

CONNECT 30

29 April Issue, Term 3 (2015-2016)



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

Primary Bookmark Competition

The library recently had a bookmark competition where students had the opportunity to design bookmarks that will be used throughout the school. The winners are

Baheerath Varma - Year 3 - Winner
 Samantha Sng - Year 4 - Winner
 Lee Jia Yang - Year 3
 Luqman Nurhakim Ahmad Sofian - Year 3
 Arissa Mohamas Zakaria - Year 4
 Nur Amira Farzana - Year 4
 Jeeahn Hur - Year 6

We would like to thank the 'Ladies in the Library' (Ms Lina, Ms Nora & Ms Nurul) for all their hard work and energy in organizing this event. Hopefully, within a few weeks, you should see the new bookmarks in the school (everywhere!)



Primary Music News

Young Performers Concert Coming Up! Details Below

Congratulations to Year 2 for putting on such a fantastic Learner Showcase on Wednesday 27 April, you guys were fantastic. 2E song, 'How Do You Get to School?' and 2N 'How Do You Travel?' were sung with such confidence and accuracy, WELL DONE!

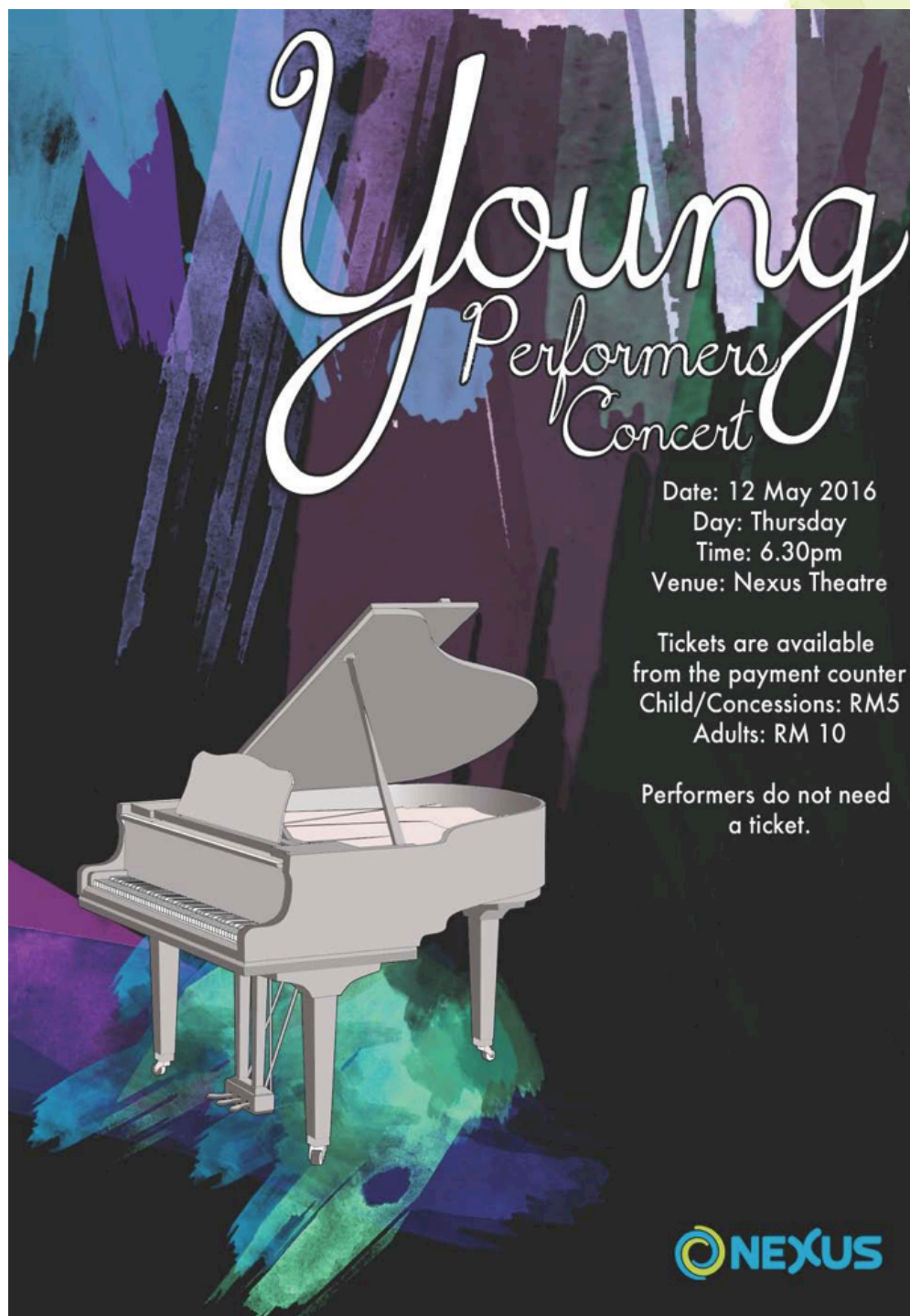
This week Y6 have been learning to play and sing popular song and the results have been AMAZING!



Young Performers' Concert

The Young Performers' Concert will be held at 6.30pm on 12th May in the Theatre.

Tickets are now on sale from Student Services.

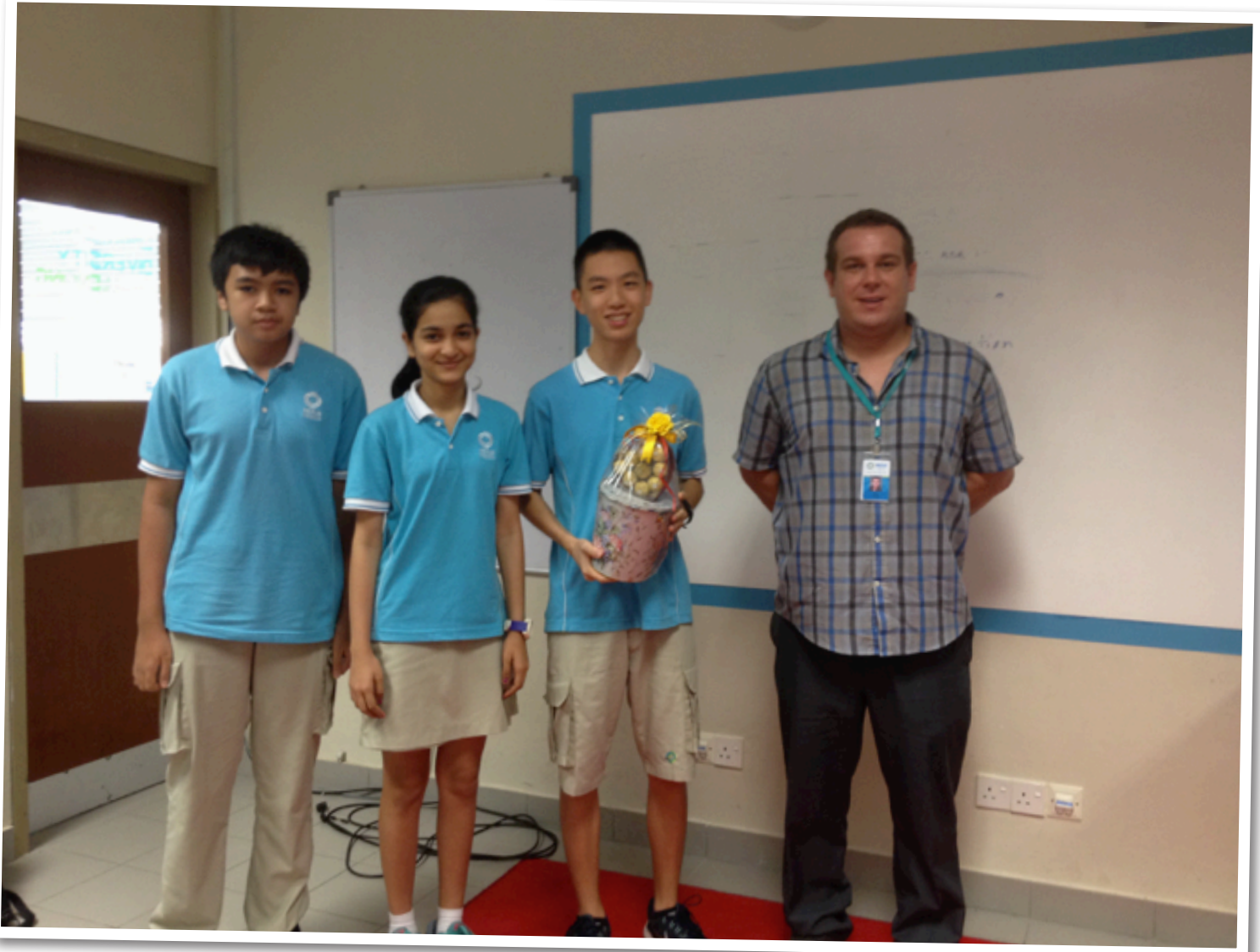


Carnival Winners!

As you may know already, the carnival held last week featured our very own learners, running all sorts of game stalls in order to raise money for the Nexus Community Myanmar learners.

These students, were competing against each other, in order to be the stall raising the most money for the Myanmar learners!

Our winners are....



Congratulations to James, Priti and Naim from year 10, for raising a total of RM256 from their stall alone! Enjoy your golden prize!

This will be the last time you'll be hearing from us, so we wish you all the best, and again, thank you for your support!

Regards,
The Carnival Committee

CAS Report

Every Friday lunchtime, I'll be running a primary school choir for learners in years 1/2/3 and this will be 30 minutes per session. I hope to teach them a few songs so we can sing them together and perform a song or two in the future. I'll be focusing on encouraging these young learners to sing and hopefully help them find another way to express themselves.

Personally I hope to develop my organizational skills as well as my patience as I will be working with 30+ young children and will have to be patient with them and have a great time! Also I hope to develop my time management while planning and thinking of new ideas for each session. I'll also have to prepare the songs and find out the best way for the learners to learn the songs so I'll have to manage my time wisely. So the main learning outcomes I will be focusing on are perseverance and commitment. Being able to keep up with my work while running the activity will be a challenge.

This is a new role for me as I've participated in countless music events but have never started my own activity so I'm really excited. I've also never worked with such a large number of kids this young so I'll have to ensure I prepare the sessions well and encourage kids to try and sing.

Kee Vern Lai (Year 12)



Nexus Triumphs at Physics Olympiad

Learners a credit to Nexus

Today saw the 6th annual Physics Olympiad, this year held at Nexus. This was a Physics competition where learners from different international schools strived to compete for victory. It was an honour that the 6 of us - Priti, James, Ashraf, Suffian, Audrey and Xinyi, got the opportunity to take part in this competition, and it was certainly a lot of fun for us, considering this is the first time for most of us.

Being split into 2 groups, we naturally had tighter competition due to the higher amount of competing groups. We anticipated a low rate of success, despite our optimism and passion to win. Throughout the day we were required to participate in 3 different activities, the first being a practical with a hint of graph related work, the second being a much more intense theoretical quiz that consisted of 5 pages of high-level questions, and finally the third being a bridge-building activity. Since we were given a week to prepare for this final activity of the bridge building, we were particularly looked forward to this through the day. As we brought in a plan, we felt more prepared however we were still slightly nervous.

Overall, we had a great time facing the different challenges that came up in each of the different activities. From the ruler-bending activity, to the quiz and can rolling activity, to the bridge-building activity, we all faced different sorts of bumps during each of them however with great teamwork and collaboration skills that we greatly presented today, I am glad that we were able to overcome the challenges despite the difficulty. Of course, not in negligence of each of our individual traits, we couldn't have persevered today without our resilience, dedication, and the burning passion that we had respectively to win the gold.

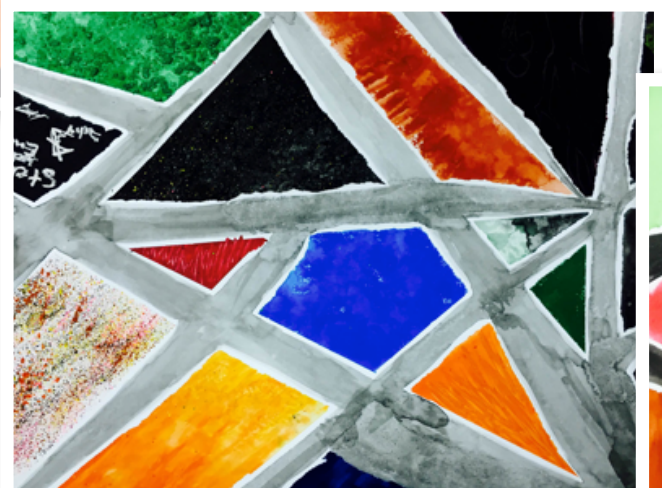
Thanks to our whole day of hard work, I'm thrilled that we (very unexpectedly) came in first place! Despite overtaking the other schools by only small margins of point differences, it felt amazing nevertheless to be able to gain triumph under the pride of our school. We hope that the next batch of Nexus learners who will be taking part in this competition next year, will have the same amount of fun as we did today!

Xin Yi Lim



Year 7 Fun with painting techniques

Learners a credit to Nexus



Year 7 learners are currently finishing their Colour Mixing topics and have produced some interesting experiments with the poster/ watercolour paints. They were introduced to the techniques of sponging, wet on wet, lifting, dabbing, stippling, and scrapping amongst others so as to create textures to surfaces and backgrounds for their final responses.

In the visual arts, watercolor techniques are the methods artists use to bring shape and form to their paintings, while at the same time allowing them to express their creativity. By gaining the knowledge and developing the use of these techniques learners can improve their painting abilities.

Below are some of the learners final responses and a reflection written by Andrea Lee from 7E;

This week in art, we did some experiments with water/poster colour mixing techniques. I think it was really cool to see the outcome and how different painting techniques created interesting textures on our artwork. We will be using these techniques we learnt for our final responses next week. We explored many different painting techniques, created a frame border and painted it black. The final result was really cool and I especially liked the salt technique (although it didn't always work).

Artwork shared and created by Andrea 7E, Stella 7X, Shafiq 7E, and Cheok Ling 7X.

IB Theatre & GCSE Drama workshops and performance: The Odyssey

by Hamidah (Year 12)

As part of our Theatre class, we as a class went to watch a Theatre play at Garden International School, in which we had a Theatre workshop afterwards. A theatre company called Splendid productions came over to show cast a play they had been working on, called The Odyssey. The story of The Odyssey was extremely stylised under the influence of Brechtian Theatre, making the story displayed as very non-naturalistic. The play used a variety of techniques to make the storytelling seem very engaging, unique and different. The actors used multi-roles, exaggerated characters, breaking the fourth wall and choruses which I felt had really enhanced the storytelling of The Odyssey and made it really engaging to the audience. The story also lacked any dialogue nor even an actor to play Odysseus, as our main protagonist was actually just simply played by a spoon. Instead, Splendid productions had made the storytelling of Odysseus through the point of views of the characters that are surrounding him; his wife Penelope, the different sort of enemies, Penelope's suitors, and Odysseus' lovers. I found this very clever, because I always did wonder, how the other side characters would view the "main" character in all stories told, so seeing a change of perspectives had really made me enjoy the play even more.

The style of The Odyssey was performed as an Epic Theatre, which was developed from the theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht. The actresses, Kerry Frampton, Genevieve Say and Cordelia Stevenson played their characters very exaggeratedly, making the play seem even more non-naturalistic. In a more basic naturalistic play, the exaggeration of their characters could cause audiences to dislike the choice of exaggerative acting, because it does not represent real life people. However, the characters that the 3 actresses were performing do not represent real life actual people at all, therefore, the exaggeration and the physicality they brought into the roles they were playing had definitely enhanced the enjoyment of the play. Other than that, the 3 actresses were also playing multiple roles and switched characters in some scenes. Most of the time, they were acting as the narrator, the old men from the seas, but in certain scenes in which they required to play another role, they acted as the warriors, the suitors or other individual given roles (Penelope, Cyclops, Circe). Because of their multi roles, the exaggeration they bought into their characters definitely made us able to differentiate the different sort of physicality that each character had carried (e.g the suitors always had their hands up high in the air, the old sea men are always bouncing around, the warriors are always barbaric and rough). I was very invested at how the actors had pulled off the multi-roles so well, because each time they changed characters, they were always, always committed to the roles they were playing at that very moment, which was something I learned during the acting workshop with Splendid productions as well. Not only do their physicality changes, but their voice and tone and the volume of their speech changes too. For instance, when Kerry Frampton had to switch from playing the old sea men into Odysseus's wife, Penelope, she had transformed her jovial and loud sounding old sea men voice, into a more softer, soothing and delicate voice of the abandoned wife of Odysseus, which conveyed the sadness and unrelenting hope in Penelope, for her husband Odysseus to come back from war. Because of how committed they were at changing and staying in role as their characters, with the addition of multi-roling, it definitely made me consider to implement some of those multi-role and voice techniques for my future Solo HL Theatre project.

The actresses also used very minimal props, which really made me be in awe of the vast creativity they had put onto this play. An example, they mostly just used a white cloth to differentiate the different characters they were playing as. When they were the old men from the sea, they tied the white cloth around their torso. However, when they changed into a female character, some of them had arranged the white cloth onto their head as a scarf, or tied around their waist as a skirt. They also changed the props and costumes in front of us, which is another indication that this is not a naturalistic theatre. In addition, the actresses were constantly breaking the fourth wall; when an audience was grabbing their bags, they broke out of their roles and talked to the audience, which had sort of distracted them from continuing to act. The constant breaking the fourth wall and the banters and witty comments they made to the audience, proves how much they have worked onto this performance, and the amount of knowledge and understanding they had on the tone and flow of the play. This makes the actresses be able to break the fourth wall without ever needing to break out from the flow of the play, even when not in character. It had really impressed me, and to be very honest, I don't think I can pull that off as well as these actresses did - I'd probably forget all my lines if I break the fourth wall to talk to my audience!

Lastly, another technique the performers used was the usage of chorus in the play. In some emotional scenes, or scenes in which they had to set the scene for any new characters coming in (like the warriors), they would break into a chorus and sing the "theme" song for those characters. It really amazed me that they had not used a microphone at all for this whole play, and still are able to sound loud and clear when singing a sort of musically challenging songs, at the same time during an actual acting scene - sort of like a musical with no stage techs, such as microphones. It showed to me how trained their voices are and how powerful the actresses could carry out the emotions, tone, and the story through only the vocal chords that are full of clarity. Their clear voices made me realise how much I need to work on my speech as an actress, and even though I am quite loud when performing, I don't think I am loud enough to send out the message I am trying to give across in my performances.

All in all, I truly enjoyed the play and I would pay to watch it again sometime with my friends.

IB Theatre & GCSE Drama workshops and performance: The Odyssey (cont'd)

by Hamidah (Year 12)



Our Year 13s have left the building!

As of this week, the year 13 learners are technically 'finished' with school and are on study leave in preparation of the upcoming exams. Coming back from Easter break knowing it would be our last two weeks of school, the year group had coordinated events to celebrate our time at NISP and our time with each other. On the first week back, the Year 13s had our own mufti week to the surprise of the school. We had four days (Tuesday- Friday) of coordinated fun in the forms of Pyjama day, Twin day, Tourist day and Dress-Better-Than-Your-Teachers day. With it, the Year 13s were able to ease into the 'pressure-cooker'.

Last week, we busked at the Secondary drop-off to raise funds for our graduation dinner on the Wednesday and Thursday. It gave us an outlet to recognise and enjoy each others' talents. It was a beautiful scene on the Thursday afternoon as a large group of us sat around the drop-off area to enjoy each others' company and reflect on our Nexus experience.

On Friday, the Year 13 class pulled a Senior Prank. We tee-peed, hung banners, took-over the school field and pulled a series of mini-pranks across the Secondary campus. It was a great bonding experience as the group sought to create organised chaos to amuse/annoy the other members of the community. Our last day of official schooling ended with our Leaver's Assembly, themed 'Get to Know Your Year 13s'. We showcased talent, humour and the different sides to the many personalities that make our grade.

Do I think we ended 13 years of formal schooling on a high? Definitely. Here's to the Class of 2016!



Rock Concert '16

The annual Nexus Rock Concert will be held on:

Thursday 26th May 2016
7pm in the Nexus Theatre

Tickets are on sale now from Student Services priced:

Adult - RM15

Child - RM10

Family Ticket (2 Adults & 3 Children) - RM50.

Instrumental Lesson NEWS:

New HARP Lessons

We had enough learners sign-up for the harp lessons for Mr Bryan to start teaching the Harp at Nexus this week. He had a really fun start with all the learners coming out of his lessons with BIG smiles. There were also lots of small harps travelling home from Nexus last Monday so that practise can take place, at home.



Instrumental Lesson Sign-Ups:

****NEWS FLASH****

A New Term is a great time to start to try playing a musical instrument (NEW INSTRUMENT ADDED - HARP! - please email Mr Tim if you would like to try out the Harp):

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!

New Plastic, Lightweight Trumpets Offered at Nexus:

Mr Tim gave a demonstration on the new coloured plastic, lightweight trumpets in the Music Department. They look like toys but they play and sound just like a metal trumpet, amazing!

If you would like to try one, then sign up for trumpet lessons, choose your colour and the Music Department will provide you with a plastic trumpet for your lessons. Sign up for lessons [HERE](#)



Community Musical Opportunities:

OPERA FESTIVAL! @ Publika 7th & 8th May from 11am to 10pm

A celebration of Opera! The first ever Opera Festival in KL that consists of a weekend filled with talks, activities and performances by professional singers, musicians and opera choruses. Organised by Kuala Lumpur City Opera.

The 2016 Kuala Lumpur City Opera Festival will be the first opera festival featuring European classics in Malaysia and possibly in the South East Asian region with productive and entertaining operatic activities.

CHECK IT OUT **HERE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/95603501117802/>

and **HERE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/klcityopera/>



Dates For Your Diaries

Thursday 12th May	Young Performers' Concert - 7pm in the Theatre
Wednesday 18th May	Y1 Primary Showcase
Thursday 26th May	Rock Concert
Wednesday 8th June	Early Years Showcase
Monday 27th June	Very Young Performers' Concert

Why Study Music?

The Importance of Music

<http://www.spreadmusicnow.org/the-importance-of-music.html?platform=hootsuite>

Badminton Club

Lunchtime practice with Coach William

Coach William will be coming into Nexus on Monday lunchtimes from next week to run badminton sessions for our secondary learners.

Please come along if you are interested in representing Nexus in the upcoming KLISS and ISAC tournaments.

This is a great opportunity to improve your technique, fitness and tactical awareness under the expert eye of Coach William.

Here are a mix of secondary learners winning silver in this year's season warm-up hosted by ISKL.



U13 Girls Volleyball

Thursday 21st April 2016

On Thursday 21st April the Nexus Girls Under 13 Volleyball team competed in a volleyball tournament hosted by Taylor's International School KL. The first game was against Taylor's. This was, for most of the team, their first ever competitive volleyball game. Unfortunately, the girls lost against Taylor's, but with close scores of 15-10 and 15-12.

The second game was against Tenby. The team had definitely improved in confidence from the first game and with some fantastic serves, especially from Stella, they won against Tenby with a final score of 15-2 and 17-15. The team will go on to play in the Plate Final in May.

Well done to Stella, Ayla, Aaliyah, Nisa, Azmina, Dayana, Suraya, Aishah, and Arifah. Thank you to all the girls for playing and representing Nexus!

Arifah Zainal



Fixtures coming-up

Term 3 is time for Striking and fielding sports in Primary and a little more Volleyball for our Secondary learners. Here are the confirmed fixtures for April:

Thursday 28th April

U15 Boys Volleyball at Tenby
U15 Girls Volleyball at Taylors

Thursday 12th May

U13 Boys Volleyball Finals at Tenby
U13 Girls Volleyball Finals at Taylors

Saturday 14th May

U15 Team badminton at TBC
Nexus Triathlon

Sunday 15th May

Nexus Triathlon

Tuesday 17th May

KLISS Secondary Swim Gala at KTJ

As always please check the sports fixtures calendar for up to date information.

6th annual Nexus Triathlon

Saturday 14th May and Sunday 15th May

The Nexus Triathlon is back!

Livmore Events are once again organising this year's Nexus Triathlon. Sign-ups have exceeded all expectations and we now have over 300 entrants across the multiple categories.

Here is the schedule for the two days.

14 th May, Saturday	
Time	Event
6.30 am	Registration – U6, U8, U10, U12, Senior Mixed Relay Team
8.00 am	Under 6 Briefing
8.10 am	Under 6 Girls Start
8.20 am	Under 6 Boys Start
8.30 am	Under 8 Briefing
8.40 am	Under 8 Girls Start
8.55 am	Under 8 Boys Start
9.10 am	Under 10 Briefing
9.20 am	Under 10 Girls Start
9.40 am	Under 10 Boys Start
10.00 am	Under 12 Briefing
10.10 am	Under 12 Girls Start
10.30 am	Under 12 Boys Start
10.50 am	Senior Mixed Relay Team Briefing
11.00 am	Senior Mixed Relay Team Start
11.30 am	Awards Presentation
12.00 am	Event Finish

15 th May, Sunday	
Time	Event
6.30 am	Registration – U15, U18, Open, Junior Mixed Relay Team
8.00 am	Under 15 Briefing
8.15 am	Under 15 Girls Start
8.55 am	Under 15 Boys Start
9.35 am	Under 18 & Open Briefing
9.45 am	Under 18 & Open Female Start
10.25 am	Under 18 & Open Male Start
10.50 am	Junior Mixed Relay Team Briefing
11.00 am	Junior Mixed Relay Team Start
11.30 am	Awards Presentation
12.00 am	Event Finish

The smooth running of the event is dependant on the generous volunteers who give up their time to ensure that the athletes stay safe and on-course. As always we are looking for volunteers to help marshall/officialate for this year's event. If you would like to volunteer then please get in touch with Andy Smith at smith.a@nexus.edu.my
Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/SchoolTriSeries/> for more information
or
Contact Elsa on Elsa@livmoreevents.com if you have any questions regarding the event.

Boarders' Blog - Week Three

Last weekend the boarders, Ms Hayley and Ms Bobby ventured out to Zoo Negara. Although they braved torrential rain and thunder they all managed to see a variety of remarkable animals including lions, tapirs, giraffes and even a rather terrifying tarantula at the insect house.

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly getting the chance to see the baby panda at the new Giant Panda Conservation centre. It was fantastic to see the baby and its parents so close up and to learn about the work that the centre does to ensure the conservation of these beautiful animals.



On Wednesday evening we all celebrated Dening's birthday with copious amounts of pizza, fizzy drink, chocolate cake and strawberry cheesecake!! There were plenty of full tummies afterwards!



Our Year 11 boarders sat their first IGCSE exam on Tuesday and to their credit they have been revising a lot in their free time. It has been pleasing to see them have some down time as well, with most enjoying a 'work out' in the fitness suite most afternoons with boarding staff.