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ESF News (March 2016)

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18 March 2016

Dear Parents and Colleagues



At the end of school this term, Jonathan Straker, ESF Head of Student Support, will retire after 32 years of dedicated service to ESF.

Jonathan joined ESF as a teacher at Bradbury School (BS) in September 1984 and was appointed as the Advisory Teacher, Primary in Jockey Club Sarah Roe Centre between 1993 and 1995. He then moved on to Quarry Bay School as a teacher and returned to his teaching post at BS the following year.

Jonathan was promoted to Deputy Principal at Beacon Hill School in 1997 till 2007. During this period he was transferred to Glenealy School as Deputy Principal for two terms from January to August 2003. From 2008 onwards, Jonathan took up the role of Head of Student Support at ESF Centre.

Jonathan is known for his measured, calm and thoughtful approach. These traits have helped him to effectively and sensitively carry out the role of Head of Student Support. In all the roles that he has held, Jonathan has always put students first, holding their best interests at the heart of every matter.

We wish Jonathan the best of luck and much happiness in his retirement and thank him for his leadership and loyalty during his time with ESF.

ESF welcomes new Board member

Last term, we said farewell and heart-felt thanks to Liz Boshier, the vice-chairman of the Board. Liz served ESF for six years and over that time made a significant contribution to the work of ESF. Pauline Ng has been elected vice-chairman of the Board. Pauline has been an Independent Board Member for three years, has served on the Audit Committee and currently chairs the ESF Remuneration Committee.

We welcome Mr Paul Varty to the ESF Board as an independent member. Paul is no stranger to ESF having served on the Board and ESF Finance Committee from 2006 to 2014. During that time, he was also Chairman of the King George V (KGV) School Council and chaired the Committee of School Council Chairmen. Paul is an alumnus of KGV and his children were educated in ESF.

Appointments to the ESF Board are by election or in the case of independent members by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee comprises of two school council chairmen, a member of the Committee of Parents, one person active in the field of higher education and two persons from the business sector, nominated by the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and the British Chamber of Commerce. The Nominating Committee is now chaired by Leyland Sun, from the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

ESF Stakeholder Survey

The fifth ESF Stakeholder Survey will take place between 14 and 24 March 2016. The survey aims to find out about the impressions that parents, staff and students have formed about the education each of our schools provides. The feedback from the survey will help individual schools and ESF as a whole build on strengths and inform future planning.

Invites to participate in the survey will be emailed to stakeholders on 14-15 March. For parents, the invite will be sent to the priority contact. Your support in sharing your ideas, perceptions and experiences will be much appreciated.

ESF Annual Report 2014-15 is published

The ESF Annual Report 2014-15, with audited consolidated financial statements, is available on the ESF website [HERE](#). The Annual Report gives a summary of development in the main areas of our work organised under four key pillars; education, organisation, communications and finance.



Schools accreditation success

Please join us in congratulating Beacon Hill School and Kennedy School for receiving positive accreditation reports from the Council of International Schools (CIS). These reports continue to confirm the quality of education in ESF schools highlighting the positive school ethos, high quality learning experiences, commitment to inclusion and differentiated instruction in both schools.

CIS (Council of International Schools) and WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) has also completed their five year review in late February about Island School. The report describes Island School as a high quality and innovative school that is confident of its direction and with a clear vision for its future and enjoys a high degree of support from its stakeholders. It continues to highlight that the school enjoys stable, visionary and thoughtful leadership with a faculty and staff dedicated to the well-being and learning of their students. Students are described to be proud of their school and eager to attend under the strong governance provided through ESF and the School Council.

ESF proudly wins Global Innovation Award

21st Century Learning International (21CLI), an organisation which recognises excellence in teaching and learning, has announced the winners of their Global Innovation Awards (Patron sponsor Pearson).



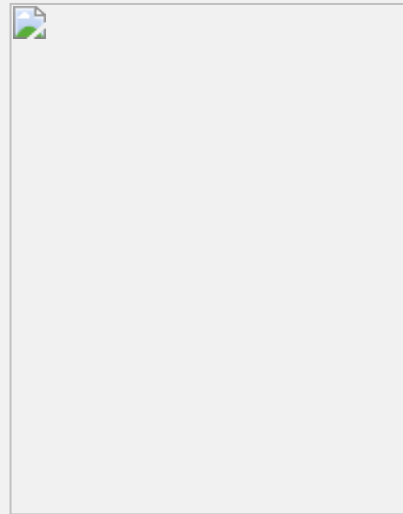
Dr. Iain Checkland, ESF Director of Learning Systems Project, is the proud recipient of the Innovative Leadership Award recognising the significant contribution he has made to students' learning through the innovation work that he has led both in KGV and across all ESF schools.

The awards were presented at the 21st Century Learning Conference on 20 February 2016. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Island School Redevelopment Update

The Island School redevelopment process is expected to start in August 2017, with the necessary government decisions and processes completed. To keep parents, staff and students informed of the progress of key events, we have developed a dedicated [website](#) for the Island School redevelopment with main headlines and FAQs.

A newsletter has been issued starting from this month to provide a regular update. All parents of Island School and some ESF primary schools and all ESF staff will receive this newsletter. The March issue can be viewed [here](#). Click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the newsletter.



900 primary students participate in Agents of Change Conference



The 2nd "Agents of Change" conference was successfully held on Friday, 26 February 2016, at Kowloon Junior School. The event gathered representatives from over 20 NGOs, including Ark Eden, Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR), Christian Action, UNICEF and Food Angel, to share stories about their work and how to take action to make the world a better place.

Over 900 of our Year 5 and 6 students have participated and walked away with wider perspectives. Some pledged to help refugees, while some promised to finish off their plates every day to avoid food waste.

Discovery College welcomes new Head of Secondary

Discovery College (DC) appointed the new Head of Secondary, Mr James Smith. He is currently in the position of Vice Principal at KGV where he has led the introduction of the school's middle school curriculum over the past five years. He has also had responsibility for student wellbeing and support and the development of learning systems.

James will begin work at DC on 2 May 2016. He fills the position held by Mr Andy Kai Fong, who left in December to return to New Zealand.

ESF teachers featured in the latest issue of IB Review

Four ESF teachers were featured in the latest issue of IB Review. They are namely Paul Letters from KGV (The Nazi-Soviet Pact), Jennie Wathall from Island School (Concept based learning in Mathematics), Chris Taylor (The world studies extended essay) and Sian May (The pursuit of happiness) from Sha Tin College (STC).

Cameron Tucker, a STC alumnus, also has a feature article – ‘A career in journalism’. Cameron graduated from STC in 2011 and currently returned from the UK to work at RTHK.

Biggest ESF University Fair ever

Over 150 universities participated in the ESF University Fair at Island School this year. They came from Hong Kong, China, Japan, Singapore, UK, Ireland, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Over 1,100 Year 12 students joined the event.

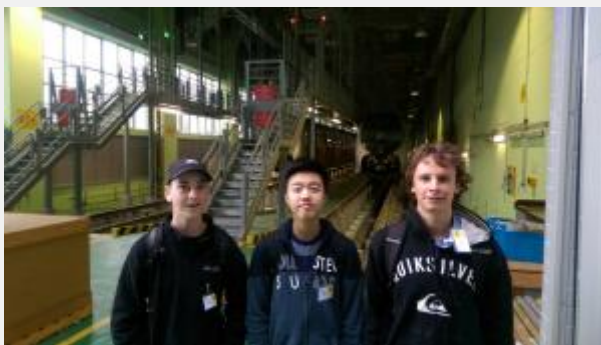


Applied Learning workshops for Year 12 students

The Applied Learning Pathway includes an opportunity for students to visit higher education establishments. This year 150 ESF Year 12 students attended workshops which provided a chance for them to experience different types of higher education courses. They included:

- Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) School of Business (in business);
- the Hotel Icon, PolyU School of Tourism and Hotel Management (in hotel management);
- Hong Kong Culinary Academy (in food preparation);
- Raffles International College (in interior design and fashion);
- SCAD Hong Kong (in sequential art and fashion); and
- International Academy for Film and Television (in video production).

In addition, Hong Kong Sports Institute opened their Sports Science Laboratory for BTEC sport students and the MTR opened their maintenance depot at Pat Heung for the BTEC engineering students.



World Academy of Sport visits ESF secondary schools

ESF is seeking accreditation from the World Academy of Sport. This would enable us to offer students who are elite athletes a more flexible approach to achieving the IB Diploma.

ESF Jazz Fest 2016

The annual Hong Kong Jazz Family Fest 2016 ran on 22 & 23 January 2016. The two-night charity event gathered over 50 Hong Kong's finest jazz musicians and successfully raised about HK\$200,000. The proceeds will be used to support students and people with special educational needs (SEN) at Jockey Club Sarah Roe School and other organisations.



ESF teachers won cricket match

Over the CNY break, a team of ESF teachers brilliantly outplayed a cricket match against the Hong Kong Cricket Club Taverners.



CNY celebrations across ESF



Schools from across ESF came together to celebrate the Year of the Monkey on Friday, 5 February at King George V School. Click [HERE](#) to browse the event photos.

ESF Spring Camps

ESF Sports, and Language & Learning will be organising for spring camps over the Easter school holidays. The ESF Sports Camps and Clinics will run 29 March to 2 April and 5 to 9 April at Kowloon Junior School, Renaissance College and South Island School. Swimming clinics are also offered at Australian International School Hong Kong.

ESF Language & Learning Spring Camps will provide language courses in English and Spanish to engaging special interest classes such as Coding, Cooking, Art and Drama. Click [HERE](#) to enrol.

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The next ESF News will be published in June 2016

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