



TGS IB *in* PRACTICE

Issue 3: April 14, 2014

Foreword

Thoughts from the new IB Director General, Dr. Kumari

In October, 2013, Dr. Siva Kumari was appointed to the post of IB Director General. Dr. Kumari, stated: "Trends influencing the world in which we live and work are also transforming the way students learn. The IB is uniquely positioned to support this transformation, promoting the best innovations in teaching and learning. Access to information, social technologies, and connectivity are dramatically different today than when the IB was created 45 years ago. It is our responsibility to lead the way in international education and harness these capabilities as we create programmes and services to engage students in deep learning. I am honored to be entrusted with this position and I look forward to working with all members of the IB community, who continue to inspire me to do the best for the IB and the best for our schools."

[Read more](#)

Curriculum Focus

Group 3 Geography

The Geography course embodies global and international awareness in several distinct ways. It examines key global issues, such as poverty, sustainability and climate change. It considers examples and detailed case studies at a variety of scales, from local to regional, national and international.

The aims of the geography syllabus at Standard Level and Higher Level are to enable students to:

- develop an understanding of the interrelationships between people, places, spaces and the environment
- develop a concern for human welfare and the quality of the environment, and an understanding of the need for planning and sustainable management
- appreciate the relevance of Geography in analysing contemporary issues and challenges, and develop a global perspective of diversity and change.
- There is considerable flexibility in the choice of examples and case studies to ensure that Diploma Programme Geography is a highly appropriate way to meet the needs of all students, regardless of their precise geographical location.

Upcoming

Examinations Year 1

Examinations will be held during Week 9 of Term 2.

Examinations Year 2

Examinations will be held during Week 2 of Term 2.

Project Samoa

Discussions are currently being held regarding the set up of an annual CAS project to Samoa for Year 2 students. More information to come.

Global IB

Technology and IB

Evidence shows a continued trend of schools making considerable investments in technology and innovation in education. To further the IB's understanding of the associated impacts, and in an effort to better understand current and aspiring roles of technology in IB World Schools, discussions have been held at all regional conferences.

[Read more](#)



IB Core

EE: The Extended Essay

Year 1 IB students recently attended a variety of workshops at school on the process of the Extended Essay. Workshops included: looking at academic honesty, selecting research questions, writing requirements and skills and referencing.

The Extended Essay itself is some 4,000 words in length and offers the opportunity for IB students to investigate a topic of special interest related to one of the student's six Diploma Programme (DP) subjects. They are intended to promote the high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity expected at university.

They provide students with an opportunity to engage in personal research in a topic of their own choice, under the guidance of a supervisor (a teacher in the school). This leads to a major piece of formally presented, structured writing, in which ideas and findings are communicated in a reasoned and coherent manner, appropriate to the subject or issue chosen.

IB Lecture series

The Peterson Symposium

David Sutcliffe: International Education - Mirage or Oasis

This lecture is divided into two sections. The first discusses the life and achievements of Alec Peterson. The second section questions the state of international education. For example: "International education has strength, expertise and resources. Has it the will to re-deploy them? ... International education is serving its own pupils superbly. Has the time not come for it to serve the world more widely? ...we have behind us the achievement of excellence. We now face the challenge of relevance."

[Read more](#)

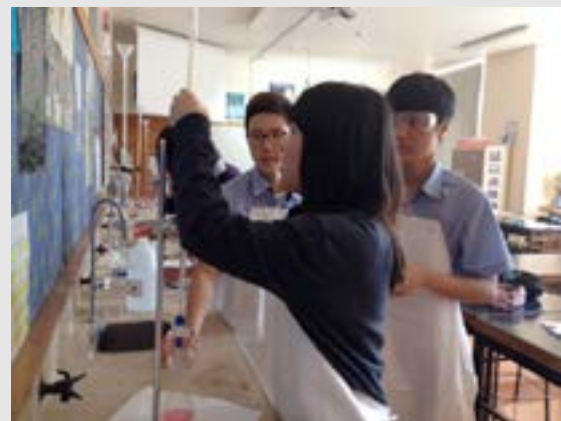
Student Voice

An IB student composite: A day in the life

My usual day as an IB student begins with an early start. As member of the Takapuna Grammar cycling team, I cycle four mornings a week. It counts towards 'Action' (in the Creativity, Action, Service programme of IB), and as a consequence I am constantly learning new skills – and, I should add, the social aspect is great fun. The school day starts with form class. The IB students are mixed in with the NCEA students, keeping us involved in the school. Because IB at Takapuna Grammar IB is still quite new, there are often less students in class although not always. The smaller classes mean the IB students have become a close group when it comes to supporting each other's learning. Encouraging us to be confident and engage in discussions is a primary focus of each lesson. It is a day that constantly challenges me and I know is developing the skills that I will need for university.

(taken from the latest edition of Ad Augusta)

IB in Action



IB chemists work through the process of titration.



Knowledge questions are presented in Theory of Knowledge on missing flight MH370



Winning entry of IB short film on Academic Honesty [To view click here](#)



IB International Mindedness

Knowledgeable



The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

The focus of this issue is the second of the IB Learner Profile attributes. As IB learners we strive to be 'knowledgeable'.

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.



We live on an island surrounded by a sea of ignorance. As our island of knowledge grows, so does the shore of our ignorance.
--- John Archibald Wheeler

IB in Action



Year 2 Geography field trip to Piha

IB Asia-Pacific Conference

Ms Jackie Rodgers, Head of IB, TGS

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the IB Asia-Pacific Conference in Singapore. One of the highlights of the conference for me was listening to Richard Gerver, author of *Creating Tomorrow's Schools Today*. Gerver spoke about the need to truly transform education to provide those 22nd century thinking skills of creating, evaluating and critiquing. His metaphor for this new kind of 'transformational' school is one of an App Store. Students become iPeople collaborating and interacting within this hub of learning. For Gerver this would mean working harder to create links with education and business. What education needs, he believes, is a fresh perspective to stimulate new thinking. [Read more from Richard Gerver](#)

For more information please contact the Head of International Baccalaureate, Ms Jackie Rodgers j.rodgers@takapuna.school.nz

