



## **Amnuay Silpa Bilingual School**

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Martin Clarke Head of Secondary School

**Date: November 2010**

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## **Parents Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

### **New Teachers**

This year we welcomed several new international teachers onto our staff including Ms. Anders (PE), Ms. Bowen (Drama), Ms. Cunliffe (English), Ms. Dixon (DT), Ms. Szifris (Maths), Mr. Barnes (ICT), Mr. Birch (Deputy Head and PE/Maths), Mr. Malik (Science) and Mr. Parry (English).

They have all settled in well and collectively made a very positive impact upon our school's learning environment.

Sadly we always at some point lose existing teachers and we were sad to see the departure of Mr. Theze our Head of English. Mr. Theze has decided to return with his family to the UK, and we wish them all the very best for the future.

### **The International Curriculum**

Despite a rather disrupted start to the academic year, it does promise to be a very significant one in terms of the development of both our bilingual and international programmes.

In May our Year 10 students successfully completed their Cambridge Checkpoint Examinations in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. Checkpoint is an end of Key Stage 3 international examination in which students sit three papers in each subject area. Taken by thousands of students worldwide, it is externally marked and graded in the United Kingdom. The majority of these students will be first language English speakers studying in International Schools, where the medium of instruction used is English. The grades achieved by our students in English compared well with the world average, and in mathematics and science was significantly above it.

Our current Year 9 students are preparing for their Checkpoint Examinations to be held next May, and we are confident that they will do equally well, or even better than last year's candidates.

At the same time Year 10 and 11 students sat IGCSE Examinations in English Language and Mathematics and again achieved results above the world average.

In May/June 2011 our Year 11 will be the first ever cohort of Amnuay Silpa students to take a full range of IGCSE subjects, up to nine subjects in some cases. Starting at the end of November all Year 11 students, and some Year 10 students will sit mock IGCSE Examinations. This is part of their preparation for the actual examinations, and also informs teachers whether students should be entered for either core or extended papers. Parents will be kept fully informed of these results and recommendations.

Our Key Stage 5 students in Years 12 & 13 have also been busy successfully passing the ICDL ICT Unit Examinations, and will be sitting Mock IELTS Tests in December.

## **Developments for next year**

Some exciting developments are planned for the next academic year

### **Full International Programme**

One of our Year 8 classes in the secondary school will be the first ever in the school's history to study a full international programme. Students in the class will still receive four Thai Language and Culture lessons each week, but otherwise most lessons will be studied through the medium of English.

Apart from the impact that the programme will have upon the student's English, they will have the opportunity to study another modern foreign language, plus the additional lessons will provide a much better foundation for IGCSE and A Levels.

In addition once they reach Year 10 the range of examination subjects that they study can be expanded to include Economics, Business Studies, Drama, PE and separate, rather than combined sciences.

### **Accelerated Language Immersion Programme**

This programme is specifically designed to help new students to the school who might otherwise find it difficult to fully access lessons taught in English.

Our past experience suggests that students who enter the school with inadequate English make much slower progress in a whole range of other subjects, than their peers.

The immersion programme is designed to improve the students reading, writing, comprehension and speaking skills in the shortest possible time.

With the exception of three Thai Language lessons each week, all other lessons will be in English. These lessons will cover a range of subjects, so that the students all round education is not ignored, but the emphasis at all times will be on the improvement of their language skills.

The Unit will be limited to a maximum of about 15 students at any one time, and will be staffed by a specialist teacher, experienced in running a language support unit.

As soon as a student is ready they will be filtered back into the mainstream curriculum and given in class support if necessary.

## **Other news**

The school ran a very successful trip to the UK for a party of Year 9-11 students during the July Half Term Holiday. We owe a big thank you to Ms. Boonto and Mr. Theze who put in an immense amount of work, both organising and accompanying the trip.

## **Dates for your Diary**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November School United Nations Day  
29<sup>th</sup> November-2<sup>nd</sup> December IGCSE Mock Examinations  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December Sports Day

## **Finally**

We are urging once again that parents ensure that their son or daughter reads regularly in English, and watches the World News and films in English. Reading and listening are important keys to improving language skills.