

**DEC 2019 -
JAN 2020**

**BURAPA
PATTANASART
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**

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SPOTLIGHT

My experience with IGCSE's

I started my IGCSEs later than I should have. I had no idea what they were until I joined BPIS (B.E.S.T back then) towards the end of year 10. Leaving me with less time than I should have had to get through them. If there is one thing I would recommend to new year 10 students, it is this: get at least one IGCSE out of the way in year 10. It will make year 11 that much easier

(English or Maths may be good options)

I chose to get English and History out of the way as my first two IGCSE's.

While I got a decent score for English, I performed far below my expectations for History. Perhaps it was complacency, not enough detail, or lack of proper understanding and knowledge of the way the examiners wanted the questions answered in the first place. I had to learn this the hard way.

This brings me to my second piece of advice: Make sure you know how you need to structure your answers (how they want your answer to look like), and just because you may be getting decent scores for your examinations at BPIS, does not mean they are representative of your success during the real thing (although, they can be a good indicator of your ability and future potential with a subject).

Finally, as I go through my A-Levels (don't worry, you won't have to suffer through those just yet) there is something I must remember, and perhaps something you should too:

Always focus on the big picture, the things that are really important. The things that matter.



TABLE TALK WITH MR. TOM MOWBRAY

“Can you share with us your educational background?”

-I did O levels, Maths, English Language, French, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Geography, Statistics and English Literature. For A levels I took Computer Science, Maths and Geography.

“What is your teaching experience?”

-I taught in Hungary for 9 years, it was a language school. Then we made our own school, I taught in a college and two universities. Went back to England to teach in Doncaster, left to Thailand and taught in Regents for 4 years. Moved to Taiwan and taught in Taipei for 10 years.

“What would you be if you weren't a teacher?”

-I would be a problem solver.

“What's the best/ worst thing about being a teacher?”

-The best thing is working with students and having a good laugh, the worst thing is stress from work

“What is your first memory of this school?”

-I remember when I came here in the summer and everything was empty then I met Dr.Ulai and thought this would be a nice little school.

“How do you think students will remember you and your class?”

-I want them to remember me as nice but strict, I also hope they learn a lot from me.

“What are your ‘must have’ smart phone app/s?”

-I use Facebook along with messenger, calendar, banking apps, WhatsApp and Thai immigration apps.

“If you could grow up in any decade, what would it be?”

-In the 70's or early 80's but for my mom it would be the 50's when she grew up.

“Are there any embarrassing teaching moment/s you're willing to share?”

-When I tell students to click this and type that and this should happen but it doesn't work. That's the difficult thing about IT.

“What advice can you give to your teenage self?”

-Don't procrastinate, save money and stay fit.

FEATURE STORY

BIG CAT (by Anet Shahnaz)

Have you ever heard about the beast of Bodmin Moor? If you haven't, then you are in for a treat! I, Nicole Panteli, was sent to a large remote area in the countryside where I used to live as a child to find out more about the so-called big cat that has been terrorizing the place.

The locals' crops and livestock had been destroyed by an unknown foreign predator and has continued its path of destruction for more than 20 years. I went to find out if the local farmers were still convinced that the damage to their crops was because of the big cat, and as I suspected they refused to believe it was a native animal due to the fact that it did not resemble a wild boar or a dog. Officials from a nearby zoo identified that the pawprints left in the mud on the moor were the tracks of a puma and a 20 second video had been released which had showed large cats roaming nearby that area. One of the locals had found four long stretch marks on one of their sheep caused by the wild cat and claimed to have found hairs which he sent off to investigate but unfortunately received no results.

After all the research and interviews I had with the locals I decided to test it for myself. One day as I was driving through a narrow road in the moor trying to find any other evidence or tracks from the cat I suddenly saw a large black cat which was passing by in a fluid manner. Its great yellow eyes were staring at me and I felt terrified. It had short, coarse black fur and a long snake-like tail. I had heard tales and rumours about the creature as a child but never expected it to be true. It hurried back to the sea of trees in less than a moment while I sat in my car in absolute shock.

I believe the locals would continue to believe that the beast is real unless solid proof of the culprit is presented to them. I think there is truth to it as the considerable evidence shown was proved accurate, but I am not certain. What I had seen might have been just my imagination. It could all just be a myth told to children and foreigners to scare them and nothing more. But I won't give up! I will continue to solve this mystery no matter the cost.

PATTAYA UNITED INTERACT CLUB

1. Launching of the club

Pattaya united Interact Club was created with the volunteers of our school to help the people and make their lives brighter. And our sponsors Rotary Club Eastern Seaboard and Rotary Club Dolphin Pattaya are supporting us in many ways possible. We plan to work on projects such as donations, teaching English to Cambodian & Burmese migrants, planting trees, cleanups and many more things to help our world.

2. Donation

The first project initiated by the Interact Club was collection of old stuff to donate to a Karen Village in Tak Province. We appreciate the students, teachers and community partners who participated in the activity. The donations were collected by Rotary Club members on Saturday 14th December. The donations will be loaded on a truck with those from different organisations in Pattaya.

3. Cleanup

On Saturday 11th January 2020 our school's Interact Club in Collaboration with Green Pattaya Foundation and the support of Rotary Club Eastern Seaboard and Rotary Club Dolphin Pattaya cleaned a bush area in Phratamnak Soi 4. Thirty (30) bags of rubbish were collected in an hour and a half of digging buried plastics from bushes and dried grass. The city cleaners came to take the rubbish.



ACTIVITIES

1. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our school celebrated Christmas with an end of the year party. There were performances from the students which consisted of dancing, fun quizzes and comedy! Most importantly, we also had a performance from the teachers! They sang Joy to the World. After the performances we had free food then the students went up to their classrooms to exchange gifts.

2. UK BEBRAS CHALLENGE

This competition is an international initiative aiming to promote informatics, computer science or computing and computational thinking among students of all ages. Participants are usually supervised by teachers who may integrate the Bebras challenge in their teaching activities. The challenge is performed at school using computers or mobile devices.

-November 11th to 16th is worldwide Bebras' week (countries can start doing the challenge also the week before)

-In our school, every student took part on the challenge and four students are going to the next round, Kirill Y11S, Jenny Y8, Alex Y8 and Ella Y8. The highest score is by Alex Y8 at 160+ points.

3. LANGUAGE MONTH

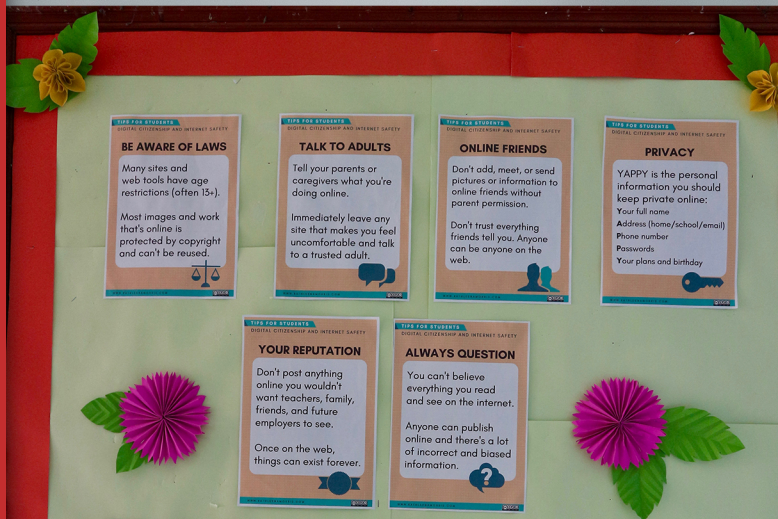
The English department has provided an opportunity for senior secondary students, namely the ones who are doing their AS and A levels, to be able to demonstrate their oral skills and prowess during morning assemblies. To this end, the students are expected to muster up all their efforts in preparing themselves to deliver speeches which are excerpts of prose and poems by literary figures. In addition, they raise questions as regards English issues and facts to involve and enlighten the other students in the audience which all last no more than a minute!

4. COMPUTING MONTH

January is our computing month. Students of different years have a presentation about interesting topics such as the binary system. Educational posters were put up in our corridors as well.

5. NUTRITION ACTIVITIES

On the last week of January, our students participated in a couple of activities organised by teachers to promote health and nutrition. KS3 students showcased their art skill through a poster making competition and every year level joined the cooking competition, with broccoli as the main



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