

# SS Headteacher's Newsletter

## January 2024

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The Junior and Senior School is a Candidate School\* for the Diploma Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that The Junior and Senior School believes is important for our students.

*\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)*

The Junior and Senior School is, as you will be aware, working towards obtaining authorization for the delivery of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP).

We are excited to report that we have succeeded in achieving the status of a 'Candidate School' from the IB Organisation. As a result, we are now working closely with the IB Organisation to be in a position to apply for authorization to deliver the DP with a potential launch date of September 2025. If there are any significant delays this may be put back to 2026, although we are very hopeful this will not be the case.

The Diploma Programme is to be offered to students entering our 6th Form (Years 12 and 13). It is important to note that the DP will be offered as an alternative to A Level in Year 12; it is not replacing it. A programme of A levels will continue to be offered along with [I]GCSEs.

The authorization process will involve training and preparation of the staff who will deliver the DP as well as appointments to key roles to lead its implementation and administration and assurances that our policies and procedures align with the IB ethos.

# What is an IB Education:



First and foremost an IB education helps empower young people to be autonomous in their education. They are encouraged to be active learners and globally engaged.

The IB also nurtures a well-rounded education and supports important life skills social/personal skills they will need both in higher education and in the workplace along with the skills they will develop as positive contributors to society. Being open to other cultures, exhibiting respect and a strong sense of empathy are also key skills that are promoted.

The traditional idea of a separation of subjects or a specialisation in a small number of areas is alien in the IBDP. One of the most important features is the breadth and interconnectedness between fields that the IB encourages.

## The IB Learner Profile:



*The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world'*

The IB then is an exciting opportunity for us to offer an education to our students that very much aligns with our own school's mission and ethos: The IB aims to empower students to thrive as **resilient** and **well-rounded** learners who are able to make active contributions to local and global communities. The IB nurtures learners to become **global and environmentally sensitive citizens**. IB students are **open-minded and respectful of cultural diversity**. They are **critical thinkers** who are prepared to pursue **independent learning and research** and are **multilingual** and **creative**. The programme equips students with the skills and mindset needed to navigate the complexities of the future and contribute positively to a rapidly changing world.

All of the above make us very excited at the prospect of offering the DP to our students!

## What does it mean in practice?



Students who are accepted onto the programme before entering Year 12 choose **one course from each of the six groups of subjects**. Students must take one of each group at least three of which **MUST** be a two-year **higher level (HL)** course. The rest will be standard level (SL) courses.

Potential groups and subjects we may be offering at the launch. Note: This is a sample draft and will be subject to change:

## Subject Groups – *Initial offering*



Students can make their selection of courses based on their academic strengths and interests. The standard level courses and higher-level courses are rigorous in nature, scope and coverage. The higher-level courses expand upon the curriculum offered at the standard level which will often require one or more additional internal and/or external assessments.

In addition to the above, IB DP students will also be required to take a set of mandatory core subjects:

### **An Extended Essay (4000 words)**

A research paper designed to teach students how to independently research topics, much like those they will be exposed to at university level.

### **The Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**

This is an interdisciplinary course that enables students to reflect critically on the question of “How do we know what we know?” Students learn about how looking at the way we know things varies from one subject area to the next, and how decision making requires logical connections of differing areas of knowledge.

### **CAS (Creativity, Activity, and Service)**

Through creative activities, sports, volunteerism, etc., students build confidence in themselves while improving their communities (The IBO expects students to make community contributions for an average of 2 hours each week during Years 12 and 13 after school.)

I am sharing with you a couple of video links for an overview of what an IB education can offer:

<https://vimeo.com/92725628> (What is the IB)

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/64308996> (What it means for a student to be an IB learner)

For further details on the IB, please refer to this link:

<https://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/>

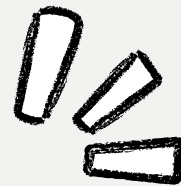
## *The Junior and Senior Institute*



In the meantime, we are also busy working towards the imminent launch of our own Institute. The trademark has been approved: Private Educational Centre: The Junior and Senior Institute. We are now working with the Ministry of Education to complete all requirements for the licence to operate to be issued. We aim to initially focus on the provision of English language for all levels and will plan further down the line to offer other subjects and courses (which, of course, may also attract our own students).

This is an exciting project which we feel will not only offer an important service for the local community but will in addition raise the profile of our school as an educational institution which can offer an important service to parents and children in Nicosia and its suburbs.

## *Erasmus Accreditation!*



The Junior and Senior School is very proud to announce that we have gained the status of Erasmus Accreditation in the field of School Education. Obtaining an Erasmus Accreditation in the field of School Education is a certification of our school's competence and ability to implement 'exemplary transnational mobility projects'. It allows us to access EU funding and guarantees the quality of the mobility projects submitted, in terms of organisation, management and achievement of the expected results and objectives.

This accreditation very much aligns with our ethos of engagement internationally and will provide exciting opportunities for the school to gain access to important training or professional development for staff and mobility projects for students. Click below for more:

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-1/mobility-school>



## SS STUDENT STRIKES GOLD!

Well done to Maya Angelidou of Year 9. She has succeeded in gaining the Gold Medal in the recent Kangaroo Greek Competition. The Kangaroo Greek Competition challenges and recognizes talented young minds in Greek language proficiency. Maya's linguistic skills and appreciation of Greek culture were well received and rightly rewarded. We also wish to express our appreciation to her teachers and parents.



**The school is mightily proud of  
Maya and her achievement!**



# Independent Student Action!

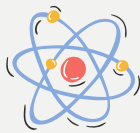


Young environmental warriors

We are so proud of our students who decided, without any encouragement from their teachers, to take a bus trip to Larnaca for a beach clean-up!

As reported on Omegalive (<https://omegalive.com.cy/kypros/eikones-mathetes-katharisan-ten-ntropi-mas-stis-thalasses-tes-larnakas/>), these Senior School students took it upon themselves during the Christmas break to clean up the garbage strewn across a beach on the south coast. This initiative was their own entirely and their contribution to a clean up of the environment was so well received that it drew the attention of the local media. Well done to all!

## Physics success



The Cyprus Society of Physicists hosted an annual Student Creativity Competition, inviting participation from students across Cyprus. This competition recognizes excellence in various categories, including Physics-related video, photography, and article creations.

In the previous year's competition, our School achieved remarkable success by securing three awards, two of which were publicised earlier in the year. The prestigious awards ceremony took place last summer to honour outstanding achievements. Notably, Melina Louka and Iliana Skordi received the coveted 3rd place prize for their exceptional Physics Video creation on Pulsars.



Alex Theodorou also clinched third prize for his captivating Physics photography, A Clash of Waves.

Later in the year, during the autumn season, the awards for Article writing were unveiled. We are delighted to report that Pavlos Bismal (Year 12) won the second prize for his insightful article entitled: The contribution of modern Physics to the management of the two most important crises of the last decades: the climate crisis and the energy crisis. Well done, Pavlos! A magnificent achievement.

The Physics Department also arranged for an amazing trip to Geneva in Switzerland to explore how the Physicists and engineers at CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire) use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments (such as the famous Large Hadron Collider (LHC) - The world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator to study the basic constituents of matter. Subatomic particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light which helps us understand how the particles interact and, as a result, the fundamental laws of nature.

Students also toured the state-of-the-art facilities led by a knowledgeable physicist from CERN and actively participated in a Lab workshop where they had the chance to create their own cloud chamber, allowing them to witness the principles of physics in action.

This was a once in a lifetime experience for our Physics students to not only learn more about the work going on here, but also to be inspired in their studies.

In addition to the educational aspect, the students also enjoyed various activities in Geneva. They indulged in a delicious meal at a traditional restaurant and experienced an entertaining show. The students also had fun ice-skating at Geneva park and explored the enchanting Christmas Market in the city.

**Much appreciation** to Ms. Monou , Mrs Hartoutsiou and Mr. Papadopoulos for organising the trip.



SS Physicists on tour

## News from our Year 8s



Last month, Year 8 students took part in the annual Bake Sale Competition with great enthusiasm with a view to raising funds to support the Red Cross. 8R won the competition, raising €260. Well done! The total raised by Year 8 this year came to a massive €885. Ms Andrea Loizou, from the Red Cross (youth branch), will be contacted to come and receive the cheque.

Students also created form class identity displays such as this impressive flower!

Positive messages in bloom



# Psychological insights



We are happy to report that the Psychology Department welcomed guest speaker and Clinical Psychologist, Dr Doris Kamara, who visited the Year 13 Psychology students on Thursday 18th January. Dr Kamara covered topics in forensic psychology and addictions, while also providing valuable guidance on various career paths within the field of psychology. She engaged the students by answering their thought-provoking questions, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject matter. The talk was incredibly insightful and greatly complemented the theory Year 13 students have been studying in their A Level Psychology course.

## Year 11 Mocks



With the academic year already approaching the half-way mark, the Year 11 students were forced to dedicate much of their Christmas and New year break to some focused revision and review of their (I)GCSE studies. Their mock exams are designed primarily to prepare our students for the actual exams in the summer as well as to highlight areas they need to work on whether these be content based or skills related. Having endured an intense period of examination sessions and study, we hope our Year 11s are now able to better reflect on their performance with a view to gearing up for success in May and June later this year. They will, of course, be receiving advice and exam tips from their teachers, but should also take the initiative themselves in designing their own daily programmes of study and revision from now onwards. These will help in not only focusing their revision but also in identifying areas for improvement for which they should request assistance from their teachers. We wish them well on this final stretch towards the summer assessments!

## News from the SS PGA

Firstly, many thanks to the PGA for their generous support in organising the class photos as well as the Year 13 graduation photos. Their contributions are always well received.

Secondly the PGA would like to announce their newly created Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555036277845&mibextid=kFxxJD>

And for any payments to the SS PGA, please use this link:

<https://www.jccsmart.com/e-bill/48311013>

Board Chair, Mr Tasos Ziziros,  
expresses the school's  
appreciation to departing  
Principal, Mr McMurray



For their A Level  
Economics class, Year  
13 students prepared  
presentations on  
'Trading Blocs'.  
Congratulations to all  
of them for their  
dedication and the  
time they spent to  
present their findings.

## *International Debate and Public Speaking Success!*

Congratulations to two of our students who have been successful in their participation in an international public speaking and debating competition (Resolved: <https://www.branksome.on.ca/resolved>), hosted online by Branksome Hall School in Toronto, Canada. *Harriet Economidou and Emily Kyriakides* (both Year 12) composed and delivered online Persuasive speeches on the resolution; **The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights has lost its relevance.** Competitors could be either for or against and had to prepare and deliver a recorded speech which was assessed by judges internationally.

Our students competed with other competitors from around the world and we are delighted that they have made it through to the Debate finals where they will each be partnered with another international debater and will prepare for a competitive debate on a new resolution. The top four debaters will be flown (all expenses paid) to Toronto for a grand final in April. These four will also benefit from a scholarship amount which will go towards their studies in higher education. Best of luck to our girls!

## *Badminton Achievement*

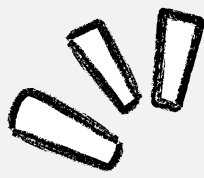


SS student Zhao Ziqi (Andy) demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication, securing first place in the recent regional badminton competitions. Currently, his focus is on preparing for the upcoming Pancyprrian competition. Well done and best of luck!

## *Senior School students at the Cyprus House of Representatives*

SS students recently had the opportunity to visit the House of Representatives where they were given an interesting presentation on the workings of our parliament as well as taking part in a simulated debate in the chamber itself. Congratulations to all for an excellent visit and many thanks to Head of Greek, Ms Maria Zapiti and her Department for arranging the trip as well as other staff members accompanying the delegation to the House.





Member of the House, Mr Theopemptou chats with our students on the challenging work of House representatives.



SS Students take charge and debate the resolution that the voting age be lowered to 16.

SS Students vote on the resolution before the House – It didn't pass!



Mr Pipis in the House of representatives takes one of the selfies of the year!



# Talent Show 2024 is here!

Tickets available from Ticketbox:

<https://www.ticketbox.com.cy/>



The Senior School proudly presents their much-anticipated annual talent showcase, this year entitled Imprints. The event will take place on Thursday 8th February 7.30pm at Strovolos Municipal Theatre and will include drama, music and dance acts. Tickets are available from Ticketbox.

*Thank you*

Yiannis Georgiou  
Senior School Headteacher  
Acting Principal

