BOARDERS
POWIIS BOARDING BULLETIN
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Welcome Address

Message From the Head of Boarding

Mr David Hughes
Head of Boarding



Dear Boarding Community,

A Month Back in Boarding

It has been a busy and positive first month back in boarding, and it has been great to see our boarders settling into routines, making new friendships and our new starters beginning to feel at home.

With a growing sense of community across the boarding houses, the boarders have been getting involved in an array of induction activities, spending time together and supporting one another through the usual ups and downs of school life. We want boarding to be more than simply a place to sleep; it is where children should feel known, supported and part of a community.

It has been a busy start for staff too, as we have also been reviewing and improving some of our daily systems and procedures, including parent communication, medication, evening routines and the use of REACH. Alongside this, we have reintroduced additional English support for selected boarders.

Most importantly, we are very happy to be here and are really enjoying getting to know all the children in our care. Every boarder and every family is unique. Understanding their personalities, friendships, strengths and challenges is central to what we do.

If you have any questions, concerns or simply want to share something with us, please do get in touch. We really value the partnership between boarding and home and look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and the years.

Warm Regards,
Mr Hughes

Around Campus




















Meet the Boarding Council

This year, the boarding council wants to make boarding more connected and active. We're hoping to create more opportunities for boarders to get involved and make sure everyone's ideas are heard.



Mabrouka (Y13)
2 years in boarding

Fun fact: I can get incredibly competitive over games that have absolutely no prize

Favourite memory: The end of year party, where everyone was together dancing and having fun together

Chitose (Y11)
3.5 years in boarding



Fun fact: I won "the most terrible face competition" in my family

Favourite memory: The ice cream social at the end of term, ate a lot of Haagen-Dazs with my friends

Girls' and Boys' Halls: First Meetings

Our Girls' and Boys' Halls came together for their first meetings of the year. With new boarders and new staff introductions done we proceeded to set our expectations and aspirations for the year ahead.




Meet the Boarding Team

Not only are there some additions to the boarding council, but there are new staff as well. We would like to welcome Mr Hughes, Ms Mironova and Mrs Hughes, who are the head of boarding, head of girl's hall and international boarding house coordinator. They have been here for some time now and have started to settle into our community.



Mr David Hughes
Head of Boarding

What inspired you to work in boarding?
I love seeing young people grow in confidence and become the people they are meant to be, as well as creating a strong sense of community

What are you most looking forward to this year?
Seeing our boarders grow in confidence and try new things... I have plans!

What do you think makes a strong boarding community?
People who look after each other, have fun together and make everyone feel welcome

What is your favourite way to relax after a busy day?
Sleep, do a cryptic crossword, go to the gym or get on a bike

What is one message you would like to share with our boarders at this time?
Be bold. When you have a choice, choose the option that will make a better story

Fun fact
I spent New Year's Eve 1999 at a house party with Coldplay

What inspired you to work in boarding?
A sense of community and family that boarding has, and to see how friends can make long, long-lasting friendships

What are you most looking forward to this year?
I'm looking forward to settling in, finding my place and making the most of the year ahead.

What do you think makes a strong boarding community?
Proudness of the community, caring for one another, a community that can live through good and bad moments together

What is your favourite way to relax after a busy day?
Taking a long nap and watching K-drama

What is one message you would like to share with our boarders at this time?
Be respectful and kind to each other

Fun fact
I once discovered that "horsesickness" is a real thing while horse riding through deep snow in the Altai mountains



Ms Mariia Mironova
Head of Girls' Boarding



Mrs Eileen Hughes
International Boarding House Coordinator

What inspired you to work in boarding?
Honestly, I had FOMO. I spent 8 years living in a boarding school, listening to my children and husband talking about how amazing it was, how much fun it was, and what a great tight-knit community the boarding community was. I felt on the fringes until I started working in a boarding house.

What are you most looking forward to this year?
Getting to know lots of new students, seeing how they settle, develop great friendships and grow as individuals.

What do you think makes a strong boarding community?
Respect, kindness and tolerance for and from everyone, shared living spaces can be tricky!

What is your favourite way to relax after a busy day?
Watching medical dramas or true crime documentaries, walking and playing pickle ball

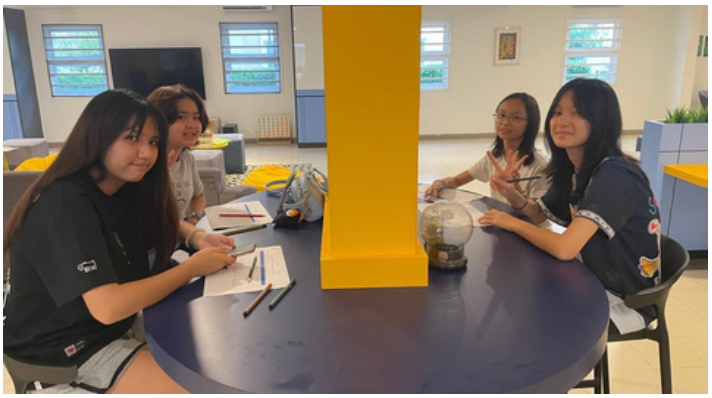
What is one message you would like to share with our boarders at this time?
Every day is a fresh start

Fun fact
I have moved house 18 times since I left school

Boarding Induction Day

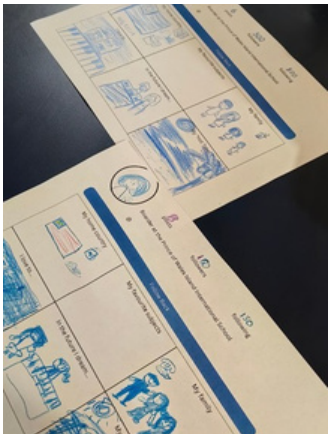
The best type of induction...new and existing students at play, making new memories and feeling a sense of belonging.

























Student Spotlight

New faces:



What was your first impression of boarding?
Kaanav: Comfortable, clean, and hygienic
Pierre: Nice, I like being with friends and living in school
Pluem: Great, nice people

Have you made any new friends or had a memorable first experience so far?
Kaanav: Not yet, but wish to make a memorable experience
Pierre: Yeah, playing futsal with my friends from boarding activity could help me to make new friends
Pluem: Year 7 boarders and in the school

What is the one thing from home that you miss the most?
Kaanav: My parents and home
Pierre: Family and my country's food
Pluem: My parents, my dog (Cartier) and the food

Returning Boarders



What was your first impression of boarding?
Ryo: At first, I thought boarding would be very strict, but it has become a place that feels like home
Hugo: We have everything - a football field, MPH and a swimming pool

Have you made any new friends or had a memorable first experience so far?
Ryo: Playing futsal in the MPH with Mr Eccles
Hugo: Playing futsal together with new friends

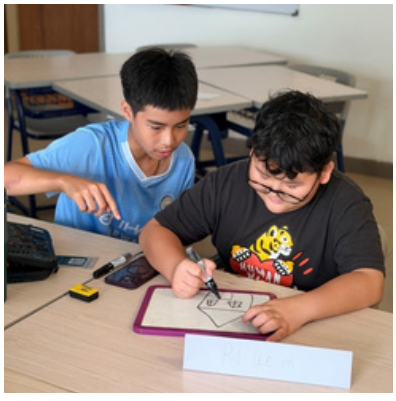
What is the one thing from home that you miss the most?
Ryo: Food - especially the beef
Hugo: My parents and the food

English Programme for Boarding Students

Our EAL classes have begun, delivered with the British Council. The focus is on building conversation skills and encouraging students to engage confidently in English.








A Taste of Japan: Cooking Japanese Curry

Early arrivals enjoying a cooking session with Mr Eccles, a real taste of home for our Japanese students and a relaxed way to share food and settle in.





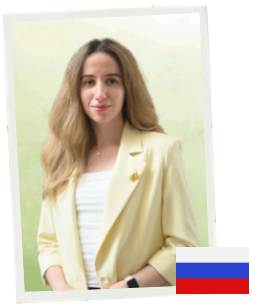






Meeting Our Community

As our boarding community brings together students and staff from diverse backgrounds, we're excited to celebrate and feature the different cultures and experiences that make our community unique.



Ms Mariia



Jeli (Y10)



Topaz (Y9)



Hikari (Y7)



Mabrouka (Y13)



Lang Xu (Y10)



Wen Le (Y10)

What is one thing you would like others to know about your culture or country?

Ms Mariia:
Russians are very loyal and kind-hearted people, and they have a rich culture. It is difficult to describe Russia in just a few words, so you should come and visit!

Jeli:
In Thailand some people still ride elephants to school, most people saw water lizards once.

Topaz:
In Thailand most kids apply the baby powder on their face before going to school.

Hikari:
In Japanese, how to say 4 and 7 is different when we count 1 to 10 and when we count 10 to 1.

Mabrouka:
In Chad, family goes beyond your immediate relatives. There is a strong sense of community, and people look out for one another wherever they go.

Lang Xu and Wen Le:
We honour our ancestors during the Chinese New Year. In Fujian, China, there are traditional deity parades.

What is your favourite traditional food from your country?

Ms Mariia: Baklava and plov





Hikari: Ome-rice, in other words, rice omelette, which is a dish consisting of ketchup rice topped with an omelette. It's a very popular dish in Japan, and we do have a lot of repertoire, e.g., one using butter rice instead of ketchup rice. The main ingredients are ketchup, small pieces of chicken and veg, rice and egg. In Japan, we do have a lot of dishes like this, Japanese-western dishes.



Mabrouka: Daraba, a hearty vegetable stew made with okra, leafy greens, and a flavourful peanut-based sauce



Jeli: Pad-thai and somtum. Pad-thai is one of Thailand's national dishes, which combines stir-fried rice noodles with ingredients such as eggs, tofu, bean sprouts, and most of the time peanuts. Somtum is a traditional Thai green papaya salad, which has a mixture of different tastes: sweet, spicy, and savoury







Topaz: Somtum and fried basil. Fried basil is one of Thailand dishes, the fact that most Thai people like this dish because it tastes spicy but also has a little sweetness



Lang Xu and Wen Le:
Poached chicken, luosifen, dumplings, baozi





What is a special celebration or festival you enjoy?

Ms Mariia: Maslenitsa



Jeli: In Thailand there are songkran water festivals, yet as I came from a Thai-Chinese family, I celebrate Chinese New Year and the vegetarian festival as well.



Topaz: In Thailand there is the Loy Krathong festival. We have to make/buy krathong and gather around the river to float their krathong. This festival is for thank you the water goddess and washing away bad luck.



Hikari: In the middle of summer, many towns celebrate festivals named "Natsu Matsuri", which simply means summer festival. We make big streets filled by people and stalls for food, toys, drinks, etc.



Lang Xu and Wen Le: The Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional Chinese festival for family gatherings, falling on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month.



In China's Minnan region, locals have a fun custom called Bo Bing. Participants take turns rolling six dice. Based on their dice results, they win mooncakes of different ranks, with the top prize named "Zhuangyuan". It's a popular Mid-Autumn dice game here.

