



SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
Since 1986

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

August 2021

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.

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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



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Tel: (84-24) 73041777

Principal's News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome all parents and students back to school.

A special welcome goes to our new parents and staff. It is, however, unfortunate that we have to start our new school year with online teaching and learning! There is nothing more rewarding than standing out front welcoming our students to school

and watching their faces as they meet up with friends and teachers. Let's hope the sound of student voices will soon be echoing through the corridors!

The good news is that our students are engaged in learning.

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

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

Senior Leadership:

Ms Lorraine Els - Principal

lorraine.els@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Mr Roy Donnan - Deputy Principal Primary School;

roy.donnan@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Mr Mark Hemphill - Deputy Principal Secondary School

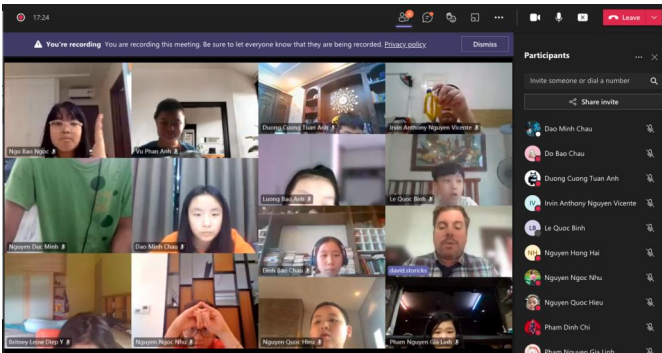
Mark.hemphill@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Mr Michael Ogden - Deputy Principal High School

michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Ms Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh - HOV Secondary





Ms Nguyen Thu Huong - HOV Primary School

huong.nguyenthuthu@kinderworldgroup.com

Ms Tran Thi Thuy Van - Deputy HOV Primary
van.tranthithuy@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Ms Thuy - HOV KIK
thuy.vuthi@gamudagardens.kinderworld.edu.vn

Middle Management:

Ms Sharon Beazley- HOS KIK- Primary
sharon.beazley@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

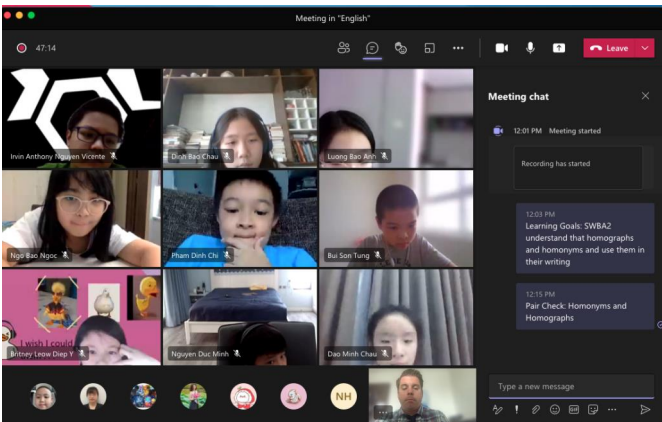
Ms Lizl Beneke - HOS English - Pastoral Leader Yr 6
lizl.beneke@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Ms Maria Celeste Darilay Batac - HOS Mathematics - Pastoral Leader IGCS 1 & 2
maria.batac@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Mr Brett Grant - HOS Humanities - Pastoral Leader Yr 7
brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Ms Claudine van Rensburg - HOS Specialist Subjects - Pastoral Leader Yr 8
claudine.vanrensburg@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Mr Nils Erik Hartevelde - HOS Science - Pastoral Leader AS & A Level
nils.hartevelde@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn



CAMBRIDGE RESULTS

Last year, our students and staff encountered and overcame many challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the results achieved by our students is a testament to their resilience and dedication, to their studies over the past year. Our teachers worked hard to support our students, which is evident in the results they achieved.

Our families can be incredibly proud of what our teachers and students achieved.

I'd like to highlight some of the outstanding results and congratulate the students and parents. I know you are as proud of your children as we are!

Nguyen Khanh Van achieved A* for all her AS and A-level subjects, also Dux of the school.

Kim Ji Woo achieved 99% for AS- Mathematics

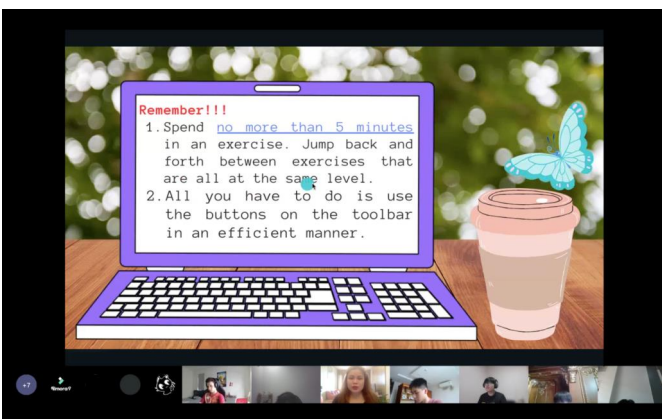
Pham Thao Hien - 98% for IG Mathematics

Duong Hoang Tu - 98% for IG Mathematics

Nguyen Phuong Y - 98% for IG Mathematics

Nguyen Dieu Ahn - 98% for IG English Second Language

32 of the IGCSE2, AS and A Level students achieved **straight A*, and A's** for all their subjects.



ONLINE LEARNING

Our students and teachers quickly prepared themselves for online teaching and learning, which started on the 9th of August.

This year, due to concerns that there will be gaps in student learning we offered online learning to our students. They have amazed us with the ease they settled down and participate in online learning. They are actively involved and participate in lessons, they sing, recite and follow the story the teacher reads to them. It is wonderful to watch our little people engage in the learning activities.

Please remind your children to be on time to class, wear a school shirt, put their cameras on and complete the assignments and tasks given to them.

Please note:

1. Cameras:
 - a. MUST be switched on during their lesson, this is a school policy.
 - b. The teachers MUST be able to see the student's whole face, from shoulders up.
 - c. If student cameras are not on, the teacher or assistant teacher will send you an email, to inform you that your child will be marked absent for that lesson.
 - d. As a parent, if there is a problem with your child's camera or Wi-Fi PLEASE contact the form teacher and inform them of the problem and how long it will take to fix.
3. Why should students have their cameras on?
 - a. Teachers need to observe students while they teach, they must be able to "read" students as to whether they understand what they are teaching or not.
 - b. Students need to get the "classroom" feel –all students must be in class.
 - c. Students need to answer when called upon.
 - d. Students MUST NOT be playing games or using social media during the lesson, if cameras are on the teacher can see them.
4. Students must inform the teacher if they need to leave the lesson.
5. Students have breaks and lunch times, they should not be eating during lessons.

Thank you for your continued support during the online lessons.



TEXTBOOKS and STATIONERY

I'd like to give a huge shout out to our office ladies, who spent many hours sorting and compiling textbooks and stationery for your children. Due to COVID, we had to work with the minimum number of staff permitted, and our school looked like a post office with all the parcels ready for dispersing.

Most of the students have received ALL their textbooks and stationery. Unfortunately due to COVID, some of the textbooks are still in Customs and we are receive them as soon as we take delivery of the books.

Please inform us if your child is still missing any of their other books.

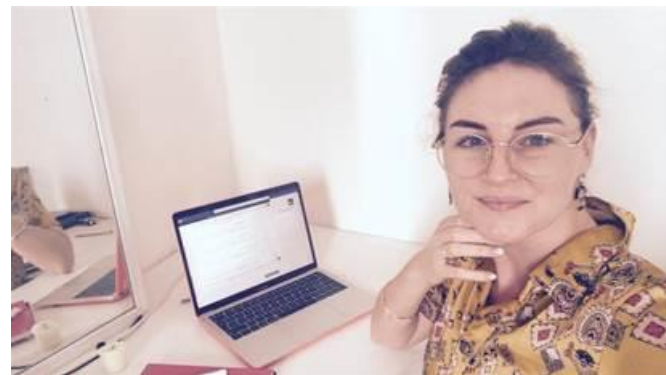
COMMUNICATION

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 expectations will be communicated to you by the form teacher.

Thank you for your continued support, and I urge you to support our teachers and your children during this very challenging time of online teaching and learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to address your concerns or provide some positive feedback and/or suggestions.

Stay safe.
Warm Regards
Lorraine Els



Message from High School Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well rested after the holiday - It is unfortunate that we have to start the school year online once again. However, we are all well versed in online teaching and learning and our teachers have continued to keep a high standard of education for all our students.

We have had some fantastic results from our IGCSE2, ASL and AL students in the June 2021 Cambridge exam series. I am so proud of all of the students that have put in all the hours of study to ensure that they have achieved top results! If there are any results that students would like to resit, a form will be sent to all the parents to complete and return to me before 17 September. Please keep an eye out for this, resits will cost a fee and this will be detailed in the application form. The Cambridge rewrites will take place in November 2021.

For the AL students that are starting to consider university and college applications, I will be supporting them through this process. If you have any questions or would like to set up a time to meet, please let me know, and I will be happy to answer your questions!

You can get in contact with me at the following email address:

michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Kind regards,

Michael Ogden



Message from Secondary Deputy Principal

Welcome Back, Parents and Students of the SIS Secondary,

My name is Mark J. Hemphill, and I am the Deputy Principal for Secondary.

2021-2022, begins my 34th year in education. I am originally from the state of Texas, in the United States. I have been a teacher and administrator at the Secondary and High School level in the United States, Europe and Asia.

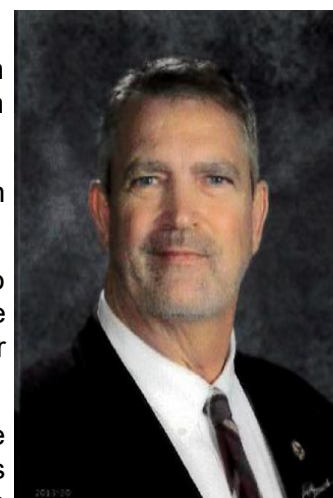
We are very fortunate to have an extremely strong staff at the Secondary, with both returning teachers and staff new to SIS.

We look forward to our students returning to campus, but until then, we are committed to delivering high-quality online education and your child's success. We greatly appreciate our students' participation and our parents' support. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Mark.hemphill@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

This month, we held the first meeting of our Secondary Student Leadership Team, made up of the twelve, year 6-9 class monitors. We discussed their responsibilities as monitors, and let them know that they would be playing an important role in our campus WASC self-study as well as other campus activities. They will assist the Administration in communicating with their class, and in return, sharing the views of their classmates. We want to thank all the class monitors for taking on leadership roles in the secondary, which will continue through the year, as we we pursue other schoolwide initiatives and events. This opportunity, should provide a great experience for our students, and instill a sense of ownership in the success of ISS Gamuda Gardens.

Best regards,

Mark Hemphill



Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents,

My name is Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh – Head of Vietnamese Studies (Secondary)

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome all the parents and students to the new school year. Unfortunately, the school year 2020-2021 passed with many challenges, but we overcame and achieved excellent results from our students.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support and understanding. Once again, it is a pleasure to welcome parents and students to the 2021 – 2022 school year. I will continue supporting our students in all their activities and wish all a happy, safe, and successful school year.

Best regards!

Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh



Message from KIK & Primary Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as Head of Studies for the KIK & Primary School. My name is Sharon Beazley, and I come from the UK. I have a Bachelor of Education, and I am a certified Primary school teacher.

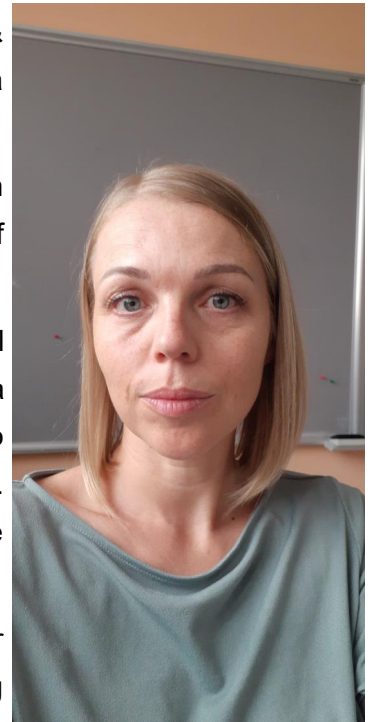
I have spent many wonderful years living and teaching in Vietnam. I have been fortunate to work at a number of the KIK/SIS campuses, teaching a wide range of ages throughout Kindergarten and Primary School.

As we head into the 2021-2022 school year, I am already amazed at the wonderful school community we are starting to build. Although it isn't the usual way we start a school year, it hasn't stopped our happy and enthusiastic students from logging into their class Teams every day and connecting with their teachers and classmates. The communities are still being built, learning is still happening, and students are excited and engaged in their lessons.

I look forward to getting to know all our students and families over the coming year and getting back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. By building strong connections between school and home, we ensure a successful and fulfilling 2021-2022 school year for our students!

Kind Regards

Sharon Beazley



Message from Head of Studies - Mathematics

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to School Year 2021-2022!

My name is Maria Batac. I am a graduate of Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in Mathematics and Masters in Mathematics. I have been teaching in Singapore International School for eight years.



I am the Head of Studies for Mathematics and the Pastoral Care Leader for IGCSE 1 & 2. Pastoral Care Leader is the key person to contact for all students' welfare and well-being.

Thank you for sending your child to SIS. May we all have a safe, healthy, and successful year ahead!

For any concerns, please contact me at maria.batac@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Regards,

Maria Batac

Message from Head of Studies - English

Dear Families of SIS,

My name is Lizl Beneke, and I am from Cape Town, South Africa. I hold a Degree in Humanities majoring in English and Theatre Studies and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from Stellenbosch University.

I have been dedicated to education for 8 years, teaching mainly English and English Literature. This is my second year teaching at SIS but my first year as Head of Studies for English. I will also be Pastoral Care Leader for Year 6.

As the Pastoral Care Leader, I will guide and support Year 6 students as they transition from primary to secondary school. I know that this is a time of change and growth and look forward to facilitating our students on their path to becoming global citizens.

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at lizl.beneke@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn. I heartily welcome conversation and believe that communication between parents and educators form the cornerstone of a solid education.

Kind Regards

Lizl Beneke



Message from Head of Studies - Science

Dear parents and students,

My name is Nils Hartevelde. I am the Head of Studies for Science and the Pastoral Care Leader for AS- and A-Level. I have been teaching at SIS for two years, and I am excited to help with all matters relating to science, student welfare, and well-being. Besides my role as Head of Studies and Pastoral Care Leader, I am the teacher for chemistry for AS-L and A-Level.



I am looking forward to the rest of the school year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Nils Hartevelde

Message from Head of Studies - Specialist Subjects

Dear SIS community,

My name is Miss van Rensburg; most students know me by Miss Vans. I am from South Africa, and this is my third year at SIS. During my time at SIS, I have taught across many year levels; this year, I will be teaching Cambridge IGCSE ICT and AS/AL Business Studies. I enjoy working with students and watching them develop both inside and outside the classroom. I hope to continue planning sports events for students and look forward to adding a variety of house events to the calendar this year.



My roles are two-fold, I am the Head of Studies for Specialist subjects and the Pastoral Care Leader for Years 8 and 9. I work closely with the Year 8 and 9 students, teachers and parents to ensure that students are on track both academically and socially. Any queries or concerns regarding students in these year levels are directed to me, parents are encouraged to do the same.

I look forward to the year ahead and welcoming our students back to school.

Kind Regards

Claudine van Rensburg

Message from Head of Studies - Humanities

My name is Mr Grant and I am from Tasmania in Australia. I hold a Master of Teaching from the University of Tasmania with a focus on English and Humanities. I chose those teaching areas because they are personally interesting for me and I believe that teachers should have a personal interest in their subject area.

This is the start of my seventh year at SIS and my second as Head of Humanities. As the Head of Humanities, I am in charge of the subjects of Global Perspectives, Business, Economics, History, Psychology and Sociology. I also teach Grade 6 and IGCSE 2 Global Perspectives. In my time here, I've had the pleasure to teach many outstanding students in the role of Humanities teacher and look forward to working with the students in my roles, particularly the returning students in my role as Pastoral Care Leader for Grade 7.

As the Pastoral Care Leader for Grade 7, I am responsible for supporting all Grade 7 teachers, regardless of subject, to ensure that best teaching practices are followed. I am also responsible for supporting and assisting students if they have difficulties adjusting to Grade 7 or facing challenges in their subjects. In this role I am available to speak to students referred to me by teachers and students are also free to approach me and raise any problems they might be having.

This year I aim to help the Grade 7 students continue on their journey to become strong, independent learners. As with Grade 6, there will be an adjustment period as students adapt to the different requirements and expectations of Grade 7. The students will be supported by their teachers and me during this period, but I am confident that all students can successfully make the adjustment to Grade 7.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Best regards,

Brett Grant

