



### Welcome to the New Academic Year Mr Paul Starkie - Head of International School

A very warm welcome to the start of this new academic year in Secondary at MIS.

For many, this is a continuation of your experience as a MIS student and as a parent/guardian. For 30% of students, like myself, this is the start of a new school year and at a new school! For all students at MIS, we have very high expectations and this was the key topic for our initial assembly on Monday for students.

At our first assembly we spoke to our students about the importance of: always doing their very best in their school work and home learning; being ambitious for themselves; to be caring, kind and helpful to others; not to be afraid to ask for help when they need it, to remain healthy by eating well, getting plenty of sleep and exercise.

As teachers we are always reflective about our teaching and ensuring our students are engaged, that are all challenged and stretched and make progress. Our focus is to continually improve the experience for every child so they develop a love of learning.

The use of technology is an important tool for learning and this will increasingly become more important for students to have devices such as iPads and laptops to aid their learning. For students following IGCSE in Year 10 and 11 and A-Level, we would encourage students to have access to these at home. The arrangements for the boarding students to have access to their devices will be communicated separately. Students can also bring their iPad to school to support their learning although it must be understood that students are responsible for them at school.

Our examination results for 2024 were very good and reflect the hard work by our students last year in year 11 and the support and encouragement they received from their teachers.

We will be working hard to ensure that our current cohort of year 11 students receive the very best guidance to enable them to achieve their full potential in the examinations in 2025.

As students approach the first term, the focus will continue to build on their knowledge and skills with emphasis on preparing them with an understanding and experience how to approach examination questions appreciating the different command words used in questions. We will be guiding them through the course and to track their progress with interventions to help them further prepare their revision for their mock examinations.

Students in year 10 have just commenced their IGCSE courses and are excited about their journey through the course.

This term we have launched two new exciting opportunities for post 16 students with our first group of A level students starting this academic year. A new initiative has to provide a step into A Level with students following a Pre-Level course. The academic teaching is undertaken by highly experienced teachers and will include a continual programme for careers guidance in readiness for the decisions they will be making about their future.

Students in Key Stage 3, (year 7, 8 and 9) have settled in very quickly. A new course for them this year is Global Perspectives which is an exciting skills-based approach to the teaching of Humanities.

Our CCA programme will commence next week and parents will receive information about the online selection process. There are many opportunities to select from a varied range of activities which we will continually refine and develop over time. I have always considered myself a teacher first and I am teaching some PE here at MIS. As a former PE teacher, sportsman and coach, I will be running a Basketball CCA and also looking forward to working closely with our boarding students as well.

I hope to meet with parents very soon and will be hosting a coffee at a date to be announced during the month of September.

## Learning Mathematics by improve quality of life

Mathematics offers more opportunities to students beyond their background. Mathematics applications to real-life scenarios are vast. There are many students wondering how the learning outcome that is achieved can help them to face real-life situations. The importance of mathematics to the student's success can't be overstated. Basic mathematics is a necessity, but even abstract math can help hone critical thinking skills even if the students choose not to pursue a STEM-style career. Mathematics can help students succeed professionally, emotionally and cognitively.

Solving mathematics problems and improving the student's mathematics skills gives the students brain a good workout. And it improves student's cognitive skills over time. Many studies have shown that routinely practicing mathematics keeps students' brains healthy and functioning well. During the learning session, students are exposed to various learning methods that include all students from various backgrounds and different ways of learning. There are many different ways of categorizing learning styles, but Neil Fleming's VARK model is one of the most popular.

Fleming introduced an inventory in 1987 that was designed to help students and others learn more about their individual learning preferences. Visual learning (pictures, movies, diagrams), auditory learning (music, discussion, lectures), reading and writing (making lists, reading textbooks, taking notes), kinesthetic learning (movement, experiments, hands-on activities). During this learning session, students are divided into four groups. Each group was given a station and they had to spend five minutes to complete the assigned task. At the first station, students should weigh their body weight and record it in the worksheet provided. After recording the weight, they should convert the weight from kilograms to grams. In the second station, students have to watch a short video and answer questions in the same worksheet where they have to convert grams to kilograms and vice versa. In the third station, students must weigh the vegetables given and convert grams to kilograms. In the fourth station, students are given pieces of paper that contain grams and kilograms that are mixed up and students have to match them in the correct order. At the end of the lesson, students successfully mastered the learning.



Station 1



Station 2



Station 3



Station 4

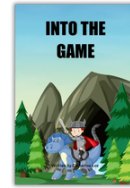
## Books by Our Students

Last school year, our school was selected to participate in the 2024 National Young Authors' Fair. This gave students at Matrix Global Schools the chance to write and publish their own books, reaching readers around the world. It's a great way to boost their creative writing skills and share their work on platforms like Amazon.com and the Brooklyn Book Festival in New York.

We are proud that two students from Matrix International School and two from our private school were chosen to have their books published on Bribooks.



Jeevaprasant Sashi Kumar  
Year 4



Catherine Lee Jia Yu  
Standard 2



Pavan Yakza Vijaya  
Standard 6



Kiew Chao Zhen  
Year 6

## Welcome Back to MIS Primary

Welcome back to a new school year for MIS Primary students. What a busy week it has been! I was so excited to welcome the children to school on Monday and although there were a few tears, the whole week has been a great start to our school year. The first week of school is an adjustment for all students and the primary team have been working hard this week to ensure everyone feels safe and happy at school.

In every classroom the children have participated in creating classroom rules and agreements to follow while they are at school. The students have also been busy creating some great artwork to display in their classrooms, Year 4 composed adjective poems to describe themselves; Year 2 drew some amazing self portraits to be used as part of a class display. And, Year 5 completed an exciting scavenger hunt searching for items around the primary area.

The week has been very busy but what matters most is the children have worked hard and now feel comfortable and settled back into school life ready to have a fantastic school year.

