



## From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



The Pulse is proving influential.

Two weeks ago I noted that a Korean accord in the year 2000 would seem a world away to our student leavers (who were born in the millennium year themselves) as familiar tensions continued. Before the very next edition of The Pulse, the leaders of the two countries met in cordial and constructive dialogue for the first time in South Korea in my lifetime. Few could be less than delighted at this extraordinary and welcome progress. The American president claims credit for this, but he obviously doesn't read The Pulse. We will put him on the circulation list.

An unusual week in less dramatic ways. The first full week for our external examination students gets the examination season underway, the Labour Day break was on Tuesday and our major Open Day is tomorrow. Recognising the multiple disruptions of the week, we have amalgamated three different activities tomorrow. In addition to the Open Day when we expect many prospective entrants to visit the school, our year 9 parents can combine dropping their children at school for their DofE expedition with a year 9 parents' opportunity to talk to teachers about progress, and department heads about IGCSE options. I will be presenting to prospective parents, and of course any of our current parents are welcome to join that session for an update on the progress of our very busy school.

There is currently controversy in KL about the disclosure by a number of international schools of fee payer data, under request from the tax department. There is reference to the tax authority's statutory right to demand any potentially relevant information from any enterprise, including fee paying schools. It is held that that right takes precedence over any limits of disclosure in data protection legislation. The rationale is likely to be that the tax authority views school fees as a major expenditure, and seeks to confirm that individuals' disclosed wealth is capable of supporting them. POWIIS has not so far been



approached, but will make the appropriate response and explain it to our parent group if and when necessary.

The disclosure of information collected about individuals is very much in the news, particularly with social media platforms, notably Facebook. Then there is the extraordinary growth of facial recognition software in public surveillance in China. Not many years ago people were alarmed to discover they could be plotted walking around a major city by the connections of their cellphone to aerials as they moved from one 'cell' to another - at the time the 'cells' were 100m in diameter. We can today readily be located by triangulation from different antenna whenever we use our 'phones. Now we all use Google maps, Waze and Grab/Uber technology to tell us exactly where we are, or where we are heading, or where our potential taxi is, unconcerned that our exact whereabouts are readable by many others at the same time. Some happily accrue 'points' for shopping in *(continued on pg2)*

## Photo Gallery - Year 13 Nutmeg Tree Planting



supermarkets and other stores, thereby continually disclosing their buying habits and whereabouts, inviting a steady supply of targeted advertising. Does any of this matter?

The dystopian view of the future when our every move is watched, measured and perhaps influenced (even controlled) is a little disconcerting, but more worrying to those whose lifestyle is likely to be of the slightest interest to anyone else. I sadly don't think I would be causing lights to flash in some fortified data centre in California.....

Our young people are part of this world. Perhaps technology provides a prompt for the Freudian 'superego', that which regulates our natural inclinations - a 'conscience'- , but better is to live with the approach to data gathering which is 'you are welcome'. There is, apparently, a whole industry out there watching me - I wish I could make it worth their while.

Much more interesting are the lives of our students, particularly those opening the next chapter in their lives shortly. We enjoyed an evening with them at Suffolk House last week, recognising our year 13 leavers. I wish them every success in the next few weeks, enabling them to fulfill their ambitions and follow their dreams. ☺

## Election Holiday

As published, and required, the school will be **CLOSED on Wednesday 9th May** for the General Election. External examinations must take place, and arrangements have been made with those students affected.

Rumours circulate of a potential 'celebration' holiday on 10th, regardless of the result. **POWIIS will be OPEN as usual on the 10th and 11th May.**

**Simon Leese**  
Principal ☺



### Open Day/Parents' Reception Programme – 5 May'18

#### 10.00 am – arrival of visitors & parents

Year 9 reception (level 2)

Open Day – tour of school (before 10.15 am arrival); school library (after 10.15 am arrival)

10.00 am to 12.00 noon - Year 9 parents-teachers meet (level 2)

10.30 am - Open Day – Principal's presentation (library)

10.45 am - Open Day – school tour/discussion (library)

12.00 noon - Year 9 talk and subject fayre for IGCSE options (library)

1.00 pm - End of Open Day

## Year 11 River Fieldwork

Mr Nicholas Miller



On last Friday afternoon, instead of a traditional classroom lesson, the Year 11 Geographers went to the local culverted river to carry out some river measurements. This fieldwork is part of their IGCSE and will help them in their upcoming exams. They were all very enthusiastic and apart from a small "leach incident", the trip went smoothly; we weren't even rained on, though it was a close-run thing as it was raining further towards the hills.

The students measured the width and depth of a river cross section using tape measure and wooden ruler. Then with a tennis ball they



timed how long it took to go 10 metres and then calculated the speed of flow. Finally, they used two ranging poles and a clinometer on their phones to find the river channel's slope angle.

Back in the classroom we were able to do further calculations to find the total discharge of the stream. The trip was less about the results and more about the process and the difficulties of making measurements in the field. Also, some suggested it was more fun than sitting in a classroom listening to their teacher go on about processes of river erosion! ☺

# Sixth Form

## *Nutmeg Tree Planting & Year 13 Leavers Evening - Miss Adele Bowden*

Last Friday, we said goodbye to the oldest members of the school - the year 13 students, class of 2018. During the day, the students planted a Nutmeg Tree to commemorate and remember themselves by. Unfortunately, we will have to wait 25 years for any fruit to show!

In the evening, the school held the annual Year 13 Leavers Evening at Suffolk House. All of year 13, their parents and teachers attended the formal event to say goodbye to the students.

The students listened to speeches from Mr Leese, Miss Bowden and the Head Boy and Girl - Gabriel de Leon and Karen Lu, and to a musical item from themselves. Leaving gifts were also awarded to students and some teachers across

the evening - some formal & some comical. For example the Prefects awarded Yan Bin Phua with the 'Best Event Planner' award and Suarez Chong with the 'Registration' award. Miss Bowden & Mr Garlick were presented with special certificates to thank them for looking after the students so well.

We wish the students the best of luck in their exams this summer and with their future endeavours.

## *University Fair*

A mini university fair made up from 16 universities from Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand was held in the Sixth Form Centre last Wednesday. The Sixth Formers had the opportunity to learn more about university courses and life abroad. ☺



# Meet Our People



## April and Dylan Boyd

April grew up in the remote farm state of Iowa in the mid-west USA where she lived and worked on the family run apple orchard; she is proud to be a hardworking farm girl. She attended Central University and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Theatre, studied abroad in Europe and attended Trinity College where she gained a Master's degree in Drama and Theatre, and furthered her studies by acquiring her teaching credentials at the University of Wales. Dylan also grew up in remote farming areas, but in Wales, UK. He attended the University of Wales, completing his Bachelor's degree in Theatre followed by a Master's degree in Drama and Theatre.

April has taken part in many theatrical productions, ranging from community theatre, musical theatre, contemporary dramatic theatre as well as films. Throughout her work on-stage, April has always wished to be a teacher. After becoming qualified,

she went on to teach at a number of schools, colleges and universities in both the UK and USA.

Dylan's love of theatre began when he was a child, assisting his father in his company of actors through taking part in Murder Mystery Weekend's and a puppeteer's assistant through helping out in Punch and Judy shows across the seasonal resorts of North Wales.

April and Dylan met while attending University. The love of drama and theatre even influenced their wedding, over 15 years' ago, which was Medieval / Renaissance themed and the attendees attended wearing fancy dress.

When April and Dylan first saw the POWIIS drama teacher position advertised four years' ago, they thought it fate and applied. After all, they both had lived and worked in the county of Powys in Wales for a number of years; and Dylan had met the current Prince of Wales and next in line to the throne, the week before seeing the advertisement. 'The rest is history.'

April started as a teacher of drama and has progressed to being Head of Drama; whereas Dylan started as an ESL teacher and moved into the Drama department when a vacant space became available.

April had the opportunity to direct Little Shop of Horrors (2016) and Buggy Malone (2017) and Dylan directed Wizard of Oz. Wizard of Oz was put forward for a Trinity College of London Musical Theatre in Production exam and was awarded a Grade 8 Distinction at 98%! Both April and Dylan are delighted in the development

of drama and the extra-curricular musical theatre productions at POWIIS; they hope this creative and collaborative activity continues to be engaging, educational and empowering to the students involved and entertaining to the prospective audiences that will view the numerous productions yet to come.

April and Dylan plan on developing drama even further here at POWIIS. They wish to work more collaborative with the other creative subjects, especially music where there is a lot of cross over between the subjects. Currently, the Boyds are busy arranging professional development opportunities for drama teachers across Asia for the FOBISIA Drama JAWS (Job Alike Workshops). During this event, a number of workshops and sharing of good practice will take place with over 30 drama teachers planned to attend POWIIS in September 2018. Furthermore, the drama department are also organising a FOBISIA Drama Festival where POWIIS will host a number of international schools, drama teachers and approximately 200 students at a three day drama festival in February 2019. Busy times ahead!

April and Dylan are also very proud parents to Lancelot, their 11 month-old-son who was born here in Penang. The Boyds enjoy what life in Penang has to offer: family, friends, meeting new people, eating fantastic food, enjoying the never ending summer season, listening to music, exploring historical places, markets, and street art, going to the beach, swimming, bike riding, shopping, gardening, cooking, baking, coffee, the list is endless! They enjoy travelling the world, gaining new experiences and sharing them with others.



# AIMS Young Musician of the Year 2018

## Mr Ben Lim

Joshua Lau (Year 9) and Maegan Ang (Year 10) took part in the AIMS Young Musician of the Year Competition 2018 at Nexus International School in Putrajaya last weekend.

Both students were in Category B (aged 11 to 14). Out of 27 participants from other international schools in Malaysia, Maegan was awarded the 'Special Mentioned' prize and Joshua was chosen to be one of the four finalists and competed at the Final round on

the next day.

The music standard was extremely high (in the final round). The judges graded the performance based on the clarity of the performance, confidence on their playing (that includes stage appearance), the quality of musicianship and stylistic understanding. Both students executed their performances very well and the judges spoke highly on their musicianship skills. 🍀



# Outreach Program

Last Saturday, 60 students from local Balik Pulau schools were invited to attend the Outreach program held in POWIIS. The students that attended the programme ranged from 9 to 14, and were exposed to sessions in English, Maths, Sports, and Art. These sessions were primarily student led, with the kind assistance of supporting staff members.

The students got involved in a multitude of activities. They ranged from academic

ones like solving math questions and constructing word chains, to creative and physical ones like expressing their artistic talent on paper and even playing dodgeball with the principal! Some tasks were challenging, especially to the younger students, and so we had to adjust some aspects of the activities to fit their capabilities. Ultimately, the Outreach programme aims to present local students with a diverse set of learning opportunities, reminding them that

learning can be both beneficial and fun!

The Humanitarian Committee would like to thank all students and staff for your continued support in our humanitarian efforts. If you would like to contribute to future events, there will be plenty of opportunities coming – so make sure to look out for them! 🍀



## Important Dates for May 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>5th May</b>          | <b>Open Day</b>   |
| <b>5th to 8th May</b>   | <b>Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Bronze Qualifying Expedition</b> |
| <b>7th May</b>          | <b>Year 10 Shakespeare Workshops</b>  |
| <b>9th May</b>          | <b>Election Day public holiday</b>  |
| <b>11th May</b>         | <b>Entrance Assessment Day</b>  |
| <b>18th May</b>         | <b>AIMS Heads Meeting at POWIIS</b>   |
| <b>23rd May</b>         | <b>Penang Teachmeet</b>   |
| <b>24th to 27th May</b> | <b>POWIIS at Gurney Plaza</b>   |
| <b>26th to 30th May</b> | <b>Half Term</b>  |

Watch for future Pulse editions!