

COGNITA

An inspiring world of education



Cognita's Global Beach Clean

Groups of Cognita students from Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong, Singapore, Spain, Thailand and the UK have been cleaning up their local beaches and waterways as part of the Cognita Global Beach Clean. So far, 17 separate events have taken place in this global drive to remove plastic from our oceans, rivers and lakes.

A number of Cognita schools have taken the Beach Clean initiative to the next level by integrating it into different aspects of the curriculum – designing awareness posters (Instituto GayLussac, Brazil), creative writing projects (Meoncross, UK) and creating an ECO garden (Stamford American International School, Singapore).

If your school has begun cleaning up its local beach or waterways, please share your photos on Twitter using the hashtags [#CognitaGlobalBeachClean](#) and [#CognitaWay](#).

The Global Beach Clean continues to grow as an initiative and we want to involve even more schools from across the Cognita world. Thank you to Sarah Ebery and Sue Watson at Meoncross School in the UK for leading the Cognita Global Beach Clean. If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please email Sue.Watson@Meoncross.co.uk.



Dear Team – It's such an important time of year for so many of our students as 'exam season' gets underway for those sitting GCSEs, A Levels or the IB Diploma over the coming weeks. Good luck to everyone taking exams this year and thank you to all of our staff working hard to support them in achieving their best. I know there will be much to celebrate come results day as our graduates start the next phase of their educational journey.

Readiness for life beyond school was a particular focus at the British School of Barcelona last week with the formal opening of BSB Nexus, an exciting new educational model and base of learning for 16-18-year-olds. I was honoured to attend the event and see this exciting new pre-university centre in action. BSB Nexus represents educational innovation at its best: a top-quality academic experience rounded off by a programme of life skills and character development to prepare young people for the world. At the opposite end of the educational spectrum, last week saw us welcome our newest school to the group: Woodland Pre-Schools in Hong Kong. You can read more about both these stories below. Do keep your feedback and ideas coming.

Cognita Collaboration



Oakleigh House visit to BSB in Spain

The team at Oakleigh House School in the UK are keen to make the most of being part of the Cognita global family and the opportunities this brings. This includes taking Year 6 students to visit the British School of Barcelona (BSB) every summer; this year, on 22nd May.

The trip is an excellent opportunity for students to meet some of their Year 6 counterparts and is always a highlight of the pupils' time at Oakleigh House.

Are you planning or have you done something similar in your school? If so, we'd like to share it! Please get in touch via rebecca.hills@cognita.com.



AIS launches TeachMeet in Singapore

On 23rd April, more than 70 staff from 8 different schools in Singapore gathered at Australian International School's newly renovated Coral Dixon Theatre for the inaugural TeachMeet AIS.

The organisers, Secondary School English Teacher Carly Drysdale and Deputy Head of Secondary School Kalea Haran, were hoping for just 30 attendees so were blown away by the enthusiastic response.

TeachMeet AIS was set up to be a gathering of educators who are interested in sharing teaching strategies, learning resources and new approaches to education.

Volunteers presented their material to the audience in short 5-minute time slots explaining how their resource, strategy or approach has benefited their students.

Kalea Haran commented, *"It is so inspiring to have teachers from so many different schools coming to share their experience and expertise. The presentation style made the pace lively and energetic and there was even a surprise Lego activity which encouraged everyone to get creative and have fun. We have had really positive feedback from those that came and already have people signing up for the next one."*



Instituto GayLussac scoops prestigious NASA prize

Each year, the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge engages students in a prestigious international competition to create a vehicle that could traverse the simulated surface of another world. Close to 100 teams took part in the competition this year from as far afield as the USA, Brazil, Germany, India and Mexico.

The student teams designed, built and tested technologies that enable rovers to perform in a wide variety of environments, inspiring them to become NASA engineers of the future.

Together with students from Universidade Federal Fluminense in Niterói, Brazil, our team from Instituto GayLussac won the 'American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics - Neil Armstrong Best Design Award'. Congratulations to Alice Bezerra, João Victor Borges and their teacher Ricardo Viz.

School Spotlight



Welcoming Woodland Pre-Schools in Hong Kong to the Cognita family

Woodland Pre-Schools is the latest to join the Cognita family of schools in Asia.

For 40 years, Woodland Pre-Schools has set the standard for quality international pre-school education in Hong Kong. The schools are a gateway for many expat families who progress to international schools on the island.

The Woodland Pre-Schools group offers classes for more than 2,600 children aged between six months and six years across nine campuses, located across Hong Kong Island and in Sai Kung.

Michael Drake, CEO of Cognita Asia said: *“I am delighted to be welcoming Woodland Pre-Schools to the Cognita family. I also would like to thank Woodland’s founders, Lorraine and David Hughes, for their commitment to the education of the youngest children in Hong Kong over the last 40 years. As Cognita we are delighted to be able to bring forward the Woodland family in Hong Kong.”*

Woodland becomes our 69th school world-wide and our 11th in Asia.

You can find out more about Woodland Pre-Schools [here](#).



BSB Nexus opens in Spain

We were delighted to inaugurate [BSB Nexus](#), a new pre-university campus and the only one of its kind in Spain, at The British School of Barcelona last week.

The new centre provides a distinct educational model that not only educates students aged 16 to 18 academically but also helps them develop 21st century skills, including critical thinking, emotional intelligence, communication, and teamwork, to meet the demands of a fast-changing world.

The aim of BSB Nexus is to help students reach their full potential as they prepare for university and their future careers.



Recognition for the Early Learning Village

The Early Learning Village, Cognita's shared campus for children aged 18 months to six years old at Australian International School and Stamford American International School, has been selected as a finalist in two significant industry awards:

'Design of the Year' - President's Design Award 2017/18

'Most Transformational Collaboration' - Singapore International Chamber of Commerce Awards 2018

The Early Learning Village is also up for a further award next week at the Education Investor Asia Awards 2018.

Congratulations to the Early Learning Village project team!



A new home for St Nicholas Preparatory

St Nicholas Preparatory School in the UK has identified a new home for its school and nursery which it hopes to move into from September 2019. This will offer a bigger and more flexible learning environment.

A lease agreement with Imperial College London for four townhouses (pictured), just around the corner from the existing school site, has been finalised. Subject to planning approval, the new site will be refurbished to provide a very inspiring place to learn for St Nicholas Prep pupils.



Long Close School development project

Subject to planning permission, Long Close School in Slough, UK will begin an exciting new development this July.

“LCS Evolves” is designed to establish a learning village feel to the school site. This will provide additional sports facilities and learning environments to support Science, Technology, Innovation and the Performing Arts. The work will take place in phases over the next 18 months.

Melissa McBride, Head of Long Close School, said: *“We are immensely proud, and extremely excited, to be leading this next phase of Long Close School’s history, which will provide an inspiring educational experience for our pupils through Year 11.”*

You can find out more about “LCS Evolves” [here](#).

Cognita Faces



ISHCMC teacher takes the stage at IB Global Conference 2018

Taryn BondClegg, Studio 5 Learning Advisor at International School Ho Chi Minh City (ISHCMC) in Vietnam, was invited to speak at the recent IB Global Conference Singapore 2018.

Praising Taryn's talk, entitled 'Educators Shaping the Future', Adrian Watts, Head of School at ISHCMC, said: *"The presentation sent ripples around the IB community and started conversations that may disrupt the IB and make them think more about*

the future of their programme and the true meaning of student agency."

In this video, Taryn explains how Studio 5 works and why she feels it is so important for students to be given the opportunity to lead their own learning.



Latest from #CognitaInsider

Following the success of our first Twitter Takeover by Craig Kemp, we were excited to hand over our [@CognitaSchools Twitter account](#) to Clare Page ([@AWJSHead](#)) and Kara Dowson ([@karadowson](#)) at Akeley Wood School in March, and James Carroll ([@james_e_carroll](#)), Assistant Director of Education, Europe in April.

Clare and Kara shared insights into life at Akeley Wood Junior School and focused on key, topical educational issues, such as staff wellbeing. Clare said, *"We loved the Twitter takeover, we were delighted to have the opportunity to showcase our school. Our aim was for our content to be as child-led as possible as they are the best ambassadors for our school."*

James ensured he had a busy diary for his week as #CognitaInsider, packing in visits to Southbank International School, Downsend School and North Bridge House.

They tagged all of their posts with [#CognitaInsider](#) so you can catch up on their takeover activities by searching for the hashtag on Twitter.

Taking up the challenge next will be a team of teachers from St Andrews International School, Sathorn in Thailand from from 21st to 25th May.

If you'd like to be a future 'Cognita Insider', please email rebecca.hills@cognita.com or tweet us [@CognitaSchools](https://twitter.com/CognitaSchools).



Why I tweet

Tania Mansfield, PYP Coordinator at International School Ho Chi Minh City, explains why Twitter has been a "lifeline" for her and its immense value as a resource for developing professional networks.

Are you following Cognita on social media? Have you connected with the 175+ Cognita educators on [our list](#) of Cognita colleagues on Twitter? Just click on the links below and join the conversation.



Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn

Thought Leadership

[The fight against fake news should](#)

[start in class](#)

It's a mistake to avoid discussing current affairs with students, instead, the fight against fake news should start in class, says Danuta Tomasz, Assistant Director of Education, Europe.

danuta.tomasz@cognita.com



[Why is handwriting still so important in this day and age?](#)

The sense of pride in writing created by hand can be instilled in children from a young age, says Warren Honey, Headmaster of Hydesville Tower School in the UK.

warren.honey@hydesville.com



News In Brief





Oakleigh House School competes in Welsh Netball Finals

Congratulations to the Oakleigh House netball team who came fifth in the Welsh finals on 26th April. They won four of their matches, drew one and lost one – the first match they have lost all year. Almost 1,000 schools took part in the group stages so this is a tremendous achievement.

Rhian Ferriman, Head of Oakleigh House, said: *"I am so proud of them. They played really well and were great ambassadors for the school and Cognita!"*



St. Andrews Sukhumvit 107 student designs soft toy for IKEA

Congratulations to Chutirada Sujareerat from St Andrews International School Sukhumvit 107 in Thailand who has been chosen as a winner in IKEA's Soft Toy Drawing Competition.

Not only was Chutirada's "Red Monster" a winner, but it has also been selected to form part of a limited-edition soft toy collection that will be sold worldwide. Chutirada is delighted that her "Red Monster" is helping a good cause and for every soft toy sold, the IKEA Foundation will donate one Euro (39THB) to Save the Children and UNICEF.



King's School students graduate from The Children's University

The Children's University is a nationwide scheme in the UK where children are encouraged to take part in lectures and activities outside of school hours. Children are given a 'Passport to Learning' and in this passport, they record the hours of activities they complete.

On 18th April, six students from King's School in the UK attended a graduation ceremony at Plymouth University where they were presented their Gold Level certificates. Well done to them all.



Multiple national writing wins for our UK schools

Students from two Cognita schools in the UK have been recognised for the exceptional essay writing of their students by the Independent Schools Association:

- Eleanor Hill from Huddersfield Grammar School was awarded first place in the Horsey Junior Essay Prize Girls Competition. Judges said: *"This fine essay could almost be considered a homage to classic children's fantasy fiction"*
- Raphael Pendleton-Crane from Quinton House School was highly commended in the Max Gate Intermediate Essay Prize Girls Competition with her piece

'And that is why I shall never speak to her again'

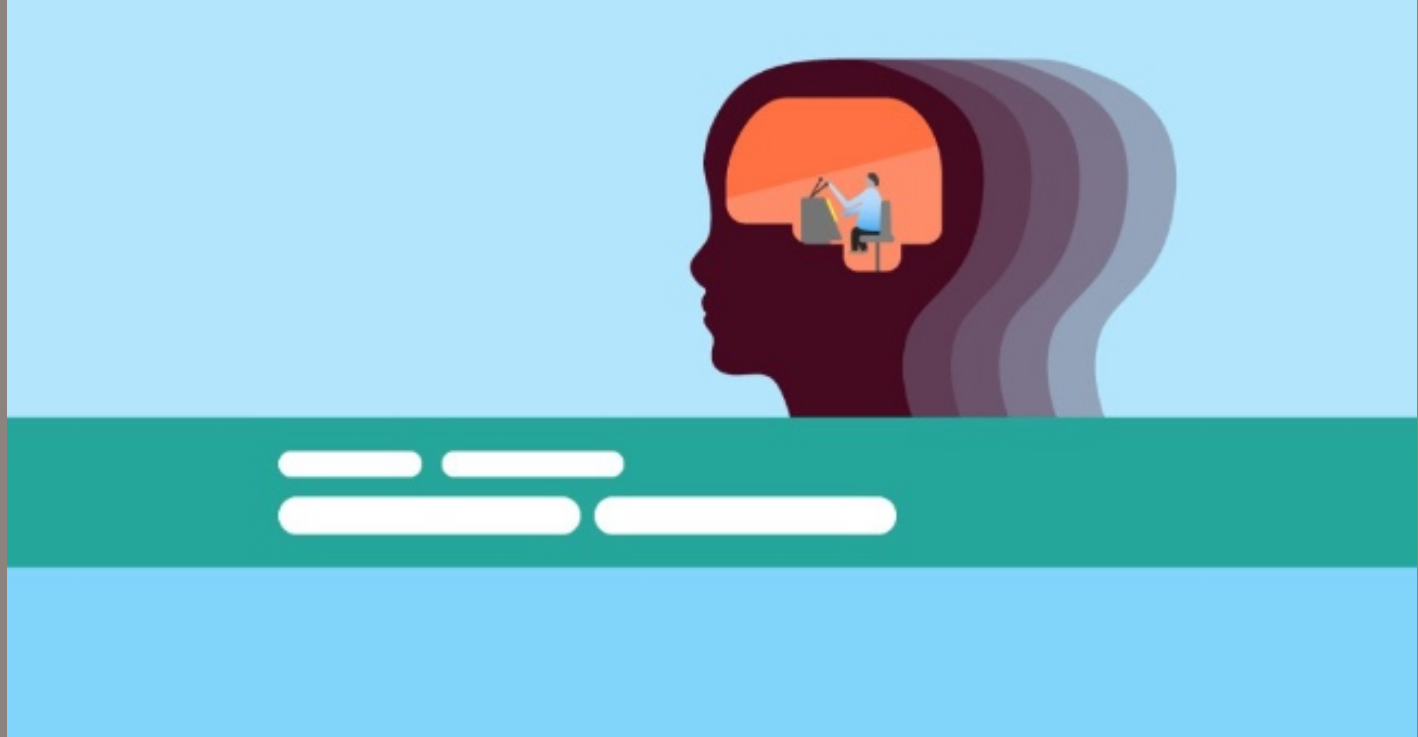
- Luke Hiorns-Boddington from Quinton House School was awarded the Sixth Form Essay Prize for Science for his *"timely essay: Antimicrobial Resistance – a scientific report"*



Meoncross School recognised for 'Learning Outside the Classroom'

Congratulations to Meoncross School in the UK which has been awarded the LOtC Mark, the first national accreditation for UK schools which recognises, and supports the development of, learning outside the classroom across all subject areas.

The LOtC Mark (Bronze) recognises those schools and settings which have an awareness of the benefits of providing frequent, continuous and progressive learning outside the classroom to all pupils. The award also recognises attempts to integrate LOtC into the life of the school, and a commitment to developing LOtC to enrich the learning of pupils.



Metacognition in the news

"I have yet to meet a teacher who doesn't think metacognition is important," so said Simon Camby, Cognita's Director of Education, in a recent [interview with Tes](#). "There is compelling evidence from a range of global sources that the effective promotion and teaching of metacognition impacts positively on the achievement of students."

Meanwhile, metacognition is the subject of a new guidance report by The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF): "Metacognition and self-regulated learning". Sir Kevan Collins, Chief Executive of the EEF and Chairman of Cognita's Education Advisory Board, is a leading light on this important theme for educators everywhere.

You can find the full EEF report, [here](#).

The Cog is edited by Rebecca Hills, Communications Manager. Please contact rebecca.hills@cognita.com with any feedback and ideas.

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