



## From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



The new school year is underway with over 70 new students, 9 new teaching staff and a very long weekend! After all the business of starting the week and the year, our Prize Giving went ahead on Friday, a celebration of achievements at all levels. We were delighted to welcome Mr Marcus Sherwood, the Principal designate of the new POWIIS Primary School who presented our prizes. Pictures of the event are elsewhere in this edition of The Pulse.

At our first assembly last week I emphasised a focus this term on phone use and the

exclusive use of English around the school. Coincidentally, there is discussion in the media of the implementation of the French ban on all phones in government schools (noted during last year in The Pulse) and latterly discussion of the issue in both Singapore and Malaysia.

Whilst invitations in this newsletter in the past to our parents to share thoughts on this matter have only elicited a handful of responses, I have recently responded to a parent about the playing of games on cell phones during lunch and breaks. The very reasonable concerns suggest that this is a matter for the school to address, but I ask the obvious questions. Why do our students have handphones in school? You need only to look around malls, in cafes, in workplaces, in hospital waiting rooms, on buses, even on motor-cycles, to see that the default behaviour of a large proportion of adults is to incessantly check their phone - for what? It is a habit, it is obsessive, and for many addictive. Our young people are part of an intrusive, and almost universal behaviour, modeled all around them.

No child at POWIIS needs a handphone. Parents who need to contact their children during the day can easily do so through the school office. Whilst our bus drivers may be contactable during journeys to and from



school, they shouldn't be; their single focus should be driving safely and it would be very rare that an emergency message needs to be passed to them. We need to take a step back and realise that generations of school children went to and from school, and happily and safely enjoyed their school day, without a cell phone, or indeed any contact with parents. WE have created the handphone culture, not them. Many of our children at school do not have a phone; I urge all parents to think carefully about this issue, and if concerned about their child's handphone behaviour, do the obvious thing and do not allow them to bring one to school. We will meanwhile constantly review our management of handphone use, which for the majority of our students is practical and effective. One of our handphone free zones is the library - a wonderful place to find alternatives to screen based entertainment!

## Photo Gallery - Speech Day

[Click here to view the full photo gallery](#)



# POWIIS Primary : From the Principal

*Mr Marcus Sherwood*



After much anticipation, I am delighted to now officially be part of the POWIIS family and am looking forward to building on the school's excellent reputation through the development of POWIIS Primary which opens in September 2019. Excitement surrounding the project was further amplified last Tuesday by full tour of the Tanjung Bungah site. We were able to see first-hand the tremendous

progress being made on all aspects of the development and visualise children in the emerging learning environment.

POWIIS Primary will offer an academically rigorous curriculum with a significant focus on sport, modern languages and the creative and performing arts. Children will move from a predominantly play-based Early Years learning environment to a more specialist-taught upper primary programme in preparation for their transition to secondary school. As well as creating an environment in which your child can thrive cognitively, socially and emotionally, POWIIS Primary's rich curriculum will nurture and develop your child's individual passions. Based upon the English National Curriculum, our enhanced programme will equip the students with the skills, knowledge, understanding, and attitudes they will require to take on the challenges facing them in an ever-changing world. While competency in English and Mathematics remains at the heart of the curriculum, the children will learn through theme-based integrated topics as well as have lessons in music, modern foreign languages (Mandarin and Bahasa), PE, Swimming and Art. Additional activities such as performance, public speaking, philosophy and outdoor education will also be actively promoted and taught across the curriculum.

Children's wellbeing is increasingly in the spotlight as young people struggle more and more to cope with the pressures and demands placed on them. At POWIIS Primary children will be nurtured, listened to and encouraged to persevere, be resilient, have courage, collaborate and work hard. They will be reminded to be kind to themselves as well as each other. Student Leadership is an important part of a POWIIS education and students will have many opportunities to develop their leadership skills while at school through areas such as community service projects, the House structure, and the School Council. After-school and weekend activities are also an important element to consider when trying to develop a sense of community in a school and POWIIS Primary will offer a range of enriching activities from the outset. Participation in these activities provides an opportunity for children to make new friends or develop friendships beyond the classroom, improve their skills and explore new interests.

It is a great privilege to have been entrusted with this exciting project and I look forward to leading this next phase of the journey. If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact me: [marcus.sherwood@powiisprimary.edu.my](mailto:marcus.sherwood@powiisprimary.edu.my) 

## The International Stage

*Mr Simon Leese*

Vishal Chopra travelled to Long Beach, California, as part of the Malaysian team competing in the World Championship of Performing Arts (WCOPA) along with 6000 participants from 65 countries. He was one of three from the team who progressed to the semi-finals, and was awarded three Gold medals (the highest number in the team) and a Silver medal in all four categories in which he took part. The event is attended by many producers and talent scouts, and we await news of any who follow up on this remarkably talented young performer.

Pictures: 'Vishal preparing to demonstrate one of his performance pieces in assembly on Wednesday, and displaying his awards' 



# Mathematics

Mr Simon Leese



Justin Cheah had a busy Summer of mathematics! He took two Gold Awards in the Singapore and Asian Schools Mathematics Olympiad (SASMO) and Silver in the Asian Finals of the World Mathematics Olympiad (WMO) as part of Team Malaysia. He has also achieved Grade 6 in the International Mathematics assessments for schools, in the Upper Primary Division. He was recognised in this week's Assembly and congratulated on such a range of achievements. 🏆

# Maths Corner

Mr Martin Clarke

As part of the extended curriculum here at POWIIS, the Mathematics Department offer an accelerated IGCSE course to those students that qualify. This allows the students to sit their exams one year earlier and then take an additional Further Mathematics IGCSE course in Year 11. This year we're extremely proud to announce that our students achieved 35 A\* grades and 2 A grades! As you could imagine, everyone was very pleased with their results! 🏆



# Prize Giving

## CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS

<b>Art:</b>	Daniel Yamamoto Lay Christopher Xian Da Lim
<b>Music:</b>	Gabriel de Leon Bryan Liang Qian Lu
<b>Drama:</b>	Gabriel de Leon Pei Hong Chew
<b>Sport:</b>	Lillian Iana Balcarek Angelique Thum Atienza

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**Mr Ahmad Rusli Prize for achievement in Practical Science**  
Sein Ju

**Award for contribution to Boarding Life**  
Christopher Xian Da Lim

## OVERALL YEAR GROUP PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT AND ENDEAVOUR:

<b>Year 7 Attainment award</b>	Ashley Ting Zhi Tan
<b>Year 7 Endeavour award</b>	Natthakan Kanchanamethakul Wayne Xin Lau
<b>Year 8 Attainment award</b>	Ao Tahara
<b>Year 8 Endeavour award</b>	Syaza Liyana binti Mohamed Iqbal

<b>Year 9 Attainment award</b>	Medeleine Wei Shuen Tee Xiaoya Geng Xin Yu Ho
<b>Year 9 Endeavour award</b>	Najma Siti Fatima Arrie Faisal Jaya Kanakano Shimobuchi Elva Tanesha Zico
<b>Year 10 Attainment award</b>	Joshua David Shen Velten
<b>Year 10 Endeavour award</b>	Wendi Cheng
<b>Year 11 Attainment award</b>	Nicholas Gerard Suresh
<b>Year 11 Endeavour award</b>	Jia Ying Lim Mike Chia Chung Goh Iyan Joey Tan
<b>Year 12 Attainment award</b>	Riley Leighton Aotea Harris Edwards Ming Min Teh
<b>Year 12 Endeavour award</b>	Moe Hidaka Aditya Mutharasu
<b>Year 13 Endeavour award</b>	Rachel Anne Lee Iskandar

<b>Heads of School Awards</b>	Gabriel de Leon Karen Kai Ning Lu
<b>The Couzens Award</b>	Wei Yi Tee
<b>The Lighthart Trophy</b>	Gabriel de Leon

# Meet Our New People



POWIS welcomes new staff members (from left to right):

Jennifer Wooglar (Music), Sam Hodge (Head of DT), Nicholas Umpleby (Head of Humanities), Sian Bradshaw (Biology)

Meillia Kee (ICT/Computing), and Rachel Preece (Head of ICT/Computing) Silvia Vuong (Science)

Lufia Pang (Mandarin) is away for CIE training. ☺



**Mrs Rachel Preece**  
Head of ICT/Computing

Rachel joins POWIS as the Head of Computing and ICT. With 15 years experience of teaching in both the United Kingdom and two International Schools in South East Asia, Rachel is passionate about Computer Science. She thoroughly enjoys creating engaging lessons for her students, as well as keeping abreast of new developments in the field. To take a break from the world of Technology, Rachel enjoys playing the violin and trekking, and has been very fortunate to travel widely whilst living in the region for the past 10 years. ☺

**Mr Nicholas Umpleby**  
Head of Humanity

Nicholas have worked in education for over ten years. In that time, he has been fortunate to live in many exciting places and work at unique and inspiring schools. As a geography specialist, he firmly believes in the value of his subject. One of his goals as an educator is to change the old-fashioned perception of geography as the study of capital cities, the names of rivers and the

less than demanding skill of colouring in maps. Rather, the dynamic and relevant nature of the subject is unique in providing students with a genuine insight into the social, economic and environmental issues facing the modern world. He is particularly interested in population issues, economic development, natural disasters and the dynamics of world trade. In his free time he enjoys long hikes, preferably in Europe, trail running, and watching sport. ☺



**Mr Samuel Hodge**  
Head of Design and Technology

Samuel joins us as Head of Design and Technology. With 12 years of experience Teaching in the UK, most recently he has been leading change within the classroom as a Specialist Leader of Education. He is passionate about Architecture as well as the built environment and hopes to inspire students to think about how building work and become more sustainable. He recently delivered a presentation on this to the House of Lords. In his spare time he enjoys Crossfit and Olympic weight lifting and hoping to get involved in Malaysia's fitness scene.. ☺





**Ms Jennifer Wooglar**  
Teacher of Music

Jennifer joins the POWIIS Music department having taught for 17 years in the UK and Vietnam. She has a passion for choral and contemporary music and has extensive experience of performing with and directing a wide variety of choirs and bands. Other interests include science, sport, nature and exploration. 🌍



**Ms Silvia Vuong**  
Teacher of Science

Silvia joins POWIIS as a Teacher of Science, and has taught students of all ages. Originally from Australia, Silvia has spent time teaching there as well as in China and Tanzania. As someone who enjoys food, hiking and immersing herself in new cultures, she is very excited about being in Penang and seeing all Malaysia has to offer. 🌍



**Ms Sian Bradshaw**  
Teacher of Biology

Sian Joins us to teach biology, and knows Penang well having previously taught at GEMS International School. An academic background in animal science, she taught in the UK before coming abroad in 2016. A fitness enthusiast, she has completed 8 marathons to date! 🌍



**Ms Lufia Pang**  
Teacher of Mandarin

Lufia joins POWIIS from Dulwich International High School, China where she taught Chinese Mandarin and ESL. She holds a degree in Chinese Language from the South China University, a Masters

in Education from the University of Edinburgh and a PGCEi from the University of Nottingham. Her interests are music and international travel. She plays violin and recently travelled from China to Russia on the Trans-Siberia railway. She is an experienced graphic designer having produced the student magazine at her university in China. 🌍

**Mrs Meillia Kee**  
Teacher of ICT/Computing

Meillia grew up in small town New Zealand where she had the freedom to explore the natural environment around her. This desire to find out about the world led her to live, study and teach in different cities in New Zealand, Japan, the U.K and Malaysia.

She arrived in Penang with her husband after sailing here on our yacht "Per Ardua" from New Zealand. Beginning in January 2012, this fantastic journey through the Pacific and SE Asia with our three children has introduced them to many cultures and experiences.



Travelling, they met such a wide range of people, learning their stories and giving them many stories to tell.

She is enjoying living in Penang and she has fallen in love with so many new things here, from eating Asam Laksa to coaching touch rugby. She joins POWIIS as a teacher of Computing at KS3 and ICT at KS4. 🌍

## Open Day

Saturday 6th October 10.00am -1.00pm  
We look forward to welcoming families interested POWIIS, and introducing them to the school

Tours 10.00am onwards

10.30 Principal's welcome address

For our current families, we will be also holding a 'Meet your tutor' opportunity

11.00 Principal's welcome

11.30 Onwards - informal meet the tutor GROUP sessions

Please note this is not an individual appointment occasion. Tutors will talk about general pastoral matters to parents of students in their group. ☺

## Shauni Kaur

Shauni Kaur, who has been our technical wizard in the auditorium and in so many areas of POWIIS life, is moving on to follow a career in film making. She has ensured the smooth running of our assemblies and other events, not to mention a huge

input into all our productions where her technical, artistic and practical skills have been shared with many staff and students. She managed her last assembly this week, and was thanked by the school with a rousing and appreciative applause. ☺



## German for Native Speakers

*Mr Stephan Doege*



As the numbers of German native speakers attending POWIIS is growing, we have decided to start to offer native language classes to preserve and improve the native German language competencies of these students. For now, these classes will run

once a week on Mondays during activity time from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. Mr. Doege, who is a native German himself, will take over the teaching in close co-operation with the teachers of the German School Association, who run classes at SCIPS and Uplands. ☺

## Important Dates for September 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

**17th September**

**Replacement holiday for Malaysia Day**

**20th to 23rd September**

**FOBISIA Drama Teachers JAWs**

Entrance assessments are still possible by special arrangement and subject to available spaces. Please mention to friends and contacts who may wish to be included.

Contact Michelle Goh at [admissions@powiis.edu.my](mailto:admissions@powiis.edu.my)

Watch for future Pulse editions!