

GRAMMAR School

NEWS

October 2007



HALF WAY THROUGH TERM 1 ALREADY!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Last month we announced the birth of a baby daughter, Bethany, to Mr and Mrs Wade, our senior school PE teachers.



Mr and Mrs Sohail were also blessed with a new arrival. Roxanna Alisha Sohail was born on September 2nd 2007. She weighed in at a healthy 8 pounds 8 ounces.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Sohail and we look forward to seeing Roxanna in school with mum in the near future.

AMSTERDAM & BERLIN 2007



Read more about Pre Reception on the next page!

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PRE RECEPTION

The children in Pre-Reception have all settled into school routines well and are enjoying their new experiences. We have had a busy year so far, the results of which are to be seen all over the walls of our classroom, from shape people, traffic lights (red, orange and green), finger painted trees, thumb print ants and collage teddy bears, to body tracings with collage tee shirts and hair, painted faces and clothes. An enjoyable part of the first term is celebrating our colour days where the children and staff dress in a designated colour on Tuesdays. To date we have had yellow, red, blue, green and orange and the children are a colourful sight every Tuesday when we have our Foundation/Key Stage 1 assembly. One of the pictures on the front page of this Newsletter shows the children looking very cheerful in red!

Val Darlington
Lorraine & Michelle

EXAM RESULTS OVERVIEW

(I)GCSE RESULTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2007

Our departing Year 11 students had a remarkably successful exam season. The summer of 2007 produced our strongest ever set of results at (I)GCSE. Every student in Year 11 gained at least 5 (I)GCSE passes at grade C or above which is a wonderful achievement. This year 60% of year 11 students achieved the full complement of 9 (I)GCSE passes this year. A massive 43% of the exam grades were either A or A* which is a best ever for the school.

Of the 14 subjects taken this year, eight of them boast 100% pass rates including English Language and Science. Maths achieved a very commendable 95% pass rate (C or above)

For a more detailed breakdown of subject by subject successes at (I)GCSE please visit the results page on the school website:
www.dhahranbritish.com

NATIONAL TEST RESULTS

Yet again our SATs results in Years 2, 6 and 9 have been superb. In KS1 every single student achieved Level 2 or better and 65% of the students achieved level 3 (highest achievable) in Science.

In Key Stage Two 97% of results were at Level 4 (UK average expectation) or higher in all three core subjects. The number of students achieving Level 5s was also high placing us in the top 5% nationally in terms of results.

This pattern was replicated in KS3 where 93% achieved Level 5 or higher in English and 100% achieving Level 5s in Maths and Science!

All our students worked extremely hard this year and credit must also go to the teachers for preparing the students so well. Even with such strong results the school is not resting on its laurels. We are busy identifying what we can do to improve results further to help students achieve to the limit of their abilities.

Our teachers, students and parents should be justifiably proud of these achievements.

John Power
Deputy Headteacher

EVOLUTIONS IN DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

In the September edition of the newsletter you may remember that mention was made of changes that had occurred in the Design Technology Centre.

Over the summer vacation Support Services worked very hard in the DT suite to make some major improvements to the facilities. The results of their efforts are proving to be of huge benefit to both staff and students. The DT suite now comprises two teaching rooms, an office, a resource room, two main and one secondary storage areas and a preparation room.

The two teaching rooms are a workshop and a laboratory. New storage facilities have been made for the workshop. Tools are now in custom-made cupboards with shadow boards indicating which tools go where. This assists students in tidying up quickly, in learning the names of the tools and significantly reduces the potential for injury when collecting or returning tools.

The second teaching room, formerly a science room, is now the Control Systems and Electronics lab. This room is equipped with several computers with printers, scanners a plotter and a computer controlled milling

machine. More computers and peripherals will be added in future allowing CAD/CAM and computer graphics projects to be undertaken. This room has been fitted out with new workbenches, data cabling and electrical outlets and is equipped with soldering irons, multi meters and all of the necessary equipment for electronics projects in Key Stages 2 and 3.

Both DT rooms now have new whiteboards and the preparation area is equipped with power tools and a printed circuit board etching facility. The majority of the electronic components are stored in this room, but these will be moved into the lab as projects require them and be stored there in future. Altogether these new facilities almost double the range of DT projects that can be run in the Dhahran British Grammar School.

Peter Barnett
Teacher of Design Technology

KEY STAGE 2

Wow!! Where did that first half term disappear to? It has been really busy in Key Stage 2. We have seen the arrival of many new pupils who have settled quickly into school routines and systems. Our pupil of the week award has been a great success. It is testament to the quality of the pupils at DBGS that the teachers find it very difficult every week to select a deserving winner. Needless to say the children who have won to date have enjoyed their day wearing their own clothes.

Mrs Sohail will soon be returning to us in 5 Red following her maternity leave. I would like to say a really big thank you to Mrs Chowdry and Mrs Ogidan for their work with the children. I would also like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the children themselves for coping so well in the absence of their teacher. Also to the children in 3 Red and 3 Blue who set a fine example at the start of the school year.

There is a very busy time ahead for us before the December break. Some notable events in the term are:

Parent Teacher Conferences - we hope to see as many of you attending as possible.

International Week - any volunteers out there to come into classes and speak about their

country of birth and culture please contact me.

Key Stage 2 Production - another great epic for your entertainment in November.

We look forward to a very busy and productive second half of the term.

As always regards,
David Bolton
Key Stage 2 Leader

YEAR 3

Year 3 children have settled into KS2 and are working very hard. We have moved onto really difficult Maths - multiplication AND division so if it's the shopping bill that you need sortingask us.

In literacy we have written an article for a newspaper.... journalists in the making. We have learnt about all types of materials in Science and carried out various tests on fabric and paperCome to Year 3 for a new suit. In History we have moved from the Celts along the timeline to the Romans... but Oh! don't ask us about how those Celts fought each other ... how rude!

We've been in the deserts in Geography... is that a mirage we see?...no it's the rest of Year 3! Weekly spelling and mental maths tests scores are really good...keep it up! Thanks for practising with us, mums and dads!

Kath Stott and Muz Sohail

YEAR 4

Year 4 children have had an exciting start to the year. All the children have settled into their new routine really successfully. The children have produced interesting newspaper articles about a little girl finding a lost puppy. There are many budding journalists! Ancient Egypt is always a favourite topic and there have been many colourful discussions. The children found the process of mummifying, especially the removal of the brain through the nose, very intriguing. Mrs Bolton was very worried when toilet rolls went missing from the toilets!! The Year 4 reward systems are working well and are enjoyed by all the children.

Christine Roux and Lynne Bolton

(Key Stage 2 Continued)

YEAR 5

Year Five children have been studying the properties of solids, liquids and gases for the first part of the term and are looking forward to eating the results of their experiment with chocolate! If they get their hands on it before the staff that is! Later in the term they will study a unit of work on 'Keeping Healthy'. They will be checking their pulses and learning about the evils of too much fat, sugar and salt. In Geography they are planning an exciting holiday in Europe after doing some work on maps and plans. Also, a lot of very famous Victorians are wandering about worrying about only having one minute to talk about themselves. I believe Mr Bolton is going to give a talk, from first hand experience of the period! Year Five are also busy planning a safe but exciting playground in their P.S.E. lessons. It's a very busy time.

Elaine Evans and Susan Ogidan

Year 6

We are delighted with how quickly the children have settled into class. Being in Year 6 brings its own responsibility in terms of setting an example to the other children in the Key Stage. Your children are excellent role models. We have been really busy looking at strategies for solving mental maths questions, analyzing poetry and play scripts and studying food chains and the life cycle of plants. In ICT the children have produced some amazing PowerPoint Presentations. Sometimes we wonder who should be teaching whom? All this time in Year 6 and we still haven't mentioned SATs. Long may it continue.

Steve McMahon and David Bolton

International Young People's Award Service Project

Students at DBGS are fortunate to be able to participate in this Award which comprises three elements namely, Skills, Sports and Service. For the past two years, the Dhahran Campus Nursery has accepted students who wish to do service time for their project in an early childhood environment. Last year's theme was "Indoor and Outdoor Murals". The students were required to design, purchase supplies within a budget and create a suitable mural for children of nursery age. There were two

"teams" and each chose an indoor or outdoor project.

The fun began and after a few weeks of coming after school once a week or more often, the fruits of their labours became evident both on their clothes, the floor and where they should be the walls, Eventually, to their relief and delight (and ours as well!) the projects were completed and the Campus Nursery is a brighter place.

Once some of the projects were completed a few students continued to come and were brave enough to tackle puzzles, read books etc. It was soon evident that they enjoyed getting back to some of those childhood adventures and pursuits with our children!!

The students who participated were Tabassum, Noshin, Manal, Saad Malik, Saad Dayaji, Mueen Nazir and Jenny Armstrong and carried out the work over 13 sessions.

Well done and 'Thank You' to each student who joined in.

Anne Armstrong
Nursery Manager

CIS SELF-STUDY UPDATE

In the September 'Back to School' afternoons you may remember that you were invited to submit your names for committee work to help the school with the CIS Self Study process. Parents of children in Key Stages 3 & 4 were invited to indicate their interest through a note home.

We have been able to make excellent progress on the first two committees, the Part One and the Mission & Beliefs Committees.

In each of these two committees we are required to have representatives from the student body as well as parents, board members, teachers and administrators.

The two committees have met several times and have been carrying out some very necessary 'homework' in order to produce initial findings. I would like to recognise publicly the tremendous contributions that these two essential committees are making:

Part One Committee

Mrs Power:	Chairperson
Mrs Hardy	Parent
Mrs Hashim	Parent
Mr Bennett	Board member
William Parkhouse	Student
Karim Ali	Student
Mrs Hall	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Chambers	Teacher
Mr Bolton	Senor Management Team

Mission & Beliefs Committee

Mr Hardcastle	Chairperson
Mrs Sanders	Parent
Mrs Gerber	Parent
Mrs Barber	Parent, Support Staff
Mrs De Windt	Parent & PVG member
Holly Carberry	Student
Mr Armstrong	Board Member
Mr McMahon	Teacher
Mrs Hatfield	Teacher

The Self Study Steering Committee overseeing the process is comprised of staff members: Mrs Wade, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Chambers, Mr McMahon, Mr Chapman and Mrs Power. Mrs Power is the designated Chairperson of this key committee. Committee produces findings will be reported throughout the year to keep everyone informed.

John Chapman
Headteacher

NEW FACES

In the September edition of the newsletter new contract members of staff were pictured on the front page. To help you to get to know our new members of staff a bit better they have contributed the following snippets of information:

Mrs Teri Green - Learning Support Teacher

Hola! and Ya'at'teeh from the Land of Enchantment and the Dine' Reservation located in the 4-Corners of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah! For the last 11 years I had the privilege of working with a diverse population of 11-19 year olds from New Mexico! I have spent the last 20 years in education in the states of Texas, Kansas and finally, New Mexico as a teacher of the Deaf, a learning support teacher and a high school counselor.

I have been in Saudi for just over two months and am still thrilled to be here! My first impressions were "Wow, has it been hot and

humid!" But the weather we are now having... diggin' it! I have met such friendly people! I love the diversity of cultures I am getting to experience and the food here is amazing! I absolutely love working at DBGS with the great staff and the students I have met. Exciting adventures so far - taxi rides, bus rides and walking in the Arabian Sea with an abaya... oh yes, and Ramadan shopping late at night! Thank you all for helping to make my first two months here both memorable and enjoyable!

Neferti Rolluqui - ICT Teacher

Hi everyone! I am Neferti Rolluqui, the new ICT teacher. I am 25 years of age. I have been living in Saudi Arabia for eight years now. After completing my primary and secondary education here in one of the Philippine schools in Al-Khobar Saudi Arabia, I returned to the Philippines for my college degree. I finished my Bachelor's degree in Computer Studies at the age of 21 and my Master's degree in Computer Studies at the age of 24.

For me, education is very important. Many of our students nowadays ask themselves, "Why should I go to college?" One important answer to this question is, more opportunity. When students experience a post-secondary education, they have the opportunity to read books and listen to the lecturers of top experts in their fields. This stimulation encourages students to think, ask questions and explore new ideas, which allows them for additional growth and development and provides college graduates with an edge in the job market. It serves as a gateway for more options and flexibility.

I am really a home type of a person. During weekends, I prefer to read books and spend some quality time with my family instead of going out. I also love watching films on DVDs and listening to Jazz music during my free time.

Wendy Soanes - Music Teacher

I fell in love with the piano when I was six years old after hearing it played for the children marching into assembly at school. I went home and played the cupboards, tables and any surface available, singing a rousing march tune at the top of my voice, which probably helped convince my long suffering parents to buy me a piano - just a cheap 'banger' to start with.

Later on I taught piano for about ten years but did not consider music teaching until I was

invited to teach at a local primary school. I became 'hooked' on school music! I took up a position as Head of Music at the Appelsbosch College of Education, a primary teacher training college on the border of Zululand, which is now part of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

I gave up teaching in South Africa in order to work for my husband who had begun his own construction company, but continued to teach privately and also wrote a correspondence theory course for music pupils who could not get to regular music lessons. Two years later we moved to the UK, and I completed my music degree at Newcastle University. I continued with a PGCE primary at St Martins College and then a secondary PGCE course in music at Durham University.

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William Green - Key Stages 3 & 4 Science

Buenos dias y Nuevo Mexico. Hello from New Mexico, USA, the Land of Enchantment; sage brush, pinon trees, yuccas, canyons mesas and beautiful sunsets. The sounds of a barking coyote in the distance. Our state motto is "Red or Green". Chili that is. New Mexico is one of the largest producers of chili. Of course I like mine Christmas (green and red) and hot. Growing up in the desert southwest of the United States has really helped me with my transition to Saudi Arabia.

I come to Saudi Arabia from a small town in northwestern New Mexico where I taught classes in agricultural production and aviation. It was nothing to have a cow, sheep or horse in my classroom along with a flight simulator. We even had a large fish tank where we raised trout. Lots of fun, just had to watch where you stepped.

I came into education from about 5 years in industry. Prior to coming into education I was a commercial pilot, college professor, agricultural consultant and a farmer and I still haven't figured out what I want to be when I grow up! I even had the opportunity to spend some time in the U.S. Army as an electrician. When I am not teaching I enjoy golfing, flying airplanes and snow skiing. I have found out that these sports are rather hard to come by here in Saudi, especially the skiing. I also enjoy camping, travelling and 4-wheeling. I am really looking forward to this new experience of living and teaching in Saudi Arabia.

A teacher affects eternity: they can never tell where their influence stops.

Julia Sheridan - Key Stages 3 & 4 English

My Saudi Arabian adventure began in mid August and represented my first experience of working within the ex pat community. My first impressions were - Hot! My second - there really are camels in Saudi Arabia and my third - who is that singing at 3 a.m. Confusions aside, my arrival in the kingdom has marked a very positive transition from working as an English and Drama teacher in a busy comprehensive school in England.

I studied Modern English Studies at Bath University and went on to gain a post graduate teaching qualification in Oxford. I have a passion for literature, theatre and film and use this in my classroom to encourage and inspire the pupils I teach. Drama and theatre studies are also very big interests of mine and I look forward to using my performance experience over the past 12 years in forthcoming DBGS productions.

I have been very impressed by the school community here in Dhahran. Everyone has given me a very warm welcome and I look forward to working with you over the next academic year and into the future.

KS3 & 4 STUDENT COUNCIL

In September the students in KS3 & 4 elected the Student Council for the 2007-08 school year. In addition students in Years 10 & 11 elected this year's Head Boys and Girls.

The Student Council comprises:

7 Red:	Victoria Smith Krystofer Fishwick
7 Blue:	Liam Smith Razeena Saloojee
8 Red:	Jenny Billing Brendan Stanley
8 Blue:	Yasmin Jamil Inzamam Rashid
9 Red:	Hiba Akmal Scott Oakes
9 Blue:	Freya Cooper Ryan Allen

The Head Boys and Girls are:

Year 10:	Sooraj Cherukat Zara Murray
Year 11:	Abdullah Desai Tabassum Fakier

Congratulations to all the above as they begin their year of public office representing their classes, year groups and key stages.

MISSION & BELIEFS

MISSION: At Dhahran British Grammar School our stated mission is to provide a high quality, child centred education which will equip students with the skills needed for life-long learning.

BELIEFS:

Achievement: Foster self-esteem, confidence and high achievement

Challenge: Provide a challenging, stimulating education

Tolerance: Establish an environment of co-operation, tolerance and mutual respect
Individualism: Recognise the unique needs of the individual

Vision: Provide a safe space for the development of life-long learning

Equality: Celebrate the values of equal opportunities, racial harmony and a positive school climate.

SCHOOL WEB SITE

A reminder that the school's web site is the place where the majority of school information now appears. Over the course of this year we shall be continuing the work of the past 18 months in transferring all core information to the site. We designed the web site so that it would be a 'window' into the school. The site has always been intended to provide information, as well as pictures, for our families already in school as well as those families who may be relocating to Saudi Arabia.

This term the site has already gone through more significant changes. The Home Page has been redesigned and the following features added:

Revised admissions information, Mission and Beliefs statements (this has been moved from the second layer of the site on to the home page to make them more visible).

Core school policies will also be added to the web site. So far we have posted the Discipline Policy as this will be of general interest. We have also added links to the current school newsletter, CIS accreditation process, After School Activities (information and forms), Student Council information in KS3 & KS4 as well as a range of links referring to school trips. We have even provided a map of how to get to the school as well as a general staffing list for the current school year. A copy of the school's Home School Contract for students in KS3 & 4 is also posted.

Photo Galleries: the galleries section of the site has always been a very popular feature of the web site. This year we have already placed the following galleries on line:

Key Stage 1 - snapshots of the children working in class:

Year 5 and Year 11 - general photographs of students

Amsterdam and Berlin - the photographic evidence of the recent amazingly successful study trip to these two cities

Art galleries - a range of work that has been produced in the Art Room with Mrs Little

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

KS1, 2 & 3 Parent Teacher Conferences	October 25th
Year 8 Parent Teacher Conference	October 28th
Individual school photographs	November 5th - 6th
International Week	November 3rd - 7th
KS1 Open Morning	Week beginning 17th November
Walkathon	November 21st
KS2 Production	November 27th & 28th
Tentative Concert Dates	December 4th - 5th
Reports to Parents	Pre Reception - Year 9 December 13th
Winter Holiday	December 18th - January 6th

A reminder that the main dates for the school year are published on the school web site (www.dhahranbritish.com) under latest news. The school's calendar is also on the school web site (www.dhahranbritish.com) and can be accessed by clicking on the calendar link from the Home Page.

AMSTERDAM BERLIN 2007

(See the pictures on the front page of this newsletter!)

Just before the Eid Break we had our annual taste of European culture. This time 30 students and 3 chaperones visited Amsterdam and Berlin, two very exciting and interesting cities. Historical cities too, where we focused on the Second World War and Communism.

The students were exposed to a wide range of different experiences between very funny and very serious: from karaoke singing with wax statues to a confrontation with the terror of a concentration camp in Sachsenhausen; from the Caribbean beach of a Tropical Island to the hidden room in Anne Frank's House; from the cabin of a Dutch clipper below sea level to around 200 meters above sea level in the Berlin TV Tower; from dancing to heavy dance or rock rhythms to listening to baroque classical music; travelling by sub- or tramway, bus or coach, foot or plane; from the Dutch how-are-you-question "Alles goed?" to the German thank-you "Danke schön!" –yes, it is fun to express yourself in a foreign language!; from waving the German flags in front of the TV cameras to wearing extremely Dutch caps, eating "patat met mayonnaise" or half a meter of "Bratwurst"; from the Berlin Wall graffiti to the Van Gogh paintings.

The students pushed their limits mentally (e.g. relying upon 4 senses and each other in a completely dark restaurant) and physically (e.g. biking through the countryside in Holland or sitting in the front rows of the Blue Man Group show) and nobody gave up. On the contrary! With lots of energy, persistence and above all fun, the students broadened their cultural horizons.

Thank you enthusiastic, flexible, open-minded, well-behaved, funny and caring group of fantastic DBGS students! I am proud of you, who not only can say now: "Ich bin ein Berliner", but also "Ik ben een Amsterdammer".

*Willem Snieder
French Teacher and Study Trip Organiser*

BUS CONCERNS

The school requests that it is strongly recommended that compound bus monitors walk the Foundation & Key Stage 1 children to the Walk-in-Gate each morning. At 2.30 p.m. the bus monitors should come to the gate to collect the young children and escort them to the bus. Although many of our bus monitors do this (thank you!) it would help our youngest children to be accompanied when travelling between the bus and the gate. Please note that this is a polite request prompted by safety concerns rather than an instruction. Ultimately it has to be up to the discretion of the individual bus monitors prompted by the wishes of parents.

CAFETERIA PRICE INCREASES

Please note that the prices of some food items from the cafeteria have been increased. The main meal of the day has been increased from SR10 to SR12; a number of other items have increased by one or two Saudi Riyals.

The prices have been stable for some time and the rises reflect the increase in the market place of raw materials. You may need to increase the daily allowance for your child, depending on their food choices across the number of days that they use the cafeteria service.

You may be interested to know that the schools have been working closely with Gosaibi to promote healthier options on the menu as well as a wider range of food available. To this end we will be recommending that stodgy items are taken off the menu i.e. doughnuts.

The weekly menu for the main meal of the day is routinely posted on the school web site under the Latest News section. The menu is typically posted on a Wednesday or at the latest by Saturday morning. By publishing the menu we hope that you are receiving useful information about the food available.

STANDING NOTICES

OFFICE CONTACTS

A reminder that the school office is open daily from Saturday to Wednesday from 07.30—15.30.

The main office number is 330 0555. Please dial any of the following extensions when prompted: 2003/2007/2009. Fax messages may be sent to 330 0555 Ext. 2037.

Should any of your contact details change please contact Mrs Perry on extension 2003. Emails should be sent to the usual address of: brparents@isgdh.org

Web Site: www.dhahranbritish.com

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

If you hear of qualified teachers moving in to the area the school would like to know. It is difficult enough in the UK to find sufficient substitute teachers but in Saudi Arabia, schools have always had considerable difficulties. We are fortunate enough to have a small pool of teachers that we use to cover classes but they are not always in Kingdom throughout the year. If you hear of qualified teachers moving on to your compound please put them in touch with Fiona Duvall in the school office (see contact numbers above).

BOARD NOTES

Please note that the ISG Board of Trustees publishes minutes after its regular meetings. To access the minutes please log on to either the ISG Website: www.isgdh.org or the school's website: www.dhahranbritish.com

From the school web site there is a link at the foot of the home page directly to the ISG web site or the ISG Board Notes.

MUSIC TEACHERS WANTED!

*If you know of any woodwind, guitar or drum teachers in the community we have children in the school who would love to sign up for individual tuition. Please forward any suitable contact details to the school office: 330 0555 Ext. 2003.
Many thanks,*