

BHS Monthly Newsletter --- Vol. 23 No. 1 --- 3 October 2019

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

The new year has now begun and children have arrived at or returned to school full of hope and expectation. We intend to encourage them to be ambitious, hardworking, purposeful and involved. In order to give of our best and to ensure that the children give of their best and gain as much as they can from their education we have brought about a number of changes:

- Senior Leadership Team: The strategic direction and development of the school which I lead is now being co-ordinated by the Senior Leadership Team consisting of the Vice Principal Academic, Mr. Georges Rizkallah, responsible for the curriculum and academic matters; Mr. Sage Ball, the Vice Principal Pastoral, responsible for the Heads of Section, Pastoral care in Upper and Lower Schools, Child Protection and Safeguarding and the Personal, Health and Social Education Curriculum; Mrs. Shatha Abu Khalil, responsible for the Elementary School; Mrs. Hoda Wallace, responsible for Professional Development and Appraisal, induction and ongoing training of staff; and Mr. Raymond El Feghali, responsible for the school's financial management, the Support and Industrial Staff and Chairman of the School's Health and Safety Committee.

- The BHS Management Team: Is chaired by the Vice Principal Pastoral and consists of the Vice Principal Academic and the Heads of the Secondary (Mr. Chadi Nakhle), Intermediate (Mrs. Rima Habib), Upper and Lower Elementary (Mrs. Shatha Abu Khalil) and Infant (Mrs. Nada Bu Jawdeh) Sections who are responsible for the school lives of the students and the day-to-day operation of the school. In addition, we have introduced a number of areas new to the school:

- A Careers Centre and Department led by Mr. Fareed Halabi (an excellent Careers Fair featuring 27 Lebanese and International universities was held on 25 September); a Support for Learning Department for Upper and Lower schools led and co-ordinated by Mrs. Roba About Hosn; and a Marketing Department led by Mr. Richard Bampfyde. They each have important roles promoting the school, supporting students, and in ensuring that our message and practice are coherent and consistent.

Some of the developments in the school can be attributed to the recent EDT/ISQM Inspection in May, which highlighted our strengths, identified weaknesses, and made recommendations. With my colleagues I have analysed this encouraging document and summarise its findings in the actions we have already taken, or will take, below:

Brummana High School was inspected by The Education Development Trust, the largest educational charity in the United Kingdom in May of 2019 for the purpose of re-accreditation, following the initial inspection in 2016 when the school was awarded silver status, a level which has been confirmed but not improved upon in the Inspectors' report published in the summer of 2019.

The principal findings of the report are as follows:

Main Strengths:



1. *Brummana High School is a good school.*
2. *The Principal, school leaders and the Board of Governors have taken decisive action to strengthen leadership and build a cohesive structure for pastoral and academic direction.*
3. *The Quaker values underpin the school ethos and are reflected in the acceptance of students from diverse backgrounds, nationalities and religions.*
4. *Children and students behave well, have extremely positive attitudes to learning and are proud ambassadors for Brummana High School.*
5. *The curriculum for personal, health and social education is very good, building students' confidence to be active citizens in the local and wider communities.*
6. *Interventions for students needing additional support is good.*
7. *Standards and progress in Mathematics and Science are good, sometimes exceeding national and world averages.*
8. *The relationship between the school and the local community is long established and recognises the importance of Brummana High School to the local community and of the community to the school.*

Main Recommendations:

1. *The school's leadership and teachers need to analyse and use assessment information more effectively in order to plan for and provide challenge as well as support, where it is needed, for all students.*

Action taken: A Head of Support for Learning has been appointed to:

- a. *Co-ordinate the screening of all students and the management of students with diverse learning needs.*
- b. *The Director of Studies is co-ordinating the work of teachers to ensure that educational approaches are stimulating, interactive, engaging and challenging for the students.*

2. *Provide a comprehensive careers, advice and guidance programme from the Intermediate Section onwards to raise students' aspirations and be better informed of options for Higher Education, training and employment.*



Action taken: A Head of Careers has been appointed, a Careers Centre opened and a programme of Careers advice and guidance for year groups and individuals has been established and implemented. The Head of Careers has already held meetings with Grade 11 students and parents in June and will interview all individuals in Grade 12 during the course of 2019/2020, while also providing a daily appointment service for students. He has set up a Higher Education Fair for Grades 10-12 students in September 2019, attracting over 20 universities from Lebanon and abroad, trained teachers in writing references for students, and, through the PHSE (Personal, Health and Social Education) programme, begun to make younger students aware of the options and decision making ahead of them in their school careers.

3. *Improve preparation for Elementary students' transition to the Intermediate section to increase their readiness to learn from the curriculum.*

Action Taken:

- a. *In May and June meetings were held between Grade 6 & Grade 7 teachers, led by their Heads of Section, to ensure the effective exchange of information about students moving from Grade 6 to Grade 7.*
- b. *Meetings were held between Advisers from Grades 6 and 7 and between the Lower School and Upper School Counsellors to ensure the effective transfer of information and documentation.*

- c. In addition, Heads of Department met with subject co-ordinators to initiate discussion about the curriculum to ensure (a) coherent development of subject matter presented to students and (b) a lack of overlap of curriculum in Lower and Upper Schools.
- d. More work on the coherence of the Lower and Upper School curricula will be undertaken in 2019/2020.

4. Ensure that teachers provide students, and their parents, with specific and timely feedback on learning so that they are clear about what students have done well in and how to improve.

Action taken:

- a. Parents' meetings in the Upper School have been reorganised this year to ensure wider attendance by parents and students and more effective meetings aimed at helping students to improve on performance.
 - b. A key element of the school's Development Plan this year is for the Director of Studies, with selected colleagues, through a working party, to review the school's assessment, recording and reporting policies, to ensure that the information and advice provided to students and to parents is regular, relevant, clear and helpful. The working party will report to the Senior Leadership Team later in the school year.
 - c. The way in which Advisers work has been changed. All advisers now deliver a programme of Personal, Health and Social Education to their advisees, weekly, on the school timetable, as opposed to briefly in the lunch hours and are also granted a time allowance by the school to see advisees individually on their progress at school and to help them resolve any difficulties which they may have.
5. Implement a comprehensive and robust review of Health & Safety and Safeguarding policies, procedures and training programmes.

Action taken:



- a. A Vice Principal Pastoral has been appointed. He has already conducted Child Protection and Safeguarding training for all teaching staff, ensuring, through an assessment survey, that staff are better informed on how to respond to specific child protection and safeguarding situations. A member of the Governing Body, Miss Juhaina Abu Khalil, the chair of the Education Committee, has been formally designated the Governor with oversight of Child Protection, Safeguarding and Pastoral matters. The Vice Principal Pastoral is reviewing Child Protection, Safeguarding and Health & Safety and related policies, with selected colleagues on a working party, as a key element of the school's Development Plan. He will report to the Senior Leadership team later in the school year with recommendations for improvement where appropriate. He will also construct a Personal, Health & Social Education programme in keeping with the school's responsibilities, to inform and protect young people and to encourage them to adopt or maintain a healthy lifestyle. The Vice

Principal Pastoral will also organise sessions for parents in late afternoons or early evenings to help them manage, with their children, issues such as cyber bullying, internet safety, the use of social media etc...

- b. A Head of Professional Development and Appraisal has been appointed. She has established and will implement a comprehensive programme of Professional Review (appraisal) for all staff, devised to recognise the progress and achievement of staff, areas for development and to take forward agreed targets and objectives, supported by the provision of suitable training. In addition, she will source courses and workshops for staff, provide them with personal support and guide them in their work. The scheme of Professional Review has already started and will operate on a three-year cycle with a further review of progress one year after each review/appraisal.

Teaching and Learning was rated as good and there is detailed advice in the Inspectors' report on how this can be further developed generally and in specific subject areas. The Vice Principal Academic is overseeing and implementing detailed recommendations on teaching and learning and, in addition, has assumed responsibility for the curriculum in the Lower School, which he will scrutinise to ensure that children are suitably challenged and supported and that the Lower School curriculum is fully coherent with the curriculum delivered by teachers in the Upper School.

The Personal Development of Students through the Quaker values of Individuality, diversity, tolerance, respect and peaceful resolution, together with the breadth of the extra-curricular programme and the intensity of the Community Service Programme, were applauded in the report by the team of inspectors as contributors to the holistic, educational philosophy of the school and the wholesome, positive attitude of the students whose quality of spoken and written English were also noted. There are areas including sport, music and the arts which we aim to further expand and improve on this year and in the future.

The School's Facilities, Accommodation and Resources were generally complimented and the recently introduced Planned Maintenance Programme acknowledged as a means to improve maintenance all year round and to reduce health and safety issues about which inspectors had expressed some concern.

The lack of a Lower Elementary library, of adequate facilities for technology, of a ground floor medical clinic, and traditional desk arrangements in classrooms were all commented on.

Action taken:

- a. During the summer, a Lower Elementary library has been established and a librarian appointed.
- b. A new technology lab, specifically for the teaching of robotics and related technologies, has been built in the basement of the Arts and Crafts building. It is being used from September 2019.
- c. Two 'model' classrooms have been refurbished in the Upper School so that teachers can try different classroom arrangements to facilitate effective teaching and learning. It is intended that year by year the school will furnish more model classrooms.
- d. The medical clinic has been moved to the ground floor of Clare House which has been completely renovated and refurbished. A second clinic, for the Upper School, has been established and equipped in one of the spare rooms adjacent to the Volleyball court.



Leadership and Management were rated as good with the Inspectors particularly complimentary about the robust approach taken by the Governing Board, its support of the Principal, of the changes being implemented, the transparency, thoroughness, professionalism and strategic direction adopted by the Principal and the Leadership and Management Teams, and the range of new appointments, designed to share the burden of work, raise standards across the school, introduce accountability and ensure that there is a well understood, logical, effective management structure.

The school was also seen to be financially solvent, prudently managed by the Bursar, overseen by the Board's Finance Committee and following the highest standards, both nationally and internationally, of probity. The school's risk register, a live, continually assessed document, covering political, social, economic, academic, personnel and reputational areas was commented on favourably as an effective method of evaluating and mitigating risk so as to preserve the school's immediate and longer term future while the five-year Capital Development Plan and its rationale demonstrated the school's ambition and vision.

The report gives the school full credit for its strengths and areas which have been developed but equally is critical of areas of weakness on which my colleagues and I, supported by the Board of Governors, are working, as I hope I have demonstrated in this synopsis. Together with our Development Plans we shall be using the Inspectors' recommendations as a blueprint for the future.

Summer Works: Over the summer a range of improvements to the school's facilities and resources were established and I am grateful to our Property team, led by Raymond El Feghali and L'Emir Ziad Abi El Lamah, the Property Manager, for what has been achieved. Amongst the developments are:

1. The construction of a new Sick Bay for the Upper School next to the Volleyball court and the appointment of a school nurse for the Upper School.
2. The construction of a Sick Bay for the Lower School including the Infants' section on the Ground Floor of Clare House.
3. The construction of a new Technology Lab for the teaching of robotics in the basement of the Arts and Crafts building.
4. The full soundproofing of the Sports Hall beneath the Khoury Hall.
5. The construction of a fully-equipped multi gym next to the Sports Hall with neighbouring access to showering and changing facilities.
6. The establishment of five fully-equipped rooms for the teaching of instrumental music.
7. The establishment of separate changing rooms for boys and girls in the Upper School.
8. The complete refurbishment of the Edinburgh House Boarding House Lounge.



9. The installation of soundproofing between the computer labs in the Arts and Crafts Building.
10. The installation of rubber protection for safety in the Lower Elementary playground.
11. The refurbishment of the Upper School staff room and the waiting area next to the Registrar's office.
12. The refurbishment of two model classrooms in the Upper School, with the intention to extend this to other classrooms in 2020/2021.
13. The establishment and refurbishment of a library in the Lower Elementary Akl Building.
14. A major programme of maintenance, painting and redecoration across the Upper and Lower Schools.
15. Fibre optics cabling has been brought into the school and will soon be connected to the school's internet structure to provide better broadband connection. In addition, the following projects will be undertaken during the course of 2019/2020:
 - I. The reconfiguration of the Infants' Section entrance/playground to include the installation of a canopy for wet weather (to be completed by winter 2019).
 - II. The installation of an AstroTurf for football and of an athletics track on the BHS football field (to be completed by summer 2020).
 - III. A feasibility study for the covering of the school swimming pool and for its use all-year-round (by June 2020).
 - IV. A feasibility study for the electrical ventilation of all classrooms (by June 2020).
 - V. A planned maintenance programme for the ongoing upkeep of the school property 12 months a year has been established.

For other developments parents should refer to the School's and Sections' Development Plans published to parents at the start of the new school year.

Music: We are in the midst of developing musical activities at the school. A permanent Upper School choir is being formed while parents, staff and Old Scholars have been invited to join an adult choir. The combined choir will perform publicly on four or five occasions during the year.



Instrumental music tuition at school has been established. Lessons are being provided by professional practitioners on the school campus in five locations, on piano, violin, flute and guitar. We hope soon to be able to provide lessons on percussion (drums) and other instruments as teachers become available. At the moment 40 children are being taught to play musical instruments. I hope that more will join them.

On 25 October, a woodwind ensemble and narrator, led by Mr. Octavian Georghiu of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra and the Lebanese Conservatoire, will perform Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" to Grade 4 – 6 children.

The United Strings of Europe will return to Brummana from the 27th - 31st of January 2020 to give a series of workshops and masterclasses to students in Lower and Upper Schools, culminating in a concert which will also be open to parents.

Sport: We hope to expand sports opportunities this year. The production of new facilities and resources, as described, will help in this respect. In addition, Mr. Richard Bampfylde (Marketing Manager) and Mr. Caleb Warren-Smith (GAP Year Student) will be joining our team of Rugby coaches and a professional Cricket coach will, with my help, and that of Mr. Rabih Aouad, be introducing Cricket to 10-14 year old boys and girls.

Environmental Matters: The Gardening Club, led by Mr. Houssam Shaiban, and a team of teachers, have resumed work at the greenhouse, teaching children about horticulture. An audit of the school campus has been carried out with a view to establish the campus as a Botanical Garden. Mrs. Lara El Feghali leads the Global Eco Schools Group with the aim of gaining the prestigious green flag for the school through demonstrating sustainability activity. Mrs. Amal Habib leads the Recycling Committee with the aims of raising awareness and taking action on reducing waste, and through caring for the environment. Grade 6 children are all involved in a water project promoted by Université St Joseph (USJ) to conserve water in the Metn area. Our aim in all of this is to teach the next generation to care for the environment and play a role now and in the future in encouraging sustainability for the benefit of all on our planet.

Bookshop Sale: Finally, I must thank parents for their patience and for their tolerance in waiting many hours to purchase and collect books for their children at this year's book sale. I apologise unreservedly for the inconvenience caused to parents. My senior colleagues and I are in the process of reviewing the system and will devise a more efficiently convenient means of parents' purchasing books for their children next year (2020). I must, equally, however, praise the work of Mrs. Hiam Abou Salameh, who prepared tirelessly, throughout the summer, stocking the right books and in making arrangements. I shall ensure that she has the necessary support to deliver the book sale successfully next year. There is much else to write about but it can be saved for another month. As parents will see, much is happening at Brummana High School. I appreciate parents' support and would assure them of our continuing encouragement, exhortation and guidance of their children through the school year in the spirit of the school motto "I Serve".

JND Gray - I Serve

— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL PASTORAL

I would like to take this opportunity to say a warm hello and how pleased I am to have arrived in Lebanon with my wife, Tara, and two children. Whilst I was at Brighton College, Abu Dhabi, the Lebanese staff who worked there all found me within 24 hours of hearing that I had been appointed as Vice Principal Pastoral, at Brummana High School. They wanted to tell me that Brummana was a wonderful town, that BHS was an excellent school with a long history, and that I was going to very much enjoy living in the Lebanon. We have received a warm welcome from those I have met and we have enjoyed our short time here already. The weather was hot when we arrived, but not as hot as the weather that we had experienced in the UAE(!) and has quickly cooled to a very pleasant temperature.

Your children were a major factor in my decision to join the staff at BHS. When I was on interview, I found them to be a confident, friendly and respectful group of pupils. In short, I found the kind of friendly atmosphere that I wanted for my own children.

The role of Vice Principal Pastoral is a new position at BHS, and I have enjoyed the start to the term. I hit the ground running when I provided child protection training to the whole staff body, on my second day in the school, as part of the school INSET programme. Pastoral care is about placing the student at the centre of the school. This means that decisions that are made in the school are made with the child's wellbeing and development as their central purpose. This reflects Quaker values of the whole person.

At its heart, pastoral care is about ensuring that students are happy, safe and have the best opportunities for personal growth. Pupils who have excellent pastoral care engage better with their academic studies and experience success.

As part of my role, I will be reviewing personal, social, and health education, behaviour and rewards. I will also act as BHS's Child Protection Officer. I believe that BHS has the opportunity to become a leading light and role model for schools in Lebanon, and indeed the region, in regards to safeguarding. I am looking forward to communicating more about this to you. I have read the parent surveys from the end of last year and I will be sending a questionnaire to you, as parents, to invite your views on a range of issues that are important to the wellbeing of the children at our school.

I am also in the process of writing a Pastoral Policy and this will be shared with staff and pupils to comment on and to provide feedback on. This will also be shared with you as parents. The policy is based on the Quaker values that are central to the school.

I have attended several assemblies to talk to the pupils of different ages about what pastoral means and I am looking forward to observing more classes to see the pupils engaging with the education at BHS. I have most enjoyed my time in the different sections of the school during the morning, at break time and at lunch time seeing the pupils interact with each other. It is this positive and cooperative attitude amongst the pupils that I first saw back in March and I am delighted to have joined the BHS team. I am looking forward to having the opportunity to meet and talk with you during the year.



NAIM BAROUD

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Mr. Naim Baroud passed away on Tuesday, 24 September 2019. Since he joined Brummana High School in 1970, Mr. Baroud taught social science subjects and held several senior positions: Acting Principal from 1984 to 1986, Secondary/High School Co-ordinator 1994 to 1996, and Head of the Social Studies Department until he left in 2005. Naim is very fondly remembered by his colleagues. We express our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to his family.

BOARDING NEWS

Boarding at BHS

The new and more flexible boarding registration options are attracting a wider range of boarders to BHS.

Full Boarding option:	Weekly Boarding option:	Flexi Boarding option:
Boards students during weekdays and weekends for \$22,100 per year (including school fees).	Lodges students for specific weeks or weekdays for \$275 per week (weekdays only) or \$450 per week (including weekends).	Boards students on specific days for \$60 per school day or \$75 per weekend day.

For more information, please visit the school website (www.bhs.edu.lb) and take a look at the boarding flyer, or contact the Head of Boarding Section, Mr. Rabih Aouad (Day Telephone: +961 4 960430/1/2 Ext. 464 – Telephone after 4:00pm +961 4 862533 Ext. 532 – email: rabihaouad@bhs.edu.lb).

- Rugby World Cup

The Rugby World Cup in Japan kicked off on 20 September, with the six-week tournament seeing 20 teams competing for the Webb Ellis Cup. Weekend matches are being screened in the boarders' lounge. If you are interested in seeing a match, contact Mr. Richard Bampfyde (Telephone: +961 4 960430/1/2 Ext. 202 – email: richard.bampfyde@bhs.edu.lb). For a full fixtures list, please check: <https://www.rugbyworldcup.com/matches>.

BHS ANNUAL WALKATHON

The BHS Annual Walkathon will take place on Saturday, 19 October 2019 at 9:00am. Registration begins at 8:00am at the Main Gate. Parents, friends, staff and students are all encouraged to walk and have fun with us and, at the same time, support a noble cause. The funds raised by the Walkathon will go towards the financial aid programme and the St. Jude's Children Cancer Centre of Lebanon. We hope to see many of you.



NEW STAFF AND PROMOTIONS

We warmly welcome the following new staff who join us this academic year: *Infant Section:* Aline Skaf (Learning Support, Arabic). Five Teaching Assistants in the *Elementary Section:* Elma Zgheib, Pardi Joulfayan, Rasha Abi Farah, Rosette Khajatourian and Sirvart Bardakjian. *Upper School:* Bissan Ahmad (Drama), Caline Kouyoumjian (History, Geography, Social Studies), Joey Kdeissy (Geography, History, Civics), Myrna Cheiban (Arabic), Nadine Alkattah (Secretary - Secondary Section), Naila Keweloh (Science, Chemistry, Biology), Pia Bitar (P.E. Upper School and Elementary), Rawad Younes (Physics), Tanya Mounayar (English) and Tcherelle Khairallah (Choir). *Administration:* Jeanine Razzouk (School Nurse), Mona Zaza (Secretary to Vice Principal Pastoral), Richard Bampfyde (Marketing Manager), Roba Aboul Hosn (Head of Support for Learning) and Sage Ball (Vice Principal Pastoral, History, Geography). Congratulations to staff on promotions and additional responsibilities for 2019/2020: Collette Ein Chaybeh (Homeroom Teacher), Fareed Halabi (Head of Careers), Helena Abou Harb (Head of EFL), Hoda Wallace (Head of Professional Development & Appraisal), Jina Abou Merhy (MUN Student Leadership Programme Director), Juliana Eid (Learning Support Co-ordinator for the Lower School) and Sharon Chit (Homeroom teacher).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- On 18 September, two teachers from the English Department, Hoda Wallace and Lisette El Hage, travelled to Dubai to attend workshops concerning changes that have been made to their IB courses, "English Language and Literature" and "English Literature". The workshops mainly revolved around the new framework of the two courses and the modifications resulting from it, particularly changes in the course design and the assessment policy. Both workshops were very beneficial and interactive, especially that participants had come from different international schools around the world. Hence, attendees were engaged in several collaborative activities and discussions, exchanging views and gaining new insight into the new syllabuses' construction. Both teachers considered the workshops eye-opening and expressed gratitude for having networked with other English teachers and IB leaders.
- ICT Manager Youssef Abi-Haidar attended the Epson Business Inkjet Printers Seminar on 18 September in Beirut.
- Youssef also took the EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) v10.0 course over the summer. The course objectives state that a Certified Ethical Hacker is a skilled professional who understands and knows how to look for weaknesses and vulnerabilities in target systems and uses the same knowledge and tools as a malicious hacker, but in a lawful and legitimate manner to assess the security posture of a target system(s). The CEH credential certifies individuals in the specific network security discipline of Ethical Hacking from a vendor-neutral perspective.

SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL

Please be reminded that the school cannot be responsible for the supervision of students before 7:15 am in the morning.

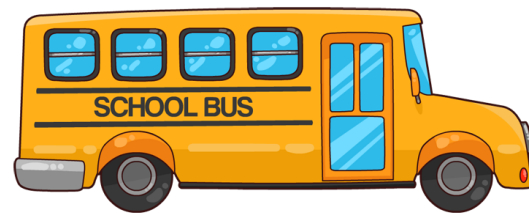
LOWER SCHOOL TRAFFIC

Thank you for your understanding and patience concerning the traffic congestion on the Lower School campus. To ease the congestion in the afternoon, a car entry card will be provided for each family with children in the Lower School, except for those using the School Bus. Access to the Basketball Court and the Elementary Drive will then be based on the students' sections.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Please be reminded that:

- Written parental permission is required if a bus-registered student who comes to school in the morning is not using the bus on the homeward journey.
- Also, written parental permission is required if a bus registered student wants to return by a different bus.
- For the safety of our students all vehicles are equipped with seat belts which must be worn during bus rides.



SUMMER CAMPUS USE

The summer at BHS was busy as usual. Our school has great facilities and we are glad to share them with so many people. Over the summer months we hosted the following events:

- The tennis facilities were used by Brummana Sports Club, who organised the Brummana Lebanon Cup Tennis Tournament in collaboration with the Brummana Municipality.
- The BHS Summer Camp hosted 1310 day campers and 51 boarders during the period 3 July to 21 August.
- The BHS OSA 28th International Convention was held on 5, 6 and 7 July.
- There was a 6-week BHS Summer Educational Programme, from 8 July to 16 August.
- For the 18th consecutive year, the Al-Jana ARCPA group held a residential workshop at BHS entitled Janana Summer Encounter. Around 137 community workers, cultural activists, NGO representatives, animators and librarians from the Arab world and beyond, came together from 22-29 August. The Janana Summer Encounter is a major regional forum for exchange and development of skills in the field of psychosocial support for marginalised children and children at risk. BHS Old Scholar Moa'taz El-Dajani '73 is the Founder & General Coordinator of Al-Jana.


SCHOOL & BUS FEES

The deadline for the first instalment of tuition fees and the bus registration fee was 1 September. Parents who have not yet paid should do so immediately. Please contact the Bursar if you envisage any further delay.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

This academic year sees BHS introducing a new calendar display graphic! A soft copy of this new format will be made available at the beginning of each month and will highlight all major activities and events coming up that month. We hope the new graphic will be easy for you to check by phone and you may even wish to add the calendar as your desktop background. Below is the October 2019 calendar graphic.

OCTOBER 2019

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	EVENTS
			01	02	03	04	01 - IGCSE November 2019 series exams (from 1 Oct. till 14 Nov.)
05	06	07	08	09	10	11	14 - SAT Orientation Session for Secondary Section
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16 - Upper School Back to School Night G 7 & 8 only (4:00 - 5:30pm) - IB parents orientation for Grades 9 IP/LP & 10 IP/LP at 5:30pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19 - BHS Walkathon 23 - University Orientation for Secondary Section students at 4:00pm in Khoury Hall
26	27	28	29	30	31		25 - Upper School International Day - Peter and the Wolf concert G 4 - G 6 (8:30 - 9:30am) in Khoury Hall 29 - Mid-Term Progress Report distribution for Upper School and Elementary Section selected students
							31 - Deadline for payment of Term 1 bus fees - Deadline for payment of IB2 May 2020 exam session

Brummana High School Monthly Calendar - www.bhs.edu.lb - info@bhs.edu.lb - 00961 4 960 430/1/2

UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

SECONDARY SECTION

- On 6 September, an **orientation session** for Grade 10 students, all programmes, was held in the Meeting House. The main focus points were academic achievement and extra-curricular involvement in preparation for university and adult life.

- The school year started early on 9 September for Secondary 3 LP and IB2 students who have official exams at the end of this academic year.

- On 11 and 12 September, a group of 28 students from Grades 10 and 11, all programmes, in addition to a number of staff members, received **Red Cross Training** on First Aid. The participants will receive first-aid certificates. A second training session is being prepared and students will be notified about it in due course.

- On 16 September, the school year officially began for all Secondary students. The **Principal** addressed all Secondary students in a **general assembly** first thing in the morning. Mr. Gray's address focused on the meanings of responsibility, both personal and collective. He emphasized academic achievement and the important role which Secondary students play in helping to run the school as well as being role models to the younger students.

- After Assembly, students of Grades 11 and 12 joined their **advisers** for an introductory session. Grade 10 students and new students to the section remained in the Meeting House to select their advisers. A presentation about the 12 Secondary advisers and a short biography of each one was displayed.

- After selecting their advisers, new students were taken on a **school tour** by Natalie Ashkar (IB1), the secretary of the Student Council 18-19.

- All students then headed to the library for their school **ID Photos**. Classes resumed at the end of period 3.

- With the introduction of a fixed **weekly advisory session** for U/S students, the Secondary students will be exposed to many topics, some of which they have proposed in their feedback to their advisers. In addition, advisory groups will each have to work on an awareness video concerning the monthly topic discussed, which will be displayed during assemblies. In addition, these advisory groups will be decorating bulletin boards with their advisers, inspired by the monthly theme.

- On 19 September, the new **Vice Principal Pastoral** addressed all Secondary students about his new role in the leadership team as well as his plan to reinforce child safeguarding and protection at BHS, in addition to a comprehensive Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme across the school.

- In the same assembly, the **Head of Careers** also addressed students about the new Career Guidance Plan and the University Fair which took place on 25 September.

- On 25 September, a letter about the **Make-up Test Policy** in the Secondary Section was sent to parents of new students and Grade 10 students, all programmes.



- On 27 September, the **US Club Fair** took place during lunch break. Thirty clubs and committees were displayed for US students to sign up for. All these club ideas were proposed and are led by Secondary students, with a teacher-adviser for each club. Clubs will start meeting on Monday, 7 October 2019 during Activity Period.

- The newly established **Co-Curricular Requirements for Graduation Programme** for Grade 12 IP students has already started. The new programme was put in place to make the experience of Grade 12 IP students in their final year a more meaningful one and engage them with experiences which would serve them in their adult lives. The programme includes working as part-timers at different departments at school during three periods a week until December. From January to March 2020, life skills courses such as first aid, CV writing, and interview skills, to name just a few, will be given. Collaborative community service, educational and cultural projects to be planned and executed by the students themselves will also take place from January to March 2020. Students met with their school employers on 30 September and agreed on the job

description. They started their part-time jobs on 1 October.

- The Principal has now finalised the selection of Secondary prefects after a rigorous selection process, which included a letter of intent and an interview, for each of the 43 applicants. The names of the newly appointed prefects, their Head-Prefect, and five Deputy-Heads, will be published in the November Newsletter issue.

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

- **Start of a new Academic Year:** The Intermediate Section has begun its year with 240 students, including six new students in Grade 7, eight new students in Grade 8 and ten new students in Grade 9.

- **Orientations** for Grades 9, 8, and 7 were held on 11, 12, and 13 September respectively. In these sessions students and parents were introduced to policies and procedures in the Intermediate Section. Students then attended a classroom session with their advisers where they

were given their schedules and shown where to go for classroom changes. Finally, in preparation for the first day of school, students placed their books in their classroom lockers.

- **First Day of School:** Grade 9 began classes on 16 September and Grades 7 and 8 began on the following day 17 September.

- **First Assembly of the Year:** The Principal introduced the new Vice Principal Pastoral and other new staff. Mr. Gray then encouraged students to set goals for the year ahead and to do their best to achieve those goals.

- **Assembly:** 23 September - The 'Moment of Silence' that each assembly starts off with was explained to students as a time to sit quietly and to think and reflect. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Fareed Halabi and Ms. Jina Abou Merhy on the achievements of the BHS MUN Club. All students were encouraged to join the MUN Club as it is a great experience.

- **Advisory Session:** This year we are fortunate to have the advisory period within the timetable and no longer during the lunch break. This allows the advisers more ease and time to discuss the important life lessons with their advisees and plan related activities.

- **Advisory Topics:** During the first week of school, advisers spent time getting to know their advisees and together they decorated their classroom. The topics of discussion for the next three weeks will be the values Gratitude, Caring, Character, and Respect.

- **Junior Prefect Duties:** Grade 9 students have begun their prefect duties in the Intermediate MTB building. These duties include monitoring of the younger students' hallways at the beginning of the day and after breaks. The prefects also help to turn off lights, distribute announcements and to make sure the building is vacant during breaks or at the end of the day.

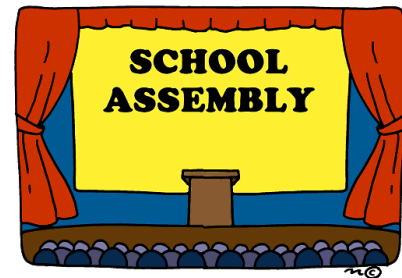
- **ID Photos:** Students had their ID photos taken on 26 September. These pictures will also be used for the Brevet classes' official exam ID card.

- **Activity Period 5** on Mondays is for students to join a club. Many club activities will be offered, and on 27 September students had the chance to choose which club they wished to join.

- **Moodle Passwords** will be distributed to Intermediate students this week. By accessing Moodle online, parents will be able to check what lessons are being taught and the homework being assigned.

- **Upcoming Dates:** On 16 October, parents of Grades 7 and 8 are invited to attend the "Back to School Night" event from 4:00 to 5:30pm. Also on 16 October, parents of Grade 9 IP and LP are invited to attend the IB parents' orientation taking place in the Meeting House at 5:30pm.

- **Points for Parents:** Mobile phones are not allowed in the Intermediate Section. If they must bring a phone to school, we provide safe locked boxes for the mobiles before students go to class and they pick them up at the end of the day. Students found with mobile phones in the building will have their parents called in for a special meeting. Please make sure your child has written his/her name on all his/her books and copybooks. If your child still needs one of the subject books, check if the BHS bookshop has it in stock and, if not, ask the Bookshop Manager to order it for you. To remain organized throughout the year, your child should have a different copybook for each subject.



Careers Department News

The newly established Careers Department is proud to have hosted Brummana High School's first annual **University Fair**, hosting 27 universities, organisations and companies dealing with admissions to universities in Lebanon and abroad on 25 September 2019 in Khoury Hall. Over 300 students, parents, faculty, and staff attended. Inspiring and mobilising our community, students and parents had the opportunity to listen and ask about higher education academic programmes. The chance to meet universities face to face, by interacting with official representatives, is a key benefit of university events such as this and the students that formed around some of the institutions' tables reflected this. Students and parents responded positively about the appeal of getting immediate, personalised responses to questions, finding out more about the programs and funding opportunities on offer and getting an idea of the application process – all reasons to attend in person, rather than just stick to online research. A special thanks goes out to Mr. David Gray and the senior management team, the teaching faculty and staff, the BHS Parents Association, the OSA and all the students and parents who took part in making this first of many university fairs a success.



English Department News

For the second time in a row, BHS students participated in the Trust for Sustainable Living Competition. Three of our Grade 10 students were invited to the debates as finalists for their essay submission, while one received honourable mention. The debates took place in July in British Columbia (BC), a progressive province when it comes to sustainable and clean living. As the chaperone, I was witness to the debates and our students' achievements; of the awards won were best speaker, best group and honorary speaker. Having the debates in BC allowed the students to experience clean living and the importance of wildlife. Indeed, one of our activities was whale-watching. We took a 40-minute boat ride to find four humpback whales in the wild among sea lions, otters, eagles, walrus, and seals. Other activities brought us face to face with beekeepers, exquisite gardens and indigenous life. It was a majestic experience and one that will live in our memories for a long time to come. (Jessica Sebali)



Maths Department News

The Technology Lab is this year's new addition to the BHS educational facilities. The lab with its computers, design software, robotics equipment and microcontroller kits offers a series of courses within the Maths department. Courses include STEM, IGCSE Design and Technology and Robotics that reinforce mathematical concepts, enhance creativity and establish a culture of innovation through a series of challenging real-life applications that develop students' 21st century skills and increase their employability.

P.E. Department News



BHS student Anthony Edward Salem (G 12) participated in the Inter-Village Fest Table Tennis Competition, ranking 1st in the Matn District and 2nd in the Mount Lebanon Governorate. We are proud of you.

LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

ELEMENTARY SECTION

- A big welcome back to school to all our Elementary students and an especially warm welcome to those new to the school. We also want to welcome the five new Teacher Assistants joining the Lower Elementary team.
- After getting to know each other, our teachers and students have spent time practicing daily classroom routines and procedures. Now, we are set to focus on learning and all the exciting activities planned for this academic year.
- Over the summer, our Lower Playground received a make-over with safety cushioning around the edges and new playground games on the floor.
- We are thrilled to announce that we will be reopening our LE Library this year. This means that Grades 1, 2 & 3 can spend more time exploring, reading and sharing books.
- HoS Mrs. Shatha Abou Khalil gave the first two assemblies of the year and talked to the children about our school's rules and regulations as well as what being a Quaker school is all about. Our new Vice Principal Pastoral joined Mrs. Shatha in explaining the Quaker Values and what the school's ethos means. Now, even our youngest students are aware of their responsibility to be respectful, helpful and to have empathy for others.



INFANT SECTION



- The Infant Section is quickly becoming a little community. The children are establishing friendships, settling into the routine, and they truly seem to be enjoying themselves. These first few days have been spent learning routines and expectations. New friendships have already begun. Thanks to all the teachers for their help in making this transition a smooth one.
- To all our new families, we hope that you and your children enjoy your time with us. We look forward to creating some wonderful memories with you and for your child/children. All the teachers are here to answer your questions and to help you in any way that we can. We aim to make your child's experience a positive one. For all returning families, we look forward to another great year with you and your children.
- Infant students were introduced to the word "respect". They brainstormed ways to show friends respect, like including everyone in playtime games and sharing materials at school.

- Reminders:

Make sure that your children are on time in the morning. It is healthier, socially and emotionally, if they join in and enjoy the programme at the same time as the others. We really appreciate your help with this!

Jewellery, flip-flops, crocs and Birkenstock are not permitted at school.

Earrings are not allowed.

Nail polish is not allowed.

The school now has a new hair policy, emphasising on shorter hair for boys and tied, longer hair for girls.

- Kindly send a healthy snack with your child. Please note that chocolate, chips and nuts will be sent back unopened.

FROM THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

- A student who is unwell is better kept at home. A student with a temperature above 38°C should be kept at home until the temperature has been normal for 24 hours.
- Please do not send Panadol/Tylenol with a student. Any student who needs Panadol/Tylenol at regular intervals should not be sent to school.
- Indeed, students are not allowed to bring any form of medication to the school unless prescribed by a doctor and with the Medicine Permission Form completed and presented to the Sick Bay. The Medicine Permission Form is found on the school website under "Parents".
- Any new medical concern during the academic year should be reported to the school nurse or the school doctor.
- With the onset of colder, unpredictable weather, students are advised to come to school appropriately dressed including jackets/coats when necessary.
- For those who haven't returned the completed Health Forms, please do so as soon as possible. If you have misplaced the form, additional ones can be obtained from the Sick Bay.
- Dr. Mireille Zalzal Batrouni is available in the Sick Bay on Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:00-11:00am.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to P.E. teacher Sami Brakh who was married to Micheline Abi Hanna on 21 June 2019.



SCOUTS NEWS

- After the annual Summer Camp, Brummana One Group is ending the scouting year by wrapping up the units' programmes, finalising scouting skills, and ending the year in high spirits.
- In August, our Cub Scouts Kevin Jaroura and Elissa Abou Jaoude earned new badges! Our group had an annual Den Day where the den was cleaned, inventoried, and reorganised! Additionally, to wrap up the scouting skills members have learned throughout the year, there

were multiple, long training days where members and leaders trained on knots, lashes, techniques and teamwork!

- Brummana One Group wants to wish leaders C. Mona Karam and C. Nour Salem the best of luck in their future!

- In September, weekly meetings went back to winter timings: Saturdays from 3:30-5:30pm. Our Cubs had a road safety awareness campaign! Our Girl and Boy Scout units wrapped up their yearly progress and achievements and are getting ready to welcome the transitioning Cubs soon! The Ventures had a long day where they trained and developed their scouting and leadership skills! The Pioneers also had a band camp themed all around the world!

- The group is looking forward to and training for the Association's closing event on 12 October in Sidon.

- To contact our leaders and ask for further information about our group:

- C. Andrea Saad: 70-699933 – Cub Scouts 7-11 years old
- C. Christina Sawaya: 76-754191 – Girl Scouts 11-16 years old
- C. Joe Jad Rufka: 03-307995 – Boy Scouts 11-16 years old
- C. Farah Salem: 76-895478 – Venture Scouts 16+
- C. Laura Aouad: 70-395172 – Administrative leader



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

- The BHS Parents' Association welcomes all parents to this academic year, and wishes a successful and prosperous new year for everyone.

- The PA is a volunteer group that helps the school by organising activities and events to raise funds for financial aid, and for improving school facilities; we are the "echoes" of parents and their requests.

- Last year was a wonderful one in which many events took place: the round table "How to Help Parents to Prevent Bullying of their kids", the Family Day, the Sports and Games Day, Christmas Brunch, Teachers' Day, the Egg Hunt, the May Festival, Grade 6 Farewell Party, etc... This year will also be rich in various events, kicking off with Coffee Morning and including: Sports and Games Day, the Annual Christmas Brunch, the workshops for Parents and Students concerning Advantages and Disadvantages of Social Media and the Environmental Day with Hiking. Many other events will be announced later as well. We count on your participation. In addition, we are planning to participate in many projects within the school, which we will inform you about in the next newsletter.

- Finally, a big thank you goes to the Board of Governors, our Principal, and BHS staff for all the hard work and all the improvements that you can see around campus, according to your demands as parents. Thank you also to my team especially for the support, and to all the people who are behind our successful work.

- Please do not hesitate to contact PA committee members for any assistance: Chairperson - Dina Bechara (03-631363), Vice Chairperson - Marwan Keyrouz (03-6333332), Treasurer - Charbel Khoury (03-000702), Rabih Merheb (03-310141), Secretary - Georgina Njeim (03-639500), Akram El Khoury (03-214662), Chadi Al Boustany (03-365566), Sarah Abou Ayach (76-959699), Carla Goraeib (03-241974), Imad El Hajj (70-184884), Summaya Kanj (03-983898), Sylvia Lammam (03-615282), Elsi Zalzal (03-738410), Roni Kanaan (03-033030), May Sahhab (03-936603), and Georges Obeid (03-315632). God bless our School and our Families.



OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

This year's OSA 28th International Convention was a fabulous three-day event filled with fun activities and a multitude of familiar faces. The Convention commenced on 5 July 2019 at the Grand Hills Hotel & Spa where more than 200 Old Scholars gathered and enjoyed a fabulous dinner and wonderful entertainment. During the dinner, the classes of 1969 and 1994 were honoured and awarded for their 50th and 25th Graduation Anniversaries respectively. 6 July kicked off with the traditional saj-mankoushi breakfast outside the BHS Meeting House, followed by Brummana One Group's official opening ceremony signalling the start of the annual General Assembly. It was heart-warming to see so many BHS Old Scholars – especially young Old Scholars - attending and participating in this year's General Assembly! Once the General Assembly was over, we took the attendees on an informative and nostalgic tour of the school guided by Mr. Kamal Abou Samra, founder of Brummana Hiking Group and Principal, Mr. David Gray. At 8:00pm, the famous Street Party started and people enjoyed great entertainment, live bands, shows, food stalls, artisanal products and many other activities throughout the night. The night ended with a spectacular fireworks show that lit up Brummana's skies making it the perfect finale for a wonderful day. 7 July saw the much awaited Sports Day where more than 100 Old Scholars of all ages met at BHS and enjoyed four hours of fun activities such as football & basketball matches, table tennis and backgammon as well as access to the BHS pool. The Convention concluded with a delicious lunch at the BHS dining hall. Please book your calendars for next year's OSA Convention on 3, 4, & 5 July 2020. We would love to see you all!



THANK YOU TO...

- Tony Habib for the time he dedicated giving invaluable advice, expertise and supervision during the installation of soundproofing in the multi-purpose hall in Khoury Hall.
- Former member of BHS Board of Governors Shereen Khairallah and G 10 IP student Friedrich Al-Aswad for donating books to the Thomas Little Memorial Library.

*The Newsletter is published **once a month** during the academic year. If you would like to receive a copy of the Newsletter by email, please send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to: najat.wakim@bhs.edu.lb.*

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