

Secondary Newsletter



Friday 6th
October 2023

Vol. 01 2023



Head of School Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Students,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the PA-BSL (Parents Association of The British School of Lome), parents and students for their thoughtful gesture in sending staff presents on World Teachers' Day. Your recognition and appreciation mean the world to us, as teachers, and it reinforces our commitment to providing the best education possible to our students.



Moreover, I would like to extend a special thank you to all the primary and secondary students who took the time to express their gratitude to their teachers. Your kind words and gestures have touched our hearts and reminded us of the meaningful impact we have on your lives. Thank you to those students who came to my office and left some lovely presents and cards.

What is 'differentiated' teaching in the classroom?

I very *frequently* get the *question*: I would like to take this opportunity to try to answer this. To begin with, **'Differentiated work means that the whole class is taught together, but students are given tasks that are appropriate to their academic ability, level of understanding and readiness to learn.'**

Just as we are all unique (fingerprint, DNA, personality etc.), every student has an individual learning profile. Chances are, not all the students understand a subject in the same way or share the same level of ability. According to Carol A Tomlinson (University of Virginia), differentiated teaching considers students' individual learning styles and levels of readiness first *before* designing a lesson plan.

Research on the effectiveness of differentiation shows this method benefits a wide range of students, from those with learning challenges to those who are considered high ability. Differentiating teaching may mean teaching the same material to all students using a variety of teaching strategies, or it may require the teacher to deliver lessons at varying levels of difficulty, based on the ability of each student.

Teachers who practice differentiation in the classroom may:

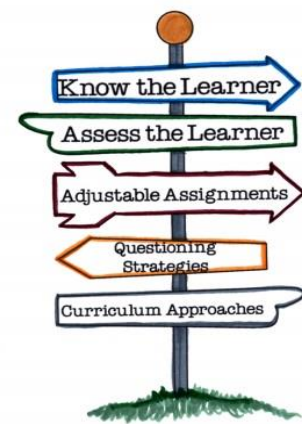
- Design lessons based on students' learning styles
- Group students by shared interest, topic, or ability for assignments
- Assess students' learning using formative assessment
- Manage the classroom to create a safe and supportive environment
- Continually assess and adjust lesson content to meet student' needs

We at BSL have mixed ability classes which is common practice in British and International schools. Students are split into small groups according to ability, but all stay in the same classroom and are taught by one teacher. Lessons within the class are differentiated to cater to the needs of individual students.

There are many different ways of differentiating work, including:

- **Tasks:** different tasks are set for students of different abilities. The teacher may print out three different maths worksheets – easy, moderate and difficult – to cover the range of abilities in the class.
- **Group work:** the teacher splits the class into small groups according to their ability, so they work on tasks with students who are at a similar level.
- **Resources:** this recognises that some students can work with more advanced resources than others. For example, in a Year 7 maths lesson, students who find addition and subtraction difficult may be given a number line to refer to, while students who are more advanced are expected to use their mental maths skills.
- **Pace:** in a mixed class, advanced students are sometimes held back by those who need longer to complete tasks. A classic example of differentiation by pace is where students who finish their work quickly are given a challenging extension task.
- **Teacher support and dialogue:** this is one of the most commonly used methods of differentiating work in schools. After the teacher has explained the lesson plan and learning objectives to the whole class, they will go around the room and spend a few minutes with students who need extra support, explaining the task in more detail and giving one-to-one support, or give the next level challenge to the highly able students.

What is Differentiation?



Where work is differentiated by task, there is usually a system so students recognise what level they're working at. So, their worksheets may be graded 'challenge one, two and three,' or 'red, orange and green', for example. Sometimes, teachers will decide which task students should work on, based on their ability, but at other times, students are encouraged to choose for themselves based on how well they feel they understand the subject matter. However, teachers will always keep a close eye on which task students choose, to make sure they are selecting work of the right level.

I trust this information was useful to understand the concept and help you further understand how we at BSL cater to the needs of your children.

Wishing you all continued success and growth.

Warm regards,

AKIF NAQVI
Head of School

INTERNATIONAL CAREER GUIDANCE, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

We invited Ms Margaret, an expert in International Career Guidance, Scholarships, and University Admissions, to spend a week at our school to provide career guidance and support to our students for university admissions. During her visit, she engaged with both primary and secondary students, parents, and staff, effectively addressing numerous past and current concerns. Ms Margaret also offered valuable assistance to our IB team and provided guidance to our career and university guidance staff. At the end of her stay, Ms Margaret held a debriefing session with the staff, where she outlined the tasks, she had accomplished. In the coming days, she will be sending us a comprehensive report. Overall, Ms Margaret's visit proved to be highly productive, benefiting our school community in various ways.



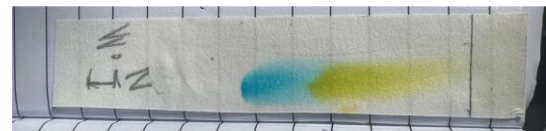
40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Representing Spain, Year 7 brought hands together to share fun games, music, delicious treats and more under a vibrantly decorated stand. The mini-football pitch, freshly baked empanadas and churros especially, attracted children and adults alike.



YEAR 8

In Science, Year 8 has been learning about mixtures and methods of separating them. One of the separation techniques was chromatography. This technique was used to separate pigments from food colourings and pen inks. The photo below separates green food colouring into yellow and blue. The students then discussed how this technique could be used in forensic science to identify fake paintings and suspects in robberies from shoe polish that were left behind. To finish the topic the students used the techniques to demonstrate the green chlorophyll in leaves can also be separated into its constituent parts.



PASTORAL REMINDER

This is just a kind reminder that it is important for students to follow the school uniform. This includes students wearing **all black shoes** (or otherwise navy or brown) with **no white bottoms or visible brand markers**.

Similarly, if a student wants to wear a jumper it should be as **plain as possible and dark blue**. Following the mid-term break, tutors have been asked to monitor students' uniforms closely, to try and make our students look as smart as possible.

School footwear expectations



Honourable Chief Akpega Nonoga: Congratulations to our esteemed colleague, Mr Akpega Nonogo, on his election as the Chief of the people of Birgou Village prefecture of Niamtougou in Lome!

This is truly a remarkable achievement and a testament to his dedication and leadership qualities. We extend our warmest congratulations and wish him great success in his new role as the Chief. May Honourable Chief Akpega Nonoga bring prosperity and progress to the people of Birgou Village



05
10
23

HAPPY
TEACHER'S
DAY



Today, we are honoring the achievements of the dedicated educators who have shaped the lives of students across the world. Did you know that UNESCO estimates that over 75 million children worldwide do not have the privilege of attending school? These children are deprived of the opportunity to learn and grow under the guidance of a teacher, which impacts their future prospects.

However, At the British School of Lome, students are blessed with a wide range of educated and experienced teachers. On this special day, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to teachers and school staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work in shaping the minds of our youth. Their commitment plays a crucial role in building a brighter future for all children. Once again, Happy Teachers Day, and we hope every member of the BSL staff feels special - you are all teachers inside and outside the classroom!

From The BSL Students Council to our cherished BSL Teachers



Thank you to Mrs Siham Bounafaa (Ahmad and Sadine's mum) who brought Moroccan food for the staff. We are also grateful to many other parents who sent presents to staff.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The British School of Lomé is committed to providing students with meaningful work experience opportunities to help them explore and prepare for their future careers. We believe that gaining insight into the world of work is an essential part of a student's educational journey.

Over the summer break, our Year 13 students had the privilege of participating in a four-week career foreshadowing programme, immersing themselves in real-world job experiences. Through this programme, they not only acquired valuable skills for life but also enhanced their readiness for further education. This hands-on learning experience has empowered our students to make informed decisions about their future paths and has enriched their personal and academic growth. Year 13 students received an experienced letter from the Head of School.



BSL is now in compliance with our Safeguarding Policy



On Tuesday 3rd October all non-academic staff went through the Safeguarding and Child Protection training to all staff members. The training itself was engaging, and it provided new ideas about safeguarding while addressing many questions. This training is in addition to the online Safeguarding Training offered by UK's EduCare. We are pleased to announce that BSL is now in compliance with our Safeguarding Policy.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Not everyone is fortunate to have been born into a family that gave them a great education and set them up for success. I do find that less fortunate ones often times have a bigger heart though. You can tell a lot about a person by how they treat secretaries, janitors, waitresses, etc says Oleg Vishnepolsky Chief Technology Officer from Daily mail



FORGET ME NOT

MON 9TH OCT - MEETING WITH DR MARK EVANS-CHIEF BSO INSPECTOR – with Alumni 6:00 PM and with Parents 6:45

Mum and Dad Can you do this for me?

- Do not compare me to other children consistently, it makes me jealous.
- Simply correct the mistakes I make instead of yelling at me. It makes me lie the next time I make a mistake.
- Encourage me to do my homework. Don't threaten me. It makes me hate studies.
- Do not ridicule me in public. I develop low self-esteem because of that.
- When you show faith in me, it develops a whole lot of courage in me.
- We my sibling and I are having a fight, do not take sides. Teach us to solve our own problems.
- Give me little chores to do and help me out at home. It teaches me life skills.
- When I am throwing a huge tantrum, at times, all I need is a big hug.
- If you say it, mean it. Example is the best teacher.

(Source: internet)



WHO IS KWESI BRAKO?

I have to admit that when I first got to school, I didn't like it. I was in this new place with all these new faces, following a new curriculum, and the school year had already started last term! I was hopelessly overwhelmed, to say the least, and not that I said it out loud, but back then I was certain that had I joined BSL at the start of the school year, my integration would have been seamless. But one of the most valuable lessons I learned in my time at BSL is that circumstances will be what they are, but nothing can truly ever prepare you for life, and you have to take the opportunities given to you.

A MESSAGE FROM PRIMARY



The British School of Lomé

Résidence du Bénin, 02 BP20050,
Lomé 02,
Togo, West Africa.
Tel: +228 22264606

Re: Primary Parent / Teachers Conferences Thursday 12th October 3:30pm - 6:30pm Primary Classes Finish at 3pm on Thursday 12th October

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Here at BSL we strongly believe that your child's learning is a three way partnership between Teachers, Students and Parents. Your participation as parents is very important and we would like you to be fully involved. Therefore we are happy to invite you to the first Parent/Teacher conferences for 2023/2024 on **Thursday 12th October 3:30pm - 6:30pm**.



On Thursday 12th October school will close slightly earlier at 3pm to give our teachers time to prepare for these important meetings.

At these meetings the teacher will not only discuss your child's academic progress, they will also set **Targets** that you can support at home.

Here are the available time slots that you can book to discuss your child's learning journey for the Parent/Teacher conference to be held on Thursday 12th October 2023.

All appointments are on a first come, first served basis. You may email your child's teacher, send a message via ClassDojo or bring in the return slip with your preferred time. **The teacher will then get back to you with a confirmation of your appointment.**

Each meeting is scheduled for **10 minutes**, and we ask that you arrive on time for your meeting. If you require a longer meeting we can book this on another day.

Please let us know, at the time of booking, if a translator is required.

Kind regards,

Mr Gareth Jones
Head of Primary



The Early Years
Foundation Stage

ADMISSION IN EARLY YEARS AND CRECHE- We recognise that, as an existing parent, you have an in-depth understanding of our school. We currently have some vacancies in our Early Years. If you happen to know any parents who are currently searching for an exceptional, close-knit community school for their child, or families who are considering transferring their child to an alternative school, we kindly request your assistance in promoting our school. Your recommendation and word-of-mouth can be instrumental in spreading awareness about what we have to offer. Thank you for your support in helping us reach out to potential new families.

The [British School Language Institute](#) is now open to English learners of any age group. We have programmes for Beginner level, Intermediate and Advanced level. This is an opportunity for your friends, relatives, and colleagues to improve in spoken English, written English and to sharpen their listening skills.

We are also able to provide tailored courses to corporate and non-corporate organisations upon request.

For more information, please contact us by Tel: 22 26 46 06

or Email: englishcentre@bsl.tg



FOR IB STUDENTS

Dear Y13,

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the outstanding efforts you have put into community service so far. I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by Airy, Zuriel, and Jason at the Deaf School, collaborating with Mr. Ernest. Peggy and Prosper have been invaluable in assisting the Y2 teacher with handouts and activities, while Bruce and Thayne have been a great support to Ms. Natasha in working with Y4 students. Special thanks to Bocar and Guenole for their dedication in assisting the PE teachers with primary school activities.

I also commend Daniella and Deborah for their contributions to the school library, where they have been assisting Mr. Emmanuel and reading books to primary students. Whitney and Othni have done a fantastic job helping the IBDP teachers with posters.

Furthermore, I'm pleased to inform you that Prosper, Whitney, Peggy, Mr. Ernest, and I are in the process of planning a visit to the Orphanage House to continue our community service activities.

I am eagerly awaiting feedback from others regarding the community service they have undertaken or intend to do before the half-term break.

Well done!

--

With Regards,
Laura Mairykova
Sixth Form Coordinator

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD AT BSL

Operating in 129 countries and territories, the International Award has been a global framework for non-formal education and learning for over 60 years. It challenges 14-24 year olds to dream big, celebrate their achievements, and make a difference in their world. Through developing transferable skills, increasing their fitness levels, cultivating a sense of adventure, and volunteering in their community, the Award helps young people to find their purpose, passion, and place in the world.

This half term Year 10 students have been learning First Aid during one of their P.E. lessons under the guidance of Nurse Eunice, Mr Idris, and Mrs Snell. Having put together their own personal first aid kits and discussed the importance of preventing medical emergencies from happening, they then practiced what to do if someone was struggling to breathe, feeling faint, or acting very confused, for example. After being shown how to put a person into the recovery position and carry out CPR, if necessary, all Year 10s had a go at perfecting these simple yet, vital life-saving moves. All passed the written paper and scenario response which marks the end of this section of the preparation for the first Expedition walk to Kpalime next half term.



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF LOME'S BOARDING FACILITY: CATERING TO FLEXIBLE TIMINGS FOR BUSY PARENTS

At The British School of Lome, we understand the challenges that busy parents face in juggling their professional commitments with their child's education. That is why we are proud to offer a state-of-the-art boarding facility designed to provide a comfortable and nurturing environment for our students. We offer full, weekly and flexi-boarding for students. Full boarding is the most effective way to realise the benefits of learning to live with others, seven days a week, for work, study, play and relaxation.



Our boarding facility is carefully supervised by two dedicated Boarding Parents who ensure that each student's needs are met. They create a supportive atmosphere where students can thrive academically, socially, and personally. Our Boarding Parents act as mentors, offering guidance and encouragement to help students adapt to the boarding experience and excel both inside and outside the classroom.

Enrolling your child in our boarding program at The British School of Lome comes with numerous advantages for both students and parents. Here are some of the benefits:

- 1. Enhanced Independence:** Boarding fosters self-reliance and independence in students. They learn to manage their time effectively, adapt to new routines, and take responsibility for their studies and personal well-being.
- 2. Focus on Academics:** With access to supervised study sessions and resources, boarding students have dedicated time and support for their academic pursuits. This conducive environment allows them to concentrate on their studies and achieve their full potential.

3. Holistic Development: Boarding students have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, and leadership programs. This diverse and inclusive environment encourages holistic growth and the development of valuable life skills.

4. Global Perspective: Our boarding facility attracts students from different backgrounds, fostering a culturally diverse community. Through multicultural interactions, students gain a broader world perspective and develop intercultural awareness and understanding.



5. Personalised Care and Support: With our Boarding Parents and dedicated staff, we ensure that each student receives individual attention, care, and support. Students have access to guidance and mentorship whenever they need it.

6. Seamless Transition: For families moving to Lome from other locations, our boarding facility provides a seamless transition. Students can commence their education at The British School of Lome while adjusting to their new surroundings.

We firmly believe that our boarding facility is an excellent option for busy parents seeking a supportive educational environment that accommodates their unique schedules. For more information about our boarding facility or to arrange a visit, please contact our admissions team and ask for Boarding Parents Mrs Eunice Dagbovie or Mr Ernest Dagbovie. We look forward to welcoming your child into our boarding community at The British School of Lome.

SOME OF THE THINGS THAT MIGHT BE WORRYING YOU THAT YOU FEEL YOU CAN NOT MANAGE ALONE

An older child has treated you badly

You are being bullied / given a hard time / someone is making fun of you

You feel you have been treated in a way which you feel is unfair by a member of staff

You think you are being picked on / left out of things on purpose

A friend has told you something that makes you worry about him / her

Someone has

- asked you to do something in secret that you feel unhappy about
- asked you to do something else which you felt was wrong or made you feel uncomfortable
- taken some of your property

You are unhappy about something at home or in school

You are having problems with your work

You are not feeling well



WHO TO TURN TO:

In School:

- A friend
- Your Form Tutor
- A Teacher
- Mr Akif Naqvi
- Mr Scott Fairlie
- Mr Gareth Jones
- Ms Akosua
- Mr Alistair Siri

Out of school:

- Your parents
- A relative
- A friend
- Your brother
- Your sister
- A House parent

The British School of Lomé,
Résidence du Bénin, 02 BP 20050,
Lomé 02, Togo
Website www.bsl.tg

Tel: +228 2226 4606

WHO WILL LISTEN TO ME?



If you need to speak with someone because you have a problem or a worry that you cannot manage on your own, please remember that **The British School of Lome is a listening, caring community** and we want to help you feel happy again.

WHAT TO DO:

Talk to

- A friend
- Your Form Tutor
- A Teacher
- Mr Akif Naqvi
- Mr Scott Fairlie
- Mr Gareth Jones
- Ms Akosua
- Mr Alistair Siri

Talking to someone will usually solve your problem.

If you choose to speak with an adult, you are welcome to bring a friend with you to support you.



IF YOU ARE STILL WORRIED AND FEEL YOU NEED MORE HELP:

- Speak to any other member of staff or adult that you can trust. This could be the same person that you spoke to before or someone different.
- The person WILL LISTEN
- You will be asked to talk through the problem.
- You will be given some suggestions to try.
- You will then need to decide which suggestions to follow.
- You will be asked to come back to say if things are better.
- If you are still unhappy you may make a formal statement. This means that you write down on your own, or with someone to help you, what has happened, or what is worrying you.
- Take your statement to a member of Staff listed in this leaflet, saying that you want more help.



Often a problem is one that you do not wish to share with more than one person. We will keep your confidence where we can but, in some circumstances, it may be necessary to tell someone else in order to help you. **ONLY** the people who **NEED** to know will be told. This will be explained to you at the time.

If you feel you cannot talk to someone, then write a letter. You can seal your letter in an envelope, put the person's name on the front that you want it to go and give it to Ms Akosua to pass on for you.



QUELQUES CHOSES QUI VOUS PRÉOCCUPENT ET QUE VOUS PENSEZ NE PAS POUVOIR GÉRER SEUL(E)

Un enfant plus âgé vous a maltraité
Vous êtes victime de brimades, on vous mène la vie dure, on se moque de vous.

Vous avez l'impression d'avoir été traité d'une manière que vous jugez injuste par un membre du personnel.

Vous pensez que l'on s'en prend à vous ou que l'on vous met volontairement à l'écart.

Un ami vous a dit quelque chose qui vous inquiète à son sujet.

Quelqu'un vous a :

- demandé de faire quelque chose en secret

dont vous n'êtes pas satisfait(e)

- demandé de faire autre chose qui vous a semblé erroné ou vous a mis mal à l'aise

- pris certains de vos biens.

Vous êtes mécontent de quelque chose à la maison ou à l'école.

Vous avez des problèmes dans votre travail.

Vous ne vous sentez pas bien.

À QUI S'ADRESSER :

Dans l'établissement :

- Un ami
- Ton Prof Principal
- Un enseignant
- M. Akif Naqvi
- M. Scott Fairlie
- M. Gareth Jones
- Mme Akosua
- M. Alistair Siri

Hors de l'établissement:

- Tes parents
- Un membre de famille
- Un ami
- Ton frère
- Ta soeur
- Un tuteur de l'internat

The British School of Lomé,
Résidence du Bénin, 02 BP 20050,
Lomé 02, Togo
Website www.bsl.tg

Tel: +228 2226 4606

QUI M'ÉCOUTERA?



Si vous avez besoin de parler à quelqu'un parce que vous avez un problème ou une inquiétude que vous n'arrivez pas à gérer seul, n'oubliez pas que l'école **BSL est une communauté à l'écoute et bienveillante** et que nous voulons vous aider à vous sentir à nouveau heureux.

CE QU'IL FAUT FAIRE :

Talk to

- A friend
- Your Form Tutor
- A Teacher
- Mr Akif Naqvi
- Mr Scott Fairlie
- Mr Gareth Jones
- Ms Akosua
- Mr Alistair Siri

Parler à quelqu'un résoudra généralement votre problème.

Si vous choisissez de parler à un adulte, vous pouvez vous faire accompagner d'un ami pour vous soutenir.



SI VOUS ÊTES TOUJOURS INQUIET ET SI VOUS PENSEZ AVOIR BESOIN D'UNE AIDE SUPPLÉMENTAIRE :

- Parlez à un autre membre du personnel ou à un adulte en qui vous avez confiance. Il peut s'agir de la même personne à qui vous avez parlé auparavant ou quelqu'un d'autre.
- La personne ECOUTERA
- On vous demandera de parler du problème.
- On vous donnera des suggestions à essayer.
- Vous devrez ensuite décider quelles suggestions à suivre.
- Il vous sera demandé de revenir pour dire si les choses se sont améliorées.
- Si vous êtes toujours mécontent, vous pouvez faire une déclaration officielle. Cela signifie que vous écrivez seul, ou avec l'aide de quelqu'un, ce qui s'est passé ou ce qui vous préoccupe.
- Présentez votre déclaration à un membre du personnel dont la liste figure dans ce dépliant, en précisant que vous avez besoin d'une aide supplémentaire.



Il arrive souvent que vous ne souhaitiez pas partager un problème avec plusieurs personnes. Nous garderons votre confiance dans la mesure du possible mais, dans certaines circonstances, il peut être nécessaire d'en parler à quelqu'un d'autre pour vous aider. **SEULES** les personnes qui ont **BESOIN** de savoir seront informées. Cela vous sera expliqué à ce moment-là.

Si vous ne pouvez pas parler à quelqu'un, écrivez une lettre. Vous pouvez mettre votre lettre dans une enveloppe, inscrire le nom de la personne au recto et la donner à Mme Akosua pour qu'elle la transmette.

