



The
LION

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL IN TOKYO

Friday 26th February 2021

MESSAGE FROM PAUL TOUGH – PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students, and Friends of BST,

The continued impact of the pandemic on education globally remains significant. Millions of young people around the world have been learning online for the last twelve months. Thankfully, the position here in Japan has been different, although as we know, our own school community has not escaped disruption. Indeed, the end of the last half term's hybrid model for Years 7-10 is a relief. I am sure students, parents and staff are pleased to be operating with everyone on the Showa campus next week. In addition, some extracurricular activities in both the Primary and Secondary Schools are at the point of restarting, which is an added joy after the last half term's hiatus.



However, for our students in Year 13 and Year 11, the pandemic's consequences remain constant with uncertainty relating to how students' (i)GCSE and A level results will be awarded, a feature until yesterday's news from the UK. With examinations cancelled for a second year in succession, a range of evidence is to be used with teacher assessments to the fore and algorithms banished for good. In normal times, the final years for students studying at (i)GCSE and A-Level are stressful enough, but without doubt, the fog associated with final grades has added to anxiety levels.



To their credit, BST students have shown great resilience and calmness through a protracted period of uncertainty and stress. The manner in which Year 13 students undertook their mock examinations this week was inspiring. Year 13 have been resolute and committed throughout while BST staff have provided excellent support. Further clarity from the examination boards and the UK government will follow shortly, but in the meantime, as BST Trustee and CEO of COBIS, Colin Bell, wrote in the Times Educational Supplement this week, “students cannot and should not be overlooked or discounted as mere statistics – their futures are at stake, and their concerns are valid.” Equally, for us, as a school, I feel more strongly than ever that now is the time to begin an “evaluation of our future assessment provider” and devote significant time to considering our Senior School curriculum into the future. More on this in due course.

PARENT FORUMS

Sincere thanks to all the parents who attended this week’s various forums. It has been fantastic to see such great participation. I believe that over 150 parents attended Mrs Loran’s sessions and nearly 100 joined Dr Lomax and the PTA. Next on the schedule are two Primary sessions with a focus upon [Reading](#) and [Mathematics](#) (flyers in Primary section), two further sessions on the School’s new Learner Profile hosted by Mrs McCallum and Mr Kean ([HERE](#)), followed by two forums ‘**Health & Well-Being During COVID**’ led by the School’s counsellors, Dr Nakamura and Mrs Reyes in March. We look forward to seeing as many parents in attendance as possible.



Thank you to all the students in Year 3 for their outstanding Amazon Exhibition today. It was a joy to visit each classroom and listen to the students to speak with so much passion about this important and endangered habitat. Year 3 produced some impressive learning outcomes and demonstrated great confidence when expressing their understanding and knowledge. Very well done to everyone involved.

The next School Advisory Committee ([SAC](#)) meeting takes place **on Monday, 1st March**. Thank you to the parents who suggested topics for the agenda. Next week's meeting will include a discussion on COVID-19, school tuition fees, educational technologies, Head of Secondary recruitment and fundraising. Minutes of the last meeting can be accessed [HERE](#) and items for April's agenda can be sent to the Committee using the following address schooladvisory@bst.ac.jp.

If you have any questions about any of the topics in today's newsletter or would like to arrange a one to one meeting, please let me know. In the meantime, to all the Welsh members of the BST community and members of the St David's Society of Tokyo, I have attached a brief message [here](#).

Best wishes to everyone and I hope you enjoy the weekend.

[Paul Tough](#)

Principal



Paul Tough St David's Day Message to the St David's Society of Tokyo

<https://youtu.be/Zn4ml8mDgIM>

BST LEARNER PROFILE
Online Parent Forum

A chance to learn more about BST's unique approach to learning and attributes framework called the Learner Profile.

Are you more monkey than panda?
Can you be a penguin?

The workshop session will include an introduction to the profile rationale, a 'back to the classroom' task and an open Q&A.

SIGN UP HERE!

Principled
I try to be the best version of myself

Inquisitive
I search for answers

Determined
I am brave

Creative
I play, create and adapt

Confident
I express my ideas

Ambitious
I take responsibility for how I learn

A Thinker
I improve my knowledge and skills

BST Learner Profile Parent Forums (March 2021)

We have scheduled a series of parent forums in Primary and Secondary with the BST Learner Profile and Teaching Framework as a focus, and these forums take place on the following dates and times:

Primary Session - Monday 8th March - 6pm
Secondary Session - Thursday 4th March - 9am

If you are interested to know more about these developments in teaching and learning and BST's unique approach, please use the following link to register your attendance

[LINK](#)

Dear Secondary Parents and Students,

February has come and gone in a flash and we see just 4 busy weeks ahead of us in March before the Spring Term will have passed too!



We are all so pleased that all students will be back together on campus in person next week and again I praise all those who did so well to make the hybrid model for Years 7-10 work as well as it did. There are very clear guidelines in place in school for when all students return - I wrote to parents about these earlier in the week - and Mr Grey wrote to all students today to remind them. It is important that we follow the procedures to be as safe as possible; please do take time this weekend to discuss them with your children.

We had the **Year 11 Options Evening** on Thursday and it was lovely to hear of so many positive and productive conversations taking place. There is a genuine thirst from this year group to progress academically and we have high hopes for them moving forward. Over the next few days, I am sure there will be lots more exchanges between parents, students and staff.

Year 9 parents will see that **Full Reports** for their children will be uploaded to the Parent Portal today and they should book their Tutorial meeting by way of follow-up for next week. Their IGCSE options evening will take place on Thursday 11th March 2021.

This morning I wrote to all parents and students in Years 11 and 13 (who did very well applying themselves in their **internal examinations** this week) about the latest developments on the examination front. You will see Mr Tough has also discussed this in his Lion letter today. I remain so impressed with the attitude of our students in uncertain times. We will work together to get the very best out of this year I am sure! Connecting so regularly with other schools about their plans and opinions has been another positive outcome from the situation too. We will continue to keep relevant groups informed as things progress.

A final nod to all those who have been doing the [#BSTGetActive](#) activities. It is another nice way for us to connect with each other - do get involved. <https://youtu.be/4o7aFRUowZo>

With best wishes for the weekend - stay safe and well.

[James Thomas](#) - Head of Secondary

WEEK 1

SPEED BOUNCE CHALLENGE



- Complete the 30 second Speed Bounce Challenge:
 - Jump over a small hurdle using anything in your home, from side to side, with your feet together as many times as you can in 30 seconds.
- Email your video to sports@bst.ac.jp
- Additionally you could also share with us on the BST Sport Twitter or Instagram pages
- Prizes will be awarded for the most jumps completed by the student in each Key Stage, staff member and parent.
- House points will be awarded to every entrants affiliated house

Have fun and good luck!

7 WEEKS TO GO UNTIL THE BST RELAY (APRIL 13TH - MAY 21ST)

 **@BST_Sport**
 **@bst_sport**


Watch the video here - <https://youtu.be/4o7aFRUowZo>



Follow BST Sport for updates, sports challenges, and snapshots from our PE and Sports department across Primary and Secondary.



BST_SPORT



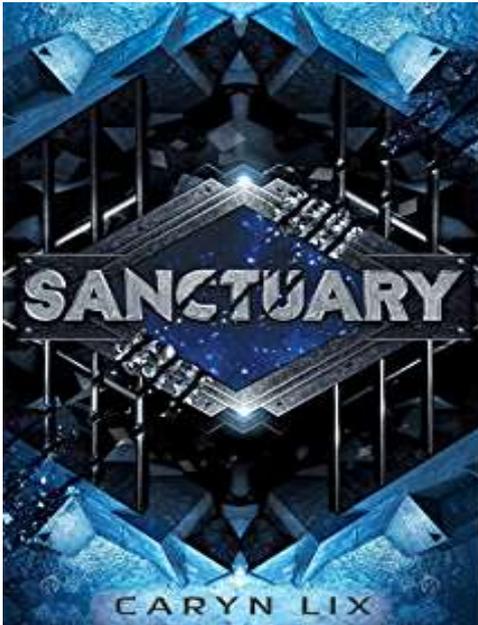
BST_SPORT

SOPHIA CANTEEN

Sophia Canteen will not offer a food service until March.

‘Seating only’ with your packed lunch in the canteen is available

BST Book Week Virtual Author Visits!

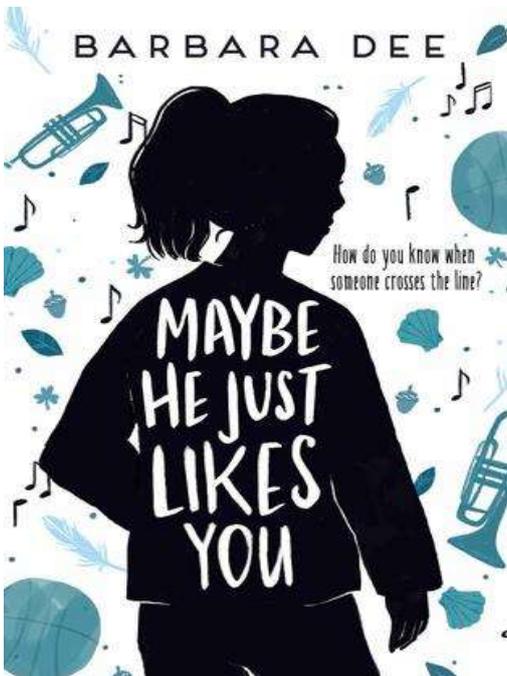


Caryn Lix - author of Middle School Sakura competition nominated **“Sanctuary”**.

(Wednesday 3rd March 2021)

In this debut, Lix pays homage to comics and movies such as the X-Men and *Alien*, creating a tense, claustrophobic thriller that finds room for romance along the way. —*Publishers Weekly*

Caryn Lix will be virtually meeting with BST readers on Wednesday 3rd March, to share some of her writing tips and the inspiration behind her exciting ‘Sanctuary’ series, as well as answer questions from the students.



Barbara Dee - author of Middle School Sakura competition nominated, **“Maybe He Just Likes You”**, will be virtually visiting BST students on Thursday 4th March, for a Q&A session. Students should come ready with their questions about the novel and the big issues it deals with.

“The novel’s all-too-familiar scenario offers a springboard for discussion among middle schoolers...Easily grasped scenarios and short chapters help make this timely #MeToo story accessible to a wide audience.” —*Publishers Weekly*

Students who have read the books will be invited to come and listen to the authors talk about their books, and ask them questions about their work.

Copies of ‘Sanctuary’ and ‘Maybe He Just Likes You’, are available from the Secondary Library, and as audiobooks on the ePlatform.

BST BOOK WEEK

Week Beginning March 1st 2021

The whole school will be taking part in events throughout the week including online activities, as well as in-school events such as virtual author visits, 'Drop Everything and Read' and class competitions.

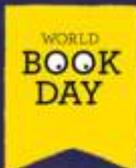
Book Week Dress-up Days

Secondary School - Thursday 4th March 2021

Primary School - Friday 5th March 2021

Dress up and bring your favourite book character to life!

この日は大好きな本のキャラクター仮装で登校!



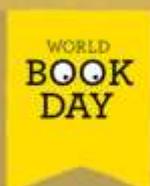
SECONDARY

BST World Book Day Dress Up

Thursday 4th March 2021

Dress up and bring your favourite book character to life!

この日は大好きな本のキャラクター仮装で登校!



HEALTH & WELL-BEING DURING COVID



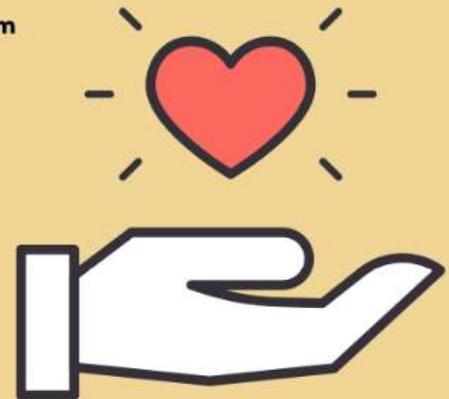
Initial Survey - Monday 22nd February 2021

Secondary Parents Workshop - Tuesday 9th March 2021, 9.30am

Primary Parents Workshop - Friday 19th March 2021, 9.30am

Initiated by the PTA, the BST well-being team will be hosting online workshops on "health and well-being during COVID" in March for the parents and carers of our community.

First a survey will be shared to explore and identify relevant topics for the community, this will only take a few minutes, and then from the survey results, groups will be created for the online workshops.



Health & Well-Being During Covid

Secondary Parents - Tues 9th March 2021 - 9.30am

Primary Parents - Fri 19th Mar 2021 - 9.30am

Workshops will be via Zoom

Survey Reminder is here: <https://forms.gle/gfKJxCyucFCrfPTg9>

PTA Initiatives: Promoting Well-Being during COVID

Please rate the relevance of the following topics for the up-coming workshops in March 2021.

Thank you very much for your time and response in advance.



BST UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WEBINAR US/CANADA EDITION




Join us online where we will be interviewing BST Alumni who are studying in a range of institutions in the region.

The evening will give BST students and parents the opportunity to ask questions about going into University.

**SATURDAY 13TH MARCH 2021
10AM -11AM**

SIGN UP HERE!
<https://tinyurl.com/bst-alumni-webinar-us-ca>

WEBINAR LINE-UP


YUNJI HWANG
 BST ALUMNA 2016

The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada (Graduated 2019)




FLORA FUSHII-MCINTOSH
 BST ALUMNA 2018

The University of Toronto, Canada




FIONA ANSTEY
 BST ALUMNA 2020

Amherst College, in Massachusetts, USA




TAKUMI ABE
 BST ALUMNUS 2020

Wesleyan University, in Connecticut, USA





This webinar will be hosted by
 BST Year 13 students,
 Riko Otsuka and Lewis Peedle



BST University Alumni Webinar US/Canada Edition

Saturday 13th March 2021, 10AM-11AM

Signup here: <https://tinyurl.com/bst-alumni-webinar-us-ca>

FEBRUARY 2021

BST Community Music Newsletter

Using music to keep us connected. 🎵

Newsletter Link: <https://tinyurl.com/bst-music-newsletter-feb2021>

Dear Primary Parents,

Firstly, welcome back after the half-term break. Yet again, it was fabulous to see so many smiling faces on return to the campuses. The children once again adapting to the routines and adhering to all the precautionary safety measures with great ease.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Primary Parents who attended the Welcome Forums this week. It was fabulous to see so many of our parent body participate in these and it made me feel even more enthusiastic (if that were ever to be possible) about the next steps for the Primary Phase of the School.

At both sessions, I outlined the developments to date, the new leadership structure for the remainder of this year and for the next academic year. I also invited our parent body to be part of a Primary Parent Group that will act as a sounding board for our planned developments. If this is something that you would like to be part of or would like more information please feel free to email me on eloran@bst.ac.jp

For those of you that could not make it please request, via comms@bst.ac.jp, the recordings. I am also including the [Homework Guidelines](#) as a reminder of the expectations of each year group in response to questions raised in these forums. I would also invite you to attend the Home Reading Workshop on Thursday 4th March, led by Mrs Hannah Pinkney, which aims to explain our home reading framework and how best to support your child with their reading.

Please find the upcoming Primary workshop dates here:

Home Reading Workshop - Thurs 4th Mar (5:30-6:30 pm)- <https://tinyurl.com/46h3nmcr>

Learner Profile Workshop - Mon 8th Mar - 6pm-7pm - <https://tinyurl.com/3hcdkxmd>

Maths Workshop - Thurs 18th Mar (5:30-6:30 pm) - <https://tinyurl.com/4asve9v7>



This week the children really got to grips with an array of learning experiences. I ask you now to please take a look at each year's group sections in the newsletter. Additionally, please take a look at your own individual child's [Seesaw account](#).

ASSEMBLY

Mr Kean led a whole Shibuya and Showa Primary assembly on Thursday of this week and introduced the language of the Learner Profile to all students. This was a captivating assembly and really evoked a lot of conversations around which learner profile animal you are or wish to be. I look forward to hearing more about this in terms of the questions they may ask you at home this weekend.



Lastly, it brings me to say I wish you a wonderful weekend ahead and I hope you get an opportunity to enjoy some much-needed rest and relaxation.

Best wishes,

[Eleanor Loran](#)

Head of Primary

Early Years Newsletter

<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/latest-news/early-years-newsletter/>

Year 1 Newsletter

<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/latest-news/year-1-newsletter/>

Year 2 Newsletter

<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/latest-news/year-2-newsletter/>

Year 3 Newsletter

<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/latest-news/year-3-newsletter/>

Year 4 Newsletter

<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/latest-news/year-4-newsletter/>

Year 5 Newsletter

<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/latest-news/year-5-newsletter/>

Year 6 Newsletter

<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/latest-news/year-6-newsletter/>

Homework Guidelines for BST Primary 2020-2021

<https://tinyurl.com/j25v69nj>





THE
BRITISH SCHOOL
IN TOKYO

Primary Home Reading Parent Workshop

*Learn more about the reading band system at BST
and how to support your child with reading at home.*

お子さまのReadingについて
BSTでのカラーバンドシステムやおうちでのサポートの仕方など
この機会に学んでみませんか



Thursday 4th March 2021

5.30pm - 6.30pm

Click here to signup!



OR
SCAN
ME!





THE
BRITISH SCHOOL
IN TOKYO

Primary Maths Workshop

Join us for a session where we explain how mathematics is taught at BST and to learn about ways you can support us at home. We will explain why we use the CPA approach and use a range of fluency, reasoning and problem solving questions in lessons. We'll also explain how all children are appropriately supported or challenged in class.

Thursday 18th March 2021
5.30pm - 6.30pm

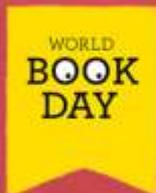
CLICK
HERE TO
SIGN UP!



OR
SCAN
ME!

PRIMARY

BST World Book Day Dress Up



Friday 5th March 2021

Dress up and bring your favourite book character to life!

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BST BOOK WEEK

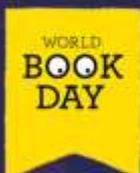
Week Beginning March 1st 2021

The whole school will be taking part in events throughout the week including online activities, as well as in-school events such as virtual author visits, 'Drop Everything and Read' and class competitions.

Book Week Dress-up Days

Secondary School - Thursday 4th March 2021

Primary School - Friday 5th March 2021



Dress up and bring your favourite book character to life!

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<https://www.bst.ac.jp/our-community/pta>



The image shows a flyer for a PTA Coffee Morning event and a photograph of a coffee cup. The flyer is on the left, featuring a coffee cup icon at the top, followed by the text "PTA Coffee Morning". Below this, it lists the location as Starbucks Miyashita Park, Shibuya, and the date as Friday 12th March 2021, from 9am to 10.30am. It also includes the venue name in Japanese and a note that drinks should be purchased from the store. The flyer concludes with "All BST parents welcome!" and the PTA logo, which is a lion holding a shield, with the text "Parent Teacher Association The British School in Tokyo". To the right of the flyer is a close-up photograph of a white coffee cup filled with a latte, featuring a heart-shaped latte art design on the surface. A golden-brown croissant is visible in the background on a white plate.

PTA Upcoming Social Wellbeing Events email sent this week.

Please search via pta@bst.ac.jp



The flyer is titled "Let your artistic talent shine" and "FASHION DESIGN & DRAWING WORKSHOPS". It lists three workshops: Workshop 1 - "Create our own body" on Sunday 28th February 2021 (1PM - 2PM), Workshop 2 - "Design your unique original fashion" on Sunday 7th March 2021 (1PM - 2PM), and Workshop 3 - "Training your creativity in fashion drawing" on Sunday 14th March 2021 (1PM - 2PM). The flyer includes illustrations of various fashion designs and a small PTA logo at the bottom right. At the bottom left, it states "FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS YEAR 8 AND ABOVE EVERY WEEK, PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE A SIMPLE HOMEWORK."





<https://fantasy.premierleague.com/>

League code: mzal93

Fantasy Football Game Week 25

The much anticipated 'Norton crumble' has begun! After 10 weeks of leading the school, Mr Norton's team has been pushed down a place by Steve Humphries' 'Blatarado Oriente'. Reminds me of the time spent watching 'Tiger Tim' at Wimbledon, with the inevitable exit in the semi-final. Or a classic batting collapse from the England cricket team... With around 1/3 of the season left though, it is definitely all still to play for!

At this stage of the season an element of desperation starts to set in where managers try to get the absolute most out of their teams. If anyone wants insider knowledge to assist with this, then check out this BBC article on a man who wrote a program to follow footballers' fantasy teams to get secret team news before it is made public!

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-56187365>

Congratulations to David Hulmes' team, 'Leftbackonthecoach', with his team's 96 point haul dragging him up 3 places to 62nd!

There won't be an update next week since the gameweek actually runs until next Friday morning, with many teams having two matches. Time to play that triple captain or bench boost if you've been saving it...

Mr Pye