



From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



Is your child a blank canvas of a lump of stone?

Are teachers painters or sculptors?

We tend to think like painters. In some way we start with a blank canvas and add to it. Layer upon layer, until we are satisfied with something which all can admire. Along the way, a mistake or weakness can be overpainted - and forgotten in the end result.

But what of sculptors? Instead of adding and overlaying, they remove and reveal. The end result is there in the very beginning, and emerges in a slow, and cautious process. A mistake means the whole process takes a different direction, and perhaps may never be what it might have been. It also takes a long time. I once rescued a walnut tree root stock from a building site, and gave it to a sculptor friend. Such roots have amazing patterns within them - and are prized by sculptors - but he told me I would have to be patient; it would take a year for every inch of diameter to dry out fully, before he could carve it and reveal the beauty within. Is there any chance at all we are so busy laying on the next level we don't really release the inner potential - and are we too impatient?

Roman statues which appear in museums today, and are dotted around the ancient sites of Europe, tend to be bare anonymous stone, but 2000 years ago they were brightly decorated with paint, long since lost. A bright exterior on a solid foundation, formed by the careful exposure of what was always underneath. But the prolific renaissance sculptors of the late middle ages (Michelangelo, Botticelli so many of them)



- had workshops full of sculptors working for them replicating their original works, and working on commissions under their name. Even the 'revealing' process can be very predictable and lacking emotion.

But let us not let cynicism creep in. In some of our students, there will certainly be a hidden quality waiting to be revealed, and it may well not be found when they are at school. In the meantime, we will try to chip away at their inhibitions, encouraging them to help us explore their hidden depths. We will paint what we can see; we will add layers of GCSEs and A levels. But all the time we will try to keep exploring what is underneath. One of the fascinating aspects of my job is to see the directions students take a few years out from school, and what eventually emerges. If we chipped away just enough to start the revelation, that is enough. ☺

Photo Gallery - FOBISIA Games

[Click here for full gallery](#)



A frustrating matter

The Principal - Mr Simon Leese

Very occasionally I receive letters of concern from parents, and they always receive prompt and courteous attention. But if they are anonymous, they don't.

It is surprising that anyone would expect action which may affect other students, or teachers, when unwilling to identify themselves. Such letters invariably claim to speak on behalf of others too - again a weak and unsupportable position, and in all likelihood, false. I am anxious to hear of any concerns responsible parents may have, and which refer specifically and solely to their own child.

Anonymity has another consequence; natural curiosity leads to speculation about who the author might be, raising doubts about the integrity of other students and parents.

How often does this happen? Once this term to date. Perhaps once too often. ☹

POWIIS under 17 Girls' and Boys' volleyball teams

Mr Alan Reeves



Monday saw the POWIIS under 17 girls' and boys' volleyball teams take on Tenby International School, where they learnt the humble lesson of how to lose. Although both teams came second, they did put up an

excellent performance, which was shown by the duration of the games, both games were the best of three sets and lasted nearly three hours. They finally left Tenby at 7pm, tired but happy. ☹

Deepavali

Maxwell Ong Chern-Hoc



Deepavali Humanitarian Committee

On Monday 5th November, the Humanitarian Committee celebrated Deepavali while raising money for Batu Grace Children Home.

Students were encouraged to wear Deepavali inspired clothing to look as colourful as ever during the non-uniform day. In addition to selling festive snacks, a range of activities from photo competitions to a teacher's cricket-off – in which students were allowed to vote, with a small sum of RM 1, on their favourite teachers – were arranged and

available for everyone to take part in – with Christopher Lim and Drew Wong winning the former competition, and Mr Wick emerging victorious in the latter. All students who voted for the victorious teacher won an indefinitely valuable signed photograph them.

All money that was raised went towards Batu Grace Children Home. On Wednesday, three representatives from the home were presented with a mock cheque with a sum of RM 2009.95 in assembly. The money will be



Photo taken by Christopher Lim Xian Da, Y13, Somerset

channeled towards the purchasing of learning facilities and materials for the 56 children that currently reside within the home.

This initiative was met with obvious enthusiasm from everyone involved. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers that participated in the cricket-off, and we certainly enjoyed watching the game as it progressed. And to everyone who dressed up or joined in on the festivities – we look forward to your continued support! ☹

FOBISIA Games - Phuket, 28 October to 01 November 2018

Between the 27th October and the 1st November Mr Edwards, Miss Hardman and Mr Streat took 27 athletes to Thanyapura in Phuket to represent the school at the 2018 FOBISIA games, our second games as a school.



The students trained hard working up to the event with football, basketball, swimming and athletics sessions going on for the past few months, at lunch times and after school, and this really paid off.

As a staff we could not be prouder of these students and loved every minute of the trip, each and every student was a credit to the school. Special thanks to Mr Edwards who put a huge amount of work into the planning and executing of the trip.

Here we have a write up for each event from our student athletes....



Girls U15 basketball- 1st place by Zijun Low

The team played excellently in every match, showing determination in winning the championship. The scoreboard was frozen in every match as we were leading by 20 points or more which activated the mercy rule. The last game was intense as the opponents were strong and all of us were tired. This made us panic and missed some of the shots but we

still managed to defeat them, which lead to the final victory and made us champions for the second year in a row.

Girls football- 3rd place by Jia Tchi Lim

On the second day of activities, the girls diligently played football in the scorching heat. With our boots, sun cream and positive mentality on, we gathered onto the pitch for our first match. We played against 'The British School of Kathmandu' (TBS). We had strong forwards so the opposition barely had a chance to score and the match resulted in a 1-0 win to POWIIS.

Our second match was against 'Regents International School Pattaya' (RSP), they're one of the toughest competitors but we still played with high spirits. Their attack team was very skilled however many goals were saved. Despite our stable defence, only one goal was conceded and we lost 0-1 to RSP. We then had a back-to-back game after a break, where we first played with 'Regents International School Bangkok' (RSB). Though we were slightly disheartened from the previous match, we still won 1-0, thanks to our cheer team. Who were waving pom-poms as well as playing traditional Thai beats on the drums, encouraging and lifting our minds in the form of music.



Following that successful match, our competition was 'International School Brunei' (ISB). They scored a goal in the first half but we managed to make an equaliser in the second half. Most of our players were exhausted however we still managed to draw 1-1 against one of the strongest teams. Even though we were stiff and warmed down from the previous one hour and forty minute lunch break, in the fifth match, our attack mainly had possession, leading us to beat 'Kinabalu International School' (KIS) by one goal.

Resulting in a 1-0 win.



In our sixth and final match versus 'Sri KDU International School' (SKIS), we put in all of our energy and efforts to make the match count. Our attack made many shots on goal however it was a difficult to secure any goals due to the opposition's strong defence. In addition to, our defending and goalkeeping was very strong which prevented the opposition from making any shots on target. Our final match resulted in a draw, leading the POWIIS girls to have 17 points from 3 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. We tied in points with ISB and finished in third place because we lost based on goal difference. Overall the POWIIS girls concluded the day with a trophy, medals and a Magnum ice cream in hand. Thankful for our coaches and cheer team, constantly supporting us through thick and thin, leading us to the podium.



Boys basketball- 3rd place by Gui Fu Tan

On Day 2 of FOBISIA, our team participated against 7 international schools. We worked very hard on that day. Our FOBISIA basketball coach--Mr Edwards also worked very hard and coached us very well on that day. After 3 matches, we finally got into the semi final and have a chance to fight for final but we lost that match to the eventual winners of the tournament. In our last match we worked really hard and won against Regents

(Continued in page 4...)

(FORBISIA Games... continued)

International School Of Pattaya in overtime with the score 23-26. We got 3rd place. It was a close game. All of our players worked really hard on that day. Even though we got 3rd place we were happier than the team who got 1st place.

Boys football- 7th place by Mahdi Al-Abiachy

The whole trip was loads fun and a great success we did well as a team and individually as for football we were a bit unlucky as we started off slow in the first game and were not awake yet and ready. We also did not really control the ball we were just kicking it around. We were unlucky in a number of the games as we did not take our chances and lost them narrowly or drew.

The last match however was the last 20 minutes of FOBISIA and everyone wanted to win, so we started off really strong scoring two goals in the first Half. Second half we started off not so well but then the girls came to watch us, perhaps it was because we realised this is the last 5 minutes of the competition, that suddenly we make a pass through the defenders and got a goal. That goal gave us motivation to score two more goals and win the match by 4-0. An excellent

result.

Athletics- Joint 3rd place by Atalanta Sherwood

The athletics competition is the second part of day one at the FOBISIA Games. After a tiring morning of swimming, the afternoon held a bigger challenge. Athletics took place in the middle of the day, in the burning sun, but that did not stop us from enjoying many successes.

The first event was high jump and participants had to be there before the rest of the team. Upon arrival, there were many competitors who looked like they had been training hard but we ended up doing very well with medals in both boys and girls events. We began, the boys started with track events while the girls did field events. There were many successes with a number of the boys coming in the top three in their races. While there were a few medals in the girls field events.

Then we switched, we continued to do well in track events while the boys also gained a few medals in field events. There were some outstanding individual performances and the efforts never stopped. We all had a fun time cheering on and encouraging each other and

made many friendships across the schools.

Swimming- 3rd place by Daniel Taylor

Swimming is both an individual sport and a team sport. This competition gave our whole team a chance to show off our individual skills and team work and make a good / strong first impression. Swimming isn't always about winning but also about having fun. Having fun makes the sport more enjoyable. Swimming is a sport where the least injuries happen.

During the FOBISIA trip we had an amazing time and one of the highlights was watching the relay teams because it was so tense as everyone was shouting and the placings of each team kept changing second by second. At the end we were placed top 3 in most of the relays and were really happy about our results. Eventually our team managed to achieve 3rd place overall.

Our team did very well and I would like to thank Mr Streat, Ms Hardman and last but not least Mr Edwards for organizing and coming with us such a jam packed trip gave us loads of experience and wonderful memories. Thank you guys sooo much. Also a big thanks to everyone who came to make this trip even better.👍



Bottom right: Girls' football team winning the 3rd place award

Meet Our People



Cavediving in Krabi, Thailand

Ms Suan See Tan

After she left USM (B.Sc with Education), she went to a rural school in Kedah with padi fields around the school; electricity powered by a generator and drawing water from a well! POWIIS is her fourth school, after two public schools in Penang, one of which was her Alma Mater. She has also taught in two local colleges before joining POWIIS in 2014.

Outside the classroom, she has been involved in the school library, chess, tennis, archery, choir and orchestra. The highlight and her fondest memory was organising the "Voices of South Africa" (VoSA) concert in 2007 at the Copthorne Orchid Hotel Ballroom. Through our guest choir teacher, two South African choirs, the Pro Cantu Youth Choir (now Cape Town Youth Choir) and the Conwonnite Choir who were on their way to Thailand for a world choir competition, were invited to perform at our annual choir concert. This served as a warm up for them (SATB choir) and created much excitement to her choir girls (SSAA). In the Finale, they gave a joint rendition of "Adiemus" by Karl Jenkins, a capella. And the best part was they collected over MYR15k from ticket sales and sponsors.... and the choirs sang for them free.

She has been at POWIIS since September 2014 till July 2016 and again from January 2017 till present. She was invited to teach CIE Chemistry and now Edexcel A level in Biology and Chemistry. As a part time teacher, she is primarily involved in teaching the classes entrusted to her. As she watches from afar the tasks of the teachers in POWIIS, she sees herself in those shoes not too long ago. It reminds her of Ecclesiastes

3 – There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens. As a teacher, she says one has the opportunity to touch lives. She recalls what her Educational Psychology lecturer told her that teaching is all about behaviour modification. We leave the children better (in more ways than one) than when we first met them.

The longer she is in teaching, the better and better it gets. Work and recreation have become one.

She is looking forward to see POWIIS



Cavediving in Krabi, Thailand

grow in size, stature and scope, and to become the school of choice of parents who wish to send their children abroad for higher education. To be in collaboration with universities in popular places like in Australia and UK so that students in the 6th form can enjoy resources (online) or credit some papers from these universities with the hope of acceptance later on. (eg, a high

school in Melbourne is a feeder to Monash) Her hobbies currently are scuba diving, running and reading. The latest, in April, she received her certification as a TDI cave diver. A few months later 12 were lost in the Tham Luang Caves. If it had not been during a school term, she would have volunteered to give support to the divers. The conditions there are too perilous and demanding for any woman. She met two of them in one of her diving courses, Mikko Paasi and Ivan Karadzic. Mikko was the mastermind who planned the rescue with the support of a team of skilled international divers. Should Mikko or Ivan drop by Penang for their visa run, she hopes to bring them to POWIIS to share their experience.

She is also likes to keep fit and be in good health amidst the good food in Penang and POWIIS, she runs and participates in events such as the half marathon in PBIM (Penang Bridge International Marathon). She managed to finish in the nick of time for the finisher's medal.

She says the main challenge for her now is keeping a youthful cognitive function! Studies have shown that the brain can start degenerating as early as 30 years of age and evident after 50. The biological age need not be our chronological age. Use it or lose

it. So it is a Sudoku or two a day! Expert level, no less. Playing a musical instrument is a good therapy. After a long rest of 30 odd years, she is back to piano! She finally got a piano teacher to improve her playing so as to do justice to the lovely sounds her parlow grand can deliver. She takes inspiration from a PM at 93 and a reigning Monarch at 92! ☺

Important Dates for November 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

14th – 26th November	WSC Trip to Yale
19th November	Seniors Football vs Uplands
19th November	U15 Girls & Boys Basketball vs Dalat
20th November	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (School Holiday)
21st November	Year 13 Parents' Reception
22nd November	Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Ceremony
23rd November	Entrance Exam Day
27th November	IGCSE Art Mock Exam (Year 11)
27th November	PSAC U16 Netball Tournament
28th November	Seniors Boys & Girls Basketball vs Dalat
28th November	U13 Boys & Girls Basketball vs Dalat
29th November	PSAC Badminton & Table Tennis
30th November	JSLA external Coaches PSC
4th December	IGCSE Georgetown Art Trip
4th December	U13 Boys & Girls Basketball at Uplands
4th December	U16 & U18 Netball vs Uplands
6th December	Cross Country
6th December	PSAC U14 Netball vs SIS
7th December	JSLA external Coaches PSC
7th December	Entrance Exam Day
10th December	Senior Boys & Girls Basketball at Uplands
11th December	U13 Boys & Girls Basketball vs Uplands

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!