

Headteacher's Newsletter – December 2022

Quote of the month:

'...Your presence as a woman in power in a country where politics is a male dominated field is truly inspiring. Your efforts to criminalise sexism and discrimination against women, as well as legally recognising femicide as a separate offense are highly respected...Your advocacy for youth participation in politics and decision-making has emphasised the importance of inspiring youth to help shape their own future. Your work has left a significant impact on youth's mindset, and I thank you for making the prospect of a brighter, more inclusive future seem attainable.'

Address of our Head Girl, Carolina Prodromou, to honour Ms Annita Demetriou, Speaker of the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the inauguration of our new library facility this month.



Leadership

Library Inauguration

We were honoured to welcome to our school on December 9th, Ms Annita Demetriou, the Speaker of the House of Representatives to formally inaugurate our new library. Ms Demetriou expressed her appreciation for being invited and also her admiration for our school and its good reputation in the community.



Emily and Iliana prepare to make their speeches

The event was attended by student leaders (Head Girl, Head Boy and their deputies, President of the Student Council and Student Council members) along with available staff, members of the Board and our Principal. After speeches from students (Emily Kyriakides and Iliana Skordi), the Headmaster spoke followed by Ms Demetriou who focused not only on the value of books and reading [*'libraries will always be the shelters of truth and the bastions of freedom of expression and opinion'*], but also on issues relating to democracy and human rights. Finally, our Head Girl delivered an impressive speech on what Ms Demetriou's visit meant to our school. There followed a tour of the Library itself and then a walk around the school's facilities with a small reception in the Principal's office.



Ms Annita Demetriou delivering her speech in the new Library



Head Boy, Aris Varnavides, presents flowers and plaque as tokens of appreciation



Head Girl, Carolina Prodrumou, following her speech of thanks, with Ms Demetriou



And the unveiling of the commemorative plaque



Imparting words of advice to our student leaders



Our new Library

Cambridge International Exams Awards Ceremony 2022

We were very excited to celebrate the academic achievements of our students at the Cambridge International Exams awards ceremony this month, hosted at Pavillion. Congratulations to all students who received their awards. We should also highlight the fact that one of our Geography students received the *Top Mark in Cyprus Award*!

Well done!

Top Marks in Cyprus:

Evie Bridger - Geography AS Level

AS & A Level - High Achievement:

Ekaterina Stepanova - Digital Media & Design A Level

Anna Tikhomirova - Literature in English A Level

Danae Panayiotou - Literature in English AS Level

Evie Bridger - Literature in English AS Level

IGCSE High Achievement:

Emily Kyriakides - Latin IGCSE

Charidimos Ioannou - Music IGCSE



An evening of celebration



'Top in Cyprus' - Evie and her Geography teacher, Ms Natalie Shaka

Outstanding Learners – Pearson EDEXCEL

Well done to another two of our students for their amazing academic performances in EDEXCEL exams last summer:

Lena Neophytou: *Highest Mark in Cyprus* for International GCSE German

Talar Geukdjian: *Highest Mark in Cyprus* for International Advanced Level Business

Drama Trip to London for our Year 12s and 13s

Year 12 and 13 Drama students travelled to London in December and were fortunate to see four West-End productions as well as benefiting from a backstage tour of Shakespeare's Globe and the National Theatre. They were also able to participate in a workshop on "Othello" prior to seeing the performance itself and visited the Tate Modern for some research on their art-inspired devised work as well as enjoying some street theatre at Covent Garden. A hugely beneficial experience for our A Level students! Many thanks to their teacher, Ms Cosma, for organising the trip.

Key Stage 3 Xmas Party

We have been looking forward very much to hosting a Christmas party for our KS3 students following the COVID-19 years, so it was with some relief that we were able to provide our younger students with a chance to let their hair down at a school organised event (in the Assembly Hall). Music, games, pizza and doughnuts and lots of fun were the order of the day! We would like to express our appreciation to staff who chaperoned on the evening, especially Ms Elena Andreou – Head of Year 9 – for organising the party. Gratitude also to the PGA for decorations and food and other general assistance!

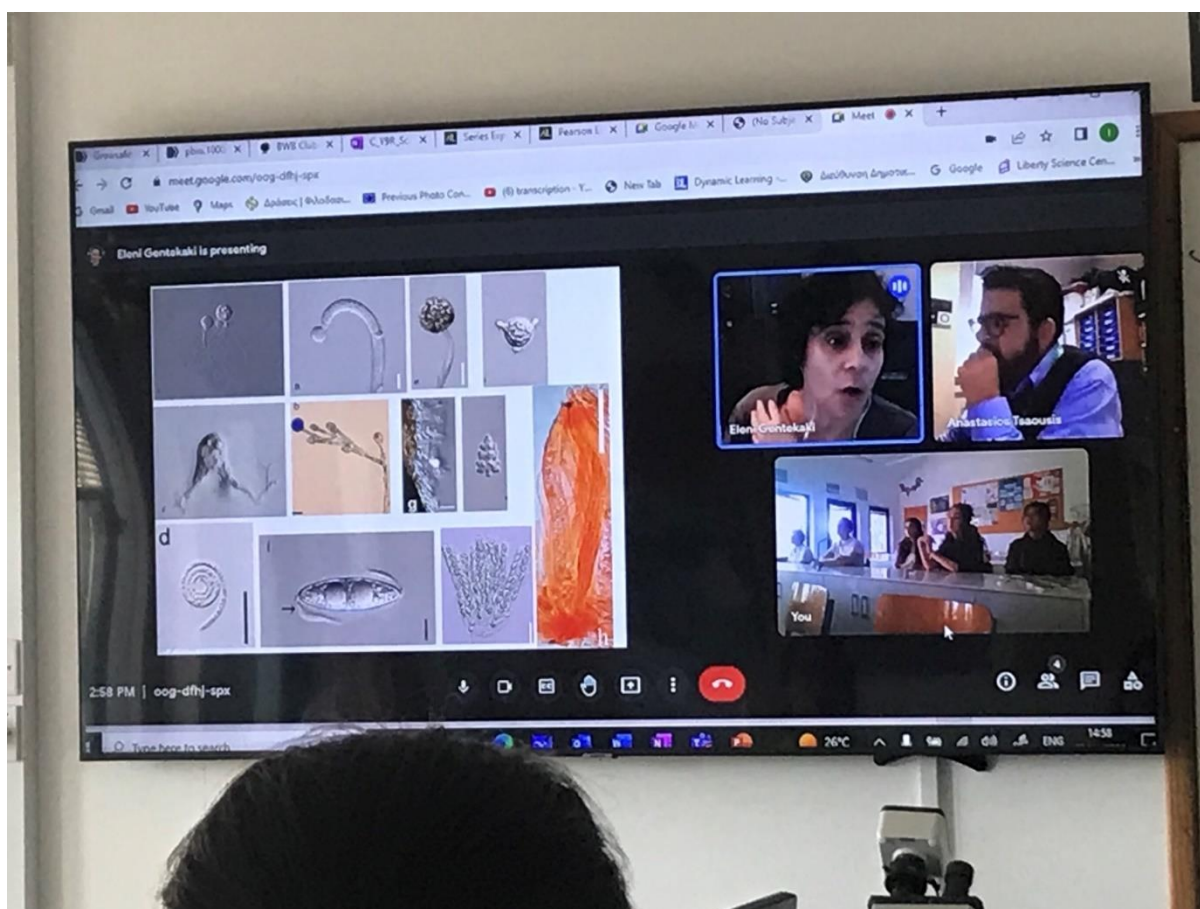
Frankenstein and his ‘monster’ – Guilty or innocent?



Year 7 have been studying the text of the stage adaptation of Frankenstein by Mary Shelley in Literature. The English Department arranged for students to be put into groups to focus on either Frankenstein or the monster. The task entailed putting together a strong, valid argument in order to prove the innocence of either one supported by evidence from the text of the play. Groups took it in turns to debate, acting as lawyers for their chosen character! Many thanks to Ms Ioannou for this report.

University of Nicosia and Senior School research collaboration

We are proud to report that we have been lucky enough to benefit from funding (€700) from the University of Nicosia. Students will be carrying out research on soil microorganisms and their anti-microbial properties, a project that is spearheaded by Dr Tsaousis (University of Kent at Canterbury), Dr Gentekaki (University of Mae Fah Luang) and Dr Mavrides (University of Nicosia). We are very grateful to UNic for their generous donation and support of active scientific research by our students.



Our Research Club students in a video call with Dr Tsaousis and Dr Gentekaki

Online Safety



Our Year 9s were able to learn about the importance of being safe online with a presentation/workshop from Mr Andreas Andreou, an expert on cybersafety.

Friendly fixture



Another opportunity for inter-school collaboration and competition was provided with a visit from a group of American Academy, Nicosia students and their coach for a game of football.

Open Day 2022 – A well-attended event!

On December 14th, we hosted our Open Day event. This was an opportunity to showcase as much as possible about our school to all interested visitors. We were thrilled that our invitation to our own JS parents and children and other families whose children attend public (and other private) schools resulted in a large level of interest. Indeed, we ended up with 140 registrations, which translated into attendance of well over 300 people. Staff worked hard to prepare for the day and we express our gratitude to all for putting on such a great show of our school. This effort was supported by volunteer students who assisted with the various activities as well as leading tours of the school of separate groups of parents and children. I would also like to convey the school's appreciation to our Registrar and Admissions Officer, Ms Christina Kkolou, for leading and coordinating the whole event.



Open Day 2022: Now, who might these gentlemen be?

Professional Development at the Senior School

We are committed to developing and improving our approaches to teaching and learning in our school and have focused on a variety of professional learning opportunities this term aimed at encouraging teacher collaboration and sharing good practice.

One of the aims this academic year has been to enhance our approach to feedback as well as to monitor the effectiveness and impact of this on student learning. In November, teachers came together to discuss formative assessment strategies. They reflected on how Assessment for Learning has a positive impact on our students' learning and progress and shared examples of formative assessment activities across departments. As a follow-up to this, teachers are now undergoing a series of peer observations, which involve teachers observing their colleagues' practice and learning from each other, as well as preparing cross-curricular activities. We are also using a formal process of work scrutiny to monitor how much impact feedback is having on student attainment over time.

Our teachers are, moreover, dedicated to providing our students with the tools to be independent learners. As such, we have embraced the concept of Active Learning which

focuses on *how* students learn, not just *what* they learn. Through sharing good practice and teacher collaboration, we aim to nurture learning environments which promote critical thinking, autonomy, and deep, reflective learning in all our students.

On our return to school after the Christmas and New Year break, our Professional Learning (training) Day will include a wealth of teaching and learning activities teachers can participate in as well as the chance to explore the use of digital tools in the classroom to enhance our students' learning further and help develop their digital skills. Thank you to Ms Eleni Kallitsi, our Continuous Professional Development Coordinator, for leading this and all other professional development opportunities in our school.

2023 and onwards

After an extraordinarily busy Autumn Term, we look forward to the new year with a number of key events and activities to come. We wish Year 11 the very best of luck in their Mocks in January as well as Years 12 and 13 for the March Mocks. I would like to note here that the planned ARDs as they were originally set for the spring term are being re-thought. There will be further details on this very soon. We also look forward to the school's musical production along with entrance tests for new students on March 15th. There will, of course, be much else happening as is to be expected in any school term and there will be more on this in the newsletters to come! News of our Talent Show will also be shared in the January issue.

May I take this opportunity to remind parents and students that we expect school uniform to be worn in line with our uniform regulations. Compliance with the expected standards in appearance is a reflection of pride in our school. We have, however, for the most part been delighted that the majority of students have been well turned out for school, so well done to them! Please maintain this excellent standard of appearance. In the meantime, we would like to kindly request that students who may still have issues with aspects of uniform use the break to address these before returning to school in January.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and an amazing 2023!

Yiannis Georgiou

Senior School Headteacher

