

COGNITA

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Welcome to The Cog, our newsletter for all Cognita staff.

In this month's issue, we celebrate collaboration between our schools, provide updates on the latest site developments, interview members of the Cognita family, showcase the expert opinions of our educators and reveal some of the exciting activities taking place at our schools.

Advanced notice: our usual publication date is the first Friday of each month but our December issue will be a little later as we'd like to share photos and videos of what you're doing to celebrate Christmas in your schools and offices. Please send these as soon as you can to rebecca.hills@cognita.com.

For more information, check out the *News in Brief* section below.



Multi-school science project: Chile and Brazil

Year 11 pupils from Pumahue School of Chicureo, Chile together with pupils from PlayPen Bilingual Education, Brazil have conducted a science project that defies the restrictions of geography, sharing their experiences, results and conclusions online.

Antonio Reyes and Claudia Álvarez in Chile, along with Rodrigo Padilha in Brazil, pioneered this new collaborative learning experience, with two main aims of developing pupils' scientific thinking skills and generating intercultural interaction.

Between August and September 2017, pupils from both countries began their scientific research and collected data which they shared on a blog. The activity concluded with a video conference (pictured) through which students and teachers were able to interact, share and compare results.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this innovative project. It is wonderful to see our schools collaborating in such unique ways.



Dear Team – It's been another busy month and the stories and videos in this second issue of The Cog give a flavour of all that is happening around our group.

A few pieces really stand out to me. One of these is the [joint science project](#) between schools in Chile and Brazil. This spirit of collaboration can make a real difference for our students and also for our staff ~ as the '[People Growth Pineapple](#)' started by Drama Teacher Amy Percival at Stamford American Hong Kong shows. This simple idea is literally opening the door to peer support and development in the school. Like the joint science project, it's a brilliant idea that I hope you find inspiring too.

Finally, it's great to see more staff sharing practice and ideas on Twitter, as [Karen Pennock](#) from St. Andrews International School, Sathorn in Thailand explains. We're seeing more and more exchanges between colleagues using the #CognitaWay hashtag on Twitter ~ something positive we can build on. As ever, I welcome feedback and ideas from all colleagues. Please feel free to contact me directly on cjansen@cognita.com.

All the best, Chris

School Spotlight



New Pre-U Centre at BSB Castelldefels

The new Pre-University Experience Centre of The British School of Barcelona will be opened in Easter 2018.

The main aim is to shape 6th form students to be responsible for their own learning. This new concept combines the best of both A Levels and the IB Diploma.

The Pre-U experience is designed to meet three primary objectives: helping students mitigate the impact of joining university, creating a new learning process based on projects and teaching them about the real working world, with strong career guidance. The entire programme is designed to match the digital native students' needs in the 21st century.

The purpose-built, three-storey Pre-U centre will feature:

- Specially designed seminar and tutorial rooms
- Large library and research/self-study centre
- Social and external study areas
- Cafeteria
- Sports court

Students will also have access to specialist laboratories, art rooms, sports facilities, music rooms and the large theatre on the main school site next door.



Road safety results for Chilean schools

Last year, there were over 60,000 injuries and 1,500 deaths in Chile caused by road accidents, the highest in the last eight years. Road traffic accidents have become the number one cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 14 years.

Our Pumahue and Manquecura schools in Chile have received much positive attention and press interest over the past year for their innovative approach to road safety in direct response to the rising number of accidents.

Andrea Correa, Rector of the Pumahue School of Chicureo, explains:
"The prevention of these accidents requires a permanent modification of behaviour from an early age in both drivers and pedestrians. We therefore decided to embark

on an ambitious road education programme in our Pumahue and Manquecura schools by creating the first children's 'road parks' in Chicureo and Temuco."

You can see the road parks in action by watching this video of a Chilean broadcast news feature.



New Nursery for St Margaret's Prep

This month, the new nursery at St. Margaret's Prep School in the UK officially opened. Situated in a former coach house and stable block, set in seven acres of parkland, the nursery caters for children from two years of age.

Two former small rooms have been combined to create one large, open plan space which is flooded with natural light thanks to a cleverly designed 'gull wing' roof and large floor to ceiling windows which open onto two outdoor play areas.

You can find out what it's like to work at St Margaret's Prep in our *Cognita Faces* section below.

Cognita Faces

In each issue of *The Cog* we will introduce you to members of the Cognita team working in schools and support offices around the globe.

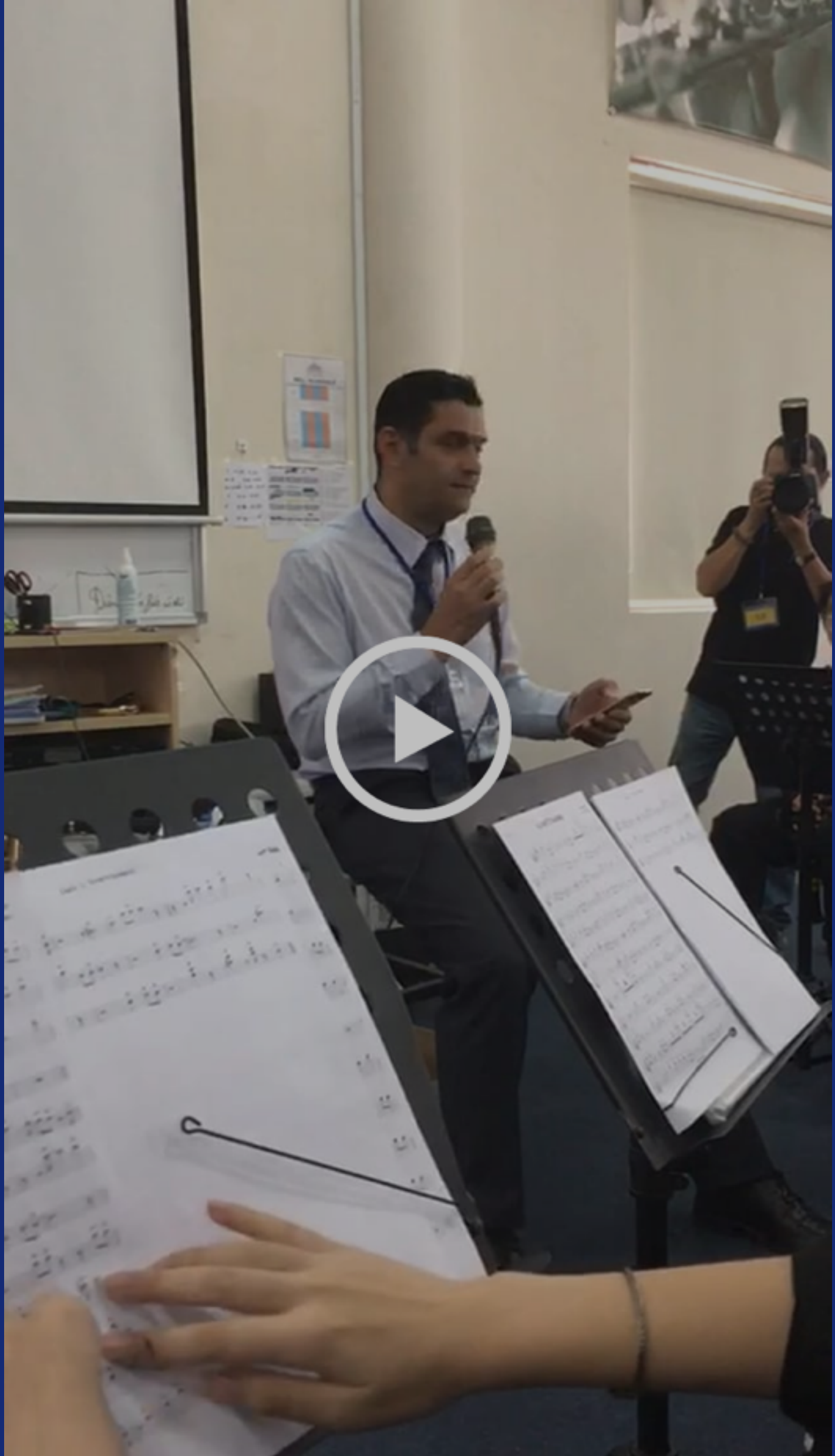


At the Cognita LatAm Conference 2017, Audrey Piccioli Xavier, an Early Years teacher at Playpen Bilingual Education in Brazil, was chosen as the the winner of the Teaching/Preschool award.

In this short video, Audrey tells us the best thing about working at Playpen and how she can't ever truly switch off from her day job.



Many of you will have spoken to Lisa Styles, PA to Cognita's CEO and CFO, if you've called or visited Cognita's London office. In this short video, Lisa talks about why she loves working in central London and what motivates her.



Lester Stephens is Head of School at St Andrew's International School, Saigon Pearl

(ISSP) in Thailand. You can get to know Lester through his words below and this video of him singing with the ISSP school band.

"I have worked for Cognita since 2013. From 2013-14 I was Assistant Head of Upper Elementary at Australian International School (AIS), Singapore. From 2014-June 2017 I held the role of Deputy Head of Elementary at AIS and have been Head of School at ISSP since July.

"My role involves leading ISSP to be the best possible learning and community environment for the students, parents and staff. Developing a high performing, positive culture supported by the development and implementation of effective systems and structures summarises my role.

"The children are absolutely delightful. They are open to learning, are incredibly caring and respectful. The team and community make ISSP an exciting and challenging place to work. Vietnamese food and coffee is also amazing.

"Being a Kiwi (New Zealander) I take to heart some of the Maori proverbs. This proverb resonates with me and brings me a comforting reminder of why I chose Education as my career and life path."

He aha te mea nui o te ao

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.



Jayne Crowley, a Year 5 teacher and Head of English at St Margaret's Prep in the UK, talks about what makes her proud to be a teacher in this video.

Thought Leadership

Viewpoints from Cognita educators on Academic Excellence, Character Development, Global Perspective and Leadership.

[Reading for pleasure - a door to our future](#)

*Adolescents will need to read and write more than any other time in history, argues **Hollie Slater, Grade 1 teacher at International School Saigon Pearl (ISSP) in Vietnam.** The simplest way to ensure we raise literate children is to teach them to read and feed their imaginations.*



[Why I love noisy classrooms](#)

Research shows that children are most successful when teachers talk less, but the myth that a noisy classroom is an ineffective classroom prevails.

Brendan Pavey, Head of North Bridge House Senior School Hampstead in the UK, strives to dispel the myth.



[How teachers' passions inspire their students](#)

*Regardless of how tenuous the link, when teachers bring their own passions into the classroom, they can inspire students in unexpected ways. **Lucy Kitt, ICT Coordinator at Oakfields Montessori School in the UK** explains how her performance at Glastonbury Festival 2017 has nurtured a new appreciation for personalised learning in her students.*



#CognitaWTD revisited

Students created so many fantastic videos for World Teachers' Day – the creativity and energy was amazing! Several teams of students really took the idea to the next level by creating plot lines, directing their own films or including graphics. In the spirit of bringing a bit of #CognitaWTD into every day, we thought we'd celebrate these cinematic masterpieces by sharing a few more here.



Secondary students at the British School of Barcelona produced this creative short film with the message "appreciate your teachers". It's a must-watch.



There are lots of great things about this video by students at International School Ho Chi Minh City. We especially like the idea that teachers are "my school parents" – what a beautiful sentiment.



Some clever camera work by the students at Playpen Bilingual Education in Brazil made this World Teachers' Day video a joy to watch.

Star Speakers

SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUR TEEN

Student-led talks in Asia

Students took on the role of 'star speakers' at Stamford American International School (SAIS), Singapore in a parent event entitled "Social Media and your Teen".

Organised by the SAIS EdTech team, a group of 12 confident students took this opportunity to tell adults what it really is that makes teens tick and what they are honestly doing online.

The students presented with confidence and with total passion for a subject that they are true experts in. You can read a detailed write-up about the event by Craig Kemp, Head of EdTech at SAIS, on his blog, [here](#).

Parent talks in the UK

Health education expert Dr Aric Sigman visited North Bridge House (NBH) Nursery and Pre-Prep in October to give a talk to parents entitled "Parenting the demanding generation".

Christine McLelland, Head Teacher of NBH Nursery and Pre-Prep, said *"Dr Sigman's talk got to the heart of many of our shared concerns and provided parents with plenty of food for thought."*

The talk was the last in a series called "Worried about..." which looked at the issues that often cause the greatest levels of parent anxiety. Experts talked

about sleepless nights, managing screen time, body image and the pressures of physical appearance.



Learning from other education systems at the LatAm Conference 2017

In October, Instituto GayLussac hosted a conference for Cognita professionals in Latin American, celebrating their talents and identifying priorities for the future.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Deanna Margini, a teacher working with schools in the Reggio Emilia region of Italy. She spoke about the importance of listening to children and creating a dialogue with families.

Deanna also presented a project with children working in nature, showing empathy and immersion as strategies to be used by teachers.

News In Brief

We have had a lot to celebrate in recent months. Here are just a few recent highlights from around the group.



International exchange between Cognita schools

This month, the sixth instalment of an international exchange programme between Cognita schools will begin.

20 Chilean students will attend two UK Cognita schools – North Bridge House Senior School & Sixth Form Canonbury and North Bridge House Senior School Hampstead.

They will spend five weeks as students of these schools, immersing themselves in the British curriculum. This programme also offers a fantastic opportunity for the development of the teachers who accompany the students.

To find out more, [click here](#).



Reading with pugs at North Bridge House Preparatory School

Following a report by *The Independent* newspaper on how dogs could make children better readers, Brodie Bibby, Head of North Bridge House Preparatory School in the UK, has introduced his pug, Matatu, to the school.

Brodie said: “On the surface this activity may seem like something cute and trivial, however we are finding that having Matatu there in the classroom enables our pupils to apply their reading skills in a positive and enjoyable way. Having the dog there is allowing them to experiment with tone of voice and to take their time over potentially difficult words in a calming and motivational environment.”

Does your school have any examples of the positive influence of animals? Let us know for the future issues of The Cog.

ISA Awards for Southbank

Congratulations to Southbank International School Hampstead for being shortlisted for two ISA (Independent Schools Association) Awards in the following categories: *Excellence and Innovation in Language Provision* and *Music Arts*.

The winners will be announced later this month.





St Andrew's International School, Green Valley at the Malaysian Grand Prix

Kane Shepherd, a Year 12 student at St Andrew's International School, Green Valley put on a fantastic display in Malaysia, racing alongside the Formula 1 Grand Prix.

Part of the F1 weekend, the F4 series features young drivers progressing towards Formula 1. More than 20 students and staff from the school had the privilege of watching Kane up close, with a view from above the pit lane.

Kane's final finishing position for the weekend was second which, for his first proper race in the series, was better than anyone could have expected. He is definitely "one to watch" for the future.



"People Growth Pineapple" in Hong Kong

Amy Percival, a Drama teacher at Stamford American School - Hong Kong, has introduced a People Growth Pineapple to the school to promote collaboration and feedback.

Amy made one for each of the teachers so that when a teacher wants to invite others to visit their class, either for a few minutes or an entire lesson, they hang the pineapple on their door. If someone wants to visit, they look for a pineapple, observe, pick-up some new ideas and offer some informal feedback.

The Stamford team will be sharing examples of the pineapple in action using #CognitaWay on Twitter so do keep an eye out and let us know if you're inspired to try something similar in your school.



**CAMBRIDGE | INNOVATION
STRATEGIES | 800**

Cognita featured in Cambridge University's Innovation 800

We are proud to feature in the *Innovation 800*, a Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) publication celebrating the university's 800-year rich and varied history.

Cognita is featured in the section entitled *A world class education*. The article covers bilingual learning, the use of virtual reality in the classroom and bringing students of different countries together to learn as examples of innovation in Cognita schools.

To find out more and read the article in full, please [click here](#).



Elephants inspire Book Week at St Andrew's

During St Andrew's International School, Sathorn's Book Week, students learnt about the social enterprise 'Elephant Parade' through various activities.

Children spent time reading the story of 'Mosha', an elephant severely injured by a land mine in Cambodia and were fortunate to receive a donated elephant (pictured) from a parent. They chose to decorate it with miniature people to represent the school's diversity.



A new direction for outdoor education in Singapore

October saw the official launch of the new Australian International School (AIS) Outdoor Education Program.

Challenging, exciting and thought-provoking experiences will be on offer under the leadership of AIS's new Head of Outdoor Education, Cameron Barry.

Extending learning well beyond the classroom, students will venture into natural environments, both in Singapore for the youngest students and further afield in Malaysia and Thailand for older students.

Call for Christmas contributions

The December issue of *The Cog* will be a celebration of Christmas activities in your schools and offices.

Whether it's an event, visitors, celebrations or just enjoying the season, any and all examples of Christmas cheer are welcome.

If you'd like to be included, please send your photos and videos to rebecca.hills@cognita.com.



Get Social

Are you connected to Cognita and our schools on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn?

Karen Pennock, Head of St. Andrews International School, Sathorn, says: *"After training from Chris Wigham, our STEAM lead teacher, staff soon caught on to the power of Twitter. In the short time we have been tweeting, it has already proved to be a fantastic source of new research and collaboration between staff and schools."*



You can see lots of updates and news from our schools on social media. There's even a #CognitaWay hashtag on Twitter! Be sure to check it out. Just click on the links below and join the conversation.



Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

The Cog is co-edited by Mags Kubicek, Cognita's Director of Communications, and Rebecca Hills, Communications Manager. We welcome any feedback and ideas.

Please contact either of us on margaret.kubicek@cognita.com or rebecca.hills@cognita.com.

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Cognita Schools
5&7 Diamond Court
Opal Drive, Eastlake Park
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK15 0DU
United Kingdom

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