



Friday 25th January 2019

## Term 2

Monday January 7th – Friday April 12th 2019  
Half Term Friday 15th February – Tuesday 25th February

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### *Thank you*

I would like to start this newsletter with a personal thank you. Over the last few weeks I have met with many parents and I have been touched by their good wishes as I start my new role at BIS. It is much appreciated and reinforces how lucky we are as a school to have such a supportive parental body.

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### *Year 11 Revision Sessions*

The revision sessions for Year 11 pupils begin from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January and will continue throughout this term. An email has been sent to all parents asking them to indicate which sessions they wish their son or daughter to attend. If you have yet to do this, please submit the online form no later than Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. Should you not have received the link please contact the registrars office.

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### *Concerts in the Park*

Whether it be through drama, oration, music or sport the opportunity to showcase talents and to build self confidence is fundamental to the holistic development of each student.

We therefore greatly appreciate the Creative Arts departments initiative of concerts in the park. From next month we will see a series of short, informal musical performances taking place around the school grounds. The first event will be at lunchtime on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. Any student or students wishing to

At BIS we are fortunate in having pupils with a wide range of talents and abilities and each is encouraged to make the very best of their potential throughout their time with us. In addition, we also have students who are exceptional in one or more subject areas. These students are often referred to as a school's A & T group. Identifying such a group is fraught with difficulties as pupils' talents emerge at different ages and can be demonstrated in different ways. While currently we are broadening the range of activities which will stretch and challenge these academically gifted young people these events are open to all and any student who wishes to attend is most welcome.

The first of these events is a lecture series. These lectures will be held each month from 2.45 in New Horizons. Each lecture will last approximately 35 minutes with refreshments afterwards during which students are encouraged to discuss their thoughts on the topics covered.

The first lecture will be on February 1st and is entitled 'Are democracies democratic?'

On Tuesday of this week 6 co-

## *TIM: Tracking, Intervention and Monitoring*

With the mock examinations for Years 10-13 now concluded it is an opportune time to outline how we monitor pupil progress.

At BIS we are in the process of introducing a formal TIM system. While this may sound rather grand at its heart is good common sense. Tracking is the measurement of what a student is achieving in examinations and comparing this to the standard that testing suggests that they are capable of. Interventions are the actions that are taken with students who are falling short of our expectations and monitoring is the reflection, via further testing, of whether our interventions are working.

Tracking: In Years 7, and 10 and 12 our students take a test provided by Durham University. This test is taken online and provides us with data that suggests the most likely levels of achievement in Years 9, 11 and 13. For the older pupils this likely level of achievement equates to the grades that they are capable of gaining at IGCSE and A Level. This likely level of achievement is often known as their likely target grade. This target grade can be adjusted by the teacher based on their personal knowledge of the student. These target grades should be challenging but achievable for each pupil.

Intervention: January's mock examination results will be published at Half Term and will be contrasted with a student's target grades. These comparisons are laid out on RAG sheets, where students missing their targets are shaded **red**, on target **amber** and above target **green**. Because of the colours used the system can also be referred to as traffic lighting.

Monitoring: Approximately every six weeks students are assessed either in class room tests or formal

## *Meeting with the Acting Principal*

I am available to meet with any parent on the school premises. An appointment system is run to avoid parents needlessly waiting if my diary is full as well as to ensure that sufficient time is set aside to discuss issues fully and without interruption. Please contact the Principal's PA on 0191 275 2222 to book an appointment.

I do appreciate that it may be more convenient, particularly for shorter meetings, to meet having dropped off your child in the morning. With this in mind 8.15-9.15 each day has been set aside for this very purpose.

The relationship between school and parent is crucial to both the happiness and academic development of each child in our care. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any issue that you would wish to discuss.

## Entrance test day Saturday February 9th

On February 9th we will hold the second of our 3 entrance test days for students wishing to join our Year 7 September 2019.

If you have family or friends who are considering us for their children's secondary education please let them know. Further information is available from the Registrar's office [registrar@bisnigeria.org](mailto:registrar@bisnigeria.org)