

MIS HAWKS NEWSLETTER



November & December 2025

A Message from Our CEO: Keeping Our Students Safe & Healthy Online

Dear MIS Community,

You may have heard in the news that Malaysia is considering new measures around social media access for young people. This important discussion highlights a concern we all share: how to ensure our children navigate the online world safely.

As your Head of School, I want to talk about how we can work together on this. Technology is a wonderful part of modern learning, opening doors to creativity and knowledge. But, like any tool, it needs to be used wisely. Protecting our students is a team effort, and here are a few ways we can partner to support them:

Keep the Chat Open

Please encourage your child to talk. Whether it's with you at home or with a teacher or counsellor here at school, knowing they have a trusted adult to turn to makes all the difference. Try to chat about their online world without judgement - it opens the door for them to share worries.

Set Kind, Clear Boundaries

Not every app or game is right for every age. It helps to check age ratings and use privacy settings. Agreeing on which apps are okay, and when devices are used, gives children a clear, safe framework to explore within.

Use Tools as a Helping Hand

Parental controls on devices and apps aren't about spying; they're like training wheels. They help filter inappropriate content and manage screen time while our children learn to make good choices independently.

Encourage Questioning Minds

One of the best skills we can teach is critical thinking. Please help your child learn to spot misleading information or edited images. Asking "Is this reliable?" or "Why was this posted?" makes them smarter, safer digital citizens.

Lead by Example

Our children notice our habits. When we put our phones away during meals, communicate kindly online, and enjoy offline hobbies, we show them how to build a healthy balance.

Find the Right Balance

Schoolwork and fun both matter. We ensure plenty of active, creative, and social time in our school day. Supporting similar balance at home—with time for play, reading, and family—helps reduce over-reliance on screens.

Stay Observant

Sometimes, changes in behaviour—like being secretive, withdrawn, or upset—can signal something is wrong online. Noticing and gently checking in early can provide crucial support.

Our Shared Commitment

Whatever national policies emerge, our mission at MIS stays constant: to guide your children to be confident, capable, and kind individuals - both offline and on.

We are committed to reinforcing online safety in our curriculum and pastoral care. Let's continue this partnership. If you'd like more advice or resources, please don't hesitate to reach out to our leadership team.

Together, we can make the digital world a safer space for our children to learn and grow.

Warmly,



Mohamed Irfan Mohamed Ishak
CEO, Melaka International School



World Diabetes Day: A Call for Global Awareness and Action

Dear Students, Parents and Colleagues,

Observed annually on 14th November, World Diabetes Day (WDD) stands as the world's largest diabetes awareness campaign. It addresses a chronic metabolic condition affecting hundreds of millions globally. The date was chosen to mark the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who, with Charles Best, played a pivotal role in the discovery of insulin in 1921. This breakthrough transformed diabetes from a fatal diagnosis into a manageable condition, representing one of medicine's most significant achievements.

Established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organisation, the day was a direct response to the escalating diabetes threat. Its importance was further cemented in 2006 when it gained official United Nations recognition. The campaign's symbol, a blue circle, has become an international emblem of unity and solidarity in the face of this disease.

However, WDD is far more than a commemoration; it is an urgent call for global action. The campaign underscores the critical need for enhanced public education, more robust prevention strategies, and equitable access to essential care. This includes not only life-saving insulin but also modern monitoring technologies. With nearly half of all diabetes cases globally remaining undiagnosed, the day plays a vital role in promoting early screening, which can prevent severe and costly complications.

The current theme for 2024–2026, "Diabetes and Well-being," broadens the focus to holistic care. It acknowledges that managing diabetes extends beyond physical health, encompassing the psychological and social challenges individuals face, including stigma and discrimination. By illuminating global landmarks in blue and coordinating community events, World Diabetes Day empowers individuals, educates the public, and advocates for stronger healthcare systems. Its ultimate goal is to ensure a healthier, more supported future for everyone living with, or at risk of, this pervasive condition.

Ms Shamsunnisa
Chairperson
Melaka International School

Academic Staff of the Month: Miss Pavitraa

Here at MIS, we are delighted to shine our spotlight for this month on a dedicated educator who has made a significant impact in a relatively short time: Ms. Pavitraa from our Mathematics department. Since joining us in January 2024, Ms. Pavitraa has immersed herself in the life of our school, bringing energy and insight to her students in Years 5 through 8.



For Ms. Pavitraa, the true beauty of her subject is captured in one powerful word: Understanding. “Mathematics becomes beautiful when true understanding happens,” she explains. “When students listen, think, and practise, everything begins to connect. Concepts that once felt difficult suddenly make sense, and that moment gives students a sense of achievement and confidence.” This philosophy is at the heart of her teaching, and it’s a joy she experiences daily. Her favourite part of the role is witnessing students grow not just academically, but in their discipline, confidence, and behaviour, maturing into responsible, independent learners.

She is a firm advocate for the power of consistent, manageable effort. Her key advice to students is a lesson in discipline itself: “Consistent practice and short, regular revision sessions can make a huge difference. Mathematics rewards patience and discipline—small efforts done every day lead to great results.” She adds with a knowing smile, “Don’t procrastinate. Start now, and progress will follow.”

This patient and caring approach clearly resonates beyond the whiteboard. A particularly touching moment came from a former student who, just two weeks into Ms. Pavitraa’s tenure, gifted her a bouquet to thank her for her kindness during a camping trip. “It was a beautiful reminder,” she shares, “that students remember how we make them feel.”

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Pavitraa is as dynamic as she is in it. A sports enthusiast, her background in the high-energy team sport of kabaddi during her school and university years instilled in her a deep appreciation for resilience and teamwork—qualities she undoubtedly brings to her form. In her free time, she enjoys relaxing, taking short trips, and catching up with university friends to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

A surprising fact that rounds out her profile? Ms. Pavitraa is a Chemical Engineering graduate, whose background in problem-solving and analytical thinking now provides a unique and robust foundation for her teaching. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a multifaceted and passionate professional guiding our students.

Thank you, Ms. Pavitraa, for your outstanding contribution.



Faculty Staff of the Month: Hamidah binti MD Ya'akub

The heart of our community often beats strongest behind the scenes. This month, we are delighted to shine a well-deserved spotlight on a remarkable individual whose dedication and warmth have nourished us all for nearly a decade. Please join us in congratulating Hamidah binti MD Ya'akub, our Kitchen Helper, on being selected as our Faculty Staff of the Month!

Hamidah began her service with us on 25th February 2014, and since that day, she has been a quiet, constant force of diligence and care. But to know Hamidah is to know a story of profound strength and devotion that extends far beyond the school walls.

When she is not ensuring our school kitchen runs smoothly, Hamidah finds joy in life's simple pleasures. "Tidying the house and exercising with my family," are her favourite pastimes, and she has a green thumb, finding peace in her garden. A perfect, relaxing day for her is one of quiet rest, a treasured rarity given her extraordinary life story.

Family is the cornerstone of Hamidah's world. She is one of seven siblings and, after the passing of both parents, she and her elder brother took on the immense responsibility of raising their five younger siblings. Today, she has built her own beautiful family with her husband, a firefighter. Her pride in her children is immense. Her eldest is a married nurse with two children of their own; her second child lives with chronic asthma and significant physical disabilities, requiring two oxygen assistive devices; and her third is studying at the University of Malaysia Kelantan while managing hearing problems. Through every challenge, Hamidah states without hesitation that her family and siblings are her greatest source of happiness, a sentiment brightened further by the joy she finds spending time with her grandchildren.

Her resilience is a defining trait. She is immensely proud of a key achievement from her past: "I was accepted for a job at a factory even though at that time I had only finished primary school. Due to my diligence in learning, I was promoted to assistant supervisor."

This diligence and integrity are the principles she lives by. Her motto is one we can all aspire to: "To be honest, trustworthy, responsible, and sincere in carrying out every task."

Hamidah, your story is one of incredible fortitude, selflessness, and love. You bring that same sincerity and responsibility to our school every single day, and for that, we are profoundly grateful. Thank you for everything you do.



ALUMNI OF THE MONTH:

April Tennant – A True MIS Legacy



We are absolutely thrilled to feature April Tennant as our Alumni of the Month – a name that perfectly embodies our school's own history. April was among our very first cohort of students when MIS opened its doors in 1993, and her journey with us is a remarkable story of coming full circle.

April's time as a student, from 1993 to 2002, is woven into the fabric of MIS. She fondly recalls the magical Disney mural in our original building and the sheer joy of performing a Spice Girls number in a school concert – an iconic moment for a generation! That early spark, kindled by inspiring teachers, led her to discover a profound love for English and education. After further studies and beginning her teaching career in vibrant Jakarta, Indonesia, April made a triumphant return to MIS as a dedicated English teacher and Debate Club mentor.

Her most cherished memories from the staffroom mirror those from the classroom: the incredible bonds formed with students. She speaks glowingly of nurturing their unique personalities and directing the spectacular 'Heroes of Troy' production, a testament to our students' boundless creativity.

April's adventure continued with a move to Indonesia, a decision inspired by love that blossomed into a beautiful family life with her husband and their four-year-old son. She speaks effusively about the excitement of life there – the astonishing food, rich cultures, breathtaking landscapes, and the warmth of the people. Professionally, she continues to shine as the Head of English at ICS, where the foundational lessons in relationship-building and professionalism she gained at MIS directly guide her leadership today.

For April, the MIS network is priceless. Remaining in contact with former classmates and colleagues provides a deep sense of shared history, support, and enduring community. Her advice to our current students is heartfelt and powerful: "Dream big, dream boldly, but take steady steps... Don't be afraid of challenges—or of failure. Stay curious, be kind, and surround yourself with people who lift you up."

April Tennant embodies the very spirit of MIS: curiosity, resilience, and a profound commitment to community. From that pioneering first student in 1993 to the inspiring educator she is today, her journey reminds us that the most beautiful stories often find a way back home. We are so proud to call her part of our legacy.



A Glimpse into the Future: In-House Professional Development on AI in Education



On Saturday, 1st November, while the school grounds were typically quiet, the meeting room was abuzz with innovation and forward-thinking energy. Our dedicated team of in-house teachers generously gave up their day to participate in a groundbreaking Professional Development workshop, "Creating Schemes of Work and Lesson Plans using AI," expertly facilitated by Foremost Power Sdn Bhd.

From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, the session provided an immersive and practical deep-dive into the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in educational planning. The day began by demystifying AI, moving beyond the jargon to focus on its tangible applications in our daily work. The facilitator from Foremost Power emphasised that AI is not here to replace the crucial professional judgement of our educators, but to serve as a powerful assistant—a co-pilot for curriculum design.

The core of the workshop was hands-on. Teachers were guided through the process of using specific AI tools to generate detailed, differentiated, and engaging Schemes of Work. We explored how to input key learning objectives and allow the AI to suggest a logical sequence of topics, resource ideas, and varied assessment methods, all while ensuring alignment with the national curriculum. This process highlighted significant potential for saving valuable time, allowing teachers to focus more on individual pupil interaction and less on administrative structuring.

The afternoon was dedicated to the art of the lesson plan. Here, the real magic happened. Staff experimented with crafting dynamic, multi-sensory lesson outlines in minutes. The AI suggested creative starter activities, generated model explanations for complex concepts, and proposed a range of plenaries to consolidate learning. The room was filled with lively discussion as teachers refined these AI-generated drafts, infusing them with their unique pedagogical style and deep knowledge of their pupils' needs.

The overwhelming consensus at the day's end was one of inspired optimism. Colleagues left not with a sense of being overwhelmed by new technology, but equipped with practical strategies to work smarter. This training has undoubtedly planted a seed for the future of teaching and learning at our school, empowering our staff to harness cutting-edge tools to enhance their already exceptional teaching practice. A sincere thank you to all who attended and to Foremost Power Sdn Bhd for a truly enlightening day. The future of our planning looks brighter, and considerably more efficient.

Aren Zee: A Double Podium Delight!

We are bursting with pride in celebrating Year 4's Aren Zee, who has spectacularly proven his talent across two very different sporting arenas during the month of November.

On 2nd November, Aren secured an outstanding Top 10 finish in the Under-9 category at the prestigious Nirvana Cup Chinese Chess (Xiang Qi) Tournament. Facing 146 players, Aren, with only two training sessions with Coach Tan, entered with a simple goal: to have fun! His father, Mr Zee Noor, cheered, "Objective over-reached! Never expected a top 10 finish. This is a total surprise!" Aren's fantastic result, achieved with brilliant focus and sportsmanship, left him beaming. "I had fun!" he declared, with his trophy in hand.

Just weeks later, Aren swapped the chessboard for the piste at the Commune 3rd Allez Johor 2025, making his national fencing debut. Representing our UNESCO World Heritage City of Malacca, he clinched a brilliant bronze medal in the Under-8 Sabre Boys category! The day was electric, featuring a stunning comeback from 3-7 down in the Table of 8. Guided by Coach Hairi from MAFA, Aren fought back to win 8-7, stunning the crowd.

Though a tough semi-final bout saw him just miss the gold medal match, the bronze is a remarkable achievement. "I know my mistakes cost me," reflected the determined Aren, "but I'm going to train even harder."

From the quiet strategy of Xiang Qi to the lightning-fast action of sabre, Aren Zee has shown incredible dedication and skill. The entire school congratulates him on these amazing accomplishments. The future is undoubtedly bright for this multi-talented sports star!



FROM THE PE FIELD TO

NATIONAL PRESTIGE:

MR. ZULHAIRI AHMAD'S SPORTING SCIENCE SUCCESS



Here at MIS, we pride ourselves on providing a world-class education, and that extends far beyond the classroom walls. We are therefore thrilled to celebrate a fantastic achievement by one of our own, Mr. Zulhairi Ahmad, whose recent success elevates our entire school community.



Poster Presentation level III
Congrats Coach Amir
Coach Zulhairi

In November, Mr. Zulhairi reached a major career milestone, successfully completing the prestigious Sports Science Level 3 course at the National Sports Institute of Malaysia. This is no ordinary qualification - it is among the highest accolades in sports coaching in the country, officially recognising him as a Sports Coaching Specialist.



The final hurdle was a demanding viva session, a rigorous assessment before a national panel of experts. Out of 35 initial participants from across Malaysia, only 12 completed their research, and just two, including our very own Mr. Zulhairi, successfully defended his work. He didn't just pass; he excelled, earning special recognition for both his research topic and his presentation. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and expertise he demonstrated.

But what does this mean for our students? In essence, it means our young athletes are in the best possible hands. Mr. Zulhairi's research focused on creating a clear, scientific pathway to identify and nurture sporting talent right here at MIS. He has developed a 'formula for creating champions' that seamlessly blends physical strength, mental resilience, and technical skill.



This isn't just theory. The proof is in the podium! This evidence-based approach has already directly contributed to our students winning an impressive haul of 7 gold and 6 bronze medals in shot put at various district, state, and national competitions. Names like Janelle, Diana, Adam, Uwais, Ananya, and Renee have become familiar faces on the winner's rostrum, thanks to this tailored coaching.



Mr. Zulhairi's achievement is a win for all of us. It reflects MIS's commitment to aligning our coaching with global standards, ensuring our students receive world-class exposure in sports and athletic development. His work provides our PE team with a proven framework to help every promising athlete thrive, bridging the gap between school training and competitive success.

Mr. Zulhairi's journey shows that with passion, scientific knowledge, and dedicated support, champions are not just born - they are made, right here at MIS. Please join us in congratulating him on this outstanding accomplishment.



Charting Your Course: Monash University Inspires MIS Students



The future can often feel like a distant, fixed destination, but a special visit to our school served as a powerful reminder that it is, in fact, a path we build ourselves - and it is never too early, or too late, to start planning the journey. On a bright Thursday, 13th November, we were delighted to welcome representatives from the prestigious Monash University, who delivered an engaging and insightful presentation to our eager Year 7 to Year 11 students.

The session commenced at 1:30 pm sharp in the auditorium, where students were immediately captivated by an introduction to Monash's global presence. A particular point of fascination was the revelation that the university's main campus is located in Australia, instantly broadening our students' horizons and framing higher education in an international context.

The excitement in the room became palpable as the presentation moved on to the vast array of courses on offer. From cutting-edge engineering and forensic science to innovative digital media and international business, the diversity of programmes sparked a palpable buzz of conversation. Students were visibly animated, leaning in to whisper about the subjects that piqued their interest, discovering passions they never knew they had. The concept of possibility truly came to life.

Perhaps the most inspiring segment detailed the incredible global opportunities woven into the Monash experience. The notion that our students could potentially continue their studies in vibrant locations like the United Kingdom, France, Korea, or China was nothing short of thrilling, presenting a future filled with academic and cultural adventure.

To conclude this enlightening afternoon, a lively Question and Answer session gave our students a chance to engage directly. The reward for their curiosity and participation? Adorable koala bear plushies and stylish notebooks for those who answered questions correctly, providing a tangible memento of the day.

The visit from Monash University was more than just a university talk; it was an invitation to our secondary students to dream big and to understand that their future is a canvas waiting for their brushstrokes. It was a truly exciting and educational experience, reinforcing that with the right planning and passion, the next chapter is theirs to write. A heartfelt thank you to Monash University for visiting MIS.

MIS Kicks Off a New Era with Launch of GROUNDBREAKING FOOTBALL ACADEMY!

The future of football at MIS was forever changed on Friday, 7th November 2025, as we officially launched the spectacular MIS Football Academy in a powerful collaboration with the renowned LA Tawny Owl Football Academy. The air on the MIS Field was electric with anticipation, marking the dawn of an unprecedented initiative designed to unlock the beautiful game's potential within our student body.

This landmark programme, the first of its kind at our school, is strategically crafted to identify, nurture, and develop the raw football talent residing in our students. The ultimate goal is a thrilling one: to forge our very own official MIS school football team, ready to compete with skill and pride in future inter-school competitions and tournaments. The launch day was a resounding success, with aspiring players from all year groups gathering on the pitch, their energy palpable and enthusiasm infectious.

In a truly fantastic commitment to accessible sport for all, the academy is completely free of charge and open to every MIS student, regardless of prior experience. This ensures that every budding footballer has the chance to learn, grow, and potentially earn a spot on our future varsity team.

Under the expert guidance of coaches from LA Tawny Owl, our students will hone their skills every Friday from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm on the MIS Field. The inaugural session was a dynamic blend of technical drills, fitness tests, and small-sided games, giving our students a thrilling taste of the structured, high-level training that awaits.

The MIS Football Academy is more than just a training ground; it is the birthplace of legacy, teamwork, and school spirit. The journey to building a competitive team starts here, and the excitement is just beginning. Lace up your boots, MIS – our football future is now!



Let's Play
FOOTBALL



A Spooktacular Celebration:

Children's Day Meets Halloween at MIS!

On Thursday, 20th November, the Melaka International School (MIS) campus was buzzing with an extraordinary blend of ghoulish giggles and childish cheer. In a unique fusion of events, we celebrated Children's Day alongside our postponed Halloween festivities, creating a day dedicated entirely to our students' joy, creativity, and right to have fun.

The action commenced in the vibrant Dr. Ishak Hall with a hilarious launching ceremony. Our very own Star, donned in an inflatable dinosaur costume, bravely took on a piñata. His enthusiastic attempts had everyone in stitches before the candy finally burst forth, leading to a joyful scramble for the sweet treats. The energy levels soared even higher as students and staff joined a lively 10-minute Zumba session, dancing in unison. The stage then came alive with musical performances from Years 5, 7, and 9, and a captivating solo dance by Maryam of Year 3.

Following a well-deserved breakfast, the competitive spirit ignited. The Tug-of-War competition saw students and teachers alike pulling together, showcasing impressive stamina and tactical skill. Ahmed's Team emerged victorious, with Mr. Zulhairi good-naturedly admitting he could feel his team's stamina waning against our fitter students! The Dr. Ishak Hall also hosted a spectacular Halloween costume fashion parade. Students proudly strutted their stuff, with Aneira of Year 11 stunning the crowd in a fantastic, scary black and white joker attire.

The fun spilled out onto the school field, where things got wonderfully messy. Students attempted to retrieve candy from a bowl of flour using only their mouths, resulting in flour-dusted, beaming faces. Team spirit shone during a relay race, where participants worked together to fill a water bottle using a soaked sponge.

Meanwhile, back in the hall, a quieter creativity was on offer. Students used their coupons for a variety of craft stations, designing treat bags, creating sand art, painting, and making spooky stickers. The fishing game was a particular hit, with students earning three live guppies as a reward for their patience!

The afternoon saw the hilarious 'Mummy Wrap' competition, where teams transformed their friends into wrapped-up mummies using old newspapers and tape. These newly created mummies then shuffled their way through a 'Zombie Run'. After working up an appetite, students headed to the canteen for a 'Trick or Treat', where our wonderful canteen staff generously donated sugar-coated candies.

The day concluded cozily in the auditorium with a screening of the family favourite, Monsters House. It was the perfect end to a day that masterfully blended the playful spirit of Halloween with the core message of Children's Day: celebrating every child's right to happiness, safety, and self-expression in our supportive MIS community. The bonds of friendship and togetherness forged on this day will undoubtedly last long after the last sweet has been eaten.

THIS IS HALLOWEEN



STEM Club

Where Innovation Meets Imagination

Step into the world of the CCA STEM Club, where 24 budding engineers and programmers from Year 4 to Year 10 are transforming complex real-world systems into interactive, coded realities. Under the expert guidance of instructors Mr. Ravin and Ms. Shalinee from the Core STEM Academy in Bachang, Malacca, our students are not just learning about technology - they are building it from the ground up.

This term, the club is deconstructing the everyday systems we often take for granted. Have you ever waited at a traffic light and wondered about the logic behind the changing lights? Our STEM students are programming their own digital versions, writing code that dictates the precise timing and sequence, ensuring a smooth and safe flow of virtual traffic.

The learning doesn't stop at the intersection. The club has also been investigating the mechanics of a toll plaza. Through specialized in-house software, students are writing the very codes that could develop a functional toll system, understanding how sensors, gates, and payment logic must work in perfect harmony.

Beyond these large-scale projects, students are getting hands-on with the fundamentals of electronics. Using a Flow Programme, they are discovering how an LED dialogue works, controlling the behaviour of these tiny lights with their code. This knowledge comes to life in vibrant projects like the "Light Wheel," a dazzling display similar to a flashing tree, where they learn to manipulate diodes to create captivating patterns of light and colour.

The CCA STEM Club is more than a gathering; it's a launchpad for future innovators. By blending coding with practical mechanics, Mr. Ravin and Ms. Shalinee are empowering our students to become the problem-solvers and creators of tomorrow. Watch this space - their bright ideas are only just beginning to shine.



A Taste of the Trenches: Year 9 & 10 Bring History to Life!

On Tuesday, 25th November, the MIS canteen was transformed as our Year 9 and Year 10 history classes embarked on a remarkably immersive project, delving beyond the textbooks to experience a tangible slice of life from the First World War. The topic? The often-overlooked subject of sustenance in the trenches. Moving beyond mere theory, our students rolled up their sleeves and recreated authentic recipes, turning the canteen into a temporary field kitchen to better understand the realities faced by soldiers a century ago.

Year 9 took on the challenge of creating a classic WWI Potato Pie. This dish was a testament to the ingenuity born from scarcity and the reliance on preserved goods. The students worked with canned chicken meat, a staple of military rations, using its own jelly to stew chopped onions. This frugal mixture was then layered in a dish and enveloped by a hearty blanket of mashed potatoes before being baked to a golden brown. The process revealed how soldiers and home fronts alike had to create filling, calorific meals from a very limited and non-perishable palette of ingredients.

Meanwhile, Year 10 explored the concept of 'Mulligan Stew' – a dish as mutable as the conditions it was made in. Often a communal effort in the trenches, this stew was the ultimate "make-do-and-mend" recipe, utilising whatever scraps of meat and vegetables were available. Our students browned meat and sautéed aromatics before building the stew with broth, tomato soup, and a medley of root vegetables. The simmering pot became a symbol of improvisation and camaraderie, highlighting how resourcefulness could transform meagre supplies into a shared, warming meal.

The resulting lunch was a profound lesson on a plate. It provided a sensory connection to the past, fostering a deeper appreciation for the daily challenges of survival and the simple comforts of a hot meal amidst the hardships of war. The project was a resounding success, proving that sometimes, the most fascinating history lessons are the ones you can taste.



Karla's Dazzling First Term Dance Triumph!

Our incredible Year 3 dance dynamo, Karla, has done it again! While many of us were winding up with Term One, Karla was lacing up her dance shoes and charging into competition season with her signature focus and unbridled passion. Having entered multiple dance competitions already this term, her dedication has culminated in a truly spectacular achievement on an international stage.

Our tenacious protégé saved her best for last, commanding the spotlight at the prestigious Malaysia NextGen Dance Competition 2025 (MXDC) at The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre and returning home a decorated champion. From 27th–30th November, the KLPAC pulsed with rhythm as Prodance Malaysia presented this electrifying event. With performances from 9:00 am until 7:30 pm, it was a marathon of talent where, we're told, "every beat counts and every move sparks a journey." And Karla's journey was nothing short of breathtaking.

Demonstrating poise and passion far beyond her years, our little star mesmerized the judges across multiple categories. In a stunning and precise haul, she claimed:

- **Silver - Duo: Ballet & Various Dance (7-9 years old)**
- **Silver - Solo: Ballet (7-9 years old)**
- **Gold - Solo: Various Dance (7-9 years old)**

This magnificent trio of medals speaks volumes of her incredible versatility, technical skill, and sheer dedication across different dance disciplines.

MXDC promised to be a stage "where dreams take flight," and Karla, with her radiant passion, absolutely soared. She has captivated our hearts, inspired her peers, and proven in just one term that with heart and hard work, you can truly unlock your X-Factor. Well done, Karla! Your school family is in awe. We cannot wait to see where your dancing feet take you next.



MIS ADVENTURE CAMP 2025: TRIUMPH, TEAMWORK, AND TOWERING CHALLENGES!

The final days of November were anything but quiet for a squad of 43 intrepid MIS students, 5 teachers, and 3 parents who traded their comfortable homes for cabins at the SENTA Adventure Camp & Resort in Minyak Beku. From the 28th to the 30th, the air was filled with the spirited sounds of competition, camaraderie, and collective encouragement.

Upon arrival and settling into their cosy eight-person cabins, students were immediately thrust into the fray, divided into four vibrant teams: Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow. Day One's watery initiation saw teams dashing through a series of hilarious and soaking-wet games, from frantic marble searching to a supremely slippery tug-of-war. The competition continued under the stars with a cultured night games, testing memory and coordination.

Rising early on Day Two, the camp began with energetic morning aerobics before launching into a thrilling schedule. The pseudo-battle of Archery Tag sparked friendly rivalries, followed by a grueling obstacle course that tested strength, balance, and nerve. The undeniable highlight for many was the exhilarating Flying Fox, sending shrieks of joy echoing across the resort. Courage was further tested on the rock face and, most notably, on the formidable High Ropes Course at the SENTA Tower. With three daunting levels, this challenge separated the determined from the truly dauntless, with only a select few conquering all three tiers.

As dusk fell, the atmosphere shifted from adrenaline to warmth during the legendary BBQ Night. Gathered around a crackling campfire, students enjoyed delicious food while Year 10's Star led a rousing sing-along, their voices becoming the soundtrack to a perfect evening.

The final morning offered well-earned free time for swimming or an optional ATV ride, before the Closing Ceremony. After tallying points from every challenge, the results were announced: a superb victory for the relentless Green Team, with the Blue Team securing a well-fought second place. With a final, triumphant group photo capturing three days of unforgettable memories, the students departed Batu Pahat, tired but utterly triumphant, having discovered new strengths and forged stronger bonds.





Our Junior Dolphins Make Waves on the National Stage!

Move over, Olympic champions – our very own aquatic stars are making a splash! From 29th to 30th November, our intrepid trio of Moana Lui, Evan and Connor Qian took to the prestigious Bukit Jalil National Aquatic Centre, representing our school with great distinction at the 15th Novice Swimming Competition.

Facing a demanding schedule of seven gruelling events each over two days, our swimmers, who train tirelessly at the RAR Youth Swimming Club in Malacca, showed mettle far beyond their years. In the heated atmosphere of an Olympic-sized pool, they dove in with nothing but courage and determination.

The results were spectacular! Connor Qian Fei Xiang powered through to achieve a fantastic first place in his group within the fiercely competitive 9-year-old boys' category. Not to be outdone, his twin brother, Evan Qian Fei Yue, secured a brilliant third place in his group, showcasing a remarkable sibling spirit. Their performances in the heats yielded stunning personal bests, with Connor slicing through the 50m freestyle and Evan surging ahead in the 25m backstroke.

Our magnificent Moana Lui Moxing, at just seven years old, displayed the heart of a lioness. Competing against older swimmers, she tackled every stroke – from a powerful breaststroke to a determined butterfly – with fearless tenacity. Her parents, and indeed our whole school community, are bursting with pride at her bravery on such a grand stage.

While they may not have touched the wall for a medal this time, these three have garnered something far more valuable: experience, grit, and a taste of high-stakes competition. They have proven that success is measured not just in podium finishes, but in shaving seconds off personal bests and facing the challenge head-on.

The entire school salutes you, Moana, Evan and Connor! You have dived into the deep end and emerged as true champions. We know this is only the beginning. Keep training, keep believing, and we have no doubt you'll continue to improve your times, one stroke at a time. Onward to the next meet!



Year 8 Brings Tudor Intrigue to Life



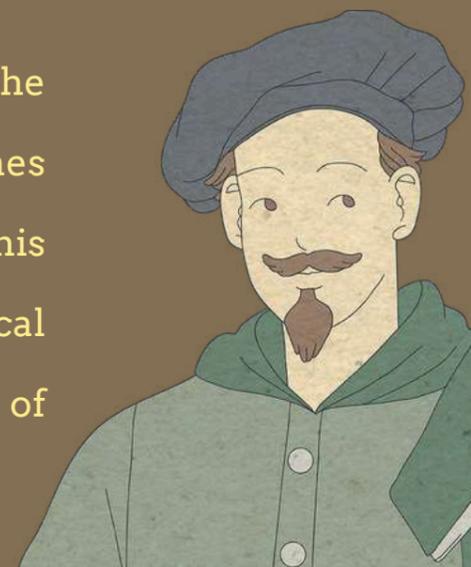
If you happened to pass the auditorium on Tuesday afternoon, you might have been forgiven for thinking you'd stumbled into a BBC period drama. The air was thick with tension, whispered conspiracies, and the unmistakable rustle of hastily improvised ruffs. Our Year 8 historians, as part of their formative assessment, presented a captivating 45-minute skit on the tragic Babington Plot and the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, treating their audience to a masterful sweep through nine acts of Tudor intrigue.

The performance opened not with a grand set, but with the power of conviction. As our narrators set the scene of a religiously divided England in 1586, the young actors embodied their roles with a seriousness that belied their years. We saw a conspiratorial Anthony Babington (Act 1) plotting in shadows, juxtaposed with a profoundly lonely Mary (Act 2), whose silent portrayal of imprisoned hope was strikingly poignant.

The drama unfolded with clever simplicity. Secret letters were smuggled in imaginary barrels in a tavern cellar (Act 3), while across the stage, our formidable Sir Francis Walsingham (Act 4) coolly intercepted them, his brow furrowed in decipherment. The entire tragic irony of the historical event was captured beautifully: as Mary (Act 5) penned her fateful reply with desperate hope, Walsingham's spies watched, sealing her doom.

The tension built splendidly to the climactic acts. The sudden arrival of soldiers (Act 6), the chilling courtroom condemnation (Act 7), and the solemn, hushed journey to the scaffold at dawn (Act 8) were handled with impressive maturity. The final, haunting image was not of the block, but of a solitary Queen Elizabeth (Act 9) awaiting the news, a powerful reminder of the personal cost of crown and country.

What truly elevated the production was the students' extraordinary ownership of the project. Beyond memorising lines, they crafted their own props and sourced costumes with admirable dedication, some even arranging rentals to add authentic flair. This wasn't just a play; it was a deeply engaged, collaborative dissection of a pivotal historical moment. The applause was not only for a story well-told, but for a profound piece of learning, vividly and passionately brought to life. Bravo, Year 8!



Year 11 Biology Dissection Unveils Mammalian Systems



On Thursday, 4th December, our Year 11 Biology students traded their textbooks for scalpels in a compelling and detailed practical session: the dissection of a rat. This classic experiment provided an unparalleled opportunity to move beyond diagrams and observe first-hand the intricate architecture of mammalian respiratory, digestive, and excretory systems.

The objective was clear: to locate and identify the main organs within these three vital systems. Equipped with pre-euthanised specimens, styrofoam boards, and tools including forceps and scissors, the laboratory hummed with focused activity. With strict safety protocols in place - donning lab coats, gloves, and masks - students began by observing the rat's external features before carefully making their initial incisions.

Guided by our teachers, pupils meticulously separated the skin from the subcutaneous layer, revealing the complex visceral landscape beneath. The immediate sight of the large, dark liver and coiling intestines made textbook images a tangible reality. With careful precision, students worked to identify and separate other key organs, such as the stomach, lungs, kidneys, and bladder, arranging them according to their associated bodily system.

This hands-on exploration offered profound insights. Seeing the direct proximity of the digestive organs to the excretory kidneys underscored the interconnected nature of bodily functions. The delicate structure of the lungs provided a stark reminder of the respiratory system's role in gas exchange. It was a lesson in biological organisation that no video could replicate.

The session concluded with the respectful and hygienic disposal of all materials in designated biohazard bags, followed by a thorough clean-down of the workstations. This dissection was more than just a procedural task; it was a fundamental exercise in anatomical understanding, reinforcing the theoretical knowledge crucial for their IGCSE studies. The experience has undoubtedly given our Year 11 biologists a deeper, more visceral appreciation for the complex systems that sustain life.



REFLECTING ON UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH



As we settle into December, a month of twinkling lights and festive cheer, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on a deeper significance of this time. Across the globe, December is marked as Universal Human Rights Month. To me, this observance is profoundly personal. It goes beyond grand statements and speaks to the very heart of how we treat one another in our classrooms, on the playground, and in our wider community.

The cornerstone of this month is Human Rights Day on the 10th of December. This date commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) back in 1948. Forged from the trauma of a world war, this remarkable document was a collective promise – a vow, championed by figures like Eleanor Roosevelt, that every single person is born with inherent dignity and worth. It affirms, in clear terms, that you, and every child in our school – are entitled to safety, respect, and the opportunity to learn, simply because you are human.

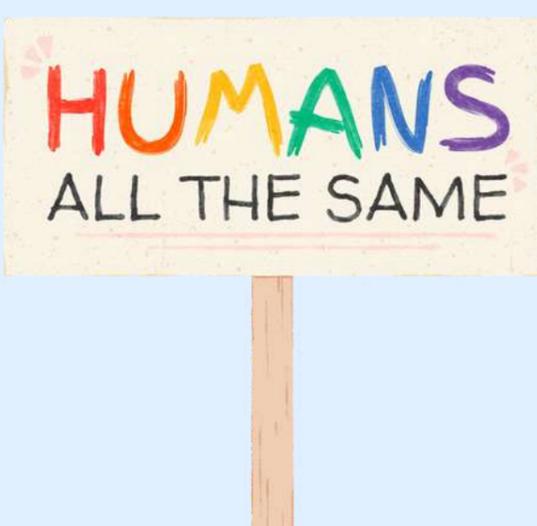
I often think about the 30 rights within the UDHR not as abstract concepts, but as the essential foundations for a nurturing and fair school. The right to education is the very reason our school exists. The freedom of opinion is why we encourage every pupil to find their voice and share their ideas. The right to live free from discrimination is the reason we must work tirelessly to ensure that every member of our community feels they truly belong.

We know, however, that this ideal is not yet a reality for everyone. We see stories in the news of conflict, prejudice, and injustice. So, what can we do? This month is our call to action, and it starts right here. It begins with empathy – with making a conscious effort to understand the feelings of the person sitting next to you. It grows with courage, the courage to be an ‘upstander’ if you see someone being left out or unkindly treated, and the determination to stand with those who might feel overlooked.

This December, let’s make our commitment active. Let’s choose kindness in the dinner hall. Let’s have the courage to invite someone new to join our game. Let’s listen, truly listen, to a friend’s point of view, even if it differs from our own. Let’s learn about and support the brilliant charities, both local and international, that work to protect the most vulnerable among us.

In the end, human rights are not just defended in grand gestures or courtrooms; they are nurtured daily in our hearts and through our simple, everyday actions. You, our wonderful students, are the future guardians of these precious rights. My sincerest hope is that you will carry these values with you, using them to build a world that is more just, more kind, and more peaceful for all

**With very best wishes,
Ms. Shamsunnisa
Chairperson
Melaka International School**



GIDDY UP: EQUESTRIAN FIELD TRIP PAVES THE WAY FOR A NEW CCA!



Saddled up, MIS! An exciting new horizon is on the cards for our Co-Curricular programme, sparked by an exceptional field trip. On Friday, 5th December, a group of more than twenty eager students from Years 1 to 10 ventured to the prestigious 828 Polo Sports Club in Krubong for a full-day immersive introduction to the world of equestrianism.

Running from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, this was far more than just a day out. It was a meticulously planned educational experience, designed to build knowledge, practical skills, and positive attitudes towards horse care and riding. Students gained a well-rounded introduction, from understanding horse behaviour as 'flight animals' to the hands-on skills of grooming, tacking up, and stable management. The day built confidence and empathy through direct interaction, culminating in a fun treasure hunt that synthesised all they had learned.

The itinerary was packed with valuable learning. Students learned to interpret a horse's mood by its body language, safely groomed and hoof-picked, and understood the five freedoms of animal welfare in the stables. They identified tack, learned riding aids, and, most excitingly, experienced the unique partnership of horseback riding under expert supervision. Each activity, grounded in clear educational objectives, was designed to cultivate respect, responsibility, and a profound appreciation for these magnificent animals.

This field trip served as the inaugural step towards a potential new Equestrianism ECA at MIS. We aim to nurture not just future riders, but responsible, knowledgeable young equestrians. The strong interest shown across year groups was incredibly promising.

We extended our thanks to the 828 Polo Sports Club for facilitating this wonderful opportunity. To the participating students: we hope that you all had a fantastic, enriching day. It was the first canter on what we hoped would be a rewarding journey. Who knows, we might have our school's very first competitive equestrian or polo players. Happy trails were had by all!



Joy, Music and Togetherness:

Christmas

At MIS

On 11th December, our school came alive with festive cheer as students, teachers, and parents gathered to celebrate Christmas together. The day started with an exciting family football match between our spirited student team and the ever-sporting parent-teacher team. In a thrilling contest, the parent-teacher team secured victory with a lively 6-3 win, proving once again that age truly is just a number!

The celebrations continued in the auditorium, where a vibrant programme of performances awaited. Our adorable Sunshine Kids opened the show, followed by joyful Christmas songs and dances from Year 1 to Year 4. The audience was then treated to a delightful Christmas fashion show, with our tiny angels confidently showcasing their colourful festive outfits.

The energy remained high as performances from Year 5 to Year 11 lit up the stage. Students sang popular Christmas favourites such as "All I Want for Christmas," "Last Christmas," "Mistletoe," and "The Snowman." Year 10 was impressed with "Santa Tell Me" and "Beaches," and Star delivered a heartwarming tribute, "Count on Me," for students who are leaving the school. Year 11 concluded their segment with an upbeat Christmas medley.

A special highlight included Year 9's powerful performance of "21 Guns," followed by an uplifting and crowd-pleasing rendition of "Feliz Navidad" by Ms Ipah and Ariff, where everyone enthusiastically joined in.

To wrap up the celebration, the winners of the Best Decorated Classroom were announced:

- 1 Year 10
- 2 Year 11
- 3 Year 5

Students later enjoyed gift exchanges, a delicious lunch, and class clean-up before dismissal. The MIS staff closed the day with their own cheerful gift exchange, marking a festive and unforgettable Christmas celebration filled with joy, unity, and school spirit.



Feliz Navidad!







A UNITED FRONT: REFLECTING ON A SUCCESSFUL PARENT-TEACHER MEETING

As we approach the year's end, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all the parents and guardians who made time to attend our Parent-Teacher Meeting on Friday, 12th December 2025. The turnout was truly heartening, and the atmosphere was one of genuine partnership and shared purpose.

Here at Melaka International School, we firmly believe that these meetings are far more than a mere school formality; they are a vital cornerstone of our students' success. The conversations beautifully underscored how this direct collaboration between home and school creates an indispensable support system for every child's journey.

The morning provided a cherished platform for open dialogue. Our teachers were delighted to share detailed insights into each student's academic progress, discussing not only core strengths but also areas where targeted support can make a profound difference. These face-to-face conversations allow for a clearer, more holistic picture of a child's educational experience than any report card can convey alone.

Beyond the curriculum, we explored the essential facets of personal development that define a MIS learner. Discussions thoughtfully touched upon social behaviour, growing confidence levels, decision-making abilities, and those unique special interests that spark a student's enthusiasm. We particularly value discussing language development, as how a child uses language is often a clear reflection of their cognitive growth and intelligence. Nurturing this, we agree, is a critical shared responsibility of both teacher and parent.

The primary strength of the PTM lies in this very collaboration. By joining forces, we can create consistent, effective solutions for any academic or behavioural hurdles, ensuring our children feel understood and supported from every angle. It was inspiring to see our community come together with such a unified goal: to champion the growth and well-being of every student.

Thank you for your trust, your time, and your unwavering commitment. Together, we are not just shaping academic outcomes, but also nurturing the confident, capable, and curious individuals of tomorrow.

PTM TERM 1





A Fond Farewell to Term One!

As the final school bell rings for 2025, we want to extend a huge congratulations to every pupil for their hard work, curiosity, and resilience throughout Term One. It has been a term packed with fantastic learning, growth, and memorable moments.

On behalf of all the staff, we wish every family a safe, restful, and truly joyful Christmas. May this festive season be filled with warmth, laughter, and special time with loved ones.

As we look ahead, we also wish you a brilliant and prosperous New Year for 2026! May it bring you good health, happiness, and new adventures.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready to learn, for the start of Term Two on Monday, 5th January 2026.

Enjoy the well-deserved holiday!

**Best wishes,
The MIS Hawks Newsletter Team**

