



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

August 2019

VISION

To be an educational institution of excellence from Kindergarten to University Foundation level combining Eastern Values with an International education to produce global citizens.

MISSION

To provide quality educational programmes in a creative and challenging learning environment, embracing innovative teaching pedagogies to empower every student to become a life-long learner.

Principal's News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great enthusiasm that I would like to welcome all the parents and students back to school. A special welcome goes to our new parents and staff.

We started our new school year with an Open House on Saturday August 3, for our new parents and students. This was to ensure that the students were not totally lost on the first day of school. We also held an open house session for the Primary school and KIK on the 10th of August, Secondary and High School on the 17th. Thank you again for attending these very important events.



CAMBRIDGE RESULTS

I am happy to announce that our students did extremely well during the 2018-2019 Cambridge examinations.

Once again we have two students who received outstanding results for Math:

Lee Jong In from A-levels achieved a 99% and Ngo Hoai Anh IGCSE2 achieved a perfect score of 100%.

Many of our A, AS and A-level students obtained A's for all their subjects.

Congratulations goes to you, parents, our teachers and our students on the outstanding 2018-2019 Cambridge results.

ALUMNI

We have had a number of our Alumni students visit our school during the past week and they were commenting on the fact that they were given credit for the subjects they completed in A-levels. They are doing extremely well at university.

STAFFING

Each new year brings positive change which includes new additions to our staffing complement. I'm excited to mention that we have employed and re-employed additional staff this year, due to the increase in our student population. Please allow me to introduce you to the following new staff:

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At Singapore International School we seek to nurture students who are:

- **Academic Achievers**
- **Confident Communicators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Technologically literate**
- **Active and Responsible citizens**

Gamuda Gardens 2 Road, Gamuda Gardens, Km 4.4 Phap Van, Hoang Mai District, Hanoi City
Email: office@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
Tel: (84-24) 66661818
Fax: (84-24) 62620639



	Teacher	Nationality	Position
	Bruno Giegerich (returning teacher)	Scotland	High school Teacher - Global Perspectives
	John Keith Shoulders (returning teacher)	American	High School Teacher—Social Studies
	Celia Fialho (transfer from SIS@Ciputra)	Portuguese	Primary Teacher - Integrated
	Martin Philip Misiak	American	High school Teacher - Science
	Gautier Quelin	French	English Teacher - English
	Patrick Flynn	UK	High school Teacher - ICT and Computer Science
	Xu Dan	China	Chinese Language Teacher
	Allan William Roberts	American	Teacher - Art

	Teacher	Nationality	Position
	Nicolas Mathieu Ducher	French	Math - High school Teacher
	Bianca Luigina Stegen	South African	EFL Teacher
	Christian Johannes De Wet	South African	PE Teacher KIK
	Nils Erik Harteveld	Dutch	Science - High School Teacher
	Marcelle Pienaar	South African	Primary Teacher - Integrated
	Jamil Matas Esparar	Philippines	High School Teacher - EFL
	Queenie Kaye Donio	Philippines	EFL Teacher - Primary
	Michael Howard Hayes	American	High School Teacher/Guidance Officer

	Teacher	Nationality	Position
	Douglas Hudson Tedford	American	High School Teacher - English
	Hannah Godlonton	South African	Part Time Primary Teacher - International
	Yuan Tian	Chinese	Chinese Teacher

MANAGEMENT:

It is with great pleasure that I would like to introduce the senior and middle management team to you. Please do not hesitate to contact any of them for advice, concerns or suggestions.

Senior Management:

- Ms Lorraine Els - Principal lorraine.els@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Ms Julie Schaefer - Deputy Principal Primary School julie.schaefer@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Mr Michael Ogden - Deputy Principal Secondary and High School michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Madam Duong Thanh Nghi - HOV Secondary anh.nguyenthihuyen@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Ms Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh - Deputy Principal hien.nguyenthi@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Madam Nguyen Thi Hien - HOV Primary nghi.duongthanh@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Ms Thuy - HOV KIK thuy.vuthi@gamudagardens.kinderworld.edu.vn

Middle Management:

- Dr Noel Geoghegan - HOS KIK noel.geoghegan@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Mr Paul McKenney - HOS Primary paul.mckenney@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Ms Maria Celeste Darilay Batac - HOS Math - Pastoral care Yr 6 maria.batac@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Mr Yoann Pierre Andre Labrue - HOS Arts and PE - Pastoral care Yr 7 yoann.labrue@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Mr Westley Venter - HOS Science and Year -Pastoral care for Yr 8 and 9 westley.venter@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
- Mr Sean Anthony Stokes - HOS Humanities - Pastoral care for IGCSE1 and 2 sean.stokes@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn;
- Ms Erin Elizabeth Roetker- HOS English - Pastoral care for AS, A-levels &GAC erin.roetker@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn



BUSES, ATTENDANCE AND DISMISSAL

As this topic has been on everyone's tongues, I'd like to reassure you that your child's safety is of utmost importance. When the buses stop at Gamuda Gardens, the bus monitor checks the bus for lost property and to make sure no student has fallen asleep and has been left on the bus. The bus monitor takes the KIK children to the classroom. We also have two supervisors in the mornings at the drop off point to check the buses.

If your child is absent, please make sure you either email the form teacher or phone the office to inform them. The register is taken and you will be contacted at 9am if your child is not present in class. If your child is late to school they have to sign in with the security guard and report to the front office.

At the end of the day, if your child takes the bus home, the form teacher or assistant teacher will walk the children to the canteen, where the bus monitor waits for them. Any child not collected from class after 10 minutes, will be taken to the canteen to a homework club. Please collect your child from the canteen. If your child goes to clubs, they will be taken to the foyer, children who leave by bus, will be checked off on the register and children who are picked up by parents will wait on the steps by the front office. Please sign them out at the office. If you pick up your child after 5pm, you will be charged 220,000 VND.

COMMUNICATION

Please note that communication is important. Primary school teachers will send you a weekly newsletter, and secondary and high school form teachers will send you a bi-weekly email informing you of the subject units and lessons which will be covered. Important information regarding tests, assignments and excursions will be communicated to you by the form teacher.

CLUBS AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Mr Labrue has sent out the clubs and sporting activities offered during Term 1. Students are encouraged to participate in these activities, as we strive to offer your child a holistic education. We strive to train their minds and bodies!

CANTEEN

Students who sign up for the canteen food are more than welcome to go for "seconds" if they are still hungry. We purchased 50 more stools for students to be able to sit comfortably with their friends. We are waiting for coolers for our canteen and hope they will be installed soon.



OBV parent meeting



Ms. Els introducing the new staff to the students on the first day at school



Some of our students been acknowledged for outstanding Cambridge results



Classes have begin in earnest



Students enjoying their art lesson with the new teacher, Mr. Roberts



Our school strives to improve the musical program.

OBV

The OBV (Outward Bound Vietnam) team held a short information sharing session on Saturday 17 August, thank you to the parents who took the time to attend our meeting. The following draft dates have been set by OBV, please make a note of this, further communication will be sent to you closer to the time your child will attend the OBV event in Ha Long Bay.

OBV Year 4 and 5

A briefing session will be held in November for the Year 4 and 5 parents.

16-20 September	Yr. 9 integrated
30 September - 4 October	GAC
30 September - 4 October	AS
30 September - 4 October	A level
7-11 October	Yr. 6 international
28 October - 1 November	Yr. 6 integrated
21-25 October	IGCSE1
16-17 December	All Yr. 4
19-20 December	All Yr. 4
13-17 January	Yr. 8 integrated
6-10 January	IGCSE2
17-21 February	Yr. 7 international
17-21 February	Yr. 7 integrated
2-6 March	Yr. 8 international

I'm looking forward to a great year and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me on lorraine.els@gmaudagardens.sis.edu.vn should you have any queries or positive contribution .

Regards,

Lorraine Els



Message from Secondary and High School Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

My name is Michael Ogden and I am the Deputy Principal for the secondary school here at SIS Gamuda Gardens. I would like to give a warm welcome to all the new students and parents that have joined our SIS family! I hope that your first few weeks have been full of excitement and that you have found your feet in our school. I would also like to give a big congratulations to all our students who have received their IGCSE and ASL/AL results. Many of you have put in lots of hard work and dedication and it has certainly paid off. I hope that this academic year brings success to all of our students!



Regards,

Michael Ogden

Message from Primary Deputy Principal



Dear Parents and Students,

To new students and families, a big welcome to SIS, and welcome back to our returning students and their families.

There are lots of exciting activities happening in the Primary School! Students have begun swimming in PE, and had their first STEM lesson. We have already practiced our Evacuation Drill and will continue these drills throughout the school year for student safety.

There are several ways parents can support their children at home:

1. Help your child stay organized with their backpack, books and schoolwork.
2. Have your child study in a designated spot every day, where things can be collected in the morning and returned to school.
3. Have your child read to you in English.
4. Keep distractions to a minimum: toys, cell phone watches, and large amounts of cash (more than 20K) are disruptions to the learning environment and should be left at home.
5. Check the Homework Diary every evening.

I am excited to start a new school with all the happy faces I see greeting me every morning. I look forward to working with the SIS Community this coming year.

Kind Regards,

Julie Schaefer



Gamuda Gardens 2 Road, Gamuda Gardens, Km 4.4 Phap Van, Hoang Mai District, Hanoi City
Email: office@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
Tel: (84-24) 66661818
Fax: (84-24) 62620639

Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and students!

Welcome to a new school year 2019-2020!

It has been a month since the new school year started with a lot of excitement and school activities. I hope this year will bring us re-newed success!

On August 3rd, all new students from Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 6 were welcomed and taken care of by their teachers. They visited the school and their classes with their grandparents and parents.

On September 5th, all students will gather to celebrate the first week of the new school year designed with a 40-week program frame which is divided into 4 terms. The students from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 6 has gained confidence and acclimatized to the new environment. You are welcomed to join us on this day!

During the first three weeks before the start of a new school year, teachers not only taught students lessons based on school curriculum but also instructed them on School and Class Rules etc to help train their self-discipline, self-confidence and encourage students to show their academic potential, to become better versions of themselves as well as get new success in their studies!

We celebrated the 74th Anniversary and National Day on September 2.

On behalf of the Management Team, I would like to send you best wishes for good health, happiness and success! I wish the students a joyful year and encourage them to enjoy the safe learning environment and achieve excellence in the 2019 - 2020 school year!

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns or suggestions. Please email me on: nghi.duongthanh@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Regards,

Duong Thanh Nghi





Dr. Noel enjoying the teaching of EFL to our KIK students



Mr. De Wet teaching our KIK students PE skills



KIK enjoying story time in the library

Message from KIK Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and our beloved students,

Welcome back from the 4-week summer holiday, and a big welcome to new students of Kinderworld International Kindergarten for 2019-2020!

We are very excited to welcome our old and new students back to school and new students. The first week was the most difficult for both teachers and students but it is teachers' love and care that have developed a strong bond among them. Shyness and difficulties were soon replaced by the joy and happiness encouraged by our teachers.

During the first four weeks before the School Opening Ceremony, apart from implementing of the school curriculum, students have got to know their teachers and classmates. Teachers helped students to get accustomed to our new eating, sleeping, learning habits and basic hygiene. During the past four weeks, children have been listened well and have got used to new routines. We continue to strive for an environment that is friendly, opened but professional we appreciate your help with this.

The upcoming Opening Ceremony will take place on September 5th, 2019. If you have time, please join your children and our teachers to celebrate this day.

Should you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me via my email:

thuy.vuthi@gamudagardens.kinderworld.edu.vn

Regards,
Vu Thi Thuy

Message from Head of Studies KIK



Dear KIK Parents and Students,

Welcome to school year 2019 – 2020 at SIS@Gamuda Gardens.

Our wonderful KIK teachers are excited to meet their new students and parents and have been working hard to make sure everything is ready for an exciting year ahead.

As new KIK HOS, I am happy to be teaching and helping our professional and family KIK communities achieve new success.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you

Regards,
Dr. Noel Geoghegan

Message from Head of Studies - Primary

Dear Primary Parents!

It has been a wonderful start to the new year, and all of the students look very happy healthy. All of the primary teachers have been getting your child's reading level and word understanding completed during the first few weeks of classes to make sure that we can teach your child everything they need to learn.

It was a pleasure meeting many of you during our open houses for new and returning parents. For the new parents, welcome to SIS Gamuda and we welcome you to our family.

For our returning parents, We are striving to make this school a better place for your children and we need your help to do that.

We will be sending Term 1 reports, so that you are able to clearly see your child's progress.

Please remember to encourage your children to read, write and speak in English as much as possible when at home. Any English language listening will help your children improve.

If you ever have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher, they are there to help. And feel free to contact me at any point, and I will do my best to make sure all of your needs are addressed.



Thank you,
Paul McKenney

Message from Head of Studies - Year 6

Dear Parent,

Welcome to SIS Academic Year 2019-2020!

My name is Ms. Maria Batac. I am the Head of Studies for Year 6 to GAC Mathematics and the Pastoral Care Leader for Year 6. Pastoral Care Leader is the key person to contact for all matters relating to students' welfare and well-being. Also, I am coordinating the iPSLE and AP-MOPS Programme of the school.

Looking forward to a great school year ahead.

Best Regards,
Maria Batac



Message from Head of Studies - Year 7

Dear Parents and Students,

I welcome you all to the 2019 – 2020 school year. I have been teaching at SIS for 5 years and I am excited to take on the role of head of PE and art this year. I will also be responsible for the year 7 students. For PE and art, I would like to welcome Mr. Allan Roberts (art) and Mr. Chirstian de Wet (PE) to our team. Extracurricular activities have commenced and will run every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. A detailed list of activities and timetables was sent home to parents. Please encourage your children to join an activity.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have; my e-mail address is:

yoann.labrue@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Thank you,
Yoann Labrue



Message from Head of Studies Year 8 &9



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Hello and welcome to this exciting new year of school. I am Westley Venter, Head of Studies for Science and Pastoral Leader for years 8 and 9. I am also the coordinator for STEM activities at our school.

As head of studies, I hope to be of assistance in creating strategies to improve our school's science scores in general as well as helping to identify individual students' needs across all grades. I am excited to tell you about our school's science fair at the end of the school year which will be a first for our school. Details about this fair will be conveyed in due time.

As the Pastoral Leader for years 8 and 9, I will be doing my best to support students and teachers in creating and maintaining a sufficient learning environment in which students can reach their full potential.

I am delighted to tell you that our first STEM project for the year, "Rube Goldberg Machines," is well on its way towards being a great success. Students across all grades are excited about building these fascinating machines. I would like to encourage the parents/guardians to allow your children to borrow some materials from home for this purpose.

I am looking forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact me at: westleyventer@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Kind Regards,
Westley Venter

Message from Head of Studies - ICGSE

Dear Parents and Students,

Hello and welcome to the new school year to all existing and new students and parents. I am Sean Stokes, Head of Department for Humanities and Pastoral Leader for IGCSE 1 and 2. In this role, I will be doing my best to support students and teachers in creating a positive learning environment in which students are able to work towards and ultimately achieve their academic goals. The beginning of the school year is a special time as we come back together as a community and your role as parents is vital as we work towards our common goal of assisting our students and your children to achieve their full potential.



Should you have any issues, feel free to contact me at any time at Sean.Stokes@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Kind Regards,
Sean Stokes

Message from Head of Studies - AS. A Level—GAC



Dear SIS Families,

Welcome back to a brand new year and especially welcome to our new students and their families. We are very excited for the year ahead and I am happy to announce that the fiction section of our library has expanded over the summer. We have purchased over 23 million VND's worth of new books for our students to check out. Secondly, this year, my role has changed slightly, I am now the Head of English. I am still in charge of Cambridge and GAC and provide pastoral care for AS, A Level and GAC. I look forward to another excellent year!

Kind Regards,
Erin Roetker