry statement, '**How I approach challenges affects my progress**'. This unit examines the skills and mindsets needed to overcome adversity in our lives, exploring concepts such as acceptance, bravery, inner-strength, and emotional wellbeing. Students learnt to set and achieve personal goals, were reflective thinkers and took control of their emotions.

The highlight of the term was our culminating task, where we reflected on our learning and used our new understandings to develop a wellbeing initiative. Students demonstrated a wide variety of wellbeing ideas and tried them out on their peers. We are confident that Year 3 now have excellent coping methods to call upon when feeling overwhelmed.



Year 4 - Pioneering Spirit

Our overarching theme of '**Pioneering Spirit**' has led to discussions about what a pioneer is, what they have achieved and how individuals can become pioneers in the future. This unit explored both the physical and mental journeys people undertake in their lives and how these shape our thoughts and feelings. Students examined concepts of friendship, rules, values and communication; applying this knowledge to their experiences in starting back at Primary school.

In maths we focused on number and have confidently been using place value and the four main operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. While in our humanities and science lessons we have been investigating different pioneers, especially within the field of sound. Most excitingly, we were visited by our very own pioneer, Tr Carole, who talked to us about how she started Network and her journey as a pioneer.



Year 5 - The Power Of Words

What an adventure we have had this term! Our unit '**The Power of Words**' has guided students through an exploration of how words can have an impact on people. We have examined how verbal and written communication across time has been used to persuade, motivate and control others, while investigating the role principles and intent play in this process. Students travelled to ancient Greece, explored the oldest story ever told and even had a shipwreck appear in their class!

While exploring what life was like in Sparta and Athens, students also had a chance to be architects and build the Parthenon, as well as using their debating skills to argue a point. In art, we tried our hands at making amazing pot designs, while our culminating tasks were to create podcasts of our learning.

In English, students enjoyed reading the Odyssey by Homer. This 3000 year old story follows Odysseus on his adventure back home, facing cyclops, hydra and gods along the way. We have learnt so many skills to improve our writing and have used these to write our very own Odyssey adventure book, complete with a book cover the children made themselves.



Year 6 - Utopia vs. Dystopia

This Term Year 6 have been exploring the concepts of '**Utopian and Dystopian societies**', looking at the lessons we can apply to our own lives and communities. Students investigated the driving forces behind the creation of different societies and the ethical questions that arise when creating the perfect community. Students also acted as city planners, designing fascinating models that demonstrated all the aspects of a sustainable city that people would want to live in.

Students also linked their art lessons to the theme by creating city landscapes. These utilised mixed media and self portraits with utopian backgrounds, as well as a range of oil pastel techniques.

Throughout the first term, we have been using the book '**The Last Wild**', to guide our learning in English. This is a narrative about a boy called Kester who works closely with animals to find a cure for a deadly virus. The children have absolutely loved the journey Kester goes on, and have produced some excellent pieces of writing, including their own dystopian narratives.



Settling In

The children of the Early Years Foundation Stage have had a great start to the year. It has been wonderful to welcome new families and welcome back familiar faces.

For every single child it has been the very first time they have experienced a full school day on campus. While all the children settled in different ways it is a joy to now see them all, once again, being happy and confident at school. All teachers, and I am sure all parents, have enjoyed having the classrooms once again filled with smiles, laughter and learning.



Building a solid foundation together

It has been equally wonderful to welcome parents back on campus. We have held various workshops and parent and teacher conferences. We see the positive impact it makes upon children's development when parents and teachers support each other. We have already noticed significant improvement in the children's independence since sharing ideas during parent and teacher conferences.

The Seesaw Family App has allowed teachers to communicate with family members more easily. We now share children's achievements and activities every week. Please make sure to check out your child's Seesaw and we would love to hear your comments.



Me and My Community

It has been a term of fantastic learning and development where the children have discovered about themselves, their families and people who help us in the community.

Foundation 1 shared photos of themselves as babies and their families. This helped them gain a better understanding of how much they have grown and the difference between home and school life.



Foundation 2 learnt how to use their senses to explore the world around them such as guessing smells and what they were feeling in the box.



Foundation 3 showed off their creative skills with amazing self portraits and enjoyed visitors who helped them understand different jobs; the school Doctor, Teacher Carole's dogs, and even Teacher Shay's dad from South Africa in a video about firefighters. They were able to better understand the job roles by acting them out in the role play area.



Outdoor Learning

This term EYFS placed huge importance on supporting children's social, emotional, communication and physical development. The best place for young children to do this is outside! Outdoor learning encourages all children to explore, investigate and discover new learning opportunities in a freer environment.

These experiences encourage children to share their ideas and feelings, to work together to achieve a common goal and have the confidence to learn new skills.

Come rain or shine, EYFS children are always excited to be heading outside to see what adventures their play will hold.



International Week

Foundation Stage finished the term with a successful International Week where all children travelled around the world during passport day. They travelled to Egypt, South Africa and China, to name but a few countries. Everyone took part in different activities where they learnt traditional dances, made crowns and learnt how to make pretzels. There was a fantastic parade which saw the whole Foundation Stage take part. It was wonderful to see outfits and clothes that reflected so many different countries and ethnicities.



Everyone at Early Years Foundation Stage wishes all Network International School families a safe and happy holiday.