

COGNITA

An inspiring world of education



Dear Team –

Welcome to the first edition of *The Cog* for 2018! May I start by wishing all of you a very Happy New Year and the very best of luck for the year ahead. I always think that the start of the year is a great time to reflect – on last year and also the year ahead...

Overall, 2017 was a great year for Cognita. This was driven primarily because the quality of education that we are providing to the students in our care continued to improve all the time. We say that a Cognita Education is focused on Academic Excellence, Character Development and fostering a Global Mindset. Certainly, from what we can measure we know we are making great progress. For example, our academic outcomes improved across 2017 in pretty much every single school in the Cognita family. This is an exceptional achievement and one I am very proud of. Thank you for all your hard work.

In 2018 I really believe that we will see the continued improvement in the quality of education across all our schools. At our Heads Conference in November, Sir Kevan Collins (Chairman of the Cognita Educational Advisory Board) encouraged us to “be the best at getting better”. This is about having a desire to continuously improve, every day. Over the next 12 months we will see an increase in the sharing of the most effective practice and the best ideas from across the Cognita family of schools. This will be facilitated by the “Cognita Way” framework and the ambition of our people from within the organisation. Please do take the initiative to both share your great ideas and search for better ones.

We have an exciting year ahead – if you have any thoughts or ideas please don't hesitate to contact me at chrisj@cognita.com.

All the very best for 2018!
Chris



COGNITA

We're getting a new look

Over the last 12 months, we have held workshops with educators and non-educators across the Cognita network – in Asia, Latin America and Europe – to really understand what Cognita stands for and to talk about where we want to take our organisation. Our aim was to develop and nurture a memorable and motivating Cognita brand that brings a modernity and clear direction for Cognita in the future.

In response to the workshops, a new logo and branding have been developed. In November, they were previewed at the Global Education Conference.

The new branding has been developed to support and complement our individual school brands and will be rolled out over the course of this year, with launch events being held across all of our regions during the next 3 months.

Cognita Collaboration



SolarBuddy schools partnership

Caroline Ratcliffe, Head of St. Andrews International School, Dusit has led the development of a groupwide initiative following her school's work with SolarBuddy.

SolarBuddy's goal is to end the cycle of energy poverty for marginalised communities throughout the world via school education programmes that raise awareness and educate about the benefits of renewable energy.

Keen for her colleagues in Cognita schools to get involved, Caroline linked up with Tim Hoyle, Head of Quinton House School, and the Cognita collaboration has grown to include the following schools:

Instituto GayLussac, Brazil

PlayPen Bilingual Education, Brazil

Australian International School, Singapore

The British School of Barcelona, Spain

St. Andrews International School, Green Valley, Thailand

St. Andrews International School, Dusit, Thailand

International School Saigon Pearl, Vietnam

King's School, UK

Oakleigh House School, UK

Long Close School, UK

Quinton House School, UK

Huddersfield Grammar School, UK

To learn more about SolarBuddy, watch the video above about how our schools'

involvement started with St. Andrews International School, Dusit.

Caroline is currently planning a SolarBuddy "Light Up Learning" event in 2018 so, if you are interested in finding out more, please visit these [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) links, or contact Caroline for further details: caroline.ra@standrews-schools.com.

School Spotlight



New Secondary Campus for ISHCMC

International School Ho Chi Minh City (ISHCMC) in Vietnam has opened a Secondary Campus this month, on 10th January.

Adrian Watts, Head of School at ISHCMC, said: "This excellent facility is certainly something that we should be proud of having built and I am confident that once it is full of students it will be the home of one of the most vibrant learning communities in Asia. It will provide students with plentiful opportunities to discover who they are and flourish as learners."

During the Christmas break, ISHCMC also began work to enable a renovation of the Primary Campus to meet the same high standard as the new Secondary Campus.



Downsend School expansion

Downsend School in the UK is set to expand to include a Senior School from September 2020.

The new Senior School will educate girls and boys up to Year 11, seeing them through the completion of a new 3 year GCSE Programme. The development builds on Downsend's track record as an established preparatory school with strong academics alongside character development and wellbeing, particularly in the areas of sport and the performing arts.

"Over recent years, so many of our parents have expressed genuine sadness that their children could not continue at Downsend beyond Year 8," says Ian Thorpe, Headmaster at Downsend. "We are delighted to remedy this and immensely proud to be bringing about this next phase of Downsend School's history."



ISSP Library and Conservatory development

International School Saigon Pearl (ISSP) in Vietnam has embarked on an ambitious redevelopment, beginning with its Library. The whole school community was invited to contribute and inspired the designs that will allow for rich and authentic learning.

The Early Education Library for children 18 months to 4 years old will open this month (January 2018), followed by the Conservatory in February. The remodelling of the Elementary Library (for children 5 to 11 years old) will begin during the summer break in preparation for students to return in August for the 2018-19 academic year.

To watch a 3D visualisation video for each of the libraries, please click on the following links: [Early Education](#) and [Elementary](#).



More space to learn at GayLussac


To meet the need for more space and to accommodate new curriculum developments, construction is underway at Instituto GayLussac in Brazil. The opening of the new building will take place on 7th February 2018.

Space is fundamental in the educational environment because it provides children with the freedom to play, create and learn. There will be a new sports court and large vegetable garden on the roof with fantastic views, as well as a new industrial kitchen and cafeteria which are integral to the development of a cooking class at the school.

Graça Regent, Pedagogical Manager of the GayLussac Kindergarten, said: "It's very interesting to observe this construction. The long, narrow site, with a very old house in the middle, will be, from now on, the scene of many other stories carried out by children, who with their natural curiosity, will have opportunities to develop and learn in harmony with the new environment."

Cognita Faces

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





Sarah Bramall is Key Stage 1 Phase Leader at Colchester High School in the UK. In this short video, Sarah tells us about the best advice she's ever received and her favourite part of each school day.



Why I tweet

James Carroll, Assistant Director of Education, Europe, explains how he uses Twitter to engage with and learn from colleagues in schools around the world.

Are you following Cognita on social media? Have you connected with the 130+ Cognita educators on [our list](#) of Cognita teachers on Twitter? Just click on the links below and join the conversation.



Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn

Thought Leadership

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

[Why should anyone learn a foreign language?](#)

Amy Melton, Grade 1 teacher at the International School Saigon Pearl (ISSP) in Vietnam, shares her experience of working with multilingual students and considers the many benefits of learning a second language.

amymelton@issp.edu.vn



[Moving away from ability grouping.](#)

There has been much debate about the pros and cons of teaching students in classes determined by their 'ability'. Claire Jepson, Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning at Meoncross Upper School and Sixth Form in the UK, shares her experience of teaching mixed ability classes at GCSE level and the outcomes of that trial.

Claire.jepson@meoncross.co.uk



News In Brief

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



Cognita schools in Chile and the UK join forces for a student exchange

At the end of 2017, the sixth instalment of an international exchange programme between Cognita schools saw 20 Chilean students attend two Cognita schools – North Bridge House Senior School & Sixth Form Canonbury and North Bridge House Senior School Hampstead – in the UK.

They spent five weeks as students of these schools, fully immersing themselves in the British curriculum. At weekends, they took part in sporting events and cultural tours, such as visiting London and its historic monuments.

"For the Chilean students the visit to London is the trip of a lifetime, an incredible learning and growing up experience in a totally foreign culture," said Stuart Rolland, Chief Executive, Europe. "For the British students, they benefit from an astonishing influx of vibrant Latin American youth, laughing and singing, playing guitar and generally lifting the clouds from the London winter.

"The trip is a joyful kaleidoscope of global cultures and opens the students' eyes to the wider world and the opportunity to build relationships and have experiences beyond their own shores."



SAIS Techsperts at EduTech conference

Grade 4 and 5 student “Techsperts” from Stamford American International School (SAIS) in Singapore were invited to speak at the EduTech Asia Conference. The Techsperts are a select group of SAIS students who have a passion for educational technology and integrating this into their school life.

400 educators from around Asia attended the session to hear about the integration of virtual reality in the SAIS curriculum and the students modelled how they use it.

The students described the chance to present at such a big conference as “a once in a lifetime experience” and their accompanying teachers were incredibly proud of how well they performed in front of such a big crowd.

Duncombe School earns the NACE Challenge Award

Congratulations to Duncombe School in the UK for achieving the NACE Challenge Award in recognition of school-wide commitment to high quality provision for more able learners.

Duncombe School completed a detailed self-evaluation using the NACE Challenge Framework, submitted a portfolio of supporting evidence and underwent assessment by a NACE associate.

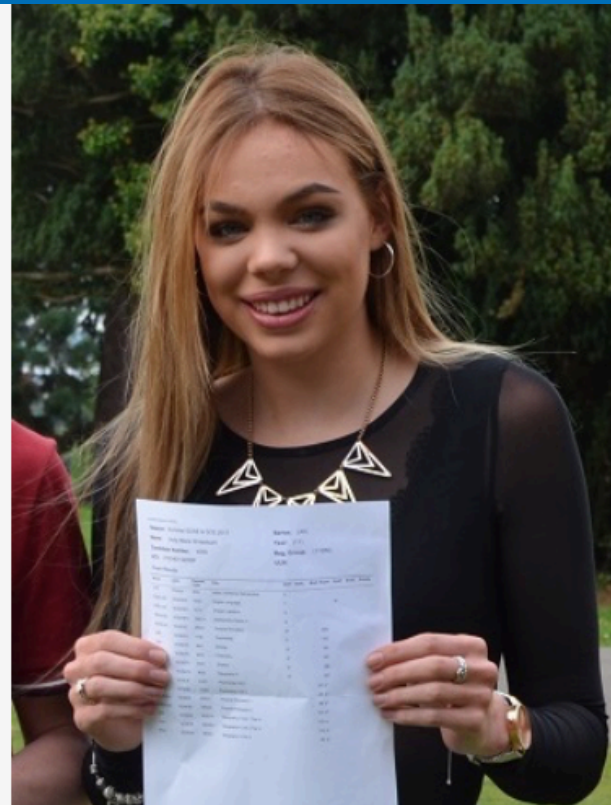
Simon Camby, Group Director of Education, says, “We are delighted that Duncombe School has gained the NACE accreditation. This accreditation is a great opportunity for the school to self evaluate, find strengths and work on development points. This process leads to an even better education for the students. This accreditation fully supports the personalised learning aspect of the Cognita Way.”



Quinton House students win Whitbread Memorial Prize

Ella Milner and Holly Winterburn from Quinton House School in the UK have both been highly commended in the Whitbread Memorial Prize category of the 2017 Independent Schools Association (ISA) School Awards.

Tanya Goody, Deputy Headteacher at Quinton House School, said: "The Whitbread Memorial Prize recognises and celebrates outstanding involvement in, and service to, wider aspects of school and community life; in conjunction with achieving academic excellence in GCSE results. This achievement will be something that they can use in future on their university applications and CVs."





SAIS community service in Cambodia

The Academic Field Studies programme at Stamford American International School provides students with learning experiences beyond the classroom.

This year, Grade 10 students raised the bar by travelling to Cambodia to learn from the locals and give back to the community. During their time in Cambodia, the students were inspired by organisations such as Cambodia Living Arts (CLA), who provide healing to a war torn country through music, and EPiC Arts, a dance troupe containing disabled persons.

The school is preparing to welcome both organisations to Singapore this Spring.

Maker Challenge Week at PlayPen Bilingual Education

At the end of 2017, students at PlayPen Bilingual Education in Brazil participated in the Maker Challenge Week to exercise their problem solving skills, imagination and creativity through a series of challenges.

Throughout the week, students enjoyed a range of different activities in the Maker Space, a room at PlayPen that stimulates students to develop projects and meet challenges using 3D printing, woodwork tools and others objects.

Elementary School students learned new skills – such as gardening and stop motion techniques – through practical workshops, while Middle School students faced a different challenge each day, including building and testing small objects through tournaments with one another.



"British Camp" showcases bilingual education in Chile

More than 700 children in Chile had the opportunity to participate in "British Camp" in December thanks to our Pumahue-Manquecura schools. The camp is for students aged 3 to 11 years and its main goals are to entertain, stimulate creativity, promote companionship and teach English in a playful and fun way.

Demonstrating the bilingual education model in Chile, all British Camp lessons use English as the medium of instruction and students are taught by bilingual teachers from the Pumahue-Manquecura Schools.



The Cog is co-edited by Mags Kubicek, Director of Communications, and Rebecca Hills, Communications Manager. We welcome any feedback and ideas. Please contact either of us on margaret.kubicek@cognita.com and/or rebecca.hills@cognita.com.

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