

## From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese

[Click here for POWIIS Facebook page and website](#)



It was announced to our parent community today that this will be my final year at POWIIS.

My predecessor, the founding Principal Mr Philip Couzens, served the school for five years as it found its feet, and handed to me an opportunity to carry it forward for what will be the next 5 years at the end of this school year. POWIIS, and Penang, have given my wife and me an experience quite unlike anything we had done before. We will be leaving grateful for what we have been able to do, what we have learned, and the kindness we have been shown, particularly by the Ong family who created the school, and show such affection for it. When considering a move here, Philip Couzens told me that above all else I would find the POWIIS students a delight - and he was right. I look forward to keeping contact with many former students as they are now making their way in the world beyond school, and whose futures are very bright indeed. (Elsewhere in this edition, some notes from Bristol University.) My successor will inherit a different school from the one I inherited, and will bring his, or her, own creativity and energy to the role as it enters the next phase of its development. Nothing stays the same

for ever; change and refreshment are vital. POWIIS will continue to thrive in the future, as it builds further its reputation in the area and beyond.

Meanwhile I have been enjoying an intensive period of visiting lessons around the school, and watching my colleagues, and of course our students, at work. I have seen exemplary professionalism in many classrooms; in fact, I am often left feeling somewhat inadequate. The creativity, variety and detailed preparation our students benefit from, is something they may not immediately recognise but from which they draw great benefit. I often tell people that the least effective approach to institutional improvement is to focus on fixing what is wrong; there are always weaknesses to be addressed, but the most profitable approach is to build on, and nurture, the strengths - to create a climate of professional ambition where the bar is set high and the less committed are challenged to reach it. Unsurprisingly, I hear when parents are dissatisfied soon enough, but perhaps we are all guilty of not being so quick to express appreciation. During these visits to classrooms, I had one thought; a few days previously I had been at a very well known, and rightly highly respected, school in KL for a meeting. As I moved around the school the view from every window was similar - high rise buildings. The school was essentially a block surrounded by busy roads and framed in concrete. I look across our rooms here in POWIIS and in many see only trees. Often we don't stop to notice how fortunate we are. I was able to tell some visitors this week that our green views come at roughly half the price of concrete.

The next edition of the Pulse will mark the end of our first half term, which has flown by. In such a short space of time, our new colleagues have made the place their own and I want to thank in particular my new Deputy Principal Abel Cambra, and Director of Sport Matt Deegan; both sportsmen, they had to get moving *(continued on pg2)*

### Photo Gallery Chester Yeo - Pictures from Bristol University!



*(From the Principal Cont.)* quickly with almost no proper warm-up, usually a sure recipe for injury! On the contrary, not only are they on top of their own games, but our sportsmen and women, and our pastoral teams, are responding splendidly to the energy they and their colleagues are bringing to POWIIS.

This is shaping to be a great year for the school, and one with exciting change ahead. ☺

## Greetings From University!

Chester Yeo



Alumnus (2019) Chester Yeo has settled into Bristol University, UK, where he is studying Engineering. He wrote recently "I am having an amazing time here in Bristol already. I've enjoyed the great vibe and food scene here but most importantly, the people here are very kind and welcoming and I've settled in very well with my flat mates (I've got one of the most diverse flats from nationality to gender to interests and chosen courses!) I love the combination of the old style architecture to the modern designs of buildings and the great weather complements it all. I've already immersed myself with the engineering football club and a renewable energy society. I'm glad to have chosen Bristol as I never realised how important sustainability and renewable energy for the future is towards the University's research in engineering, which is right up my alley!" ☺



Chester with fellow POWIIS alumnus Zimo Fang, also studying engineering

## Chemistry Lessons

Ms Ruth Park



Year 12 were measuring the molar volume of gas



Year 11 were predicting gas volumes based on molar calculations



Year 13 Chemistry core practical to determine rate equations. Once determined experimentally, the orders of reaction can give information about possible reaction mechanism. ☺



## A Sad End....

A BBC article noted that a 31 year old, believing himself to be the longest surviving Minecraft player after continuous play for 5 years, was devastated when he was 'killed'. Apparently, somewhat over confident, he was 'startled' by a zombie

baby wearing enchanted armour, shot in the back by a hidden skeleton and eaten by a spider. Apparently he could have survived had he eaten a health-giving apple earlier. A desperately sad story. ☹

## Year 10 Art Trip

*Mrs Farida Khan-Evans*



Our Year 10 artists braved the rain on Thursday, to take photographs in nearby Balik Pulau town, in response to their current project of Places and Spaces. Not a selfie in sight! ☺



## GCSE Digital Drawings

*Mrs Farida Khan-Evans*

The art department is very excited to offer GCSE students the opportunity to create digital drawings using our new iPads. Procreate, Photoshop Express and Adobe Sketch are amongst some of the applications that art students can now get creative with! ☺

## COBIS Under 16 Debate Competition

*Mr Darren Lim*



The COBIS Under 16 Debate Competition is an accessible and competitive event that aims to promote debating among Year 7's to 10's. Next year will be the inaugural event and it is held in Bucharest, Romania.

It gives the opportunity for our students to debate both as a school delegation in the first round, and with assigned composite teams consisting of speakers from different schools in the subsequent five rounds. Through this opportunity, students will also immerse in Romanian culture and experience the sights

of beautiful Transylvania.

The competition takes place in March 2020. We are looking at a delegation of six members, under the age of 16. Those with debating experience at any level are welcome. Those keen to learn but with less experience, may be considered after a trial on the week of October 21.

Interested? Please contact [Mr. Darren Lim](#) ☺

## Year 9 DofE

*Mrs Farida Khan-Evans*



Year 9 DofE students learned how to work as a team to assemble the tents that they will be sleeping in when they take part in their



Bronze Award expedition later next year. Not as easy as they thought, but all our students had plenty of fun! ☺



# Boarders' Bowling Trip

*Mr Nicholas Umpleby*

The boarders had a lively weekend in September visiting Bukit Jambul Classic Bowl. Most students were happy to enjoy the experience and experiment with different techniques, to varying degrees of success, while some of the older boarders could not hide their competitive natures. Either way the results were impressive or entertaining! Well done to Long-Lee, Fano and Jacob for their high scores. 🍀



# Pizza Making

*Mr Matthew Peak*



The girls boarding staff organised and led a small group of POWIIS boarders in making and preparing pizzas from scratch! They made the pizza dough and sauce from flour and tomatoes along with a few other herbs and

spices. The smells attracted others down to the canteen. Fortunately for those boarders who did not take part in the activity there was more than enough pizza for all! 🍀



# POWIIS Sports Round Up!

*Mr Matthew Deegan*

POWIIS teams have once again been in action with fixtures against the local Penang International PSAC Schools.

## Senior Football:

The Senior Boys Football A & B teams opened their season with a tough matches v Dalat - both teams losing 3-0 & 3-1 in a hard fought encounter. The Senior Girls showed huge improvement and managed a 2-1 win over Dalat B.

## U13 Football:

Both boys and girls teams took part in the PSAC tournaments last weekend. The girls battled to 4th place overall in what was many girls first experience in the game. The boys entered A & B teams into their tournament - which was hosted by POWIIS and featured 10 teams. The U13A team lost on penalties in the semi final stage - but managed to win their final play match (1-0) v Tenby to secure 3rd place overall.

Well done to all our teams!

## Swimming at POWIIS

We will be holding our first swim meet at POWIIS on Wednesday 5th November at 4.30pm - with several of the local international schools sending teams. This meet is open to all POWIIS students who wish to take part and enjoy swimming.

Please contact [m.deegan@powiis.edu.my](mailto:m.deegan@powiis.edu.my) for further information about taking part in any of the sporting events at POWIIS. 🍀



# Key Dates for Academic Year 2019 - 2020

## Reports:

Date	Report	Years
Friday 25th October 2019	Half Term 1 Grades	All
Friday 13th December 2019	Half Term 2 Subject Report	All
Friday 31st January 2019	Year 11 Mock Exam Results	11
Friday 14th February 2019	Half Term 3 Grades	7, 8, 9, 10, 12
Wednesday 4th March 2019	Year 13 Mock Exam Results	13
Friday 3rd April 2019	Half Term 4 Grades	7, 8, 9, 10, 12
Friday 3rd April 2019	Half Term 4 Subject Reports	11, 13
Wednesday 8th July 2019	End of Year Exam Grades	7, 8, 9, 10
Wednesday 8th July 2019	End of Year Subject Reports	7, 8, 9, 10, 12

## Parents' Receptions: :

Date	Time	Years
Tuesday 19th November 2019	16:30 – 19:00	11
Wednesday 4th December 2019	16:30 – 19:00	13
Tuesday 11th February 2020	16:30 – 19:00	7
Saturday 29th February 2020	10:00 – 13:00	9
Wednesday 29th April 2020	16:30 – 19:00	12
Thursday 21st May 2020	16:30 – 19:00	8
Saturday 6th June 2020	10:00 – 13:00	10

## Other key dates - Internal Exams:

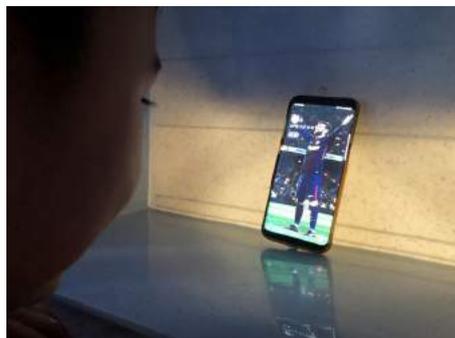
Date	Event	Years
13th - 20th January 2020	Mock Exams	11
10th - 14th February 2020	Mock Exams	13
8th - 19th June	End of Year Exams	7, 8, 9, 10

## External Exam Results:

Date	Exam Board	Years
Thursday 13th August	CIE IGCSE and A Level Edexcel A Level Oxford AQA A Level	11, 12, 13
Thursday 20th August	Edexcel IGCSE	11

# How productive are you?

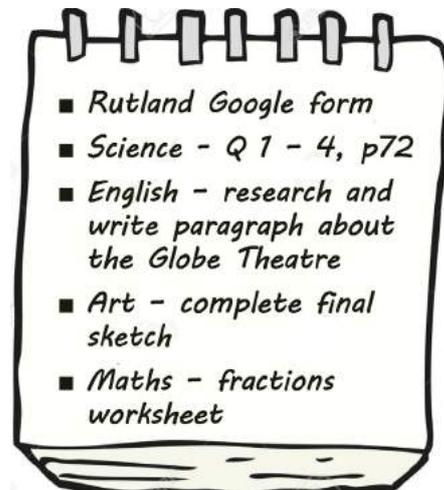
Ms Silvia Young



you're stuck? Do you procrastinate?

Thanks to those students from the audience who helped to examine the distracting nature of music when working on a simple counting task. Other topics included: the effects of sugary snacks while trying to focus, as well as the disruptive nature of 'blue light' from excessive electronic device use and its effect on the brain. The importance of making lists and getting things ticked off emphasised the need for student use of planners. Hopefully, students were able to take some time afterwards to reflect on their current habits and consider ways to improve their overall productivity. ☺

Last week, the students of Year 7, 8 and 9 attended their first Key Stage 3 (Junior School) assembly of the year, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their own levels of efficiency. Do you make lists? Do you do the hardest tasks first? What do you do when



## Important Dates for October & November 2019

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

<b>12th - 13th October</b>	<b>Sixth Form KL Art Trip</b>
<b>12th October</b>	<b>PSAC 015 Boys Football Tournament vs Uplands @ POWIIS</b>
<b>14th October</b>	<b>O15 Boys Football vs Uplands @ POWIIS</b>
<b>15th October</b>	<b>O15 Girls Football vs Uplands @ POWIIS</b>
<b>16th October</b>	<b>U13 Boys Football vs FIS @ POWIIS</b>
<b>16th October</b>	<b>U15 Boys Basketball vs FIS @ POWIIS</b>
<b>26th October - 3rd November</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
<b>6th - 17th November</b>	<b>WSC Yales Trip</b>
<b>8th November</b>	<b>Scare To Care</b>
<b>14th November</b>	<b>U15 Boys And Girls Basketball @ Dalat</b>
<b>15th November</b>	<b>Entrance Assessment Day</b>

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)