



From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



My recent piece about the use of 'phones in school encouraged a few very useful responses from parents, and my invitation to the school in assembly led to some outstanding contributions from senior members of the school. As a result of this I have asked our Head Boy and Head Girl (Maxwell and Ming Min) to get a group together and come up with some form of 'students' charter' about phone use. I look forward to hearing the outcome of what I know will be a mature, balanced and constructive discussion.

We are looking forward to welcoming Ministry of Education inspectors to POWIIS on Monday, and the following week a group

from COBIS (Council of British International Schools) for a three day inspection. In preparation for these two events, we have put a lot of work into appropriate paperwork for them, but more importantly we have benefitted from our own evaluations of aspects of the school we need to work on for the future. On Monday evening of this week, I was in KL for a COBIS event when I was able to speak to a number of colleagues from across Asia who had been through this process, and without exception they had found it positive and beneficial. I will of course share the outcomes of both as soon as they become available.

Last Friday was an admissions day, when I interviewed thirteen prospective entrants for October and January. It is not often these events produce a 'first'. One young man came in and was holding his arm a little strangely and didn't spontaneously move to share a handshake. I asked if his arm was OK. 'I think it's broken' he replied. I looked at it and told him I did too. He had fallen the night before, but came for our assessment. He said 'I'm off to the hospital afterwards.' I told him an interview wasn't necessary - he was in. I'm going to put him in charge of the 'day off with a slight fever' types....

A reminder that the 6th October is a big day at POWIIS. It is an Open Day for prospective parents, and a 'meet your tutor' event for our current students' parents. That is not all. We are also hosting the Penang Piano Festival



in our Auditorium, a wonderful showcase of young pianists from the region. Please do come - it will be well worth the effort in a number of ways.

One of the pleasures of the drive 'over the hill' to POWIIS each day is listening to a range of podcasts to which I subscribe, and learning something every day. The neurosurgeon Henry Marsh this morning chose BB King's 'Better not look down' as one of his selection on Desert Island Discs, the extraordinarily durable BBC radio programme. He talked about why we can all easily walk on a narrow line painted on the floor, but would find it impossible 50 metres up in the air. It is not the activity - that is the same. It's the understandable realisation that the consequences of a mistake are very different. He likened it to neurosurgery - if you 'looked down' you would never embark on some very hazardous procedures.

I once heard a psychiatrist named Nigel Latta entertain a conference when he asked why children's playgrounds *(continued on pg2)*

Photo Gallery - FOBISIA Drama JAWS



(From the Principal Cont.) had soft mats. He clearly felt teaching children that making mistakes on climbing apparatus didn't hurt, didn't have some consequences, was not helpful.

Whether it is a tackle on the football field or a maths problem, or a performance, we need all our young people to lift the narrow line a little. Not 50 metres. But they should raise it up far enough to be uncomfortable, and test themselves. They should practise 'not looking down'. 🕒

FOBISIA Drama JAWS

Mr Dylan Boyd



On Thursday 20th September to Sunday the 23rd September, POWIIS hosted the FOBISIA Drama JAWS (Job Alike Workshops) with a total of 19 International Schools attending with 21 drama teachers. The event commenced with a drama executive committee meeting on Thursday, 19 September followed by two and a half days of professional development and sharing best practice amongst drama teachers across Asia.

The days were jam packed with numerous theatre workshops exploring various theatre practitioners, techniques and skills which were discussed, analysed and reviewed on how they could be implemented into drama lessons for all ages. Topics ranged from: using music within drama; how to maximize grades in IGCSE and A level, practically and written; creative ways to teach practitioners; innovative ways to devise; using technology to inform students' performance decisions;

nurturing independence within drama; and using rewards effectively to stimulate and engage students within lessons.

The evenings had a range of social events for the attendee drama teachers from visiting the Tree Monkey, Holy Guacamole and Feringghi Gardens.

As drama teachers here at POWIIS we are proud to have hosted such an informative event where a collaborative and supportive environment encouraged ideas, knowledge and experience to be shared. Many of the teachers that attended this event will be returning to POWIIS in late February and early March for the FOBISIA Drama Festival, where we will be hosting the 'jaw' dropping event, which will be remembered for years to come.

To see how you can get involved in the festival, please contact April Boyd at alb@powiis.edu.my 🕒

Rutland House Captains and Student Leaders



Rutland House Captains 2018/19 Yi Wen Lim and Riley Edwards



Rutland Student Leaders (Sports), Zining Low, Min Shuen Yap, Shahmeethra Ganesh, Mahdi Al-Abaichy with Mr. Key, housemaster 🕒

Our Growing Sixth Form! September 2018



Halloween Scare to Care V: A Night of Sinisters

Mr Darren Lim

It's the time of the year again when things go bump in the night and sinister figures roam the corridors....

Get prepared for an evening of ghoulish thrills and feast on glorious lip-smacking delicacies as A Night of Sinisters promises to be a fun (and family-friendly) event for all. Organised by the LEO Club in aid of the POWIIS Humanitarian Fund, this year's Halloween Scare to Care takes place on Friday, November 2 2018, from 6.00 to 9.30 pm. Scare yourself silly at the haunted house, thrill yourself with exciting carnival games and fill up your tummy with tasty treats. All for the sake of helping members of the Balik Pulau community who are less privileged and require your kind assistance.

Coupons will be on sale from October 8 and are priced at RM 10, 30 and 50. Details about the sales location and coupon collection dates, as well as transport schedules will be announced later.

The LEO Club Halloween organising committee will also be grateful to any parents or relatives of students who are keen to contribute towards the event fund, or would like to run food/game stalls during the event. Please note that any food contributed towards the event must be Halal. All proceeds from sales will go towards our nominated charity. If any parent would like to play a part in making the night fun and festive, please contact Mr. Darren Lim at dljz@powiis.edu.my ☺



Uplands International Debating Championship 2018

Mr Darren Lim



On the weekend of 21-23 September 2018, four POWIIS debate teams participated in the Uplands International Debating Championship 2018. The competition saw the participation of 16 teams from across Malaysia and was adjudicated by highly experienced staff from the Malaysian debating fraternity, chaired by Mr. Kelviin Manuel Pillay, the chief trainer of the Malaysian World Schools Debating Championship team.

Despite facing many teams who have debated and won Asian Parliamentary debate tournaments nationwide, two POWIIS teams

broke 3rd and 5th respectively.

Three POWIIS speakers were also ratified as among the top 10 speakers of the tournament, namely Jaena Velten (4th), Drew Wong (6th) and Lim Jia Ying (10th).

While Jaena and Jia Ying have debated in the World Scholar's Cup, this was the first time all three of them have debated in the Asian Parliamentary format. Our congratulations goes out to these budding young orators and we look forward to see more progress from them in future tournaments. ☺

Open Day



Saturday 6th October 10.00am -1.00pm
We look forward to welcoming families interested in 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. ☺

Meet Our People



Head Girl - Ming Min Teh

Coming to POWIIS after studying six years in Penang Chinese Girls' Primary School was a turning point for Ming Min. Whilst being

the top student in her previous school academically, she was not particularly active in any extracurricular activity and certainly had no experience in acting at all. Now, you can see her in almost any setting in POWIIS, from being the most memorable (and unrecognizable) Wicked Witch in POWIIS' history, to practising football and netball with the school team. Since joining the school in Year 7, she has grown into a confident and mature young woman, embracing the extensive opportunities POWIIS has provided.

As Head Girl, Ming Min hopes to be a role model to the students, inspiring and motivating them but at the same time be their friends. She enjoys engaging with the students in the PSHE lessons she leads or the many extracurricular activities she

take part in. She finds the best part of being Head Girl is to be able to listen to student voices. The diversity of students found in the school population allows her to view things from different perspectives which she finds very interesting. She looks forward to building a school community that takes pride of the school, not just for its facilities but for its people.

Born and raised in Penang, Ming Min enjoys the multitude of experiences the island offers. From the lush green nature to the delectable street food, there are endless reasons for her to explore and discover every nook and cranny of the island. Staying true to the title of being a Penangite, Ming Min is also a keen cook and enjoys recreating both local and foreign recipes in her free time. 🍷

Head Boy - Maxwell Ong

Before joining POWIIS, Maxwell attended a local primary school for the full duration of 6 years and served as both class monitor and school prefect. He joined POWIIS in Year 9, making this his fifth year in the school. Throughout his years in POWIIS, Maxwell has always pointed towards the school's inclusive and friendly environment to be one of its greatest strengths.

He likes taking on new responsibilities as he feels that it aids in self-improvement. The array of opportunities provided in POWIIS have helped him find his passion in leadership and communication. Having taken on the role of Head Boy, he hopes to be a source of guidance and ensure the well-being of students around the school.

Charity and humanitarian work has always

been of interest to Maxwell. As the president of the POWIIS Humanitarian Committee, he has helped forge relationships with local communities and provide aid during times of disaster. He has also volunteered in orphanages and old folks homes around the island. Coming from a middle class family, Maxwell acknowledges the reality that not everyone is as fortunate as he is and tries to help in any way he can.

Born and raised in Penang, Maxwell enjoys the island for its diverse set of culture and traditions. He particularly appreciates the wide selection of delicious food and the different festivals celebrated throughout the year. During his leisure time, he enjoys watching movies, writing, and going out for walks. He values personal time but equally values time spent with his friends and family.



This is Maxwell's final year in POWIIS. He hopes that POWIIS will continue to grow and strive for excellence, nurturing students for many years to come. 🍷

The New Prefect Team

Ms Adele Bowden



The Prefect team for this academic year is:

Head Boy - Maxwell Ong

Head Girl - Ming Min Teh

Head Boarder: Ploypen Pojchanakarn

Supporting Prefects: Chester Yeo, Pavithra Manivannan, Jaslyn Chia.

These students were chosen from a very academically strong year group and are already proving their merits. The Prefect team are the voice of the students; not only are they prefects but they all have other leadership roles across the school from being House Captains, to the Humanitarian Committee or a Sixth Form Mentor. 🍷

Penang Piano Festival

Mr Victor Kam



The first Penang Piano Festival organized by EuroAsia to be held in POWIIS on the 6th of October seeks to draw the best talents from around Penang. Penang is one of the 6 Piano Festival locations across Malaysia in which students compete for a position in the first ever Malaysian Piano Competition

2018 to be held on the 14th of October in Kuala Lumpur. POWIIS has several students from different year groups taking part in this competition. Among them are Loh Ping Er (Yr 7), Ashley Tan (Yr 8), Alicia H'ng (Yr8), Lim Zuo Kern (Yr 9), Joshua Lau (Yr 10) and Maegan Ang (Yr 11). 🌟

POWIIS Sports

Mr Liam Streat

The Over 15 boys football team had their first game of the season last week against a Dalat 'B' team that has been training together for a long time. Our boys came out of the blocks in what was their first game, or even training together, and took an early 2-0 lead. They then lost a little concentration and conceded 4 goals leaving them 4-2 down. They then showed great courage and commitment and came back very strong and eventually won 5-4 in what was an epic tie. Goals from Jassem (x3), Angad and Gobind. Well done boys!

Our Under 15 boys 'A' and 'B' teams took on Uplands at POWIIS last week and the 'A' team narrowly lost after leading after the third quarter but put on a brave performance against a strong Uplands team. Our 'B' team boys who were playing together for the very first time were excellent and ran out deserved winners. Our U15 girls basketball beat Uplands away in a very impressive performance where they won by 41-13.

Great performances by all! Another week of POWIIS sports this week. 🌟



PSHE

Ms Aoife Stranney

Last week some of the year 12 mentors seized the opportunity to teach a PSHE lesson to our new year 7 students. The mentors enthusiastically delivered an informative lesson on school protocols and who to turn to in school when you are in need of assistance. The year 7 students enjoyed the change; with one student asking "Can the mentors teach us every week?". 🌟



Tuesday Lunchtime Performance

Ms Jennifer Woolgar

The music department is excited to announce that the weekly Tuesday Lunchtime Performance event is up and running again this year with the new name TLP. We were treated to some super performances last week and congratulations should go to Chew Yi, Bryan Lu, Chloe Z'Ayn, Ashley Tan and students from the Year 7 music class.

All students and staff are encouraged to take part - this is an inclusive platform for you to share your creativity with a supportive audience. Artwork, beatboxing, comedy, science presentations, music, impressions (to name but a few ideas...) come and take the stage!

Please see Ms. Woolgar if you'd like to get involved. ☺



Important Dates for October 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

1st October	Ministry of Education visit
6th October	Open Day
6th & 7th October	Penang Piano Festival
15th – 17th October	COBIS Patron's Accreditation Visit
20th – 28th October	Half Term break
28th October – 1st November	FOBISIA Games in Phuket Thailand
8th October – 16th November	Edexcel and CIE external exams

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

Watch for future Pulse editions!