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International School of Siem Reap

2016-17

Issue 9

May/June 2017

The High School

NEWSLETTER

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#### Year 9 and 10 expedition to Kampot

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Year 9 and 10 students embarked on an exciting school trip to Kampot. The trip was for 4 days and 3 nights. We travelled down on a bus which took the best part of 9 hours and ate a well-deserved BBQ upon our arrival. Our location was called Salty River Resort which looked out onto the river and had a beautiful sunrise (for those crazy enough to wake up at 5am and watch it!)

On day 2, students took part in a half day bicycle tour through the stunning countryside and lotus fields. Students stopped at various points along the way and were even able to watch Cambodian families make traditional rolled cakes and see how Khmer noodles are made. We also visited a pagoda where students found out all about Buddhism and the role of a monk.

On day 3, it was another early start for the students as we took a trip to Bokor Mountain. The bus journey there was like something from a Jurassic Park movie with the forest covered mountains combined with the cool breeze and the eerie fog. Students enjoyed exploring the abandoned collection of French colonial buildings which were constructed during the early 1920s.

After a long day exploring, we then headed to Sothy's Organic Pepper Farm where we found out about the history of pepper in Cambodia and drank some delicious lemongrass and pepper tea! Our day finished with us returning to our accommodation where an award ceremony took place followed by an evening meal in Kampot centre. (HH/MEJ)



## CIE Examinations Update

All Year 11 and Year 13 students have now complete their grueling set of public examinations. Feedback from the students at the end of each session has been positive, but we must now wait until mid to late August for the results. We are also pleased to announce that CIE has advised us that ISSR attained a completely satisfactory rating for the administration of the examinations following their recent inspection visit.

### Cambridge International Examinations – Compliance Inspection – June 2017 series

Dear Head of Centre

We are pleased to confirm that your Centre has been awarded a Completely Satisfactory rating on the basis of your recent Compliance inspection. This rating has been given as the security arrangements and conduct of exams at your Centre, as observed by the inspector during their visit, fully complied with Cambridge regulations.

## Year 10 options 2017-18

All full-time students who will be entering Y10 in August 2017 are now required to complete the IGCSE options form. Although this has been discussed in earlier communications, below is an outline of the curriculum structure for Year 10 next academic year. The following subjects and activities are compulsory for all students:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| [1] English Language     | [5] Physical Education                         |
| [2] Mathematics          | [6] PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) |
| [3] ICT                  | [7] Sport                                      |
| [4] Science Double Award | [8] Extra-Curricular Activities                |

This curriculum ensures that, while academic courses remain the priority, the need for a holistic approach to education is also addressed.



Full-time students choose a further five subjects. On the form they tick one box (from A or B) in rows 1-5 (for example History or Art)

A  
History  
Geography  
English Literature  
French / Mandarin Chinese  
Business Studies

B  
Art  
Design Technology  
Additional Mathematics\*  
Physical Education IGCSE Course  
Drama

\*Before selecting Additional Mathematics, students must consult with their Mathematics teacher. Acceptance onto the Additional Mathematics course will be dependent not only upon their performance in Mathematics throughout the academic year but also upon their Checkpoint Mathematics result.

### Year 12 Options 2017-18

We are delighted to report that there has been a very healthy interest in the Year 12 AS Level courses, not only from the current Year 11 students but also new entrants from other schools. We believe that the emphasis placed this academic year on the need prudently to consider future pathways has been reflected in students making informed decisions and engaging in in-depth conversations regarding careers choices. They understand that, in order to maintain the opportunity of accessing quality tertiary education beyond Cambodia, they must continue with an international curriculum.

ISSR is a small school despite which we are pleased to be able to offer the following AS Level courses for 2017-18:

English  
Mathematics  
ICT

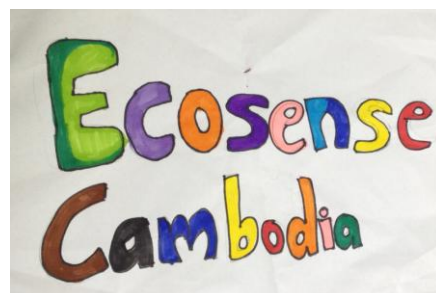
Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology

Psychology  
Art  
Design Technology

In addition to the academic courses, all Y12 students will play a full part in the life of the School, attending courses in Thinking Skills and Work Related Learning, participating in Extra-Curricular Activities and joining with Y11 in team sports. Next academic year we also plan to organise work experience with companies that reflect the careers aspirations of the students, and there will be more information on this development in subsequent newsletters.

### Year 7 and 8 Plastic Free Fair

In May Years 7 and 8 held a Plastic Free Fair during which they were put into pairs and then given an organisation to represent concerning reducing the consumption of plastic in Cambodia. The students made posters and leaflets – some even brought in cake and chocolate! Each student was given some fake money to put towards the best “stall” and then notified the class of the winning pair. (MEJ)



## The High School Yearbook



There have been many remarkable achievements this year, and the production of the Yearbook ranks as one of the greatest. That the students, entirely by themselves, have planned, collated, designed, edited and published a High School yearbook of excellent quality and in excess of 120 pages which covers every aspect of the School – both academic and extra-curricular – is truly praiseworthy. The students should be rightly proud of their work, and we hope that all members of our community will support the editorial team in purchasing a copy of the publication – which serves not only as a souvenir for years to come but also as an important historical record of what has been quantum change in one year.

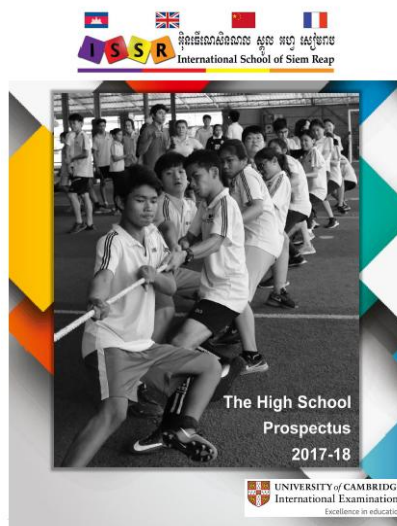
We thank the entire team but, in particular, Pei Shan Taing and Rosita Wijnberg who have displayed such professionalism, dedication and attention to detail through the long and, at times, laborious process.

Samples of the yearbook are on display in the School office.



## The High School Prospectus

The High School Prospectus for 2017-18 is completed and about to be sent for publication. The Prospectus outlines the curriculum structure and subject content at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 in addition to providing important information concerning the daily management of the School. Students will be issued with the Prospectus at the beginning of next academic year.



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## Presentation and Communication Skills: certificate holders

The following students who participated in the Communication and Presentation Skills ECA were recently awarded certificates by the Principal:

Elliott Barrett (Y7)  
Hyeon Jeong Kang (Y8)  
Leakmy Luy (Y8)  
Lysa Nou (Y8)  
Melissa You (Y8)

Peace Todd (Y8)  
Pierre Alain Hely (Y7)  
Rida Soung (Y8)  
Sanya Yang (Y8)  
So Theary Seng (Y8)



## Year 6 Visit

On Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, students from Year 6 of our Primary School spent half a day with us in what will be their new home from August. They were welcomed by the Principal and were given a tour of the school by our current Year 7, who also gave presentations on life in the High School and led a question and answer session. Y6 attended English and Science classes, and took part in the school's ECA programme. We look forward to welcoming them officially in August.



## The final inter-House competition

There is only one point between the top two Houses in this year's competition...and the deciding events take place on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the final result to be announced on speech day on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students have planned inter-House basketball, games and...a mystery activity which, since this newsletter is to be published before the day itself, I cannot reveal!

## End of Year Excursions

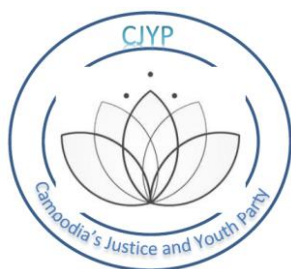
Some end of year excursions for the High School will take place after the publication of this newsletter and so we hope that they will go well and we thank the teachers for taking the time to organize them. Below is Mr Max's report for the recent Year 7 excursion to ACCB:

Year 7s took part in an exciting and educational visit to the Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity - the wildlife sanctuary situated near Kulen Mountain. We saw rescued gibbons, porcupines, tortoises, fish eagles and other exotic animals. We also learned about the incredibly intricate adaptations that these animals have. (MEJ)





## ISSR Mock Election



In response to UK Prime Minister Theresa May's shock announcement of a general election, ISSR decided to hold its own – and did it more successfully! Y9 representatives of three parties – the Social Party, the Bright Party and the Cambodian Justice and Youth Party – campaigned vigorously before the whole school, all the candidates speaking convincingly and giving well-reasoned arguments on a range of topics such as education, agriculture and health. After the secret ballot, the Cambodian Justice and Youth Party led by Sokcheathong Yem had (unlike PM Theresa May) secured a strong working majority!

## Announcement of promotion

ISSR is delighted to announce the promotion of Ms Hannah Hopkins as the new Coordinator for English.

The teaching of English has flourished under Ms Hannah's guidance this academic year, not least with the introduction of Drama both as a subject within the KS3 curriculum but also as an enormously popular extra-curricular activity; students, particularly those in the part-time programme, have experienced such creative work possibly for the first time, and they have discernibly grown in confidence and articulation as a result. English as a Second Language has been extended to an English Language Support programme for those who, while not being in the ESL group, still require some additional help.

Next academic year the diversity of English will continue with the inclusion of IGCSE Drama at KS4 and AS Level English, the latter to be a compulsory area of study for all Year 12 students. In addition, with the arrival of a second member of the Department, the School now requires an enthusiastic and experienced individual to lead all strands of the teaching of English and Drama, and Ms Hannah is unquestionably the most appropriate for that role.

Apart from her tremendous contribution to the academic work of the School, Ms Hannah has been quite remarkable in the contribution she has made in other fields such as music, assemblies and debating; the Kampot expedition, which she jointly organised with Mr Max, was an unqualified success and ranks as one of the highlights of the school year.

The hallmark of great teachers is the extent to which they go that extra mile for the benefit of the young people in their charge, and it is teachers of such dedication that rightly receive accolade and professional advancement.

Congratulations, Hannah, you deserve every success.

Alan Crombie  
Principal of the High School





## Cooking competition



Tuesday, June 20th sees the return of our annual cooking club competition. This year, we'll be whipping up a storm at Bambu Stage (formerly Tangram) behind the High School. The cooking club participants will be kicking off from around 1pm with the hope that we'll have plenty of spectators after 3pm when school is out. Judging will start at 4:15pm to give any High School students an opportunity to come and watch too. Parents: please support this event if you can since a number of High School students will be taking part and have been preparing intensively for the competition.

## Farewells and welcomes

As the school year draws to a close we inevitably must say our goodbyes to some teachers, at the same time thanking them for their service to the School: Mr Andrew Creasey (Science), Mrs Caroline Creasey (Humanities), Mr Rob Knable (Business Studies), and Mr Raphael Plocque (ESL and, latterly, Business Studies).

The High School's curriculum is expanding and we are very pleased to inform you that we will be employing not only replacement teachers but also additional staff. With effect from August 2017 the following experienced teachers will be joining us:

- **Ms Danielle Crawford** will be working with Ms Hannah in the English Department.
- **Mr Peter Greener** and **Ms Christine Stacey** will be teaching Humanities, Citizenship, PSHE and Business Studies to IGCSE Level. Mr Greener will also be delivering Mathematics in Years 7 and 8.
- **Dr Leonard Rogers PhD** will be teaching the AS Level curriculum for all sciences as well as working with Mr Max in the IGCSE Science programme.

More information on new appointments will be provided in the first newsletter of next academic year.

## Contacting the Principal

The Principal will not be in Cambodia during the month of July. However, emails will be forwarded from the School to his personal address. He will be back in school at the beginning of August to answer any queries from prospective students or from current students in respect of the latter's examination results and subject choices for Y10 and Y12 respectively.

Have a good vacation; we look forward to seeing you all again in August. Our school term begins on **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** Students will be expected to be in school by 0750.

If you are moving on we wish you well.

## The Spirit of a school






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