

Secondary Newsletter

Friday 10-11-23



Head of School Message

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

At The British School of Lomé, we firmly believe that the journey of education does not end at graduation. Our Alumni are proof that the values and skills instilled during their time with us go beyond the classroom and translate into real-world success.

We take immense pride in the achievements of our current students, who continue to work hard and make us proud. Equally, we are immensely proud of our Alumni, who have spread their wings and achieved remarkable success in their lives after studying at our school. One of the shining examples of our successful Alumni is Urvashi, whose accomplishments deserve special recognition. Urvashi, along with her mother, has taken the initiative to organise Indian art workshops for our students. This initiative not only showcases Urvashi's talent and dedication but also embodies the strong bond that exists between our Alumni and the school.

The British School of Lomé, Togo is eagerly preparing for a significant milestone in its history as it gears up for the first-ever benchmark inspection by the UK DfE BSO (British Schools Overseas) Inspectorate. This prestigious inspection and accreditation process bring forth a multitude of benefits for our school community.

This inspection serves as a validation of our commitment to delivering high-quality education. The rigorous assessment conducted by the inspection team ensures that our school meets or exceeds the established rigorous standards set by the UK government's Department for Education (DfE) and provides students with an excellent learning environment.

I would like to thank our students for their commitment to learning and willingness to go the extra mile. To our staff, thank you for going above and beyond to provide our students with the guidance and care they need to thrive. Finally, to our supportive parents, thank you for entrusting us with your children's education and for actively participating in their educational journey.

The progress we have made in raising the standards at The British School of Lomé, Togo would not have been possible without everyone's unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we have created an environment where our students can flourish, and where we can continuously strive for greatness.

With sincere appreciation and a Happy Diwali to those who celebrate it.

Akif Naqvi

Head of School

Science

Year 13 Physicists have been working on their IA's over the past few weeks. They have chosen their individual topics and have formed research questions which they planned investigations to help them answer. The topics have been the refractive index of different liquids and the range of a projectile. They have been hard at work completing their results gathering and we look forward to reading their findings in the near future.



History

As part of our unit on World War 1, and with Remembrance day on the horizon, Year 9 took part in a debate and speech making activity centred around 'The Trial of Field Marshall Douglas Haig'. In this debate, the students had to act as either members or lawyers of the prosecution or members of the defence, and debated whether or not Douglas Haig should be blamed for the high amount of casualties at the Battle of the Somme, and whether or not he deserved the nickname 'The Butcher of the Somme'.



Merit Awards to Year 7

As part of our goal to promote hard work and effort '*Endeavour is all*', we at BSL also try to celebrate success and achievements. One way in which this is done is via our merit system, where students can earn merits by demonstrating some of our core values, or by showing great effort/achievement. Once a student attains a certain number they receive a Bronze Merit Award. It was great to see so many of our Year 7 receive their Bronze or Silver Merit Awards, handed out by the Assistant Head of Academics Mr. Anquandah.



Alumni Works

During the mid-term break in October, artist and art teacher Mrs Sonal Rupani from @crochet_hk_paintbrush and her daughter Urvashi Rupani (our Alumni) who is also an Art Therapy Professional organised a colourful Art & Craft workshop for BSL students in fabric painting, mosaics, and sketching. Everyone had fun and the children did a fabulous job with their creations. Here are a few glimpses of the creative week.



International Award – Practice Walk to Kailend Farm, Mt. Argou

On Saturday 28th October the Year 10 students laced up their hiking boots and prepared to venture into the wilds for the International Award Practice Walk to Kailend Farm at Mt. Argou. The International Award Practice Walk is part of the renowned Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. It was organised by Mr Scott, Mr Idriss, and Mrs Snell to prepare young individuals for the challenges of pursuing this prestigious achievement. Our Year 10 students had the opportunity to test their mettle in the great outdoors, strengthen their bonds with one another, and also prepare themselves for the adventures and challenges that await them as they work towards their Bronze Award. BSL Alumni Samy Sarr and his team at Kailend Farm were generous with their knowledge of sustainable agriculture, community empowerment, education projects, and delicious fresh fruit and we are very grateful for their enthusiastic support of our students.

Our students reflected on the impact that the day had on their knowledge, skills, awareness, or attitudes, saying:

“At first I was annoyed by the sun, the smells and the bugs. But the longer we stayed I got used to it. It was a great way to get out of my comfort zone and explore new things.”

“I realise that I need to be more invested and ask more questions of the guide so that I can understand better.”

“I learned that bees have feelings. Imagine if you woke up one morning in a different place with strange bees (this is what happens when hives are divided and moved).”

“We learned how to stay safe walking in new areas, what to do if we saw a snake, and the importance of always having a trusted ‘wee buddy’ when going to the toilet!”

More reflections and photos can be viewed on the display board outside the Geography class (A8).



Year 13 Orphanage Visit for CAS

On Wednesday 9th November, five Year 13 students, Prosper, Peggy, Whitney, Isimbi, and Chirag accompanied by Messrs. Ernest and Nicolas, visited the Saint Claire Orphanage at Tokoin Seminaire as part of their Service for CAS and took along with them provisions for the orphanage. Upon their arrival, they met one of the managers, a Reverend Sister, who told them a short history of the place. The orphanage has been in existence for sixty four years and is currently home to 44 children between the ages of 0-4; some of the children have been abandoned, lost their mothers at birth or found in the streets and other locations. The most recent orphan who is a few months old was left at the doors of the Catholic Church in Aného. The students were given a tour of the orphanage and also had the opportunity to interact with a few of the children during their playtime. The children seemed happy and well looked after. If you would like to be of service to this orphanage, kindly talk to this group of Year 13 students.



May this year bring smiles as bright as the Diwali lights

When the Secondary Student Council was approached with a request to plan a way to share the cultural and religious festival of Diwali with the school community, they were happy to support it. As a result, Shambhavi (Y7), Saanvi (Y7), Prasiddhi (Y7), Vihaan (Y7), and Vedeeeka (Y10) planned a way to involve the school community.

The word Diwali (or Divali or Deepavali as it's sometimes called) means "row of lights" in an ancient language of India, called Sanskrit. It is a five-day festival where people spend time with friends and family, visit places of worship to leave offerings, exchange gifts and sweets, enjoy delicious feasts, watch firework displays, and wear new clothes. It's also a time to clean and decorate homes and buildings.

Homes are decorated with lights and oil lamps, called diyas, and colourful rangoli made of sand and flowers. The Rangoli represents the happiness, positivity, and liveliness of a household. It is also intended to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good luck, and welcomes guests into the house. For this reason, it was decided to create a community Rangoli to allow everyone to add coloured sand to the diya outline and to create a visual celebration of Diwali good wishes to every member of the BSL community. The Reception area has a display with more information and a different style of Rangoli to welcome our BSO visitors next week.

The Secondary Student Council looks forward to learning about, and celebrating with, other cultural groups throughout the year. Please speak to your Year Representative if you have a suggestion.



May the festival of lights brighten your life and bring you success and happiness. Happy Diwali!

CAS (Community Action Service)

On the 25th of January, 2023, three of our Year 13 students (in Year 12 at the time) paid a visit to the Vivenda School for the hearing impaired at Bè. Touched by the conditions of the pupils at the school, they arranged a meeting with the late founder of the primary school for the hearing impaired, Mr. Etiko, at BSL. The students asked him about the school and what their challenges were. Airy, Zuriel and Jason after the meeting decided among them that they needed to do something for the pupils at Vivenda that would impact on their learning.

They had raised 467,500 FCFA during the International Weekend fête the year before through raffle ticket sales. By the end of the 2022/2023 school year, they had raised an additional 2,000,000 FCFA to enable them help renovate the school building at Vivenda.

Today the school building conforms to the Togolese government requirements of how all Primary schools across the country should look like. Ventilation in the classes are now better than before, there are brighter lights and the school kitchen is also looking tidier than it used to be.

There is still a lot to be done but these three young compassionate men need to be highly commended for their effort and spirit of humanity. Let us emulate their example and be partakers in the drive to help



After School Enrichment Programme

It continues to be a busy term for our balanced learners in secondary school. Students have actively engaged in a number of fantastic After School Enrichment activities such as Weight Lifting, Photoshop and 3D Modelling and devising an intricate pattern in Crochet club. Our students continue to demonstrate a willingness to take full advantage of everything BSL has to offer.



Remembrance Day at BSL

In commemoration of Remembrance Day, The British School of Lomé, Togo proudly launched the Poppy Appeal. Students and staff united in wearing red poppy flowers, symbolizing peace after the First World War. The event began with the Togolese National Anthem, followed by a speech from the Head of School. At **11:00** a minute of silence was observed to pay tribute to those impacted by war, especially honouring the Togolese Armed forces for their dedication to global peace.

