



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



No 3 – 2023/2024

The British School of Lomé

13th October 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Half Term-break: School closes on Fri 13th October and reopens on Mon 23rd October
- ❖ Swimming begins on Mon 23rd October
- ❖ Public Holiday School Closed Wed 1st November
- ❖ Diwali festival(TBC)
- ❖ Remembrance Day(TBC)

Dear parents and guardians,

The weeks are just flying by and we have reached our half term break. It was lovely to meet many of you this week at the parent-teacher conferences. I enjoyed hearing your views and exchanging thoughts on your children's progress. I hope as the year goes on I get to meet a few more of you that were unable to come this time, and we can exchange ways that you can support your child in their learning journey.

Primary Student Council

We have formed, with the help of Ms Gemma, the Primary Student Council. They have already met and shared many ideas to improve our Primary School experience. The students were voted in by their classmates in a very democratic way, some wrote speeches to try and convince their classmates that they would be the best person for the job.

Our Primary Student Council are:

Year 6

- Marven Houeiss
- Eli Jones

Year 5

- Gabriel Brutus
- Rokhaya Tighrini

Year 4

Caleb Williams

Trisha Fatnani

These students are great examples of our future leaders; maybe you will see one of these names as a Diplomat, Prime Minister or even a future President.



Mr Gareth Jones

Head of Primary

Letter from The Head of School

Dear parents, guardians and learners,

Time flies, doesn't it? We are almost at the end of the first half of the first term. During my visits to the classrooms, I noticed some common rules that the teachers expect the learners to follow. I might be paraphrasing but the rules in every class are pretty much similar to the following:

- We raise our hand to speak or ask a question
- We listen carefully and respectfully to others
- We are polite, courteous and respectful at all times
- We walk sensibly and quietly in the classroom, corridors and around the school
- We take responsibility for tidying the class and school and displaying good manners
- We settle down to work quickly and quietly
- We complete all work to the best of our ability
- We only leave our seats when necessary
- We always try our best even when faced with difficulties

- We always wear a smile on our face! 😊

You can see a common theme in all these rules is the emphasis on 'routines' and 'consistency'. There is no doubt that the learners at The British School of Lome always try to follow the rules and routines. These rules help us create a positive and productive learning environment for our learners. Similarly, we also appreciate your support in establishing consistent routines at home for your children.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the progress of our school. We have had a very busy and successful half term. We welcomed our learners back after a relaxing summer break. We were delighted to hear that one of our staff members had a baby during the first week of school. Some of our staff members fell ill, but others stepped in to cover their lessons and ensure that the learning continued. All this was possible, thanks to the hard work of our staff, the effort of our learners, and the support of our parents, alumni and friends. We are very grateful for your collaboration and commitment to our school community.

Our students are getting into routines, and our teachers are trying their best to ensure they teach the best possible lessons. We are carefully helping the staff to further improve their standards by lesson observation feedback and putting training measures in place. Our Senior Leaders and Senior Managers will be embarking on an international leadership training on assessments. We have also celebrated many achievements and events this half term. Our Year 13 presented their work experiences during the last holidays. The Music team compiled a beautiful performance 'Music on the Grass'. Teachers do a constant assessment every day. Our internal assessments give us a good insight into our learners' abilities and areas that can be improved. Our Meet and Greet and Parent Teacher Meetings have helped both teachers and parents how they can support the learners better. We celebrated our 40th Anniversary and World Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm. We are very grateful to everyone, especially our parents, alumni and friends who supported us for these events.

We have solved many outstanding issues and have worked on the staff, parents and students' feedback to improve our standards. I would also like to thank the learners and their parents for their support and positive feedback for all the implementations we have been putting in place in order to improve our standards. Our After School Enrichment Programme have a variety of enriching activities for our learners. We were also visited by an international expert for Careers and University Admissions who trained our staff and met with students and parents. We will be working on her recommendations. In addition to being the only IELTS and SAT examining centre in the country, we have also started our Language Institute teaching different levels of English.

In the coming half term, we are expecting our first BSO Inspection. Chief Inspector Dr Mark Evans came for the Preliminary Visit. He will return with a team in November to conduct a full benchmark Inspection. From thereon, we will be constructing our first formal School Improvement Plan involving all stakeholders.

Our school roll has significantly increased which is a testament to our hardworking staff as well as the trust parents have put on us. I would also like to appreciate our operational, IT and boarding staff who ensure they provide the backbone support to our school; without their support, we wouldn't have reached this far. Every day, I am dazzled by the efforts and dedication of our learners and staff, and I am very proud to be here.

Letter from The Head of School (Cont.)

Notable Quotations for Inquiring Minds

— *Students cannot possibly learn everything of value by the time they leave school, but we can instil in them the desire to keep questioning throughout their lives.* Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, *Understanding by Design*, 2004

— *The spirit of philosophy is one of free inquiry. It suspects all authority. Its function is to trace the uncritical assumptions of human thought to their hiding places, and in this pursuit, it may finally end in denial or a frank admission of the incapacity of pure reason to reach the ultimate reality.* Muhammad Iqbal (Poet, 1877 – 1938)

We appreciate your continued support for your child's education at The British School of Lome. We hope you, your child, our staff and your family have a restful half term break.

Take good care of yourself.

Mr Akif Naqvi
Head of School

University of Ottawa, Canada

Mr Thierno Bah, from the University of Ottawa, Canada gave a talk to our Year 12 students on Thursday, 12th October 2023. Home to over 10,600 international students from 151 countries, Ottawa is the largest English-French bilingual university in the world. You can choose to study in English, French or both. Their Co-operative Education Programmes help gain valuable experience during paid internships. Students receive an entry level scholarship when they meet the minimum entry requirement of 29 IB points (Without the bonus points).



They can also apply to other scholarships during their first two semesters depending on their academic and non-academic commitments. Interested students and parents can contact Mr David, the Career Guidance Counsellor, for more information.

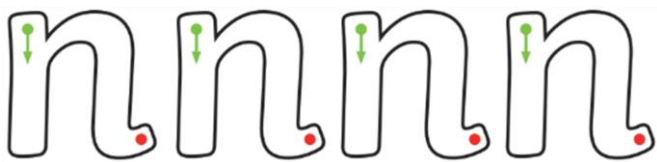
David Gathe NYAMIKOU

Certified UK - University Counsellor
English Language Proficiency Programmes
IELTS, SAT Exam Centre Coordination

Crèche and Nursery

In Nursery 2 we have been practicing our performance when we grow up. We enjoyed seeing all of Nursery 2 parents on Friday to support your child.

Nursery 1 and Crèche have been making pictures of things they can be when they grow up.



Year 4

Here are few highlights of our learning journey in Year 4 yesterday, as we explored the mathematical concept of Area and Proportions.



Year 2

In English we are reading the Magic Porridge Pot story. During Science lessons we listed ingredients, made hypothesis and conducted an experiment to make "magic porridge" recording our findings like little scientists.



Year 3

English

As part of our study on Traditional Tales, Year 3 were honoured to hear traditional stories from Lebanon and South Korea told by our very own parents! It was so lovely to be able to embrace the international elements of our school and to hear these wonderful stories.



French

In Year 3HL French, students have been listening to stories about sounds, before exploring these sounds in words, and the spelling of words with these sounds.

This has been a chance to work on our handwriting as well as on spelling and on discerning sounds when speaking and listening.

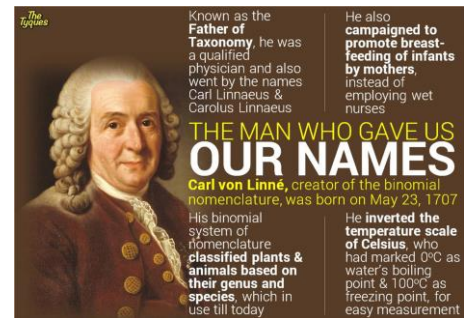
Year 5

Last week, Year 5 put on an amazing assembly performance where they discussed the importance of working as part of a team. We have looked at a number of teams and how successful team members demonstrate a number of characteristics. We are looking forward to the Year 5 class continuing to be an outstanding team environment where each of the members strives to succeed in all areas of the curriculum.



Year 6

Over the last two weeks, Year 6 have been learning about classifying living things according to the categories of Carl Linnaeus, as well as other methods of classification. We also studied the category of living things known as micro-organisms. We looked especially at bacteria, fungi and viruses, and the ways in which these organisms can either help or harm us.



Amazing Art Atelier

A Note about Food

- Bring Healthy snacks and lunches
- Never bring sweets (candies) or chocolate
- Eat only your own food
- Don't talk and eat at the same time
- Don't complain about your food
- Don't make a mess and clear up after yourself



ART WORKSHOPS

1 WEEK MID TERM SPECIAL

Week Commencing 16th October Mon/Wed/Friday
4000 CFA per class or 10,000 CFA for 3 classes



Contact us

- ☎ 90022625
- 📧 @crochet_hk_paintbrush
- 📍 Cite Oua, 2000

Limited spaces available - sign up soon!
For 8 year olds and above

What Mr Emmanuel Kagabo has to say:

In my role as the Head of Mathematics at the British School of Lome', I am privileged to have been part of this exceptional educational community for the past four years. I'm enthusiastic about making a meaningful contribution to the department's success and collaborating with my colleagues to ensure a positive learning experience for our students.

With over a decade of teaching experience in diverse international schools, I have honed my skills in delivering high-quality education and developed a deep understanding of the unique needs of international students. Additionally, I serve as a Mathematics examiner for both the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Examinations, which has provided me with valuable insights into the assessment processes.

I firmly believe in the importance of open communication between parents, students, and educators. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. Together, we will continue our mission of providing a high-quality education, nurturing a passion for mathematics, and helping our students achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support, and I'm excited about the journey ahead.

Why do we give Homework?

Here at BSL we believe that home learning is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning, thus encouraging the child to take greater responsibility for their personal progress. Home learning allows parents, carers, and the school, to work in partnership with the school for the benefit of their child.

Parental support for students' autonomy improves academic performance, whereas parental intervention in the form of instruction can have a negative impact on performance.

Home Learning should:

- be manageable for pupils and teachers
- be directly related to your child's class learning and the school curriculum
- be regarded as important and monitored by teachers and assistants
- have objectives and feedback which are clearly understood by all pupils

Homework should include a balance of *Reading, Spelling words, Maths, Research, and Completion of tasks.*

In principle, Home Learning is not issued over the weekend as this is family and social time, though certain teachers send it home on Friday to allow parents to sit down with their children and discuss the learning. It cannot, however, be requested to be returned on Monday!

Holidays are holidays for a reason since they allow the child to learn equally important skills regarding play and social interaction. Therefore, BSL will not send homework home during these periods of time. However, your child's teacher may share some very useful websites with you to allow your child to continue practising and working through the long holiday. Of course, daily reading should continue in any shape or form.

Career Guidance News

Year 12 – Time management workshop – Part 1

On Monday 09th October, the Year 12 students participated in an interactive workshop on time management. Here are five of the most common time wasters they admitted struggling with:

- Focusing on small details rather than the main things
- Social Media (tik tok, Instagram..etc)
- Drama
- Procrastination
- Gossip

They are now working collaboratively to create as list of strategies to overcome them.

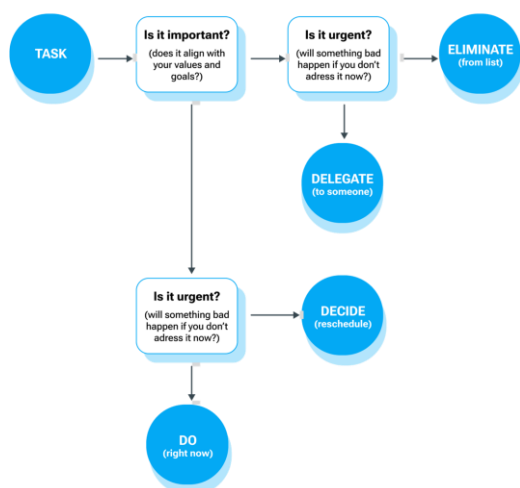
Year 13 - Application to UK universities through UCAS

Congratulations to the Year13 students applying to the UK for writing outstanding personal statements. The IB DP team will give it one more check and it will be ready for upload by the end of the Month.

Students who are applying to courses with a 16 October deadline can watch the latest [Hub Live](#) featuring University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and the Royal Veterinary College.

The time management matrix cheat-sheet

[Clockify](#)



How to prioritize your to-do list using the Eisenhower Matrix

This technique helps you learn which activities are worth your time and effort and which ones aren't. And in a world where we all rush to keep up with our schedules, one must admit it is a skill worth improving.

[Eisenhower matrix](#)

[Clockify](#)



<https://clockify.me/blog/productivity/eisenhower-matrix/>

The next IELTS test at the British School of Lomé is scheduled for the 28th of October 2023

Registration is still open! Please contact the school's front office at +228 22 26 46 06 if interested or email



Official Test Centre

englishcentre@bsl.tg.

Swimming is coming!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are really happy to announce that as promised at the beginning of the year we will begin swimming lessons on Monday 23rd October throughout the school.

These lessons will take place at Harmonie Club Pool and will be a great addition to our children's education. We have planned these lessons with the Pool so that we have exclusive use in the mornings and therefore will not have outside swimmers in the pool at the same time as us.

We must be well prepared for this, so we are giving you time to buy everything that is needed. These are as follows:

1. Swimming Cap (long haired swimmers) *
2. Swimsuit (one-piece, NOT bikinis) *
3. Swimming trunks/speedos (no bermuda/beach shorts) *
4. Swimming goggles *
5. Sunscreen lotion (not compulsory)
6. Shower gel (after swimming wash-down)
7. Towel (after swimming) *
8. Flip flops (not compulsory, but keeps feet safe after the swim)
9. Wetbag (keeps the wet kit in one safe container).

Please note that the essential swimming kit (with asterisks * without which a student WILL NOT be allowed to swim) can be obtained at the school shop.

Students exempt from swimming must provide a doctor's certificate to be excused from the swimming lesson. Please enthusiastically take advantage of these lessons as swimming is a great skill to have.

The British School of Lome
P.E. MASTER TIMETABLE 2023/2024 Academic Year
SWIMMING PERIODS

	8.10 - 9.10 Period 1	9.10 - 10.10 Period 2	10.10 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30 Period 3	11.30 - 12.30 Period 4	12.30 - 13.15	13.15 - 14.15 Period 5	14.15 - 15.15 Period 6		
<i>Prim</i> MONDAY		Yr 4	Morning Break	Yr 2		Lunch Time	Yr 5			
	<i>Secondary</i>								Yr 10	
<i>Prim</i> TUESDAY	Yr 6	Yr 1			Nursery					
	<i>Secondary</i>									Yr 8
<i>Prim</i> WEDNESDAY		Yr 3			Yr 5				Yr 4	
	<i>Secondary</i>			Yr 7			Yr 11			Yr 9
<i>Prim</i> THURSDAY	Reception	Yr 2		Yr 1			Yr 6			
	<i>Secondary</i>		Yr 10		Yr 8					
<i>Prim</i> FRIDAY		Reception		Yr 3						
	<i>Secondary</i>		Yr 9		Yr 11			Yr 7		

KEY

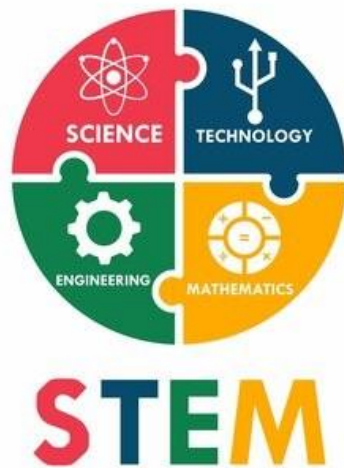
PRIMARY SWIMMING

SECONDARY SWIMMING

STEM Robotics Engineer at BSL

STEM ROBOTICS ENGINEER ESSORONG BASSOUM HAS MADE TOGO PROUD.

Did you know that Essorong Bassoum, a student in Year 9, designed her own STEM robot and represented Togo in the First Global Challenge 2023 held in Singapore? We are extremely proud of her accomplishments."



Thank You!

As you know we are on a journey to a better future, a better school and a better education for your children:

- Along the way we will have to make tough decisions
- We may make mistakes but we will learn from them
- We will listen to you
- We will listen to advice from experts
- We will make balanced long term decisions
- We will not rush into changes
- We will train our staff and trust them to teach
- We will raise the quality of teaching and so raise the quality of education
- We will ensure the children are engaged with relevant and interesting tasks
- Your children should enjoy coming to school

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Please have a lovely break, whether you are staying here or going away.

Take care everyone,

Mr Gareth Jones

Head of Primary

Creative Minds: Art Creations by Secondary Students

