

From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



Now that the new school year is well under way, with our full cohort of students for 2018, our thoughts turn to the next academic year. Budgets will soon be reviewed and set, and priorities for investment decided. As always we are looking to the future, building on what we have and looking for ways to improve the school.

We are not much interested in trivial 'points of difference' over rivals, but neither are we content to merely emphasise traditional virtues and established practice, and hope they win the day. All schools, like any other complex business organisation, try to put down on paper their direction for the future

- what will be their priorities and goals, and how will they measure their progress? If for no other reason, the people working in the organisations want to know what is the purpose of their efforts. How will their work stay stimulating and rewarding? There is a saying 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it', but equally an organisation without change will slowly wither. Sometimes we need to just try things.

I once worked with a rather eccentric older teacher who you would try to avoid if you saw him before he saw you. He would happily waste a lot of time, with his latest idea. It didn't matter what the focus was - something had occurred to him, and he wanted to share it. You knew 90% of the time he would be talking utter nonsense, but he was a lovely chap and we tried to be kind. The trouble was you knew in the other 10%, there was a very good chance he would come up with something really different - something more conventional thinkers would not even consider. You had to listen - you just might miss something.

Not only was he an expert time waster, he positively advocated for unscheduled time. Many times he bemoaned the fact that school life was too frantic, trying to fit ever more into the day, that there was not enough time to 'waste' in the company of our young people - unscheduled, unallocated time to simply chat. (He pre-dated the expression 'hanging out' by about 50 years!) I also recall a whole school inspection some years ago in the UK

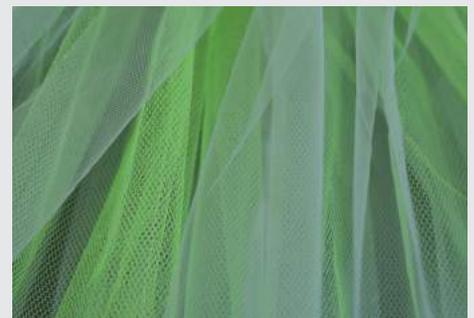


where the inspector suggested the organised boarding programme was too full. We were rather proud of it, but he asked us to make sure the students had enough time to be bored. Having to fill one's own time, being creative and sociable with others, and not relying on someone else to keep you busy, he felt was an essential skill to be developed.

So having time to sit and listen, and opportunities to think creatively, are to be treasured. Perhaps we should also give more time to apparently strange ideas. Robert Frost's poem The Road Not Taken, hears a traveler at a fork in a path deciding which way to go. It ends: 'Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.'

We can go the way of others, we can share their thoughts and follow their schemes, or we can take the less traveled way. We must never be so busy that we haven't time to clear the mind enough to have crazy ideas. ☺

Photo Gallery - But What Are These and What Links Them?



Calendar 2018-2019

Mr Simon Leese, the
Principal

We are confirming our term dates for 2018-19

Each year we have to work around published examination timetables, as well as the many public holidays in Malaysia. We expect to have approximately 180 days per year, when the school is 'open for instruction.' We do not include additional staff only days within that total. In the next school year, in order to make that total, we will be having three Open Days on Saturdays which will be counted as normal school days. The exact format will be published nearer the time. The dates in question are **6th October 2018, 2nd March 2019 and 1st June 2019.** ☉

2018-2019

August 2018							September 2018							October 2018						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

November 2018							December 2018							January 2019						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			

February 2019							March 2019							April 2019							
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						

May 2019							June 2019							July 2019								
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su		
				1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31						

	School holiday
	Public holiday (school closed)
	Teacher training (school closed to students)

Note:
 School ends at 4.15 pm except on all Fridays and the immediate day before a public holiday or school holiday, when it ends at 3.15pm.
 Boarders leave school before 12pm the day after school closes
 Boarders return school after 12pm the day before school opens

Date	Event or Holiday
Aug 27	New Teachers' Induction
Aug 28	New Teachers' Induction
Aug 29	Teacher Training
Aug 30	Teacher Training
Aug 31	Hari Merdeka
Sep 03	Term 1 Begins
Sep 09	The Yang di-pertuan Agong's Birthday
Sep 10	Agong's Birthday Replacement
Sep 11	Awal Muharam *
Sep 16	Malaysia Day
Sep 17	Malaysia Day Replacement
Oct 06	Open Day (Normal School Day)
Oct 20	Half Term Begins
Oct 29	Students Return
Nov 06	Deepavali *
Nov 20	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
Dec 14	Term 1 Ends
Dec 25	Christmas
Jan 01	New Year's Day
Jan 07	Term 2 Begins
Jan 21	Thaipusam
Feb 02	Half Term Begins
Feb 05	Chinese New Year
Feb 06	Chinese New Year - 2nd Day
Feb 11	Students Return
Mar 02	Open Day (Normal School Day)
Apr 05	Term 2 Ends
Apr 21	Easter Sunday
Apr 22	Term 3 Begins
May 01	Labour Day
May 18	Half Term Begins
May 19	Wesak Day
May 21	Nuzul Al-Quran *
May 23	Students Return
Jun 01	Open Day (Normal School Day)
Jun 05	Hari Raya Puasa Day 1
Jun 06	Hari Raya Puasa Day 2
Jul 07	Georgetown Day
Jul 08	Georgetown Day Replacement
Jul 12	Term 3 Ends
Jul 13	Penang Governor's Birthday
*	Subject to change

POWIIS Inter-House Competition

The Juniors ended last week with the current rounds of inter-house competition, Tug-of-War and Gauntlet. Much fun was had by all...but this is serious business! ☉



A focus on Mathematics activities

Mr Martin Clarke

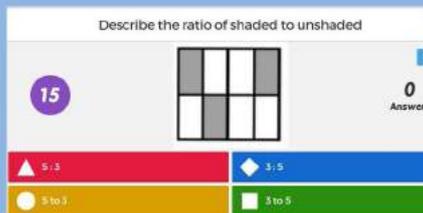


Prince of Wales Island
International School

A Focus On..... Mathematics activities

Kahoot!

This is a very popular web-based activity that can be used individually or in groups.



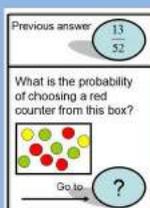
Students are presented with questions and 4 possible solutions. The task is to select the correct solution in the quickest time to gain the maximum amount of points.

Treasure Hunts

This can be quite a frantic activity. Students are placed in teams and given a start point in the classroom. Around the room are displayed a series of questions.

By answering the question the students then use their answer to direct them to the next question.

This creates a lot of discussion and really encourages them to check their working because if they get it wrong... they won't find the next question!



Mathematics activities

Some fun apps from the mathematics department.

Kind regards,

Mr. Clarke

POWIS Mathematics Department

Tarsia



Imagine a jigsaw puzzle, but instead of a picture to match the puzzle is solved by matching a question and the corresponding solution. This promotes group work and communication.

Quizlet



Another engaging web-based activity. Students are placed in random teams and presented with a chain of questions to answer between them. They are each given a selection of the answers and have to decide if they have the correct answer or not!

Year 11 Parents' Reception

Last Tuesday, parents of the Year 11s attended the annual Parents' Reception which included a presentation by the Principal on post IGCSE options. The reception, split into two sessions, offered parents the chance to meet their child's subject teachers, and discuss their progress and achievements. ☺



POWIIS Ball

Mrs Rachel Edwards, Deputy Principal Culture and Values

Open to all POWIIS students in Years 7 to 13, smart dress. Parent permission is required. Information has been sent to all parents via email. This is a student led event and promises to be a fantastic evening. ☺



Chinese New Year decorations

Over the weekend, POWIIS boarders prepared for the upcoming Chinese New Year celebrations by decorating the boarding compound with lanterns, fire crackers, and a blossom tree. ☺



Tuesday Lunchtime Concert

Our weekly Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts (TLC) feature performances from many of our students and staff, some novices, some very experienced, and feature all genres of music. This week's contributors: Bernice Ooi, Kelly Lim Ji Yuan and Marcel Chong, Ho Xin Yu and Sam Kee (supported by Mr DeLeon and Mr Kee)

Last week, five of our Year 10 students (Maegan Ang, Carine Soon, Lois Tolley and Shereena Yoon on vocals and Hannah Uhle, our German exchange student, on vocals and piano) performed a collection of songs entitled That's What Friends Are For. (Images below) ☺



Meet Our People



Mrs Rachel Edwards

Mrs Rachel Edwards, originally from South Wales UK, graduated from the University of Surrey with a joint honour in History and Sociology and completed her PGCE at the University of Glasgow in History and Modern Studies. Having taught in a large comprehensive school in Widnes Cheshire for three years, an international opportunity in a new international school presented itself in 1998. With thoughts of an interesting two- year adventure, she headed to Brunei Darussalam where her international teaching career in South

East Asia began. Twenty years later... Rachel has taught and held middle and senior leadership positions, curriculum and pastoral in FOBISIA schools in Brunei, Penang, Taipei and most recently in Indonesia where she was Deputy Head and later Head of Secondary at British School Jakarta. Rachel, Leighton and their sons Riley (Year 12) and Nate (Year 8) lived in fascinating countries and cultures and has met many wonderful people along the way.

Rachel joined POWIIS in September 2017 attracted by the opportunity to develop

our approach to Pastoral Care as Deputy Principal: Culture and Values and teacher of History. She is also the Designated Child Protection Lead at the school. Rachel believes that students have great capacity to contribute to the life of the school (and beyond) by developing leadership skills and looks forward to contributing to the development of student leadership at POWIIS.

Her real passion is helping students find their niche and navigate through their teenage years. She enjoys the positive community spirit at POWIIS where students are at the heart of the school, due to the positivity of the staff. The calm oasis of the campus contrasts with the energy of the House System and co-curricular programme where developing balanced, resilient and positive young people is taken very seriously.

Having worked in Penang previously, Rachel and family are enjoying the stunning Penang sunrise, richness of the cultures here and the friendliness of Penangites. In free time Rachel enjoys photography, developing her use of technology, and also spending time with her family ☺

Ms Michelle Goh

Michelle started working in MTT Group of Companies in August 2006, in the property development division. She transferred to POWIIS in June 2017. Previously, she worked with the Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts before joining MTT.

Her position in POWIIS is the School Registrar and in her day to day duties, she manages all aspects of registry and admissions work.

So far, she says the best moments in POWIIS as far as work is concerned are seeing new students adapting well to school and more importantly enjoying themselves in POWIIS. To top it off, the parents affirming that the decision to enroll their children in POWIIS is the best they have made!

Apart from that, Michelle truly enjoys working in the multi-cultured and



diversified environment in POWIIS which brings the team together in celebrations, music and arts the whole year through.

She says the most exciting feature for her,

and probably the entire POWIIS team today is the upcoming Primary School which will grow together with our secondary school here in Penang. ☺

Upcoming Y9 Expedition to Penang National Park

Mr Stephan Doege

The participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Year 9 are preparing themselves for their first big Adventurous Journey, a practice expedition to Penang National Park on the first weekend of March.

In their weekly activity, they have been learning a great deal about teamwork and have been introduced to essential outdoor skills like navigating with map and compass, hiking basics, campcraft and cooking.

Now everybody is looking very much forward to their first practical camping experience and we certainly hope they will be successful as well as enjoying themselves on their upcoming adventure. ☺



Important Dates for January & February 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

27th January	Student Leadership Training
29th January to 2nd February	Year 13 Mock Examinations
31st January	Thaipusam
9th February	Sports Day
15th February to 25th February	Half Term

Watch for future Pulse editions!