

Message from the Principal



Mrs Dinah Hawtree
POWIIS Principal

Dear POWIIS Community,

It's hard to believe that six months have already passed since I took up my post as POWIIS Principal! It's been a very strange few months, with far fewer events and activities than one would normally expect due to the COVID situation. With the latest government announcement it is now certain that our current arrangements (Years 7-10 online, and Years 11-13 in school) will continue until at least 18 February, which is after the half term break for Chinese New Year.

This strange situation has, however, given me more time than I would have anticipated to devote to planning for the future. We have a range of exciting developments planned for next academic year and beyond, some of which I'm delighted to be able share with you now, as follows:

1. Appointment of a dedicated careers and university guidance counsellor. Ms Davis has a background of working with universities, and she will be taking on this role, working closely with Mr Hewitt and the sixth form team.

2. Appointment of a counselling team to support student wellbeing. Ms Casaccio will be leading this team, and will also be taking over responsibility for our PSHE provision.

3. A change to the school day/week - we will move from 5 to 6 lessons per day Monday through Thursday, and 4 lessons on Fridays, with Friday afternoons dedicated to student enrichment activities. The school day will end at 3pm, with optional activities until 4:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

4. Appointment of two Assistant Principals to the senior leadership team; Ms Blais, who joins us from my former school in Thailand, whose focus will be on developing even higher standards of teaching and learning and leading us through the CIS membership and accreditation process, and our own Mr Hodge, whose main focus will be on enrichment activities for the students and developing community links.

5. Our pastoral system will move from being house based, to year based. Each year group will have a Head of Year to oversee their development and wellbeing. Heads of Year have been appointed as follows:

- Year 7 - Ms Wijewardana
- Year 8 - Mrs Davey-Coulson
- Year 9 - Mr Sullivan
- Year 10 - Mr Colton
- Year 11 - Mr Cross
- Sixth form - Mr Hewitt

6. Houses will still exist for competitions, activities and house points, and will be supported with a House Leader. I am currently finalising these appointments and will advise the details of these next month.

7. Our academic organisation is also being restructured, with staff grouped into 6 larger faculties, rather than 20 small departments. This structure will make it easier to drive forward initiatives and share best practice. We have completed appointments of

curriculum leaders for each faculty as follows:

- Arts - Mrs Khan-Evans
- Humanities - Mr Umpleby
- Languages and Culture - Ms Allen
- Maths and IT - Mr Clarke
- PE & Sport - Mr Deegan
- Science - Mrs Wilkinson

8. We have very low staff turnover this year, with just 3 staff leaving us (Mr Kearns, Ms Lane and Mrs Koror) and we will pay tribute to their considerable contributions to POWIIS later in the year. The new staff joining us are:

- Ms Blais (who I mentioned above), who will be Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning) and will also teach English;
- Mrs Deegan who will teach English and Psychology, and will also be part of our counselling team;
- Mr Dolman who will teach English and will be Deputy Leader of the Languages and Culture Faculty;
- Mr Fitzpatrick who will teach maths and will be Deputy Leader of the Maths and IT Faculty.

The changes listed above are the key ones that will be evident to students and parents, but we have plans for a whole host of other developments over the coming 2 - 3 years that we know will make POWIIS even better, as we strive to maintain our position as one of the premier schools in SE Asia.

In addition to all of the developments above, we have also begun to develop a new Mission and Vision for the school, and we will shortly be sending this out for consultation to both students and parents, and we look forward to receiving your feedback on this.

To those of you who are celebrating the Chinese New Year 'Gong Xi Fa Cai', and to all of you, enjoy the half term break, stay safe, and we look forward to seeing many of you once we are able.

Kind regards,
Mrs Dinah Hawtree

News & Events

Click on the thumbnails below to read more of the article.



Students enjoying PE with SOPs



DEC - Training local teachers



Congratulations! Jenny Ooi, chosen as a member of the Malaysian World Schools Debate Team future squad.



POWIIS GCSE Art Exhibition 2020



POWIIS starts work on eco classrooms



Our teacher, Mr Darren Lim, shared his experiences guiding our students on a TES article



POWIIS Eco Committee and POWIIS Primary Eco Warriors are calling on your support for Earth Hour!

F B I S I A

ESTABLISHED IN 1988
Federation of British International Schools in Asia

Enriching teaching, learning, and the student experience through collaboration and support



- FOBISIA started as a small group of headteachers working in SEA over 30 years ago.
- We are now a diverse and inclusive community of 79 Member Schools and growing.
- We connect teachers to share best practice and access leading educational thinkers.
- We bring students together for enrichment activities across a range of learning areas.
- We represent an important educational link between Asia and the United Kingdom.
- Our reach extends from Mongolia to Indonesia, and Kazakhstan to Japan.

Think Penang
THINK POWIIS

CURIOUS?

Learning never stops at POWIIS

Think Penang Think POWIIS is a campaign that not only promotes our Schools but also the island we live in, Penang, and what it has to offer. Share with your friends and family who want to learn about the school your child is studying in.

Visit our website to find out more

Surviving the Pandemic

Schools are experiencing many challenges, such as mobility restrictions, isolation, financial hardship, and exam cancellations. FOBISIA Member Schools have all:

- Demonstrated remarkable compassion and resilience in the face of a global pandemic;
- Successfully transitioned from classrooms to online learning within weeks;
- Collaborated on their responses to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students; and
- Maintained teacher motivation and welfare by sharing their experiences during the pandemic.

Product design
The aim was to reduce the risk of injury for the donor and increase the ease to donate on the go. This was achieved with the use of 3D printing.

Online Design & Technology Competition

Virtual Dance Competition

DID YOU KNOW?

FOBISIA just held it's first ever virtual conference over 2 days, with a line up of 11 expert speakers, 48 live sessions, 69+ schools, enriching 500+ Sport & PE teachers!

Drama Monologue Challenge

COURAGE
FEBISIA
In-country Gymnastics Invitational

www.fobisia.org



Important Dates Coming Up		
10	February	Years 7-9 reports issued
10	February	Years 10/12 grade sheets issued
11 - 17	February	Half Term Break
12 - 13	February	Chinese New Year
14	February	Valentine's Day
18	February	Back to School
1	March	Year 13 Parent Consultation Event
4	March	World Book Day