

SS Headteacher's Newsletter


June 2024

QUOTES OF THE MONTH



"Things are only impossible until they are not'.

*Jean-Luc Picard, Captain of the Federation starship,
Enterprise*



"Paths are made by
walking'.

Franz Kafka, novelist

This past year has again been full of activity and events for our young people from the range of extracurriculars and participations outside or after school to the myriad of academic and other achievements and trips/events in school. We are rightly proud that we are able to offer a holistic education provision for our students that nurtures all-round development personally, socially, morally and academically. In the meantime, I hope that you have found the Newsletters for this year informative and entertaining. Again, I wish to thank Ms Stalo Spanoudi for her work in ensuring a well-designed and formatted edition that definitely is more pleasing on the eye!

IB - the year ahead

We are well on the way towards gaining authorization to begin delivery of the IB Diploma programme from September 2025. Since January of this year, we have been engaged in wide-ranging programme of training/workshops both at senior and middle leadership level and for individual subjects. These workshops are dedicated to ensuring we upskill our staff to the degree that they have the confidence and knowledge required to offer a high-quality course of studies that will lead to outstanding outcomes for the first cohort. We have been revising certain policies as required by the IBO and have forged ahead with the appointment of a highly experienced IB Diploma Programme Coordinator who will be joining our school in September. I will be introducing our new colleague to you at the start of the new academic year. Her role will be to lead on the drive to authorization, which will include ensuring course plans are in place as well as training complete. Our ethos, fortunately, already matches that of the IBO and we are confident we will be able to launch with a well resourced and effective IBDP which addresses the needs and ambitions of those students who will be on the programme.

The Junior and Senior Institute

As mentioned in past newsletters, we are well on the way to a launch of our new Institute, whose primary aim is to serve the needs of local children in developing the required skills and competencies in English language. We are also planning to offer adult courses in IELTS along with future plans for other subjects. We have, moreover, included optional courses for any SS students in KS3 who may be in need of serious support for their English language development. These courses are designed for and dedicated to those for whom English is an additional language and who may have significant gaps that cannot be addressed in 'booster' classes. These more than likely (though not exclusively) are for children who may have entered the school late and/or have not attended an English medium primary school before arriving at the SS. The courses offered are planned with detailed schemes of work and assessments that are supported with regular coordination with the SS English department. The aim is to ensure these children are well equipped to succeed in preparation for their IGCSE English language course as well as all other subjects in KS4.

The ISI Inspection of our school

As you will be aware, we are preparing for an inspection of our school planned for the week beginning November 18th. In June, we were fortunate to welcome the lead inspector from the ISI who will be heading his team in November to assess how well we measure up against the standards required for British Schools Overseas. In his pre-inspection visit, he was able to spend time at both the Junior and Senior sites where he had numerous meetings with staff (teaching and non-teaching) along with students. This pre-inspection visit was a success. We are already in a very strong position with regard to the **personal, social and moral development of students, child safeguarding and compliance with other key areas such as health and safety**. We are also very much in a good position with regard to **achievement of students**.

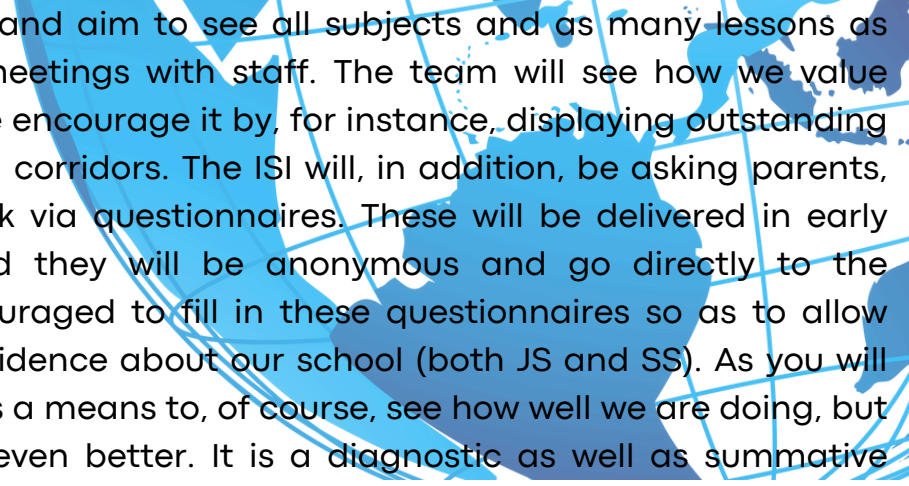
Essentially, the focus of this (and any) inspection is to ascertain how well we address the impact of teaching and learning throughout the school. This means work scrutiny of student work and teacher feedback and the use of data (and other evidence) to measure attainment and value-added, how we respond to the outcomes of the teaching and learning, and how we review the steps we may have taken to act on data and work scrutiny to ensure positive outcomes for every student. The expectation is to focus on the impact of everything we do on student achievement whether it be in the form of addressing individual needs or in the resources required to deliver courses of study. We already carry out detailed work scrutiny spotlighting our analysis on the effectiveness of teacher feedback to students on their work. We also reflect on exams/assessment data outcomes and the actions needed to improve. We are moreover ensuring that every department is dedicated to developing active learners in every classroom.

This means allowing students to both take ownership of their progress and to encourage independent learning. We know that such approaches that engage students can make significant differences to achievement for young people. This entails training and sharing of good practice both within and across departments. In November, inspectors will be looking at every aspect of our school our impact on student development.

This will involve, for example, the inspection team meeting with individual students to talk through their work/assignments and to explore how they have progressed and their responses to feedback from teachers.



ISI



Inspectors will visit classrooms and aim to see all subjects and as many lessons as possible. They will be having meetings with staff. The team will see how we value student attainment and how we encourage it by, for instance, displaying outstanding student work in classrooms and corridors. The ISI will, in addition, be asking parents, students and staff for feedback via questionnaires. These will be delivered in early October before their visit, and they will be anonymous and go directly to the inspection team. You are encouraged to fill in these questionnaires so as to allow inspectors another source of evidence about our school (both JS and SS). As you will appreciate, the entire exercise is a means to, of course, see how well we are doing, but also to identify where can do even better. It is a diagnostic as well as summative assessment of our school (JS and SS jointly) and we look forward to welcoming the ISI team and to reflecting on the outcomes of their visit.



PSHE – Pastoral Care

As indicated above, we have made significant strides in our pastoral provision. Form Tutors, supported by Heads of Year (for every year group) are committed to supporting and guiding students in their overall development. We respond to concerns (academic and personal/social) and we ensure the delivery of a programme of PSHE that addresses the needs of all students, including life skills: study skills, social/personal growth, resilience and the building of those essential emotional literacy skills that are so important today. We have also established a robust child safeguarding regime that aims to protect children and young people from abuse or hardship. This was particularly noted during the recent pre-inspection visit.

Expectations

Our expectations run high. We expect students to do their best academically and personally/socially. We also are committed to delivering the best possible in terms of classroom teaching and learning along with extra-curricular opportunities and initiatives. At the same time, we encourage student voice and the active participation of our student leaders. We have recently appointed new student leaders to their positions and congratulate them on their achievement:

New student leadership team:

Head Girl: Harriet Economides

Head Boy: Pavlos Bismal

Deputy Head Team: Rebecca Petrou, Emily Kyriakides, Joe Stewart

OUTGOING STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Well done and many thanks to this year's outgoing Student Leadership Team: Anna-Myria Oxyinos (HG), Harry (Charidemos) Ioannou (HB), Athina Savva (dep. HG) and Mohaned Alghol (dep. HB). These young people have been outstanding this year and we would like to extend our appreciation to them as active contributors to the life of the school and for being impressive ambassadors for the whole school community.



ARDs – Parent Teacher Consultations

As a result of a vote by staff, we will continue with the old 'ARD' system on parent-teacher consultations next academic year. The dates will be confirmed in due course.

SS Staff leaving and thanks

As is the case every year, some staff will be departing the school. We would like to firstly thank them for their service to the school and their dedication to the wellbeing and education of our students, and to wish them well in their future endeavours:

- Ms Erasmia Agisilaou (Greek) – taking up teaching allocation at the Junior School
- Ms Stella Louca (Greek) – career move
- Ms Aspasia Manti (ICT/Computing) - retirement
- Ms Suheyra Timucin (Psychology) maternity and career move
- Mr Guy Dean (Geography) – leaving Cyprus and career move
- Mr Nikos Papadopoulos (Maths) – career move
- Ms Margarita Garrett (Music) – career move
- Ms Elena Christou (Economics) – public school appointment

OTHER NEWS:

U17 Euro call-up!

Our very own Maximos Petousis of Year 10 recently had an incredible opportunity to represent Cyprus in the UEFA European Under-17 Championships right here in Cyprus. Maximos showcased his talent and dedication as a member of the football national team, playing as a defender in three matches against Ukraine, Chechia, and Serbia. Well done, Maximos!

Maximos is wearing the number 6 shirt



Recognition for Natalie

Natalie, one of our talented students, showcased her remarkable swimming skills on the 23rd of February, competing in the 800m women's race. Not only did she secure an impressive third place in her category, but she also broke her own personal record! On the 10th May, Natalie's outstanding achievement was further celebrated at an athletes' reward ceremony organized by the Aglantzia Municipality. The mayor of Aglantzia proudly presented Natalie with a well-deserved award, recognizing her dedication and hard work.

Natalie receives honour from Aglantzia Mayor



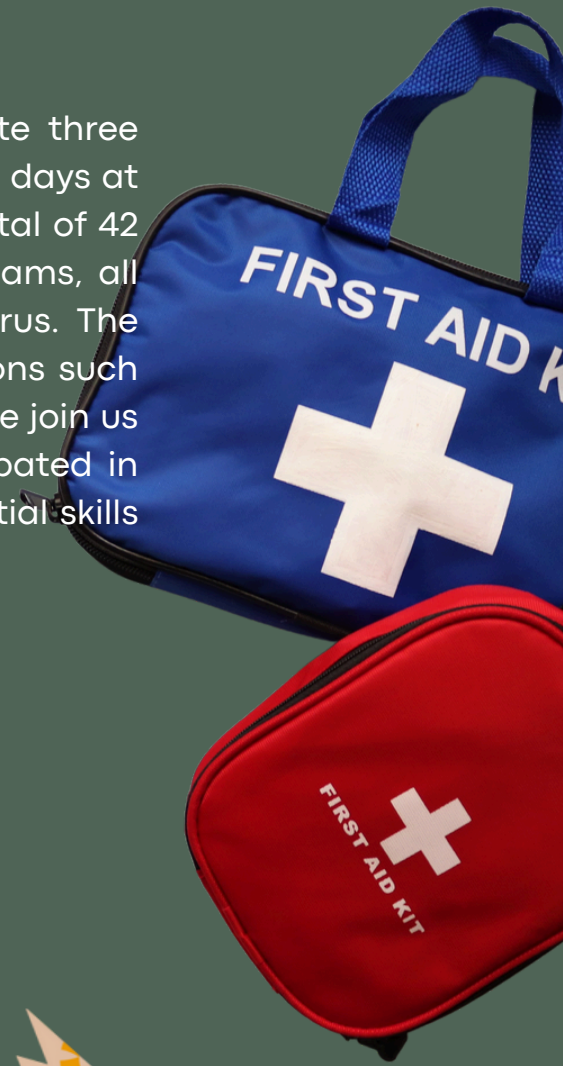
SS student interns in the House

We are most proud to announce that three of our outstanding students, Chloe Plati, Emily Kyriakides and Marko Milenko Lagos have been accepted into the prestigious Cyprus Parliament Summer Internship Programme! This is an amazing achievement, and we couldn't be more thrilled for them. Congratulations on this well-deserved opportunity.



Staff achievements

Our staff members had the opportunity to complete three days of First Aid training in the Junior School and two days at the Senior School. We're delighted to share that a total of 42 staff members successfully passed their First Aid exams, all thanks to the support of St. John's Ambulance Cyprus. The focus of the training was on life-threatening conditions such as cardiac arrest, choking, and severe bleeding. Please join us in congratulating all the staff members who participated in the training. Their dedication to learning these essential skills is truly commendable.



SS staff Life Savers, accompanied by trainer, Mr Vyrides



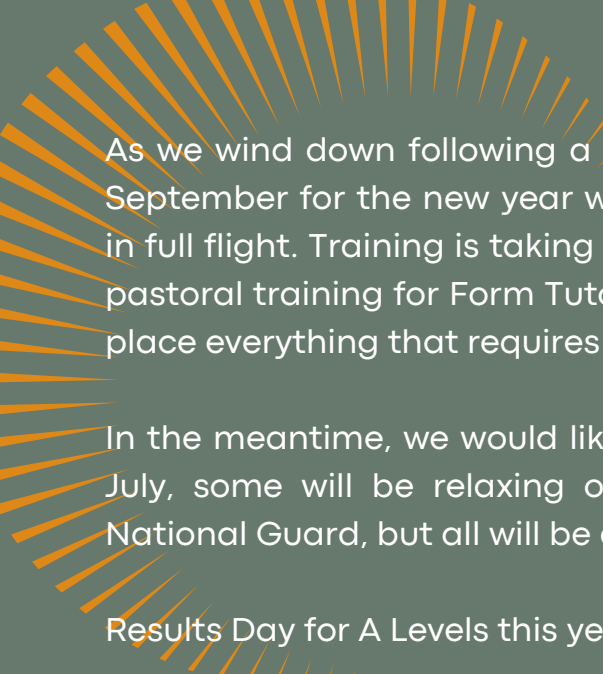
Other staff success:

I am proud to report that all of our academic leadership team – All Heads of Department/Faculty and Subject Leads (along with our Librarian and Careers Officer) have successfully completed the IB Diploma Programme online workshop, Leading the Learning. This was a month-long workshop that required real engagement and active participation from our staff. The experience and the certification they have gained are essential in our bid to win authorization to deliver the IBDP in September 2025. Many thanks for their dedication!



I can also share that a number of other staff have either completed or are in the process of completing subject specific online workshops to enable them to plan and deliver the IBDP for their particular subject area. Once again, this required hard work, collaboration and dedication. Many thanks to all for their time and effort which again will be fundamental in allowing the school to be in a strong position to launch the Diploma Programme.






As we wind down following a very busy academic year, we already have our eyes on September for the new year with planning by departments, pastoral care and others in full flight. Training is taking place this week for staff in a number of areas, including pastoral training for Form Tutors. This is an important time for the school as we put in place everything that requires attention for a smooth start to the year.

In the meantime, we would like to wish our graduates, SSL24, the very best of luck. In July, some will be relaxing on holiday, others will be serving their country in the National Guard, but all will be anxiously awaiting A level results.

Results Day for A Levels this year is August 15th!

(I)GCSE for most subjects will be a week later: August 22nd.

Results day for Cambridge IGCSE and AS/AL: 13th August.



Please allow me to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very restful and safe summer. We look forward to welcoming all our students back in September!

Thank you

Yiannis Georgiou
Senior School Headteacher
Acting Principal