



From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



Happy new year to all the POWIIS community! We start the new calendar year with nearly 50 new students added to our growing school, and we look forward to following their successes with us. A change of school is an exciting event at any stage, and we are pleased so many have decided to join us. It was good to meet new parents on the first morning. We are also pleased to welcome Ms Mala Nagulendran to the staff, as Head of Computing and IT.

More staff news - another infant has been born to school community. Baby Jago, to Mr Roberts and Ms Bowden, appeared somewhat earlier than scheduled but we are all delighted he is making such good progress. Mr Garlick

has leapt into the breach a few weeks earlier than expected as temporary Head of Sixth Form for Ms Bowden's maternity leave. Mrs Marysol Doege departed for Germany for further surgery on Wednesday of this week, and we all wish her well.

Nothing stands still, and this term we have changed our policy with regard to mobile phones, in light of much research around the world and growing concern about the impact on interpersonal communication. The value of personal devices is obvious, but schools are facing the inability of students to detach themselves from social media, and difficulties arising from it.

We will no longer allow any use of phones in classes for researching, or any other previously legitimate purpose, and draw a clear distinction between study activities and communication uses. We already have 'phone free' areas in the school, and will consider extending these if we believe students face-to-face communication is being compromised further. There is no argument that success in life in its broadest sense, is a function of human interaction. We must be vigilant and prepared to take assertive action; we let our students down by allowing them to believe that social media can replace the ability to talk, to listen and to understand. The dynamics of social media have been the subject of much research, and many, many books. We want to enjoy the benefits, but



we must help our students avoid a blind dependency on the seductive aspects. We have had parents texting and messaging their children during the school day. Please don't do it - and don't accept messages either! It is quite unnecessary - if there is anything you need to know, we will contact you soon enough! Such trivial communication serves only to convince the children that their phone is essential - it isn't. Life would be entirely possible without it.

The school's position is summed up by Jenny Dwyer, Headmistress of Sherbourne Girls' School, in the UK, (who have moved to no phones in school at all for years 7 to 11.)

'We recognise that educating our students to use technology effectively and safely is of primary importance. This means not only embracing the power of technology for learning but also understanding its limitations and the effects of too much screen time.'

Our other main focus this year will be a restatement of our policy on verbal communication within *(continued on pg2)*

Photo Gallery - Cross Country



the school, and a renewed focus on its implementation. Our language of communication within the school is English, and it will be insisted upon. Those who, knowingly or not, isolate others by speaking in other languages, undermine the social quality within the school, something of which we are proud and which our parents value.

I hope all had an enjoyable family time over the break. I remember my father telling me that when he was involved in a lot of marriage guidance work (he was a clergyman), the peak time of the year for referrals was after Christmas and the New Year. The accepted explanation was that the heightened expectation of family joy, was more keenly felt when it did not, in fact, eventuate. Perhaps our expectations are too high. Perhaps we rely too much on external circumstances and influences to bring us what we desire. Perhaps we confuse 'presents' and 'presence' - things wrapped in paper, are no substitute for being with people truly in spirit, as well as in person. If we make any New Year resolutions, let them be about people, and less about stuff! ☺

Gelugor Power Run 3

Miss Sarah Hardman



Rachel Poh from Year 10 took part in the Gelugor Power Race 3 at the Youth and Sports Complex Penang on 7th January and placed 4th in the U17 category. Congratulations to Rachell! ☺

Bake Off!

Miss Suzie Allen



In the last weeks of term, the corridors were filled with the sweet smell of baking for the Inter-House Christmas Bake Off. Three students from each House were challenged to bake a *Buche De Noel* (Yule Log) under timed conditions. Much fun, and mess, was had as students baked, rolled and decorated.

The Bake Off, including a staff Christmas bake category, was judged by Chef Yao from *Métisser Patisserie* in George Town. Glamorgan were crowned winners with their lumberjack themed *Buche De Noel* and Ms Stranney's spiced Christmas cake won the staff category.

The Humanitarian Society organised a cake sale at lunchtime with all the cakes and a massive RM804.05 was raised to help with future charity projects.

As part of their prize for being star bakers, six students from the Bake Off, and our staff star baker, visited the *Métisser Patisserie* and Tea



Room for a demonstration of how to make one of their magnificent cakes. Chef Yao led them through the processes from start to finish and then treated the staff and students to tea and a selection of the delicious cakes. What a treat! POWIIS would like to thank Chef Yao and the *Métisser Patisserie* for making such a memorable experience possible. ☺

Term 2 Begins

It's the beginning of a new term! The Principal welcomed new students to POWIIS for the second term on the morning of the first day of school, and also gave a short presentation to their parents about the latest developments at the school. ☺



Year 7 & Year 8 Extended Projects

Miss Josephine Casaccio



The theme for the Year 7 Extended Project last term was Home. The students: created a 'This is Me' scrapbook, challenged each other on treasure hunts, explored fun facts about our planet to create some great podcasts and put together ideas for a 'Newbie Kit' to help new starts at POWIIS settle in. The last session was used to create a Time Capsule to be opened years from now and the term was wrapped up with a Fun Fair!

The theme for the Year 8 Extended Project last term was Away. The students worked together to create a stable society on an alien planet. Some created a language and writing system, some wrote legends and myths, others worked on the foundations for a civilian government and the rule of law, and a final group created a virtual reality planet and eco-system. The Year 8s also prepared a Time Capsule and wrapped up the term with a Fun Fair too. ☺

Caroling Around the Christmas Tree

On the final week of last term, we had our annual Caroling Around the Christmas Tree event where all Year 7s gathered in the school lobby to sing carols for students, parents, and staff as part of the holiday celebrations. ☺



End of Term Christmas Concert

Students from each year group along with staff performed in the end of term Christmas concert on the last day of school. A fun time had by all! ☺



Artist in Residence Art Exhibition



POWIS hosted an art exhibition by the artist-in-residence, Maria Tilt, featuring her latest works, 'Portraits of Penang', a collection of digital and traditional portraits, at the end of last term. ☺

Rutland House – New Logo and Motto

Mr Peter Kee



Members of Rutland house dressed in their new Rutland shirts with new logo and new motto "Face the Troop" which the students and tutors designed themselves. The logo and motto demonstrate that as a house we aim to look out for each other and work as a team. ☺

Guest Artist for Tuesday Lunchtime Concert

On Tuesday we introduced Jack Lim, an 11 year old ukulele prodigy, and the younger brother of alumna, Jane Lim (A Level Music 2016). Jack was a member of Team Malaysia that competed in the 21st World Championship of Performing Arts in Long Beach, California, USA, where he won 2 gold and 3 silver medals along with 2 "Champion of the World Division Winner" awards. ☺



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

Mr Leighton Edwards



In the last school week of term 1 (December 2017) Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Clarke took a group of 16 Year 10 & 11 students on a 3 day / 2 night Silver Duke of Edinburgh Sea Kayaking expedition on Langkawi. Assisted by Brandon Chee and two of his great instructors from GAC Adventures, the group paddled 43 km over the 3 days through the islands of Langkawi, slept in

tents they erected and cooked their own dinners on gas burners, each evening. The students were terrific, displaying great determination and commitment throughout. It was very hot and tiring for the students but they cooperated and worked really well as a team encouraging and helping each other all the way.

A huge well done to everyone for a fantastic effort (very proud!) though of course, you / we have the qualifying expedition in June, yet to complete! Our training will continue in week 1 of term 2! Well done team! 🎉

Important Dates for January 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

8th January	Beginning of Term 2
8th to 12th January	Year 11 Mock Examinations
19th January	Entrance Assessment Day
23rd January	Year 11 Parents' Reception
27th January	Student Leadership Training
29th January to 2nd February	Year 13 Mock Examinations
30th January	Year 10 Theatre Trip
31st January	Thaipusam