



 **CAMBRIDGE**
International Education

Cambridge International School



NINGBO BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter 30
April 25th, 2025



Dear Parents,

At this time of year, it usually becomes evident in schools that teachers, students and support staff are a little tired, in need of a break. It's like the point in a distance running race where you hit 'the wall.' Your legs feel heavy, fatigue sets in, the voice in your head says: "That's enough" and you begin to lose control.

But any experienced runner knows that with a couple of bites of banana and a few gulps of sports drink, the body suddenly feels renewed and you can answer the voice: "No way. Just a few more kilometers to go. I can do this."

So, the May Holiday comes as an opportunity to breathe, take it easy, **enjoy the spring weather and refresh yourself for the home straight.**

Reports for Years 11-13 are published today, and the Cambridge Examination season begins in earnest.

Coming up soon:

May 12-16: A week of special activities to mark the 20th Anniversary of NBIS.

Of special note for parents are:

The 20th Anniversary Carnival on campus on Friday, May 16th ... see the poster in this newsletter ...

And on **Friday evening also May 16th, the 20th Anniversary Gala** to be held at the Hotel Intercontinental ... find the black and gold poster in this Newsletter with a QR Code to register.

We look forward to celebrating with you at these key events!

Meanwhile, on behalf of all staff, I wish all our NBIS families a Happy Holiday!

Philip R Billing
NBIS International Principal



FAMILY CARNIVAL

NBIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

*Scan the code to join us for a fun-filled
Family Carnival at school—games, food,
and laughter for all ages!*



FRIDAY, MAY 16TH, 2025
1:45 - 3:20PM





NBIS

20th Anniversary

Gala Night



Intercontinental Hotel



Black and Gold Dress code



Tickets 298rmb



1830 16th May

A Glamorous Black & Gold Evening to celebrate 20 amazing years of community at NBIS! Tickets are in high demand so secure yours before it's too late! Adults-Only Celebration, let's enjoy a night out with fellow parents and teachers.

Live Music & Entertainment.
Dance and enjoy the evening!

Free-Flow Drinks.
Wine, beer, soft drinks & more!

Delicious Buffet
A mix of Western and Chinese favorites.
Sushi & Sashimi Station – fresh and refined!

Lucky Draws with Big Prizes
Gifts for everyone!
Fun, games, laughs and surprises...



**Celebrate 20 years with us at the Gala
and have fun with the NBIS Trivia Quiz!**

**NBIS
Trivia**

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NBIS?

Q1: How many campuses has NBIS operated on since opening 20 years ago?

A: 4.

Q2: Who was the founding principal of NBIS?

A: Mr John Turner was the First Executive Principal of NBIS.

Q3: In which year did NBIS move to its current campus?

Q4: Which country's curriculum did NBIS follow before adopting the Cambridge curriculum?

The answers will be announced
in next week's Newsletter...



CONGRATULATIONS



Charlie Morris
Year 10A Student



Congratulations to Charlie Morris in Year 10A for winning 1st Place in the U15 category at the Manta Squash Open in Hangzhou.

He also won the last U15 Shanghai Squash Open, the U15 Suzhou Squash Open, the Cornwall U15 County Squash Open, and the UNNC Squash Open twice. Charlie's next challenge will be competing in the U17 category in the UK this summer.

We wish him all the best!



Amazing Day PTA Spring Picnic 2025



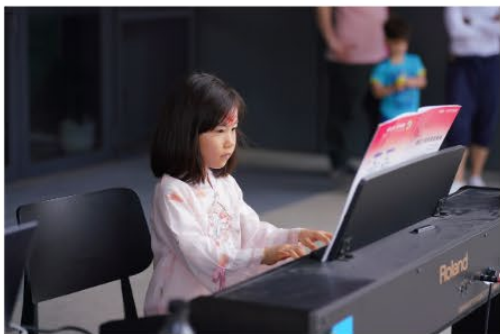
Last Saturday, NBIS hosted its highly anticipated PTA Spring Picnic, an event that brought together families and educators in a vibrant celebration of community spirit.

Bathed in spring sunshine, the picnic grounds buzzed with dynamic energy as attendees of all ages immersed themselves in a diverse array of activities.



The event buzzed with creativity and connection: in the arts zone, professional face painters transformed children into whimsical characters, while in the hammer-dye workshop, children unleashed their creativity and meticulously designed their unique works. Sports area hosted lively parent-student activities in tennis, golf, and basketball, alongside Olympic-themed shooting and boxing simulators for spirited competition, while younger guests thrilled at a treasure hunt featuring cryptic clues and hidden prizes across the grounds.





Adding to the warmth, families spread blankets to share picnic spreads and convivial chats over delicious refreshments and exquisite gifts, as teachers and students delivered spellbinding performances—from soulful guitar melodies and graceful ballet recitals to elegant piano solos, these performances echoed across the lawns, prompting warm applause from the entire audience.





The event fully embodied the power of collective participation, combining artistic creativity, athletic camaraderie and cultural enrichment. Whether it was the attentive gazes of parents and children stopping to admire the art exhibition area, or the warm applause of cheering each other on the sports field, participants of different ages found resonance here. Everyone spent a day full of laughter, warmth and emotion in this energetic and warm event.



Blast Off into Learning: A Stellar Space Adventure!

Ms Samy & Ms Echo



Our young explorers blasted off into a world of imagination and discovery as they learned all about space! From twinkling stars to swirling galaxies, the students dove into the wonders of the universe through hands-on activities.



They created their very own galaxy sensory bottles — filled with glittering "stardust" and glowing colors — bringing the cosmos right to their fingertips. To top it off, each student designed and built a unique spaceship prototype, launching their creativity into orbit.



Primary Assembly

April 22 marks the annual World Earth Day, a day dedicated to promoting global environmental awareness.

The Assembly, starting from the current state of the Earth, used vivid explanations and interactive activities to guide students in understanding the ecological damage to our planet, fostering an awareness of low-carbon living, and planting the seeds of environmental protection in the hearts of young people.

NBIS emphasised to our community that environmental protection begins with small actions — and that perseverance is key.

“Let’s continue to make NBIS a place where green ideas take root and environmental actions blossom!”



Guided by their teachers, Primary students planted greenery in the rooftop garden, taking turns to water and observe the plants. Through this hands-on experience, they came to appreciate the value of life and the importance of sustainable living.

Those joyful and meaningful moments have helped the spirit of environmental protection take root in the hearts and minds of our children.

Congratulations to Our Stars of the Week



Stars of the Week

4A – Liam and Angela
4B – Evan and Lia
5A – Fifi and Siwon
5B – Eamonn and Andrew
5C – Ryan and Annabelle
6A – Ayush and Arjun
6B – Leah and Hank

4A – Liam and Angela

4B – Evan and Lia

5A – Fifi and Siwon

5B – Eamonn and Andrew

5C – Ryan and Annabelle

6A – Ayush and Arjun

6B – Leah and Hank

**Well Done
Everyone!**



NBIS PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Mr Aki Luciano

On a bright sunny day of April 23, 2025, NBIS Sports Day was a huge success filled with fun and excitement. The day kicked off with a Zumba warm-up exercise led by a cheerful PTA member, getting everyone ready to move. After that, our Principals welcomed everyone and shared their enthusiasm for the day's events. Students participated in various activities like a thrilling Hockey Pool, a running race, and a tug of war that brought out their team spirit and muscular strength.





Parents joined in too, competing against teachers in a fun relay race, making everyone more thrilled. Target games kept the energy high, allowing students to show their aiming skill and a lot more games that tested the strength, endurance and accuracy of the students. By the end of the day, the Unicorns emerged as Champions both for Lower & Upper Primary. While each student received a medal to honor their participation and sportsmanship, making it a memorable day for all.



Year 2 & Year 3 Explore Nature at Dongqian Lake Creek Camp



Last week, our Year 2 and Year 3 students had a wonderful outdoor adventure at Dongqian Lake Creek Camp, where they spent a full day discovering the magical world of mushrooms and plants!

The day began with an engaging guided talk all about mushrooms: how they grow, where they thrive, and why they're such fascinating fungi. Students then had the opportunity to get hands-on as they picked mushrooms themselves, exploring the natural environment and observing their delicate features up close.





Next, creativity bloomed as each student crafted their mushroom lamp, turning their knowledge into a glowing reminder of the day. But the fun didn't stop there! Students jumped into action with a high-energy game of Mario VS Turtle, laughing and bonding as they played together.

Later in the day, students embarked on a guided tour through the camp, where they learned to identify and collect various plants.



Their observation skills were put to the test in a fun plant quiz, and it was clear they had been paying attention!

To wrap up the experience, students tapped into their artistic sides once more by using the plants they'd gathered to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind canvas bags with plant rubbing techniques. These eco-friendly keepsakes were a perfect way to capture the memories of their nature-filled outing.

It was a day of learning, creativity, and connection with the natural world, and a reminder of how much fun education outside the classroom can be!



Dive into Game Development with Unreal Engine

MR SEAN POLLITT



This term, our Year 10 Computer Science students are taking a hands-on approach to learning by building their own video game using *Unreal Engine*, one of the world's most advanced game development platforms. This exciting and creative project goes beyond just having fun — it's a powerful way to introduce key programming concepts in a memorable and practical way.

Building Worlds in the Sky: Fantasy Meets Physics

Students begin their journey with a stunning fantasy game template: a world set high above the clouds, filled with floating islands and endless potential. Their first challenge is to understand and implement collision modelling, a core concept in game physics. Using this knowledge, they design a safe path across the sky islands, avoiding hazards and placing platforms that react to player movement.

Next, they move on to constructing dynamic, moving platforms — adding challenge and interactivity to their world. These aren't just design tasks — they're deeply connected to computational thinking and logic, as students consider how objects interact, move, and respond within the game environment.

From Blueprints to Code: Developing Key Programming Skills

In the coming weeks, students will delve deeper into Blueprints, Unreal Engine's powerful visual scripting system. This will allow them to build more complex mechanics and bring their game ideas to life — without writing traditional code just yet. Eventually, they'll move on to creating their own user interfaces, helping players navigate their custom worlds and interact with in-game systems.

All of this sets the stage for their upcoming work in Python and Pseudocode, the languages of their GCSE curriculum. By introducing these concepts in a playful, hands-on environment, students gain practical experience and build confidence in their coding skills.



Gamifying Learning: Boosting Engagement in Computer Science

The use of gamification in education has proven to be a powerful learning tool. With the increasing demands of IGCSE study, students can sometimes feel overwhelmed. This project offers a refreshing and inspiring break — where learning is engaging, active, and even a little magical.



We're incredibly proud of the creativity and enthusiasm Year 10 have brought to this project. We can't wait to see the unique games they produce — and who knows? The next breakout game developer might just be sitting in our classroom right now.

NBIS Geoguessr League Champions

Mr David Barraclough

Over the last 8 weeks, every Tuesday lunchtime, Secondary students have been trying to figure out where on earth they are!

GEOGUESSR


Geoguessr is an online game in which you are placed somewhere on the planet and have to work out exactly where you are. You may find yourself in the favelas of Brazil, the prairies of Oklahoma or amongst an ancient ruin in Greece. Utilising clues in your surroundings – such as languages, business names, people's ethnicity, flags or even what side of the road the cars are driving – you place a marker down with your best guess. The closer you are, the more points you score!



'Can you guess where those are?'

Answers on the next page :)





The NBIS Geoguessr League explored Famous Places, Asia, Europe and finally the world, spending two weeks on each of these maps. Four teams entered: Ottomans, Team IDK, British Malaya and Chill Guys. These were student-created teams from across the years groups in Secondary.

Early leaders were British Malaya, but slowly Chill Guys began to close the gap before taking a healthy lead going into the final world round. The only potential pitfall is that the Geoguessr World map often places players in wilderness regions in which the margin for error is huge and points are scarce. However, Chill Guys fell lucky and, with a diverse team membership, scored a quite improbable 14,918 points from a possible 15,000 (92,222 overall). They secured the Champions spot and the NBIS Geoguessr League trophy!

The secret to their success? Largely, a diverse range of backgrounds, linguistic abilities and a sizable amount of practice.

Next year, there will be new champions, as Chill Guys will be graduating from NBIS this year. It is also hoped that next year will see some inter-school competitions!



Answers:

Picture 1 = Bern, Switzerland

Picture 2 = Easter Island / Rapa Nui, Chile



Runaway Day

Dennis Liu (Year 13)
Secondary Student Council President

On April 18th, NBIS students gathered for an unforgettable evening at Runaway Day 2025, organised by the Secondary Student Council. From competitive dodgeball games (many enjoyed getting Mr Aaron and Mr Dani out :P) and capture-the-flag to relaxed board game sessions and a cosy movie night, the event brought laughter, energy, and connection among classmates.



With popcorn popping and pizza boxes emptying quickly, the night was a joyful break from routine and some much-needed fun before exams. A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make it happen!



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2024-25 Semester 1 (School Days-90 Days)

26/08/2024 Semester 1 Begins, 14/02/2025 Semester 1 Ends

Holidays in Semester 1

- 14/09/2024 to 17/09/2024 Mid-Autumn Festival
- 28/09/2024 to 07/10/2024 Chinese National Holiday
- 22/11/2025 PD Day
- 18/12/2024 to 05/01/2025 Winter Holiday
- 22/01/2025 to 09/02/2025 Spring Festival Holiday

2024-25 Semester 2 (School Days-90 Days)

17/02/2025 Semester 2 Begins, 01/07/2025 Semester 2 Ends

Holidays in Semester 2

- 04/04/2025 to 06/04/2025 Qingming Holiday
- 28/04/2025 to 04/05/2025 Labour Day Holiday
- 30/05/2025 to 01/06/2025 Dragon Boat Holiday

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2025-26 Semester 1 (School Days-90 Days) 01/09/2025 Semester 1 Begins, 30/01/2026 Semester 1 Ends

Holidays in Semester 1

- 01/10/2025 to 08/10/2025 Chinese National/Mid-Autumn Holiday
- 21/11/2025 PD Day
- 17/12/2025 to 04/01/2026 Winter Holiday

2025-26 Semester 2 (School Days-90 Days) 02/02/2026 Semester 2 Begins, 03/07/2026 Semester 2 Ends

Holidays in Semester 2

- 09/02/2026 to 01/03/2026 Spring Festival Holiday
- 04/04/2026 to 06/04/2026 Qingming Holiday
- 01/05/2026 to 05/05/2026 Labour Day Holiday
- 19/06/2026 to 21/06/2026 Dragon Boat Holiday



Ningbo British International School

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Unity - Diversity - Excellence

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