

COGNITA

An inspiring world of education



Global celebrations of academic excellence

There was cause for celebration in all of our global regions this summer as students collected their International Baccalaureate (IB), A Level, GCSE and IDEB results.

In July, Cognita schools offering the IB Diploma achieved a 94% average pass rate, significantly higher than the 78% average globally. 15% of Cognita students achieved 40 or more points which places them in the top 4-5% in the world. Of particular note are the students from Southbank International School in the UK and ISHCMC in Vietnam who recorded perfect scores, with a flawless 45 out of 45.

In August, at a time when A Level results saw a downward national trend, students in our British curriculum schools celebrated another successful year with results rising year-on-year. Students from Cognita schools offering the GCSE curriculum also celebrated in August, with an impressive 10% of all grades awarded at the

prestigious Grade 9 in the new reformed GCSEs, compared to 3% nationally (UK). One student at North Bridge House Senior School & Sixth Form Canonbury achieved nine GCSEs at the very highest Grade 9, as well as two A*s in unreformed subjects (those still marked under the former GCSE grading structure).

Instituto GayLussac celebrated another set of outstanding results by students in the IDEB – Basic Education Assessment Index of all schools in Brazil. Instituto GayLussac achieved the highest score in the State of Rio de Janeiro - 7.9 - with its 2018 results.

Congratulations to all staff and students on these exceptional results.



Dear Team –

After taking a break in August, The Cog has much to share in this latest edition. On the academic front, we had a sequence of IB, A Level and GCSE results come out over the summer in many of our schools. There was much to celebrate, so well done to the students for their hard work – *and the many colleagues who supported them to achieve their best. Once again, Cognita students are progressing to some of the world's leading universities. Meanwhile and also hot off the press, Instituto GayLussac in Brazil is celebrating another set of academic results in the IDEB, Brazil's key pre-university exam. The highest scoring school in the State of Rio de Janeiro, GayLussac continues to be a beacon of academic excellence nationally. Meanwhile, we've welcomed our 70th school to our global family – Santo Tomás in Chile. This is a fantastic school in a fantastic part of the world. We are excited by this growth, which continues in all regions and includes a new campus for IB Diploma students at Southbank International School in London.*

Finally, the summer concluded with exciting news about our future as a global group. I hope you all received my email message announcing our new owner, Jacobs Holding of Switzerland. Jacobs has a strong heritage in running successful organisations for decades. Through their charitable foundation, they also support and fund research and improvement programmes in the area of child development and education. With Jacobs as our long-term

partner for the future, we have much to look forward to in Cognita. Please do share any ideas or feedback you have – you can email me directly at chrisj@cognita.com.

All the best, Chris



New owner, new chapter

As announced to all our people in an email from Chris Jansen on 3 September, Cognita is to have a new owner: Jacobs Holding of Switzerland.

Patrick De Maeseneire, Chief Executive of Jacobs Holding, said: “We are very excited to join forces with Cognita and its management team. It has always been the aim of Jacobs Holding and the Jacobs Family to create global leaders in attractive markets, and therefore we are keen to support Cognita in its further international expansion. With this acquisition we are able to invest in education and the development of young people. These themes always played an important role for Klaus Jacobs, our founder, and are at the heart of the Jacobs Foundation, which is the sole economic beneficiary of our investments. In this sense and from the perspective of a long-term orientated investor, Cognita presents a very interesting opportunity to create value not only for Jacobs Holding but also for society.”

Chris Jansen, Chief Executive of Cognita, said: “We are extremely pleased to be entering a new and exciting phase with Jacobs Holding. We both share an ambition to help shape the future, by educating young minds to think globally, act responsibly and achieve their full potential. None of this would have been possible without Bregal and KKR. Together they have been great custodians of Cognita and have built a global and well-regarded company. We will forever be thankful for their foresight, belief and encouragement.”

To read the full story on Cognita.com, [click here](#).

Cognita Collaboration



Lighting Up Learning with SolarBuddy

Thanks to Caroline Ratcliffe, Head of St. Andrews International School, Dusit leading the development of a groupwide initiative to partner with the SolarBuddy charity, our schools and regional offices donated some 1,000 solar lights to marginalised communities throughout the world.

Our collective donation of solar lights has now reached the communities that needed them most. This is all thanks to our schools in Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Brazil, UK and Singapore who got involved in the Light Up Learning day.

The next Cognita Light Up Learning event is due to take place on 29th March 2019, to coincide with the WWF Earth Hour Day. We'll share more details of how you can get involved nearer the time.



Who will receive your #TeacherTribute?

World Teachers' Day (WTD) on 5th October is an annual celebration of teachers and the contribution they make in all parts of the world. We'd like to mark WTD throughout Cognita again this year by inviting our students, parents, alumni and colleagues to pay tribute to the teacher who had the biggest impact on them.

This only needs to be a 20-30 second video, filmed on a smartphone or tablet. Emotional, funny, serious tributes all are welcome. It could be the history teacher who made you think about becoming a teacher yourself, or equally the music teacher who introduced you to your favourite band!

On 5th October, please post your video(s) on social media using the #teachertribute hashtag and join our global celebration.



It's a family affair at Stamford American

We often describe our school communities as families, but at our Stamford American schools in Hong Kong and Singapore, this is literally the case. While having partners both working at the same school is reasonably common, there are some rarer family connections in the Stamford teams this year.

In Singapore, Stamford American International School's Monika Gopwani, who teaches nursery, has a sister working at Stamford American - Hong Kong. Trishna Harjani is a Grade 5 homeroom teacher there.

Also at Stamford Hong Kong, Erin Wesely, an art teacher, was joined by her mother Jean McBride, an EAL teacher, this year. They are both very excited to extend their connection and join the Stamford and Cognita families.

Do you know of any other interesting connections within the Cognita family? We'd love to hear your stories. Just email rebecca.hills@cognita.com and we could feature them in a future issue of The Cog.

School Spotlight



Welcome to Santo Tomás de Ñuñoa School

We are proud to announce that Santo Tomás School – located in Ñuñoa, Metropolitan Region, Santiago of Chile – has joined the Cognita family of schools.

The school was founded in 2007 as a continuation of the educational task carried out for 70 years by the Nuestra Señora del Carmen School, which was founded by the Carmelite Sisters in 1936. The school was part of the Santo Tomás Educational System, made up of eight schools, a University, a Professional Institute and a Technical Training Center.

Santo Tomás de Ñuñoa School has 1,326 students, 68 teachers and assistants, and 47 employees in the administrative area. It occupies a 6,778 square metre site, where there is a library, a scientific laboratory, a computer lab, a roofed gymnasium and a multi-use sports court, among other features.



Student agency in action at Sukhumvit 107

Children arriving at school on the first day of term rarely find bare walls and unorganised classrooms. But that is exactly what greeted them at St. Andrews International School, Sukhumvit 107 in Thailand – not because their teachers had neglected to prepare but because the school wanted to give them a practical lesson in metacognition.

Metacognition is increasingly recognised by educators as one of the most effective pedagogies in a teacher's arsenal. Yet getting children to reflect on and take charge of their learning - especially young children - isn't always easy.

So, the school's PYP Coordinator Carole Parker challenged students to organise their classrooms in a way that would encourage them to be a better learner. As you can see, the results were as diverse as the students themselves.



AIS turns back the clock

In celebration of its 25th birthday, the team at Australian International School (AIS) in Singapore have been sharing stories from 25 years ago. In a series of Facebook videos, they have asked various members of the team what they were doing in 1993.

You can discover stories by Andre Casson, Michael Drake, Rachael Symes and more on [the AIS Facebook page](#).

Cognita Faces



Ben Hine, Group Chief Information Officer

Ben Hine joined Cognita as our Group Chief Information Officer in November 2017.

In this short video, we asked Ben about his role and what he's working on now.



Why I tweet - Julia Hallett, Long Close School

Julia Hallett, Year 2 teacher at Long Close School in the UK, tells us why Twitter is her platform of choice for professional development and networking.

Cognita Schools @CognitaSchools · Aug 13

COGNITA

This piece of art was created at the opening of the ELV , it really captures the spirit of the ELV @ais_singapore . #CognitaInsider will be interactive this week, send me requests of what you would like to see at AIS.

@Adam88Patterson #WeAreAis #CognitaWay #LoveCareRespect



Latest from #CognitaInsider

It has been a fascinating couple of months for followers of Cognita on Twitter thanks to takeovers delivered by James Stenning (@NBHC_DeputyHead) and Adam Patterson (@Adam88Patterson).

Tweeting from the @CognitaSchools Twitter account for a week each, James showcased the activities taking place during a cross-curricula week at North Bridge House Canonbury in London, while Adam shone a light on the youngest learners at both Australian International School and the Early Learning Village in Singapore.

They both tagged their posts with #CognitaInsider so you can catch up on the takeover activities by searching for the hashtag on Twitter.

If you'd like to be a future 'Cognita Insider', please email rebecca.hills@cognita.com or tweet us @CognitaSchools. Join us on social media by clicking on the buttons below.



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Thought Leadership

Who benefits most from the “all-through school” model?

Carole Goodwin, Deputy Headteacher at Colchester High School in the UK, considers the advantages of the “all-through school” model for the parents, students and staff at Colchester High School.

carole.goodwin@colchesterhighschool.co.uk



Character development and the importance of building confidence at home

Lisa Olinski, Marketing Manager at Stamford American - Hong Kong, shares a compilation of tips for parents on helping build confidence in children.

lisa.olinski@sais.edu.hk



Smart Working

Connect, organise and grow

Cognita is growing all the time. We now have over 7,000 colleagues around the world. To reflect the active global group that we've become and our aim to be a great place to work, we are developing some groupwide tools and systems to provide better support for our people and to help us all focus on what matters most: creating an inspiring world of education. This work is also designed to encourage greater collaboration within our community, to help us all grow and develop our careers.

Over recent months, we've involved colleagues from a number of our schools and offices in the process of designing and testing these new ways of working. Testing is ongoing and, using a phased approach, we will be rolling out these new tools and systems over the next 18 months.

Chief among these is a new intranet (MyCognita) and people platform (CognitaPeople). MyCognita will provide a one-stop gateway for keeping updated with what's happening in our global family, collaborating with colleagues, accessing new learning and updating your HR and performance (Let's Talk) details – all online. Look out for more information on email and in your school or office over the coming weeks and months.

A team of colleagues from all regions in Cognita has been involved in developing our new ways of working. If you would like more information about the projects that are in development, don't hesitate to contact media@cognita.com and we will be sure to put you in touch with a colleague who can discuss further.

News In Brief



Heart Felt Tips for charity

Children at St Margaret's Preparatory School in the UK have been filling pencil cases with pens and art supplies to be distributed to people in the local community in need of some extra support.

Here they are starring in the video for the wonderful charity Heart Felt Tips.



Maths in action at #GayLussacNaICM2018

Work produced by students from Instituto GayLussac in Brazil was displayed at the International Congress of Mathematicians 2018, which was held in Brazil this year. Their work, an augmented reality experience that stimulates relief in a sandbox, was part of the Geometry and Imagination exhibition.

Vinícius Laier, one of the students involved in the project, said: *“They put our work right up at the front of the exhibition, alongside stands from Oxford and Cambridge - it was an honour!”*



Students showcase their 'Bright Ideas'

Having been crowned Welsh Regional Winners, Year 9 scientists from St Clare's School in the UK competed in the final of Shell's Bright Ideas Challenge 2018.

Their idea, to recover heat from hot water wastage and use this to generate electrical power, also won the 'marketability award', meaning one day their solution could be developed and implemented in offices, hotels and residential properties.



A summer to remember

A group of students from Quinton House School in the UK have spent their summer in Nepal, helping communities in need and having a great adventure.

They met the locals, painted classrooms, trekked in mountains 4000m above sea level and visited sacred temples.

Teachers who chaperoned the trip said: *"Of all the things we experienced, we learnt about ourselves. We learnt about what we take for granted, we learnt how lucky we are, we tried new experiences, and we learnt to appreciate what we have."*



ISSP gains prestigious accreditation

Congratulations to International School Saigon Pearl in Vietnam for gaining accreditation from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Accreditation status attests to ISSP's high-quality and integrity, and is awarded to schools that meet international standards in key areas such as Curriculum, Governance and Management, Student Support Services and more.

"Gaining accreditation is a demonstration of our commitment to delivering a high-quality international education in all areas of school life," explains Head of School Lester Stephens.

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

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