

CONNECT01

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

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Welcome
To Term 3



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
— SCHOOL —

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

Nexus Card

Please note that all adults must touch in when they enter the school and touch out when they leave. This includes the Primary parents, drivers and helpers: Everyone with a Nexus card.

The Secondary learners also touch in and out. The Primary learners do not need to as they are registered in the classroom.



IB Article: Breaking Out of The Confines of A-levels With The IB

To IB or not to IB? That may indeed be the question. As examination reforms continue to roll out with the introduction of linear A-levels, some teenagers will be faced with more than just a choice of subjects, come the end of their GCSEs.

Over the past decade, schools nationwide have been finding the source of a curricular itch: the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The qualification that first established its headquarters in Geneva in 1968 is said by some to be the fix for a well-rounded further education syllabus.

- IB passes the test for popularity
- The IB: a better preparation for life

The diploma is doing well at Fettes, and with the uncertainty of new A-level reforms, there has been a

CCA News

There will be no CCA sessions during the week beginning 4th May due to the public holiday, sessions will resume the following week and will continue straight through the end of term.

“significant growth in interest” in it. “There is no longer a large difference between an A-level and an IB subject.”

One fundamental distinction remains: all IB pupils must study mathematics, and also a science subject. Maintaining this scientific core has a “massive impact” on possible career directions, says Simon Armitage, the former head of sixth form who introduced the IB at the Stephen Perse Foundation, Cambridge, in 2008.

The school now has a 50/50 take-up, A-level to IB. “Some find that they are surprised by how their love of science develops and also the connections and applications to humanities. You can mix this into A-level but it is harder and the choices less varied.” The Red Maids’ School in Bristol is also the only one in its area to offer both IB and A-levels. “Some of our students felt confined by the narrow choice of four AS and three A-levels,” IB coordinator Hadrian Briggs



explains.

“They were on course to get excellent GCSE results and did not wish to limit themselves to one specialism. We felt that the fact that the IB diploma begins from the students, and designs its curriculum around providing opportunities to develop key qualities, fitted very neatly with our philosophy as an academic, holistic, forward-thinking school.”

But the shining light for the IB is the breadth of the curriculum outside the standard triple-subject scope of A-levels. The Theory of Knowledge module is universally popular.

“The IB offers a clear vision of what an educated 18-year-old in the 21st century looks like,” says John Sprague, director of IB at Sevenoaks School in Kent, which became the first fully-IB sixth form in the country in 1999. “Theory of Knowledge provides students with the opportunity to explore the higher-order thinking associated with weighing up the various approaches to knowledge that they are presented with.”

The IB is not only useful for life at and beyond university, but getting into it too. More than 90 per cent of the 200-pupil-a-year cohort at Sevenoaks make it into their first-choice university every year.

“Questions about the various uses of evidence, methods, conclusions and implications of knowledge are those elements that universities seem to be most interested in during admissions interviews,” Sprague says. “Whereas other students might get tripped up on these, IB students have already spent a significant amount of time reflecting on them.”

“No one ever regrets doing the IB at the end of the course,” Shackleton says, but getting them there might be a different process entirely.

A common hesitation is that academic interests might lie specifically in one camp or the other: science and maths, or humanities and arts. While the two are not mutually exclusive, the A-level allows for a specialism one way or the other, and the IB limits choice. “We may have pupils who are really only interested in arts subjects, and if, so, then the A-level may be right for them.”

While compulsory maths and science might appeal to

policymakers, critics argue that it is wrong to pressure children into studying subjects that they are not good at.

“We do not believe that IB students who are weaker in maths and science are negatively affected,” Briggs says. “The maths studies course is an excellent preparation for the practical maths that will be found in the workplace, and is accessible to students of a wide range of abilities.”

In a world of IB-only further education, there could be no gender split for STEM subjects, and no discernible lack of mathematical intelligence among graduates entering the workplace.

But while some independent schools have welcomed the IB, not all have embraced it. At Sedbergh School in Cumbria, A-levels are still the only choice at 16-18.

“The inflexibility of the diploma rules it out for schools that respond to pupils’ individual interests – the scientist must study languages and the artist must study science,” headmaster Andrew Fleck says. “For many pupils it would be like Shredded Wheat – good for you but not entirely enjoyable.”

- Varied, rigorous, global: will the IB make the grade?
- The IB could open doors in our globalised world

While academically, the IB isn’t for everyone, the added extra elements certainly have appeal. At the Stephen Perse Foundation, both A-level and IB students study on the Theory of Knowledge and CAS modules.
...

Read more by visiting the link below:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11557595/Breaking-out-of-the-confines-of-A-levels-with-the-IB.html>



On Saturday 25 April a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. it severely shook the lives of at least 5.3m people & left many homeless. Nepal's major cities, including the capital Kathmandu, have been badly damaged & rural areas near the epicentre have been completely cut off by avalanches & Landsides. Already over 3000 people have been confirmed dead & the figure is likely to rise significantly in the coming days. Even those whose homes are still standing are sleeping in the streets because they are terrified by regular aftershocks. Many agencies are working urgently to provide emergency shelter, food, clean water & blankets. Once immediate, life-saving needs met they will work with individuals, families & communities to support them to rebuild their lives.

How can we help? We will update you when a decision has been made about we will support the relief effort but starting next week we will be collecting donations with classrooms & at the payment counter in the administration office.

**If anyone has any fundraising activities that may extended to the wider community. Please contact Ms Claire Heap or Mr Steven Maniam
heap.c@nexus.edu.my | maniam.s@nexus.edu.my**

Primary

Year 5 KLASS Trip

The LOTE department is organising a language trip for Year 5 learners to The Alice Smith School on Wednesday 6th May (9:00am to 3:00pm). Visiting the school is an extension to our languages collaboration project.

The learners will take part in several activities and learners from both schools will take part in language performance where they will be able to demonstrate their learning through songs, poems, sketches etc. They will also participate in a QR code race, which will allow them to work in teams and to put their language skills into action. The final event of the day will be The Language Perfect Competition, which will spur their excitement in putting together what they have learned in language classes.

By taking the learners out of the classroom we aim to provide a first hand language learning experience for them.

Young Nexus' Got Talent 2014



Dates For Your Diaries

N.B. Some Changes/Additions*

Mon 11 May	Trial for the Suitability of Pieces for the Young Performers' Concert
Thu 21 May	Young Performers' Concert 7pm in the Theatre
Wed 3 Jun	First Y7 Whole Class Musical 7pm in the Theatre - Class TBC
Wed 10 Jun	Second Y7 Whole Class Musical 7pm in the Theatre - Class TBC
Wed 17 Jun	Third Y7 Whole Class Musical 7pm in the Theatre - Class TBC
* Wed 24 Jun	ABRSM Music Practical Exam @ Nexus
* Thu 25 Jun	Rock Concert - 7pm in the Theatre

Secondary

CAS Reflection By Muhammad Danial Jefri



Zoo Negara is a project that my classmate, Nurul and I linked with our school. We planned to bring groups of students from school to volunteer at the zoo as a few students have shown some interest last year. This year we have a group of 16 students that are committed to volunteer on a monthly basis however since the beginning of the school year, both my classmate and I have not been able to book due to Zoo Negara's fully booked schedule. We were only able to book during our half term holiday and so 20th October was our first session at the zoo as a group.

It was a certainly a tiring day for all the Nexus students however it was rather enjoyable. I found this particular session exhausting because I was put to work in the Savannah

section, which I've never worked in, with 4 other learners. Since we were 5 in one section, the zookeepers split us into 3 boys and 2 girls. The boys were sent to work with the cows while my classmate and I stayed to work in the giraffes, zebras and rhinoceroses section where we had to clean their 'after opening hours' spaces. We had to clean their faeces, prepare their food and feed the giraffes. During the period of 8 hours, I thought we all worked efficiently and reasonably. I am certainly excited to come back.

For today's volunteering session at Zoo Negara, I covered 2 outcomes which were:

Planned And Initiated Activities

Since my classmate and I are the coordinators (not supervisor) of this activity we were in charge of planning the dates to volunteer, sending out emails and assuring safety of all the students involved. We actually planned several dates before this particular one but because it wasn't possible due to Zoo Negara's fully booked schedule we were only left with this date. My classmate sent out most of the emails to those volunteering while I did the bookings and communications with Zoo Negara. Transport seems to be an issue for our group of volunteers so we called cabs the night before. Due to safety my classmate has all the cab numbers in case of emergency.

Working Collaboratively With Others

I think my collaboration with my classmate to link our school with the zoo is something quite new for the both of us and we thought that bringing a group out would allow us to get to know the Nexus students as well as have a great time. I was really happy with the group of people I was put with, as we didn't really choose.

Himalayan

Trip 10-18 April 2015



During the first the first week of the break, twelve pioneer learners from Nexus took part in an Himalayan adventure of a lifetime. From the moment they landed in Delhi to being whisked along a Zip wire 400 metres long above the River Ganges the learners excelled in all the activities they participated in.



The first camp was contained within the foothills of the Himalayas. A mixture of campfires and cooking helped them settle into their new surroundings. After hiking in the countryside and looking at local villages a welcoming hot "bucket" shower awaited all. An experience in itself which many of the learners said they will try and recreate on their return!

From our forest surroundings, we decamped and moved over the river where they took part in the leadership part of the adventure. Starting the day with yoga, the learners took part in games that helped to develop their leadership skills. The leader of the workshop commented that our learners showed leadership qualities that were not evident within the corporate groups that he ran similar training with. Well done Nexus!

One final move led us down to the bank of the River Ganges, for team building and an spontaneous Nexus remaking of J.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth in sand! A whole day white water rafting experience led to many of them jumping ship and floating down the river in bone chilling water temperatures (8°C!)

A return trip to Delhi, a visit to Gandhi's house and his final resting place rounded up the cultural experience of the trip.

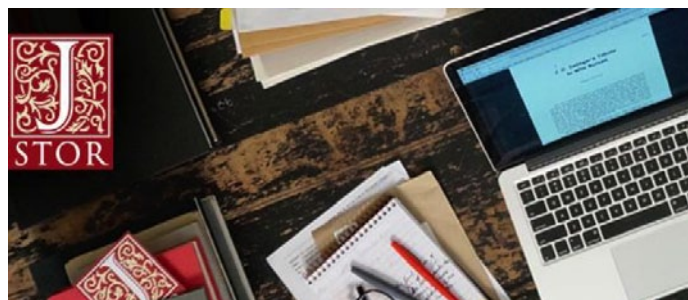
Pictures are worth a thousand words, so please take time to look at the learner led blog that we updated during our travels <http://nexushimalayatrip2015.blogspot.com/>

Well done to Michael, Keegan, Vimal, Pui Lam, Ivaan, Selma, Collin, Jonathan, Kanishka, Martin, Max, Sebastiaan, for making the trip one to remember.



Library News

More EBooks & Resources
Please follow the links



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All 25,000 books on JSTOR are now available exclusively in a DRM-free, unlimited-user model! This gives libraries the following benefits:

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MUSIC NEWS

A Warm Welcome to Our New Drum & Saxophone Teachers

The Music Department and learners provided a very warm welcome to Mr Faez Ikhwan our new Drum Teacher, and Mr Dan Tan our new Saxophone Teacher this week. Both teachers' Bios will be placed on the Music Department Website and on the notice board in the Music Reception area this week.

Drum lessons will now be on Tuesday & Wednesday and Saxophone lessons will remain on Tuesday.

Please check the timetables on the Music Department Website.

MPO Concert Music, Noise and Silence

The MPO are putting on a fun and educational concert on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May. For more details look here:

<http://mpo.com.my/991-music-noise-silence>

**VERY, VERY FINAL CALL!!!
PLEASE EMAIL MR TIM
URGENTLY IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN TAKING PART:
AIMS YOUNG MUSICIAN
OF THE YEAR 2015 (AISM -
Association of International
Malaysian Schools)**

On 23rd and 24th May there will be the first AIMS Young Musician of the Year 2015 competition.

There are two age group categories (more to be added next year):

- 11 to 14 year old (age as of September 2015)
- Under 11 year old (age as of September 2015)

Each applicant will be required to prepare a piece of no more than 6 minutes in length. If you reach the final, then you may choose to perform the same piece again or play a different piece.

Closing Date for Entries: 24th April 2015
Cost: FREE

If you would like to take part then please see Mr Tim, Mr Steve or Ms Ann for details.

Young Performers' Concert on Thursday 21 May

Advanced warning of our Young Performers' Concert on 21 May for our younger learners who are in Year 9 and below. Get practising as the standard of the items included in our concerts is getting higher each year.

Instrumental Lessons

**VERY, VERY FINAL CALL - FREE LESSONS
BRASS LESSONS - 8 Learners have already
signed up! - Only 2 instruments left**

Mr Gerold has kindly offered any learner who wishes to try to play a Trumpet or Trombone **FREE LESSONS** for one term. The Music Department will also provide you with a **FREE INSTRUMENT**.

So, if you fancy trying to play Mr Tim's main instrument, the Trumpet, or Mr Gerold's main instrument, the Trombone, then please fill in the

form below for a terms **FREE TRIAL LESSONS**.

We are also trying to offer Double Bass and Indian Tabla Drum lessons from next term so anyone who is interested then please sign up from the link below.

If you are new to the school or have been here for a while and just want to try out playing an instrument, then please ask your parents to fill in the application form here:

Sign Up for Instrumental Lessons

Here: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/sign-up-for-instrumental-lessons>

Why not give it a try for a term - you are not signing up for life, just to see if you like it!

Why Study Music?

‘Because Trumpet and Trombone lessons are free of charge this term and you get given a free instrument to use!’

Lunchtime Music Clubs - ALL WELCOME - No Invitation Needed! Just Come Along and have FUN!

Primary	
Mon	Recorder Group with Miss Ann
	String Group (Violins, Cellos) with Mr Mervin
	Guitar Group with Mr Afiq & Mr Hafiz
Tue	Drumming Group with Mr Jared
Wed	Flute Group with Miss Yem Voon
	Ukulele Group with Miss Ann
	(After School) Clarinet Group for ALL Learners with Miss Kit
Thu	Primary String Group (Violins and Cellos) with Mr Mervin
Fri	Primary Singing Group with Miss Ann & Miss Audrey

Secondary	
Mon	Drumming Group with Mr Jared & Mr Tim
Tue	Guitar Group with Mr Afiq
	Brass Group with Mr Gerold
	(CCA After School) Jazz Band with Mr Tim & Mr Steve
Wed	Flute Group with Miss Yem Voon
	Fun Vocal Group (Acapella/accompanied singing, 3/4 part singing) with Mr Steve & Mr Tim & Miss Audrey
	Guitar Groups with Mr Hafiz
	(After School) Clarinet Group for ALL Learners with Miss Kit
Thu	Senior String Group (Violins, Cellos) with Mr Mervin
	Jazz Band/Group with Mr Tim
	(CCA After School) Music & Theatre Technology Club with Mr Tim & Mr Tom
Fri	String Orchestra with Mr Steve & Mr Mervin

Nexus Scholarships

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime."



IB Diploma
(Age 16 - 18)

Boarding & Tuition
(Age 11 - 18)

- ✓ Opportunity of a lifetime, choice of scholarships from Nexus International School Putrajaya
- ✓ Personalised learning and academic excellence
- ✓ Bridge to the best universities in the world

Please contact us at scholarship@nexus.edu.my for details.



FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE GO TO:

www.nexus.edu.my
+603 8889 3868



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Scan to see our IB learners' conference

Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.



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