



**Bishkek  
International  
School**

**VOICES**



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 01/ 2019-20

24<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 7:45 MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

The BIS 2019-20 academic year begins in just a couple of days. Mr Felix and Mr Kanat will be ready and eager to greet each student and their families from 07:45 on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Our teaching staff will be waiting outside on the basketball court, where homeroom and form teachers will be holding a sign with the name of their class and will be ready to greet students. We will have some breakfast snacks and compote.

Students will gather in their form groups and, after a welcome from Dr Grant, will be taken to their homeroom/form classroom where they will spend the first two periods of the day.

## **WELCOME!**

A warm BIS welcome to all our new and returning students as we prepare for the 2019-2020 academic year! We hope you have had an enjoyable, restful summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for the return to school this Monday.

Over the break we've been exciting improvements have been made to the school, including building two new classrooms on the annex building, converting our inclusive education and learning support room into a space that also allows for school counseling, and building a number of very exciting tree houses in the main playground. Our administration team have been working hard to ensure everything is in order, and our teaching team, which includes a number of new faces, have spent the last week getting themselves and their classrooms ready to welcome our record-high cohort of students.

Our staff and student body for the year ahead represents over 30 nationalities and brings to life our community celebration of diversity and inclusivity. Further to this, over the summer our school teamed up with Gender Action – a programme and resource bank to ensure schools put gender equity at the heart of its policy and practice. We're now excited to get teaching and learning underway and look forward to collaborating with our wider community as we continue to enhance the programmes we offer.

As a fully authorized IB World School, and accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Council for International Education, we are committed to constant improvement in all aspects and our proud to have developed our organizational structure to include Heads of Departments who will oversee Math, English, Science, Humanities, Physical and Health Education, Design, Creative Arts and Performing Arts as we move forwards towards our mission to be the best international school in Central Asia.

Finally, we are ever so proud of the achievements of our graduating class of last year and look forward to supporting this year's students in meeting their academic, creative and sporting potential. Our students have an inspiring passion for using their curiosity, communication skills and creativity to tackle the challenges they see around them and to ultimately make the world a more peaceful place. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of the BIS community and I look forward to seeing our school and the students grow through the process of fun, hands-on learning this year.

**Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies**

## **STAFF PROFILES**

As an international school we always have some turnover in both students and staff every summer as people move elsewhere and we welcome several new staff this summer. These team members bring with them a diverse skill set and an abundance of experience. Photos and bios of all the staff will be available on our website soon. In the meantime, you can see the team in our group picture below! From the next edition of Voices, there will also be a feature called 'New Faces of BIS' where, each week, you will get to know a new member of the team in more detail.



BIS Staff awaiting your return beside the new Makerspace and Music Room in the annex.

## **PAMC Parents' Welcome Coffee**

Our PAMC will be starting the academic year with a welcome coffee on site! They are looking forward to meeting returning members of the community and greeting new parents.

**PAMC  
PARENTS'  
WELCOME  
COFFEE**

August 26 | 8:15-9:15  
School Courtyard

"First Bell!" Let's ring  
it with our children!

Meet new parents  
and see all the  
changes to the  
campus!

Enjoy a hot coffee  
or tea!

## MEET THE TEACHERS

We are delighted to host our 'Meet the Teachers' event on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August** in our first week of school. This is for both new and existing parents of the school to see the school, see their child's classrooms, meet their child's homeroom, form and co teachers. It will also provide an opportunity to ask any questions, learn about the educational programmes and generally get a better feel for the BIS school and community. Each classroom will also be assigned a member of staff to support with Russian translations. Parents are welcome to attend sessions either from 15:30 – 16:00, OR from 16:00 – 16:30. These meetings will take place in the assigned homeroom/form classroom.

## SCHOOL BUS

From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August we have six school busses running every morning to arrive at school by 7:45 and leaving school in the afternoon at 16:40. Some buses still have spaces, so if you are interested in using the bus, contact Aigerim Tilekeeva [atilekeeva@esca.kg](mailto:atilekeeva@esca.kg) for more information. The bus costs 100 Som per journey.



## CAR PASS PERMITS

Everyone needs a Car Pass to enter the school drop-off area. From Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September this needs to be a 2019/20 Car Pass, so please collect a new car pass from Aigerim in the Admin room during the first week if you need one. The first car pass for a family is free. Additional passes can be purchased for 200 Som if you have more than one car that comes to school. Please do everything you can to work with Aigerim and our Security Guards to implement this system so that the school is a safer place for everyone.

## TAIGANS TRAINING

### Cross Country



The Central Asian Federation of Athletics (CAFA) Cross Country races will be held in Tashkent this year. Students in our cross-country teams will head to Tashkent to compete against schools from all over Central Asia! Students who are interested in competing in this event need to sign up to Cross Country ECA. Students from MYP1 to DP2 will be eligible to compete in this event, but we also encourage students from P4 and above to sign up to cross country ECA. Be on the lookout for more information regarding weekend trainings and fun runs!

### Football

Term 1 is football season at BIS. Students who would like to play in the school football teams should sign up to the relevant ECA. Extra training may be held in addition to ECAs. All skill levels welcome, you just need to bring a positive attitude! Teams will have the chance to compete in both the local Bishkek tournament and the CAFA tournament in Almaty.



## ACADEMIC SUCCESS – CLASS OF 2019

BIS is very proud of the achievements of the Class of 2019, many of whom have English as a second or third language, including 60% who have never studied in an English language environment before taking the Diploma.

BIS is an inclusive school, accepting students from all backgrounds and abilities, and encouraging all students to tackle the demanding full Diploma. Fifteen students enrolled for the last two years of High School and all of them chose to take the full Diploma.

BIS students significantly outperformed worldwide averages, which is notable given that this is only our second year in the programme. The average results at BIS significantly improved from the previous year.

	Worldwide Results 2019	BIS Results 2018	BIS Results 2019
Number of full Diploma students	163,278	11	15
Pass Rate %	77%	91%	87%
Average points obtained by students who passed	30	32	34
Average grade for students who passed the Diploma	4.8	5.1	5.5
% of Students who achieved a Bilingual Diploma	24%	60%	62%

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS – CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

The Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for students age 14 to 16. It is recognized by leading universities and employers worldwide and is the ideal preparation for the IB Diploma Programme.

Our IGCSE 2 group undertook their exams from 29 April to 12 June with a total of 28 written papers and 4 practical exams. These courses ranged between four languages, mathematics, the sciences, and social sciences. Our cohort worked really hard to achieve 7 A\*s, 15 A's, 38 B's and more between them. Congratulations to the IGCSE 2 class of 2019 with your great results after a tough exam period.





## PRESCHOOL READY TO WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Good education starts early! **All preschool classes, from age 2 to 4 in September '19, still have space for new students.** If you are planning ahead for the 2019/20 academic year, the only way to guarantee a place in Primary 1 is to be enrolled in Preschool 3 this year, to move up next summer. Make sure you don't miss out!

## YEARBOOK 2018-2019

The 2018/19 yearbook is available [here](#) as a PDF. If you plan to buy a hard copy, please contact [info@bis.kg](mailto:info@bis.kg) or visit our reception. If the book you purchased in June was not bound correctly, please return it to Aigerim Tilekeeva [atilekeeva@bis.kg](mailto:atilekeeva@bis.kg) and she will replace it for you.

## HANDBOOKS AND POLICIES

The Parent & Guardian Handbook, Student Handbook and all relevant school policies have been reviewed by relevant staff members of the summer break. Updated versions in English are available to download [here](#). Russian versions will be available within the next two weeks. The most important for parents and students are the 'Parent & Guardian Handbook' and/or the 'Student Handbook' as appropriate.

Policies are provided for those who would like more in-depth information about different areas of the school. The one exception is for Diploma Programme students and parents who have to read and sign the 'Academic Honesty Policy'.

Programme handbooks for the Preschool, Primary School, the 'Middle Years Programme', the 'IGCSE Programme' and the 'Diploma Programme' have also been created. These were sent to families in the summer. If you wish to receive this again, please email the relevant programme coordinator.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August, First Day of School!**
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August, PAMC Coffee Hour: 08:15-09:15 – School Playground
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August, Meet the Teachers: 15:30 – 16:30
- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Independence Day (No School)**
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, All Parents Meeting (PAMC) – all parents invited
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Asia Day – Open Day – everyone invited
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, Middle & High School Sports Day – Spartak Stadium
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Cross Country, CAFA Tournament, Tashkent
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Parent Teacher Meetings

- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, UN Day at BIS
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Autumn/Fall break (No School)**

More information about these events will be sent to you later via email. Alternatively, please check our website <http://www.bis.kg> for updates

## LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup> is Menu A.

You can view both [Menu A and Menu B](#) on our school website.

Form Teachers and our Chef are responsible for adjusting this menu to avoid any foods your child cannot eat, according to the information provided to us by you.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or suggestions for the school, please contact your child's Homeroom or Form Teacher and they will either answer directly or pass the message on to the right person. Messages can be sent in English or Russian, or in your own language. If you do not know the correct email address for the person you want to write to, please write to [info@bis.kg](mailto:info@bis.kg) and our Reception will forward your email to the right person. Form Teachers for 2019/20 are given below:

Form Class	Homeroom/Form Teacher	Email
Preschool 1	Begimai Keneshbekova	<a href="mailto:bkeneshbekova@bis.kg">bkeneshbekova@bis.kg</a>
Preschool 2	Oksana Rusanova	<a href="mailto:orusanova@bis.kg">orusanova@bis.kg</a>
Preschool 3	Carmen Prinsloo (Head of Preschool)	<a href="mailto:cprinsloo@bis.kg">cprinsloo@bis.kg</a>
Primary 1	Caitlyn Clark	<a href="mailto:cclark@bis.kg">cclark@bis.kg</a>
Primary 2 A	Alicia Grinsteinner	<a href="mailto:agrinsteinner@bis.kg">agrinsteinner@bis.kg</a>
Primary 2 S	Shelby Pohndorff	<a href="mailto:Spohndorff@bis.kg">Spohndorff@bis.kg</a>
Primary 3	Jamie Hesse	<a href="mailto:jhesse@bis.kg">jhesse@bis.kg</a>
Primary 4	Katie Baxter	<a href="mailto:Kbaxter@bis.kg">Kbaxter@bis.kg</a>
Primary 5	Rona Butler	<a href="mailto:rbutler@bis.kg">rbutler@bis.kg</a>
Primary 6 A	Alex McQuillan	<a href="mailto:amcquillan@bis.kg">amcquillan@bis.kg</a>
Primary 6 S	Shannon Coppock	<a href="mailto:scoppock@bis.kg">scoppock@bis.kg</a>
Middle School - MYP 1	Alisher Arstanbek	<a href="mailto:aarstanbek@bis.kg">aarstanbek@bis.kg</a>
Middle School - MYP 2	Grace Park	<a href="mailto:gpark@bis.kg">gpark@bis.kg</a>
Middle School - MYP 3	Hilary Harveycutter	<a href="mailto:hharveycutter@bis.kg">hharveycutter@bis.kg</a>
High School - IGCSE 1	Darren Simpson	<a href="mailto:dsimpson@bis.kg">dsimpson@bis.kg</a>
High School IGCSE 2	Jason Lorenowicz	<a href="mailto:jlorenowicz@bis.kg">jlorenowicz@bis.kg</a>
High School - Diploma 1	Artika Singh	<a href="mailto:asingh@bis.kg">asingh@bis.kg</a>
High School - Diploma 2	Thierry Taberna	<a href="mailto:ttaberna@bis.kg">ttaberna@bis.kg</a>

To contact Management Board members:

- David Grant, Head of School [dgrant@bis.kg](mailto:dgrant@bis.kg)
- Krishna Gandhi, Director of Studies, PYP Coordinator, Spanish Teacher [kgandhi@bis.kg](mailto:kgandhi@bis.kg)
- Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration [mosmonova@bis.kg](mailto:mosmonova@bis.kg)
- Jacques Prinsloo, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE Coordinator, Math, Economics and Business Teacher [jprinsloo@bis.kg](mailto:jprinsloo@bis.kg)