

# CONNECT12

*Green* Nexus International School, Putrajaya

## WHOLE SCHOOL (2-5)

TEDxYouth 16/11 Report

Language Perfect Northern Championships

Alan Gibbons Author Visit

+ **CITY OF BLOOD** + **CRASH !**

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+ School Production 'East Side Stories'

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**NEXUS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
— SCHOOL —

PUTRAJAYA

# Whole School

**TED<sup>x</sup>Youth@NISP**  
x = independently organized TED event



“As part of TEDx Youth Day, Nexus hosted its first TEDxYouth@NISP event on Sunday, November 16. TEDxYouth events are independently organised TED events that are organised by the youth of a community. The event provided the opportunity for three dedicated organisers together with a team of forty assistants to plan and deliver the event which itself involved organising the presentation of four live speakers, two performances, and several TED videos all of which were filmed and broadcast live on the internet.

The speakers included Alina Amir of Blok A Tutoring, Christopher Ling of Theatre360, Kiran Kreer of iMKiran, and Sasha Kasthuriarachchi from PEPAIDS. All of the speakers spoke on topics relating to the event’s theme: journey. These diverse topics ranged from the development of learners as teachers, the role of education in rural Africa and the importance of theatre as a means of getting to know yourself

Musical and Drama performances included Yong Yu Woon, a previous student, who, despite having

participated in gruelling 24hr race the day before returned to perform All Star by Smashmouth. Christopher Ling was also kind enough to direct a theatrical performance starring Nexus’ own talent: Luanne Lai, Fadhli Zainal, Zarif Zaiful Anuar, Fatin Hassan, Liyana Aini, and Hamidah Abd Rahman. The troop performed Reflections of a Skyline, taken from a larger work, Crave by Sarah Kane.

The presentations and performances garnered positive reviews from the attendees and raised a considerable amount of debate and discussion during the breaks. Thanks should go to all that took part in the organisation of the event, the speakers and performers on the day and of course, the attendees who made this event what it was, a resounding success.



Jeff Oh - Year 10, is on his way to Phuket today to represent Malaysia in the 4th Asian Beach Games. He should be back on Tuesday next week.



## Language Perfect Northern Championships 2014

The final few days of the competition saw Nexus learners continue to dazzle with their language learning and they showed their resilience by cementing an incredible 3rd place out of the 120 schools taking part.

In total, the learners answered 1,012,573 questions and spent a phenomenal 4500 hours learning their languages which is an incredible achievement and a credit to each and every learner who took part.

A special mention for 3 learners who all came in the top 50 out of 25000 participants. Anmol Anoop, Jun Wei Hew and Isabelle Yap all earned their Elite awards with Isabelle putting in an incredible effort where she came 2nd overall.

The learners found this to be a great experience which has really enhanced their language learning in a fun and supportive way.

A huge thank you and congratulations to all the learners who took part and we're looking forward to the World Championships next May.

## ALAN GIBBONS AUTHOR VISIT

On Tuesday 18th November 2014, Nexus International School was thrilled to host to Alan Gibbons, an award winning UK author, who worked with our Year 6, 7 and 9 learners throughout the day.

The Year 7 learners spent four lessons with Alan. In the first session they learned about Alan's life and about how he came to be a writer. The learners were impressed with his story about his breakthrough novel, *The Shadow of the Minotaur* and how he was astonished to beat writers such as J.K Rowling, Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Morpurgo and David Almond to win a Blue Peter Book Award. In the following sessions they learned about how he writes by asking him lots of questions and then working alongside Alan to pen their own Vampire stories. All the Year 7 learners thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Dayana said, "It was a fun time. He let us in on how he writes and gave us advice." Nabil added that, "The experience with Alan Gibbons was amazing! It was loads of fun and full of laughter too! It gave me loads of new ways to describe things."

Year 6 learners took on the role of interviewers for their session with Alan and asked him many probing questions with the view to writing a biography of the writer. They teased out some funny stories about Alan as a child and how he dreamed of having a pet dog with a butch name like Demon but ended up with a dog called Wendy. The learners then worked with Alan on how to write a good hook for their biography work and came up with "Alan Gibbons was made in Warrington from



books”.

Alan worked with the Year 9 learners to show them how to write an effective story for IGCSE using the dramatic theme of a car crash. He modelled ideas with them that would help to make their descriptions more vivid and realistic and showed the learners the importance of building up tension when writing such a piece.

Here are a few examples of what our learners wrote during the workshops:

## CITY OF BLOOD

Author : Chelsea Lim Year 7

The metallic yet glistening silver Porshe kicked off its wheels through the busy city of Manhattan. The sky poured inky matters of rain throughout the city as the greyish puffy clouds rolled along the dark sky. The drizzling rain groaned once again after its thundering roars. The wheat and grass swayed along with the howl of the wind. Never had the city had such a stormy night before. Thunder crackled overhead. Sparks of lightning poofed across the darkness. Glistening flowy curtains of rain slipped through the streets. The raindrops pounded on the roof. Puddles of water dropped onto the windscreen. I was rushing to my next appointment.

In a moment, I would come face to face with the mystic Countess Draculesti. I remembered her raspy tone on the phone. I wonder how she would be like. Within the hour, I would be passing the keys of her new apartment to her.

Anytime now I would be handing her the keys to her downtown apartment. All across the city

a swamp of shine and lustrous buildings filled the city of lights which is what they called, Manhattan. I stared into the busy city of towers, office buildings, and endless streams of traffic. I pulled over beside the space of street nearby. Snatching my phone and briefcase quickly, I strided off into the busy streets of Manhattan.

The countess was standing idly with her back against me. Her edgy figure shadowed in the electric light. Her maroon dress flowed until her ankles. Her dark raven hair slid back into a black dressy blazer. A pair of shin-high boots covered her ankles. A choker was decorated around her neck along with a mini cross-bone tattoo on the back of her dainty neck. Hearing my quiet and nervous approach, she pivoted on one foot until her brownish eyes met mine. Her narrowed eyes looked right through me from my flesh and bones. I gasped frightened. Her skin was pale white, and her lips were covered in a dark colour.

“Good evening” she slashed her tongue. “At last we meet” the countess added whilst taking a few steps towards me. My lips quivered when Countess Draculesti spoke. Her words fired through my ears...

## CRASH !

Author: Ilman Year 9

As an eerie light poured through window, I gradually parted my eyelids. I was held up by the seatbelt, which was ripped and frayed, but still functional. Shards of glass on the upholstery glimmered from the light and into my eyes. The car croaked as it swiveled on its roof. A section of the dashboard was curved in. Snowflakes were resting on the wreckage

like graceful swans on a lake. I took off my shades as it was hanging from my right ear, and focused as I tried to make sense of the wreckage through a blurry vision. Occasionally I would hear a lorry would blur on past on the highway, passing me but not realizing that there was a wreckage right off the road.

Flashes and images danced through my memory: the howl of brakes on a frozen road, the vehicle skidded but veering close to the edge, slid over and off the road, a cry for help, then darkness.

That's when I realized the danger where I was in; a steady beat of something dripping on my cheek, the atrocious odor reeking all over the interior. Then I focused on the liquid that leaked out through the shattered window. A sudden shiver raced across my back as I noticed what the fluid actually was, petrol, in fact it was also dangerous, poisonous and highly flammable petrol.

Suddenly, flickers of flame started to form all around the car door. I gulped and gulped big as I know that if I don't move now, any second could be my last one. The flame was really starting to take form, with a sudden crackle every now and then, and smoke started to fill up in the car. In a matter of seconds, I couldn't see anything at all and I started to choke like a fish out of the water. The instant that the fuel and fire interweaves, I was as good as dead...

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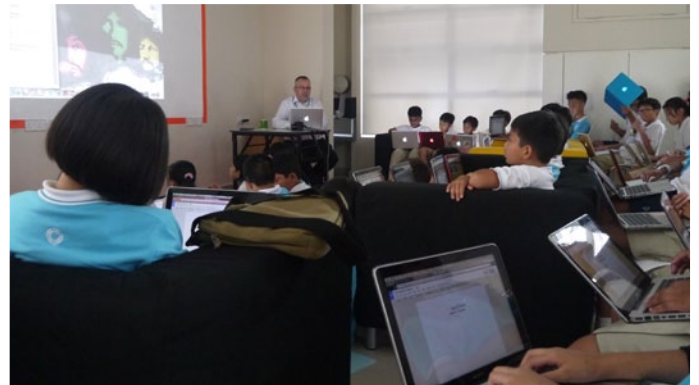
Year 6 really enjoyed their session interviewing Alan. Here are some of the things they had to say about it:

Stella - "I enjoyed learning about his life and I learned how to write a hook at the beginning of a piece of writing. The hook captures the

readers attention and makes them read more."

Miles - "It was great to have a famous author visiting Nexus. I enjoyed learning about his life and how he works as an author especially where he gets his ideas from to start his stories."

David - "I enjoyed asking questions about his life as an author and his life story. I learned that to write a book he re-drafts his writing about thirty times. I probably need to do this more with my own writing!"



# Primary

## Focus On Early Years Learning In The IPC



This week we have continued to learn lots of new facts about food with a focus on the differences and similarities between local food and the food from our learners' home country.

Whilst cooking and baking, children began to realise that pizzas do not simply come from the pizza box or that pancakes do not come from the shelf at the bakery.

The EY food inspectors looked around the big kitchen and assessed a number of possible dangers. Lots of good ideas (and advice) came

out of this fun activity, including:

"You can only open the oven with the big glove" – Lucia.

"When somebody goes to sleep and forgets to turn off the fire (stove), the house could burn" – warned Aeryka.

Fynn thought that the cheese grater might be dangerous if you hold it the wrong way.

There was a sweet smell in the air as Early Years learners attended a few cookery classes. The children enjoyed making pancakes, omelettes, fruit salads and smoothies!

Learners sorted and tasted food from the books 'Handa's Surprise' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' They also became familiar with some food that is not on the plate every day, such as Avocado, passion fruit and Guava.





# PTA & YEAR 3 LEARNERS IN ACTION'



This week, Year 3 had a very special visit from members of our Nexus Community; the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) – Ms. Nazneen and Ms. Norazlina. Year 3 invited them to the classroom to support our IPC topic, Community: Living Together.

Ms. Nazneen gave an energetic presentation to learners on ways in which we could support our local Kuala Lumpur community. She introduced one of the PTA's current projects; supporting a local girl's orphanage Rumah Kesayangan.

Ms. Nazneen highlighted how the learners at Rumah Kesayangan were resilient and hard-working, and that they were in current need for funding for new uniforms and shoes. The PTA and learners brainstormed ideas for how we

could contribute to the fundraising for these much needed items.

Finally, the result was to be a dynamic Christmas Bazaar held at Nexus in time for Christmas shopping! Learners would create Christmas cards, ornaments, decorations, baked goods, etc, to sell to the Nexus Community as an in-class project. Learner and PTA alike would man the stalls and work on advertising the event.

Year 3 and PTA are very keen to get started on their very first joint venture. In line with the Christmas spirit of giving, Year 3 are thoroughly looking forward to being able to support local projects.



# The Way We Praise Our Children

**“Good job!” “Well done!” “You’re so clever!”**

It’s more than likely that most parents have used the kind of praise above at some time when referring to their child’s successes.

## Praise is good right?

Well not always. Did you know that some praise can often hinder the performance of our children? A strong body of research suggests that praising or labeling children as ‘smart’ for what are perceived as innate abilities can actually cause underperformance.

Carol Dweck’s research (see this article for good summary: <http://nymag.com/news/features/27840/>) suggests that praising children for their ability can cause what she calls a ‘Fixed mindset’ to develop. This can lead to under performance, lack of motivation and a reluctance to learn new things or be challenged. Alternatively praising effort can enable children to develop what she calls a Growth mindset.

## What is a growth mindset?

Children with a growth mindset believe that if they put in more effort they are more likely to achieve. They have more control over the outcomes of their learning and it is not all dependent on just being ‘smart’. Being ‘smart’ comes with effort. New learning is not an easy process and takes resilience and effort. It also often involves failing at first.

At Nexus we believe in promoting a growth mindset and parents could help very much with this by talking about children’s learning with them and promoting the value of the process gone through to achieve new learning. Just saying things like, “Well done for keeping trying with that” after your child has



## PE: Rugby News

Maxi Marichal represented his local KL Tigers rugby team on the weekend of 1st/2nd November in King George V tournament. This tournament is held annually and is where all the top local junior teams battle out to be crowned champions. Maxi played very well and contributed to his teams success as they won the final of the U12 category.

Well done Maxi!!

completed a difficult task is much more conducive to a growth mindset than, “You’re so smart”.

This video talk from Carol Dweck herself explains her findings comprehensively: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXhbtCcmsyQ>



# Secondary

## Parent Forum IGCSE & IB DP Exam Preparation

The Secondary School would like to invite parents to a forum that will provide information on how our teachers are preparing our learners for their forth-coming external exams. The Heads of Department will be able to answer questions and provide general information.

The event will take place on Tuesday 25th November at 8:30am to 9:15am in the MPR. The forum is open to any parents in the school.

## Recycling & Community Service

Recycling efforts from the The Change (boarding house recycling team) & Green Council saw them preparing the recycling areas to encourage people to responsibly dispose of their waste. During the day the The Change team and GC members prepared the recycling areas and collected the waste throughout the event. Saturday night and Sunday morning they washed, de-labelled and sorted the waste to compile recyclables for the Tzu Chi foundation who sell the sorted items to raise funds for disadvantaged members of the KL community.

They sorted 10 large bin bags of plastic bottles (washed in rainwater) in addition to other item. The volunteer team spent 7 hours collecting and sorting waste.

## Secondary Art "Newspaper Appeal"

Secondary Art would like to appeal for newspapers, as we are going to start our **Papier-mâché** project with Year 9 learners and to cover the table while painting. We also recycle the Newspapers for paper making and printing activities.

Please send the newspapers to the Secondary Art room (122 or 123) anytime during school hours. All contributions are highly appreciated.



# CAS Reflection

by **Brenon Johnstone**



The 24 hour race had a specific aim to raise overall awareness, about the issue of human trafficking across the world. In the lead up to the event Brenon (nexus's team leader) led a fundraising effort, which culminated in a sum of around RM 4,000 which will be split between two organisations; SUKA and Running To Stop Traffic. There were 9 other International schools involved in the event, all of which played a huge part throughout. Our race team consisting of a team of 16, 9 girls and 7 boys, both the boys and girls teams competed in a relay from 9 a.m on Saturday the 15th through to Sunday 9 a.m the next morning. During the event there were highs and lows, most of the positives were when passing the baton on to the next runner and best of all the end of the race, as the satisfaction of running non-stop for 24 was incredible. The lows were in the physical pain, like

blisters and muscle injuries.

Along with all the other schools that participated in the event, the Nexus team showed great resilience and didn't stop until the whole 24 hours was up, displaying our determination and commitment throughout the team as a whole. All of the schools collectively ran 6027km over the 24 hours, whilst Nexus alone ran with the girls 437 laps combined. It developed our strong leadership and collaborative teamwork skills, sportsmanship and integrity.

In conclusion, the entire event and the lead up to it allowed young individuals to be proactive and to make a conscious effort to contribute towards and take action for a global issue, using whatever power they possess now.

## Race Statistics

**Hours:** 24

**Funds raised:**  
RM4,000

**Nexus team members:**  
16 (7 boys, 9 girls)

**Laps run:**  
244/guys and 193/girls

**Blisters gained:** 9

**Marshals passed:**  
Too many



# PE Notices

## U15 Boys Football Vs Epsom

Our Boys travelled south last Thursday to play their first ever match against Epsom College. It was a double header with the team playing one match vs their U15 team and a second match against their U18s. The first game ended 5 - 0 to Nexus while the second match finished 3 - 1 to Nexus.

## U18 Girls Football Vs Epsom

The Girls senior team also travelled down to play Epsom last Thursday and despite playing very well they were defeated 3 - 2 by a very well organised and determined Epsom team.

## Sports fixtures Coming-up in November

Thursday				20th
U18 Boys and Girls Rugby at Epsom School - Transport leaves at 3.15pm				
U13	Boys	Football	at	
Nexus	-	KLISS	Tournament	
U13	Girls	Football	at	
Nexus	-	KLISS	Tournament	
Saturday				22nd
KLISS Primary Swim Gala at Tenby, Setia Eco Park - Transport leaves at 6.00am				
Monday				24th
Swim	Gala	at	MKIS	-
Transport	leaves	at	2.30pm.	
U18	Boys	Basketball	at	MKIS
-	Transport	leaves	at	2.30pm.
U13 Boys Football Vs BSKL at Nexus				
U15 Boys Football Vs BSKL at Nexus				



### Girl Guides Camp Preparation

Last week the 1st Putrajaya Guides learnt how to pitch a tent in preparation for their forthcoming camp. Although the field was being battered by torrential rain storms the girls rallied together to put up their tents for the first time in the Hub. Hopefully, we are now prepared to put up our tents in any weather!



# Music News

## Nexus' Got Talent 2014-15, Tuesday 25th November at 7pm in the Theatre

Congratulations to all 49 learners who auditioned for NGT '14-15. The standard was even higher this year which made the judges decisions very hard. Everyone who performed did a wonderful job and did themselves proud. Due the time constraints of the length of show we could only choose the best 20 Acts and here are the finalist:

Name	Year/Class	Act
Anne Marie, Preeshna, Aleesha	4X	Singing
Xuen	5E	Drums
Samara, Jordis, Aireen Aisha, Tara, Amelina, Andrea	Y5 & Y4	Dance
Michelle, Nina	6N	Singing
Stella	6X	Singing
Aidil, Ihsan, Nash, Aqeel, Xuen	5X, 5E	Singing
Arianne, Thirah	5N	Singing
Mr Eric Zhang	7E	Clarinet
Sabrina, Shinthly, Shun Lin	7E	Dance
Amalia, Sabrina	6X, 7E	Dance
HaNhi	7N	Ballet
Duong Tu Tai	7N	Dance
Jonathan, Nicholas	7E, 12N	Guitar Duet
Toni, Leshen	11E	Ballet
Aisyah, Kamelia, Fatima	11E, 11N	Singing
Christina	11X	Dance
Adzatul, Rasha	12E, 9N	Singing
Hamidah Abd Rahman	11E	Singing
Zhermaine Wong	12N	Piano

**Tickets are available NOW from Student Services. You have to be in the audience to have a vote and your say in who should win!**

The audience will vote for the winner of both Primary and Secondary via mobile phone in a live streamed Internet poll.

# THE FINAL

## Nexus' Got Talent & Young Nexus Got Talent

**Young Nexus' Got Talent 2014-15, Wednesday 26th Nov at 10.20am in the Theatre**

NO tickets are needed for this Young performance and all EY to Y3 parents are welcome to attend along with all the learners.

Nexunexus international  
schools

Nexus got

# talent

25Th Nov 2014-15  
Theatre at  
7:00 PM

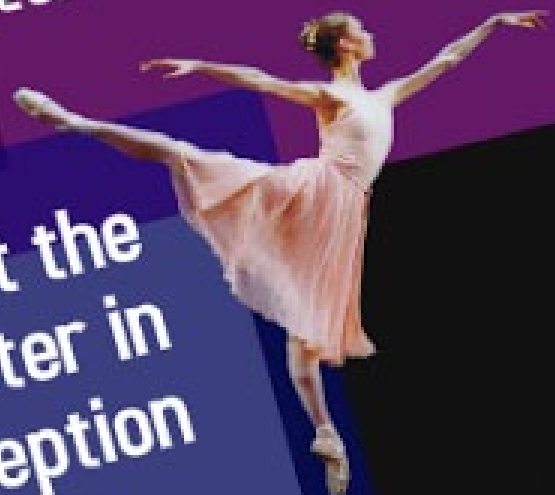
Adults: 15Rm

Child/concession: 10RM

Family ticket: 40RM (2 adults & 3 child/  
concession)

acting, singing, dancing  
musical instrument,  
special talent

ticket available at the  
payment counter in  
reception





## Why Study Music?

Music graduates are more employable than you might think

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/oct/11/music-students-employability>

## Dates For Your Diaries

Tue 25 Nov	Nexus' Got Talent FINAL
Wed 26 Nov	Young Nexus' Got Talent FINAL
Wed 10 Dec	Production, 'East Side Story'
Thu 11 Dec	Production, 'East Side Story'

# Drama News

## School Production - 'East Side Stories' December 10th & 11th 7pm



We were delighted to be visited this week by a representative from the National Department For Culture and Arts (JKKN) who is helping the PTA to source some wonderful, colourful costumes for 'East Side Stories'. The learners are looking forward to trying on their new outfits! Many thanks to the PTA who are giving up a lot of their time and energy to organise the costumes and are planning some tasty food to be served up at the performance.

This colourful production will be accompanied by music from our very own Nexus Gamelan in its first public performance.

Tickets will be on sale soon - watch this space for details.

**Parents of cast members & Gamelan players are reminded that the reply slips about the Saturday rehearsals (Nov 29th & Dec 6th) should be returned by next Monday.**

Suitable for the whole family, 'East Side Stories' is a collection of 3 plays set in Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam : 'Ulek Mayang', 'The Woodcarver's Love' and 'The Crystal Heart'. The tales all have elements of adventure, love and loss, and of course magic!

Learners interested in helping making props for the show can come to the Tuesday or Thursday CCA in the Art Rooms - please see Mr Mauro or Mr Saiful for details.





# Boarder Blog

## A Blast Weekend

Usually on the weekends, I go back home. But last weekend, I decided to stay. On Friday night, I was chilling with Kenny and we played games on his PS3. On Saturday, I woke up earlier than usual because it was the 24-hour run. I went down to support the team. We had a small cheering station outside boarding. In the afternoon, we went to IOI mall for laser tag.

It was a lot of fun. When we came back, I went back to support the run.

After dinner, I helped Ms. Lisa with recycling. For my part, I was just taking off the lid of mineral water bottles. We were recycling the rubbish that came from the run, most of which were bottles. On Sunday, I helped with recycling again and also revised for my maths test. This weekend was a blast for me. If I have the chance, I will stay back again.

Jason Year 9