

Head of School Report BOD Meeting – Nov 14 2022

1. Enrollment: 545

We are almost at capacity with only two places available in PK2 (application in process) and Grade 5. Applications are already in process for PK1 & PK2 for 23-24. In March we will start admissions for 23-24 for the rest of the School once we have the intent to return deposits from parents.

2. Substation & Newbuild update

2.1 Substation

Trenching to Elementary was completed over the Nov School holiday. Next steps are to sign the official contract with Enemalta, following which Enemalta will install the Switch room. Once these pieces are finalised we will be able to connect. We are currently looking at which rooms in High School will have independent air-conditioners and which corridors (in MS and HS) can have connecting systems.

3.2 Newbuild works

Digging has been paused as the School awaits Enemalta to remove some cables. The School is in daily contact with Enemalta, the architect and contractors to try and speed this up.

Community communication: In February we will run an in-person parent meeting to share updates and overview of the project with the community. This will be attended by the Project Manager.

3. VIS wins 2nd Runner Up at the Malta Business Awards

This was based on our policies, practices and initiatives that support inclusion for our employees and students.



4. This Month at VIS – Reach Out to help Out

Reaching Out can take on many forms, our anti-bullying week (PSHE focus) will remind all our students that we need to look after each other and focus on kindness. Another aspect to this theme will be to reflect on how we can make more of an effort to help others. This will be integrated into the Friday Focus and Advisory programme as a Service learning opportunity. CAS- Service is a requirement of the IBDP/CP programme, however we would like to develop this more across the whole school. (MYP will be running its first community project this year).

This initiative ties in with the whole school Thankfulness Week at the end of November, as we organise collections, community lunches, a whole school assembly and run a Thrift Clothes Share event. (Thriftling is an eco-friendly way of shopping which helps reduce energy consumption as well as reducing the amount of clothing that ends up in landfills or in our oceans.)

5. SchoolsBuddy roll-out

This has been a highly successful implementation of a new School tool. It is used for ASAs, Parent-teacher conferences, school dismissal and bus system. We are experimenting with using it for payments for one-off events, merchandise etc. Currently it can only be accessed by VIS members.

6. VIS hosts SRT University Fair 11 Nov 2022

16 schools are sending students to join our High School students at this university fair which has university representatives from USA, UK, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

7. Whole School Action Research Project

A reminder that as part of our MSA Excellence by Design protocol all our staff are participating in 2-3 year in depth

The purpose of the study is to create and implement an inclusive framework to be used throughout the school in every classroom to ensure students at VIS can demonstrate transferable skills, resilience and are well grounded and mindful individuals.

The idea is that these pedagogical learning communities (PLCs) actively discuss, research and come up with ideas that will inform and change our practice for the better. The following areas are currently being researched by staff (working in cross-section groups):

1. Visible Thinking Routines
2. Positive Discipline
3. Peer Instruction
4. Inquiry-based learning
5. Flexible grouping and collaborative learning
6. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
7. Differentiated Instruction
8. Concept-based Learning

Our goal in 22-23 is to document our progress & collect data to show the impact the strategies have had on the students. By end of 2024 we should be ready to make recommendations and implement changes across the whole school that will directly benefit our students. We have dedicated meeting time, professional development and created a School online Hub to record our progress.

Totty Aris

Head of School, Nov 9 2022