

The St. Stephen's International School Bulletin

Khao Yai Weekly Bulletin

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 16 April – Friday 6 May
English Camp B

Monday 24 April
Start of Term 3

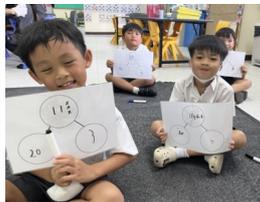
Tuesday 25 April – Friday 28 April
Key Stage 3 Residential Trip with Howling Gibbon

It hardly seems possible that we are at the end of the second term. It has been an immensely busy and rewarding few months. After the long Covid period we are now fully back to normal in school and students are enjoying their learning in lessons. It is wonderful to see the students collaborating and chatting together without having to worry about social distancing! We have had many trips taking place and Year 10 were the first year group to have their residential trip. Many more are to follow. We are also delighted that parents are able to come back to school as usual. For St. Stephen's, the feeling of community is very important and it lovely to see parents coming into school and seeing the work that the children are doing. We are also very grateful for the support that parents are giving the school. This week alone, we have had the Talent Show, Songkran and Year 9 Options; the parental attendance and support has been fantastic. So as we come to the Songkran holiday, I wish you a very restful, safe and enjoyable holiday.

EYFS News This week, the children in Nursery used their bikes and scooters to complete some obstacle courses at the gym. This activity really helps to build confidence and muscle strength as well as developing fine and gross motor skills. In KG1 the students are reviewing minibeasts and celebrating Songkran this week. KG2 have been finding number bonds to 5 by using a story about jungle animals. In literacy, KG2 students continued to look at our book *Giraffes Can't Dance* and The children have been writing sentences using good phonics knowledge to describe Gerald the Giraffe.



Primary News In Year 1 the children have been learning how to partition two digit numbers into tens and ones. They have enjoyed using different methods to do this. In Year 2, students have been learning about measuring using standard units. The children measured items around the classroom and compared their lengths and heights. Year 3 were very interested to find out about a mysterious mini beast found in Miss Lisa's house, and were able to use their incredible research skills to name it as a house centipede. Their findings are on display outside the classroom. Year 4 students completed their mathematics unit on decimals. The students have also been reviewing what they have learnt this term. The children



have completed their IPC topic, "Land, Sea, and Sky." They have written reports about species and their different habitats and how they have adapted. Year 5 students are finishing up their learning on different styles of art from around the world. They have all created a number of pieces based on famous examples - which have all turned out exceptionally well. On Monday we went to a local gallery to see a selection of artwork and walk around the beautiful grounds. The Year 6 students concluded 'They see the world like this' by planning and creating their final piece of artwork inspired by famous artists, styles and techniques studied this term.



English Camp A very successful English Camp A took place between Sunday 12 March and Saturday 1 April. Around 100 students from across Thailand took part in the Camp where they took part in a



range of team activities as well as learning English. English Camp B will start on Sunday 16 April and will finish on Saturday 6 May. We are expecting around 140 students for the second camp. Every year we have some students who try out at the English Camp before starting in the main school a little later.

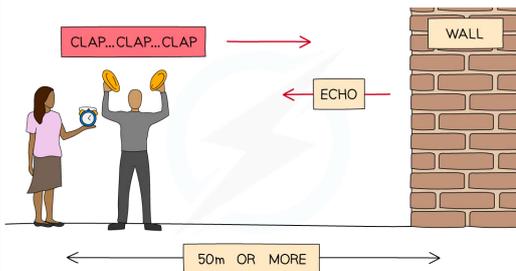
After School Activities Thank you to all parents for supporting their child in returning their choices for after school activities in Term 3. Parents will be sent an individual notification of the clubs that their child has been allocated for Term 3. These activities will start on Monday 24 April. Please note that it is not possible to make any changes to clubs after the first week of Term 3.

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Secondary News

Year 9 have been studying 'Typography' in art. They have used the knowledge which they have gained to design and make a 3D letter. Once complete, the letters will be painted with the work of an artist of their choice. Year 9 EAL students have written a persuasive text from the point of view of Squealer the great propagandist of the novel *Animal Farm*. *This was very challenging as they had to imagine Squealer as a 21st century influencer and author of fake news.*



Year 10 had a fabulous game of grammar ball on Friday identifying various clause structures (the winner had to get a ball into a hoop for extra points). A re-match is planned.

There was much laughter throughout the lesson. Year 8 and 10 have been studying waves and light. The students carried out experiments using ray boxes, mirrors and transparent plastic blocks with different shapes, in order to see how light interacts with different materials at different angles. Year 10 students have been finding out how lenses are used to project images and correct eyesight problems. They will be carrying out an experiment to find the speed of sound soon. However they must do it quietly - exams are going on all over the school!

Year 10 students have been studying an important event in the Ayutthaya period, the famous Wat Ratchaburana gold treasure robbery. They completed a virtual scavenger hunt on the Chao Sam Phraya museum website. This week many of our ICT students sat their IGCSE practical exams. The practical exams include document production, databases, presentations, spreadsheets and website authoring. All of them used their skills and prior learning to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems.



During Year 8 Mandarin lessons, students learned new words and sentences about holidays and travel. In Year 9, the students learned about the 24 solar terms and about an ancient poem about the sun during the annual Qingming Festival. Year 10 students continued the IGCSE food and drink unit whilst the Year 11 students reviewed Chinese speaking and listening topics. Students had the



IGCSE Chinese Speaking Exam on Tuesday. Year 10 biology students were impressed during their final biology lesson of the term when they dissected pig hearts. Firstly they each cut off a ring of tissue from the largest blood vessel called the aorta and tested these to measure if the aorta had elastic properties. This elasticity helps the arteries expand and contract as the heart pushes blood through.

Good Egg Competition

The whole school Humanities 'good egg competition has been a huge success this year with more than 65 eggs submitted by students and staff. Students and teachers have been busy decorating a variety of eggs as famous historical figures or geographical features. The high level of participation and creativity on display has been wonderful to see and whole school competitions like these help foster a sense of community.



External Examinations

Students in Year 11 and Year 12 have already started their IGCSE and AS Level examinations. Last week the examination season kicked off with the art examinations for both IGCSE and AS Level and this week we have had examinations for IGCSE ICT, IGCSE Mandarin and IGCSE English as a Second Language. Well done to all of the students involved for their hard work. Please also bear a kind thought for the Year 12 students who have to come into school during the Songkran holiday to sit their AS Level IT examination on Wednesday 19 April. The main examination season will resume on Tuesday 2 May and will run through to Thursday 8 June. Good luck to everyone in Year 11 and Year 12. Revise hard over the Songkran holiday!

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Residential Trips

Students at St. Stephen's experience high quality teaching and learning every day that they are in school. There are some experiences that cannot happen in the classroom and some skills that are better developed off of the school site. Consequently the school has a range of day trips and residential trips that supports and enriches the core curriculum. We believe that students better learn by doing and where possible having direct experience of what they are learning about. Students from Year 3 to Year 13 participate in at least one residential trip every year where they are able to develop a range of 'soft skills' such as team work, resilience, collaboration, communication, compassion, risk taking and leadership. Each residential trip will have some outdoor education such as kayaking, hiking, climbing, stand up paddle boarding or snorkelling led by our residential expert Head of Outdoor Education, Ms. Anna Roordink. There are links to the key curriculum and usually a community activity too. Importantly, the students learn to work together in a different environment to school, which better prepares them for the future. And the students have lots of fun and gain memories that will be with them for a lifetime! Year 10 have already had their residential trip for this year to Chantaburi and Year 8 and Year 9 will have a joint residential to Kanchanaburi the week we return from the Songkran break. Letters will be going home very shortly for students in Year 3 to Year Year 6 and Year 11 and Year 12 regarding their residential trips, which will be happening in Term 3.



Year 10 student voice: On 10 March 2023, I went on a residential trip to Sam Roi Yet. On



the first day, when we arrived, we went to do activities on the beach. After finishing, we went swimming and then gathered at the bamboo area to play some games. Later, we all went to rest. The next day, we went hiking and then returned to the hotel to pack our bags for camping. When we arrived, we played football on the beach, then had dinner. After that, we all took a shower, but some of my friends had trouble sleeping while I slept fine. The following day, we cooked our own lunch, which was green chicken curry and pad Thai. After that, we did some art and made our own bag from natural materials, using leaves to create patterns. Later that day, we went back to the hotel and had pizza for dinner. The next day, we went to feed the elephants and saw some amazing creatures. On another day, we visited the mangrove forest before heading back home. Overall, it was a great trip, and I enjoyed spending time with my friends and experiencing new things.



Year 9 Options

On Friday 7 April Year 9 students and their parents attended a special information meeting about their choices of IGCSEs as they move to Year 10. Students at St. Stephen's International School Khao Yai are fortunate to be studying a world leading curriculum that leads them to take the best qualifications at age 16 (IGCSEs) and age 18 (A Levels). Universities from around the world highly value these qualifications that are taken in more than 160 countries. Dr. Kevin (Head of Campus) supported by Ms. Yui (Head of Thai) presented on the choices available to the students and how their choices might affect university and careers opportunities in the future. This builds on the careers work using the Kudos application that students have been using recently in lessons. Students and parents then attended an informative Options Fair where they found out more about the subjects that they are considering studying and were able to talk to the subject experts - their teachers. Option forms are due in to Dr. Kevin by Monday 1 May.

Start of Term 3

We will return from the Songkran holiday on Monday 24 April. Students in Year 8 and Year 9 should remember that they have their residential trip and should be in school by 07:30. Everyone else will need to be in the school at the normal time. After school activities will start straight away on Monday 24 April.

Dr Kevin Hylands
Head of Campus