



## From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



The sun appears to have finally remembered what it is supposed to be doing in January and February, and hopefully we have seen the last of the heavy rains and associated disruption. Meanwhile, other parts of the world are enduring extreme weather events, igniting the familiar discussion about global climate change. I am sure we all welcomed President Trump's evidence based confirmation that global warming could be discounted because it was cold outside.

Evidence is not always available. Some situations can not be measured. Lord Kelvin, the physicist and mathematician is often misquoted, along the lines of 'if you can't measure it, it doesn't exist.' What he actually

said was more accurately along the lines of, 'if you can't measure it, it is not science.' He was in fact making a distinction between that which was scientifically verifiable, and that which was not. He spent a lot of time thinking, and writing, about the co-existence of science and religion.

Collecting evidence is time consuming. Scenes of crimes, meticulously examined and documented can lead to the most unexpected revelations about who did what to whom, and when. The tragic aftermath of airline disasters (fortunately very rare) usually involves the meticulous assembly of thousands of items of wreckage until pretty much the whole aircraft is assembled, enabling the sometimes minute but crucial detail of what happened to be deduced. Mechanical modifications to similar aircraft follow, to avoid a similar mishap in the future.

Recently I took a couple of flights to Miri, for a Malaysian schools' heads' meeting, with some leisurely KL connections, and suffering from ABAD (Acute Bookshop Attraction Disorder) I bought a copy of 'Sully', the story of the Captain who successfully landed his aircraft in New York's Hudson River, from which all 155 passengers and crew survived. The aircraft was salvaged, but not much examination was needed. The cause of his accident was clear - a collision with a flock of geese, and the loss of both engines. Any scientific analysis, would not



alter the prospect of it happening again, although the chances remain extraordinarily slim.. The thread through the book was that the thinking, the rapid decision making, the technical skill, were all accumulated over the years of his life. He was able to step up, in a critical, and unrehearsable situation. Some of that was laid down when he was of school age.

Last week a chap came to see me and asked to look at our CTV footage, to try and locate his football boots apparently last seen six weeks ago. These football boots, I happened to know, have enjoyed a long and varied career having been found in many locations in the past, and frequently been rescued by others. He seemed initially somewhat unappreciative of the developmental experience I provided for him. He was warmly encouraged to look after his possessions more diligently, and recognise when others might choose not to waste their time on fruitless indulgence of his irresponsibility. He found 'no' easier to grasp.

Every day, in many ways, we build our students' independence *(continued on pg2)*

### Photo Gallery - What Are These? Could it be WOZ?



and self-reliance. Sometimes, not being interested in 'evidence' serves a better outcome. Knowing that investment of time and effort will be reserved for (and most freely given in) genuine situations of need, but not to indulge weakness, is a lesson to learn. Sully was always an orderly sort of fellow - and when it mattered he could rely on his character.

I bet he never mislaid his football boots. 📍

## POWIISSPORT Instagram page

Follow us @POWIISSPORT on Instagram to get the latest sports fixtures updates and results! 📍



## Bangkok International 7's challenge

*Mr Matthew Eccles*

A boys U13 squad headed out to Bangkok to take part in the Harrow Bangkok International Sevens Tournament. Teams from around Asia competed over two days in what was a very high quality competition. The boys were competitive in every game but a few close results went against them and they finished 3rd in the Plate competition. POWIIS Player of the tournament goes to Jin Kai Ooi, who performed consistently well across the two days - including a long range strike that nearly took the keeper into the net with the ball! A big thank you to the parents for your ongoing support of the team and also to all the boys who took part and showcased both the excellent talent and attitude of POWIIS students. 📍



## A level drama practical exam

*Mr Dylan Boyd*



Recently, students from the A level Drama and Theatre course completed part of their A level by performing a selection of monologues and an adaptation taken from Steven Berkoff's *Metamorphosis*, based on Franz Kafka's novel of the same name.

A visiting examiner from Pearson Edexcel watched and graded these students. Performing at this level is not an easy feat as students must demonstrate a variety of skills while meeting the strict demands placed upon them by the awarding body. Feedback from the audience was positive with some commenting they had never actually seen anything like this before, with a number of audience members returning for a second viewing.

When theatre challenges, extends the boundaries and leaves something in the back of the mind to mull over, it has served its purpose. 📍

## Tuesday Lunchtime Concert



# A focus on Mathematics activities

*Mr Martin Clarke*

Last week the Mathematics department shared some of the activity based learning that takes place in their classrooms. This week we've asked 8.1 for their 10\* class rating, thoughts and comments on the different activities.

## Treasure Hunts - 8.3\*

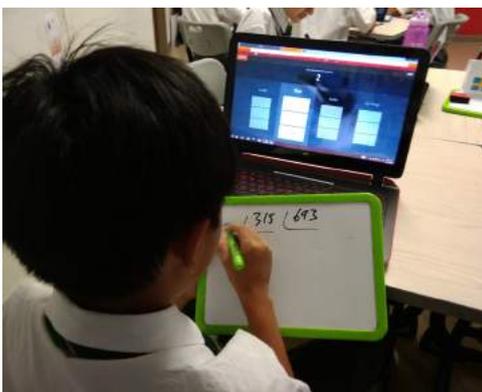
A treasure hunt is a fun activity that you play in groups, where you can communicate and perhaps find new ways of solving that question because you are talking to one another. It helps you solve questions on the spot and try to omit careless mistakes. I sometimes find it slightly frustrating, because you may not find the answer card you want straight away, but it adds to the fun, because it doesn't simply depend on your skill.



Ao Tahara

## Quizlet - 9.3\*

Quizlet is really fun! I like it because it gets quite intense and it's important to double check your answers because if you make a mistake, your whole team will have to start all over again. I've never done Quizlet in my old school before and it's a new experience for me. I really enjoy Quizlet.



Justin Lau

## Kahoot! - 8.8\*

Kahoot is an extremely nerve-wrecking game as there is a time limit to every match! This is especially the case with games where you have to calculate a lot of things. It also makes the student work faster to get to first place, but with accuracy! Overall this is a game that makes me nervous and excited at the same time.



Nicholas Low

## Tarsia - 8.5\*

Tarsia is a good way to build up your co-operative skills. Overall tarsia is a very unique game that is a bit like a giant jigsaw puzzle. It is really fun and a nice way to revise topics.



Daniel Philip Taylor

# What is new in the library?

*Mrs Jane Leese*

This month has seen the arrival of many new books for the library. The maths, French, drama, psychology and ICT departments all received new books to supplement their already impressive selections. Also arrived are nearly one hundred non-fiction books, at all levels, to add to our accelerated reading programme. These are proving very popular, and the students are enjoying improving their reading skills whilst also developing their general knowledge! 🌟

# Trinity Licentiate Diploma



Congratulations to Gabriel de Leon (Year 13) and Tyler Chan (Year 11) for completing their Trinity Licentiate Diploma examinations!

This level of examination requires the candidates to perform a recital of almost 45 minutes, consisting of concert repertoires that are technically and musically challenging, besides doing research work for their programme as part of the requirement. Both Tyler and Gabriel have done exceedingly well in meeting the demands equivalent to the performance standard required to pass the final year recital at undergraduate level. 🌟

# Wizard of Oz corner

Ms Suzie Allen



Ticket sales are starting on the 7th of February and on the 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th and 14th of February there will be ticket sales during lunchtime!👁️



Q: Tell us a little about you and your acting experiences/ambitions.

A: Hi! My name is Teh Ming Min and I am currently in Year 12. I had always had a liking towards acting but my passion truly developed when I was introduced into melodrama. The fascinating thing about acting is to me is that there is always something I can relate myself to the character, whether it is their grief, their joy or their helplessness. Acting unleashes a part of me that I never thought existed and it is an absolute delight to be able to share the experience with everyone.

Q: Which character are you playing in the upcoming Wizard of Oz production? How would you describe your character?

A: The character I am playing the Wicked Witch of the West, ultimately the antagonist of the play, aiming to seek revenge towards Dorothy for killing her sister. On the surface, she is a malignant and cunning evil witch, who is cruel towards Scarecrow and Tin Man (she is responsible for their current state) and is despised by the Munchkins and Ozians. However, from the viewpoint of the character,

I would imagine her as a loving sister. She may not have grieved over her sister's (Wicked Witch of the East) death and appears to be more interested in obtaining the powers of the ruby red slippers but I believe this is because she had always been perceived as an evil witch and has a reputation to keep. Furthermore, the red ruby slippers are the only remnants of her sister so it is no surprise she wants them so badly.

Q: What makes this the perfect role for you?

A: For the fact that I cackle like a witch! Haha. And of course this is a very demanding role in terms of acting melodramatically so I believe I will love it.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in playing your role?

A: I am super excited in walking and talking like a witch I can feel the adrenaline rushing in my nerves already! And I'm going to be green!!! Aaahhh... Also, the backstory of the Wicked Witch of the West from Wicked (Elphaba) has made my role more interesting than ever!

Q: What do you think your biggest challenges will be in playing your role?

A: Definitely speaking in a witchy manner (I clearly can't find a better way to describe it!) and cackling for all four performances without getting a sore throat in between.

Q: Sum up this year's Wizard of Oz production in 5 words.

A: Look out for the Jitterbugs! 🗿

Q: Tell us a little about you and your acting experiences/ambitions.

A: I'm Hannah Rose Lee and I'm in Year 11. I have always enjoyed musical theatre - I grew up with classics such as The Sound of Music and The Phantom of the Opera which sparked my love for the stage from a very young age. It seems crazy and almost impossible but, (fingers-crossed) I'd love to be in a West End or Broadway production one day. I've always tried to involve myself in as many performances as possible like school productions and even an acting workshop in Hollywood where I got to work with experienced actors and directors, but this is my first time being in the main cast of a production so I'm really excited to be in this show.

Q: Which character are you playing in the upcoming Wizard of Oz production? What is their role in the play? How would you describe your character?

A: I'm playing Glinda the Good Witch who

is the ruler of Quadling Country; she is a sorceress with kindness and grace. Mainly, Glinda advises and saves Dorothy from certain perilous situations throughout the play and is overall a guide/mentor to her. I would personally describe her as an a powerful, wise, and almost regal character.

Q: What makes this the perfect role for you?

A: I think she is a great role for me as I love exploring different character dynamics than what I am used to; Glinda's mentor/mentee relationship with Dorothy and ruler/subject relationship with everyone else is something I'd love to try. Furthermore I feel that playing her can give me an outlet to be exuberant and over the top in a way.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in playing your role?

A: I'm most excited about playing someone powerful and in control - I think I could learn some confidence and control from my character. Also, she has a really cool dress.



Q: What do you think your biggest challenges will be in playing your role?

A: The biggest challenge from me is probably going to be being very gentle and graceful, and carrying that air of dominance and power as I am the complete opposite in real life. But I am up for a challenge and, who knows, maybe I will discover a that side of me that I never knew I was capable of.

Q: Sum up this year's Wizard of Oz production in 5 words.

A: Brings you over the rainbow. 🗿

# Meet Our People



## Mr Gabriel Lucas K. de Leon – Head Boy

Prior to joining POWIIS, Gabriel was at St. Xavier's Cawangan primary school and studied there for 6 full years. In his final year, as he also does now, he served as Head Prefect. He has been a member of the POWIIS community since 2012 (joined in Year 8). He has attributed his positive development both academically and on a personal level to the life that POWIIS has provided.

Gabriel has expressed his gratitude to POWIIS as it has provided him the license to build upon a more artistic, creative side - something he finds very unique in a school, let alone in Penang. Along with this, the variety of extracurricular activities has allowed him to experience an all-rounder's life in school. Often known to be on the musical stage, it goes without saying how this crucially affects his life as he has learned

to be more expressive in performance.

As Head Boy, he feels a sense of responsibility to ensure the well-being and good nature of the school, especially among the students. He strongly believes in a balanced school life where work and play find themselves in a healthy balance. He isn't afraid to show his humorous side as he aims to remind themselves that school isn't an all-serious environment, but it's a great place to develop close friendships and bonds, and above all, just to have a bit of fun! Working with different people has always been a passion of Gabriel's, and his role as Head Boy has certainly aided in providing him opportunities to do so. In this position, he gets to work closely alongside members of staff, which he believes aids in developing both his social and collaboration skills.

Gabriel has seen POWIIS grow into the school it is today and hopes for it to develop even further. As his passion in music has grown, he hopes that POWIIS can do the same for future students to come and further expand the artistic culture within the school community. ☺

## Ms Karen Lu Kai Ning – Head Girl

Having attended a public elementary school for 6 years, Karen transferred to POWIIS after spending 9 months in Heng Ee high school and has been in POWIIS for a little over five years now. During IGCSE she had chosen drama, Mandarin, Malay, business studies, English Literature and further maths as her subjects, alongside the sciences, math and English subjects which are compulsory for IGCSE students at POWIIS. After completing IGCSE, she decided to remain in POWIIS to study A levels, taking triple science, maths, and further maths. Being Head Girl, she assists the staff in maintaining order in the canteen and corridors during breaktimes, leads assemblies along with other members of the prefect team, and is involved in organising cultural and social events. She enjoys being able to be involved in a variety of activities and work with lots of talented people while fulfilling her duties. She always looks forward to



sport events, especially those that involve a large amount of the student population, such as inter-house competitions. Born and raised in Penang, she loves the island for its abundance of nature and delicious food.

During her free time, she enjoys playing basketball and strives to become a better player. ☺

## U13 Boys Football

*Mr Matthew Eccles*

The U13 boys football team played a match against Straits International School last week running out with a very convincing 9-0 victory. Afiq Luqman grabbed a double hat trick and Ian Lim and Dylan Yeo also scored with an own

goal completing scoring. Player of the Game goes to Justin Lau for a dominating performance at centreback, completely shutting out the opposition and starting most attacks showing great composure on the ball. ☺



## POWIIS Senior Inter-House Activity



Friday 26th January, the seniors competed in the "Senior Inter-House Activity" for a place in the finals. The girls' event was football and the boys' basketball. Stay tuned to find out who the winning house will be! ☺

## Important Dates for February & March 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

<b>9th February</b>	<b>Sports Day</b>
<b>15th to 25th February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>28th February to 3rd March</b>	<b>FOBISIA Drama Trip</b>
<b>2nd to 3rd March</b>	<b>DofE Bronze Practice Expedition</b>
<b>5th to 7th March</b>	<b>IGCSE English Speaking Exams</b>
<b>8th March</b>	<b>Sixth Form Parents' Reception</b>
<b>10th March</b>	<b>A Midsummer Night's Dream Ball</b>
<b>12th to 16th March</b>	<b>Trinity Exam Week</b>
<b>21st to 24th March</b>	<b>Wizard Of Oz</b>
<b>23rd March</b>	<b>Swimming Gala</b>
<b>30th March to 15th April</b>	<b>Term 2 Holiday</b>

Watch for future Pulse editions!