



BERLIN  
METROPOLITAN  
SCHOOL



# Quarterly News

October 2021

Dear BMS Families,

We are nearly at the end of our first term for the 2021/22 academic year and before we break today, I would like to use this opportunity to provide you with a few highlights and updates on academic achievement, the start of the new school year, as well as the various areas of school improvement which form the foundation of this school year's priorities.

I would like to welcome 165 new families and 202 new students to BMS this year and hope that you all have had a smooth and positive start so far. I am happy to report that with our new BMS families we have further increased the number of international families at our school, which of course will enrich the learning environment for our students even more.

We would also like to welcome all our returning families back to BMS. This year's start was such a positive one after so many months of uncertainty! We are indeed very happy to have all of our students back on campus for their learning. It is so good to enjoy our school community again!

We are happy to announce that all spots from Kita up to Grade 12 are filled with amazing students and of course it comes with great pride that BMS is still highly sought after by German and International families for all Grade levels. This year, we have also had many applicants for our Secondary School which is seemingly the result of stable and positive developments, especially over the past 2-3 years of increasingly strong academic results.

We are very pleased with the examination outcomes for Grade 10 and Grade 12 students, particularly given the difficult circumstances in which they were asked to complete their examinations. Even under these conditions, our results improved yet again this year:

## Examination Results 2021

Although the final examinations for the Mittlerer Schulabschluss (MSA) were cancelled again due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we still have a range of data that allows us to assess how well our students performed compared to previous years and compared to all schools in Berlin. All these assessment outcomes were in line with the high standards of previous cohorts, including the challenging Oral Presentation - which we did manage to conduct in person - and which revealed some fantastic research, findings, and hypotheses. We were particularly happy for our DaF students – many of whom were learning German as a third language – who attained excellent results in their assessments.

MSA RESULTS OVERVIEW   GRADE POINT AVERAGE (BMS)	
SUBJECT	BMS 2021
English	1,3
German (including DaF students)	2,2 2,3
Mathematics	2,1
Presentation	1,8

Even more important of course are the results of the Cambridge IGCSEs (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) because these allow us to view our cohort alongside their peers across the globe. They also give a strong indication of potential academic success with the IB Diploma. We use the results internally to consult with parents and students and to confirm whether a student is suited to the IB Diploma or not. We also use them to support our students in selecting subjects for their IB Diploma and to consider options for university as they enter the final stage of their school career.

This year, we have been extremely pleased with the academic results, not least because this cohort secured the highest number of A\* to C passes from their examinations in English, German, Mathematics, and Science. 97% of them secured 5 or more A\*-C results and a staggering 30% of all grades awarded to our students were A\* - the top grade possible. Again, if we put these academic results in the context of the pandemic, we are very impressed by our students who showed incredible commitment and stamina and who maintained their focus despite the challenging circumstances.

As always, these results provide us with valuable data with which to evaluate our own performance in terms of our level of preparation, course content, and the skills developed in areas such as research, revision, and examination performance. We will use these results to further discuss improvements and adjustments to our program, processes, and support structures.

Please find below the overview of our IGCSE results in 2021:

IGCSE RESULTS OVERVIEW	PERCENTAGE 2021
Students who achieved 100% A* to C grades	54%
Students who achieved 100% of their grades as A* or A	10.2%
Students who achieved 5 or more A* to C passes	96.6%
Percentage of results at A*	30.2%
Percentage of results at A	27.7%
A* to C passes in English Language <sup>1</sup>	98.3%
A* to C passes in Mathematics	88.1%
A* to C passes in German <sup>2</sup>	100%
A* to C passes in Science	89.8%

This year, 42 students completed IB Diploma examinations and 38 of those students were able to complete the full IB Diploma. We are very happy to share that 100% of our students passed the IB Diploma examinations and 100% of our students have been accepted by their first or second choice of university. Because BMS is not a selective school, we aim to achieve the best for every single student, based on their individual potential. We want to challenge academically strong students to achieve maximum points in their Diploma so that they have extended choices for their future careers. Equally, we want to support students who find academic studies more challenging, to find a place where they too can develop their strengths and unique talents. If we can support our students by identifying the most suitable university for their goals and enable them to be accepted at their first or second choice place, this is then the most satisfying and rewarding aspect of our job. Indeed, this is a mark of achievement for BMS as a whole and a strong indicator of a successful institution of learning.

## UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES 2016-2021

UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES 2016-2021		
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<b>CANADA</b>	Kunsthochschule Weißensee
Anglia Ruskin University	Concordia University	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU)
Arts University Bournemouth	McGill University	SEA Institute Berlin
Birkbeck, University of London	Ottawa University	SRH Hochschule Berlin
Brunel University	University of Alberta	Technische Universität Berlin
Cardiff University	University of British Columbia	Technische Universität Darmstadt
City, University of London	University of Toronto	Technische Universität Hamburg (TUHH)
City & Guilds of London Art School	University of Waterloo	Technische Universität München (TUM)
Durham University	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	TH Wildau
ESCP Business school	Alfred University	Touro College Berlin
Falmouth University	BARD College	University of Greifswald
Glasgow Caledonian University	Berklee College of Music	Universität Hamburg
Goldsmiths, University of London	Boston Architectural College	Universität der Künste Berlin
HULT University	Boston University	University of Stuttgart
Imperial College London	Bryn Mawr College	<b>GLOBAL AND EUROPEAN</b>
King's College London	Columbia College Chicago	Central European University (CEU), Austria
Kingston University	Deep Spring College	TU Wien, Austria
Lancaster University	Emerson College	Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Austria
London South Bank University	Lynn University	Vienna University of Economics, Austria
Loughborough University	Marist College	CEU Universidad Cardenal Herrero, Spain
Middlesex University	Minerva Schools at KGI	Centro Universitario Cardenal Cisneros, Spain
New College of the Humanities	New York University	Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
Northumbria University	NYU Abu Dhabi	Bocconi University, Italy
Queen Mary University of London	Parsons School of Design   The New School	John Cabot University, Italy
Queen's University Belfast, UK	Pratt Institute	NABA, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti
Richmond, The American University of London	Purdue University	Polimoda Fashion School, Italy
Royal Veterinary College, University of London	The University of Chicago	École Polytechnique, France
SOAS University of London	The New School – College of Performing Arts	ESRA (International Film School in Paris), France
UCA Rochester	University of California (UCLA)	GOBELINS, l'école de l'image, France
University College London (UCL)	University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)	Paris College of Art, France
University of Aberdeen	University of Colorado Boulder	Charles University, First Faculty, Czech Republic
University of Aberdeen	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	FAMU Prague, Czech Republic
University of St. Andrews	ArtEZ Academy of Arts	Medical School of Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
University of the Arts London	Breda University	National Technical University of Athens, Greece
University of Birmingham	Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)	Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
University of Brighton	Design Academy Eindhoven	Koç University, Turkey
University of Bristol	Eindhoven University of Technology	Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey
University of Cambridge	Erasmus University College	University of Nicosia, Cyprus
University of Dundee	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Future University in Egypt, Egypt
University of Edinburgh	Hotelschool the Hague	EBC: Escuela Bancaria y Comercial, Mexico
University of Essex	Leiden University	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK
University of Glasgow	Maastricht University	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia
University of Hertfordshire	Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam	Temple University, Japan
University of Kent	Royal Academy of Art, The Hague	Waseda University, Japan
University of Leeds	University of Amsterdam	Xian Jiatong-Liverpool University, China
University of Leicester	University of Groningen	
University of Lincoln	University of Twente	
University of Liverpool	Utrecht University	
University of Manchester	Vrije University Amsterdam (VU)	
University of Nottingham	<b>GERMANY</b>	
University of Portsmouth	Atelier Chardon Savard Berlin	
University of Stirling	BAU International Berlin	
University of Sussex	Bucerius Law School	
University of Surrey	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg	
University of Warwick	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU)	
University of York	International Academy for Acting in Cologne (IAF)	

We are very happy to announce that we again increased the average IB Score this year. Our cohort achieved an average of 35.5 points which is 2.5 points above the world average.

Please find below the table of our IB Diploma results in 2021:

DP RESULTS OVERVIEW	2021
Cohort Size	42
Full Diploma Students	38
BMS Average Score (World Average Score)	35.5 (33)
BMS Highest Score	44
Subject grade 4 or higher	97%
BMS Pass rate (World Pass rate)	100% (89%)
First or second choice University Placement	100%

At this point I would like to sincerely thank all our teachers, educators, leaders, and the support staff who remained dedicated to supporting student success. We have a highly committed team, an aspect that became even more evident throughout this pandemic. It was extremely hard for our teaching staff to adapt to a completely new working style while also suffering from the pandemic themselves. Across the board, we saw a tremendous amount of commitment and a willingness to use every possible opportunity to push, support, empower, motivate, engage, teach, and to entertain our students to ensure they kept going, striving, and achieving. To cheer our IB Diploma graduates on June 4, 2021, was the reward we all needed! Please have a look at our IB Graduates from the Class of 2021:



The academic results, together with the high degree of overall preparation at the end of the last academic year, allowed us to create a positive and successful start to this school year. We are very happy to welcome 23 new staff members who are already enriching our team on a personal and professional level. We are very impressed with the commitment our new team members demonstrate towards BMS as well as to our students already after such a short period of time. We received a lot of positive feedback from our new colleagues as well as returning teachers, which created a boost of positivity throughout our team.

## School Year 2021/22

This boost of positivity is also mirrored in the progress we continue to make in certain areas of school development. Our priorities for this year and the year ahead are:

- Focus on the further improvement of academic achievements, the consistent collection of data and a coherent evaluation of academic K-12 data points based on clearly articulated and aligned assessment practices to impact teaching and learning as well as program development;
- Transition between Early Learning and Grade 1 as well as between Primary and Secondary School in the aspects of academic level, assessment practices and data, teaching practices and approaches to prepare and support students better for and through those crucial transition points;
- Digitalization of our processes to increase the service level for our families as well the level of efficiency, and the digitalization of our program to leverage the many advantages we have experienced over the past years.



All three priorities have been initiated already and concrete actions are already defined. The topics of academic achievement and transition will also be a main topic for our upcoming Professional Development Days in November. Our new team of Middle Leaders which consists of Heads of Departments from ELC, Primary School and Secondary School as well as Team Leaders from ELC, Primary School, Secondary School and CCEP are already looking into the preparation of those professional development sessions. Our aim is to take a measurable step forward this year and it seems that everyone is committed to achieve this common goal. As said, we are very happy about the school start so far and this includes the commitment of our team towards our priorities as well as our continuing progress.

Finally, I would like to share with you an update regarding some changes in our leadership team. We had to say farewell to Martina Sangiorgio who began at BMS in August 2011. Since 2019 she was a member of our ELC Leadership and has supported her team, the students, and families as well as our institution with enthusiasm, care, empathy, and positivity. We will miss her and wish her and her family all the best.



We are happy to welcome Martina Nickel who will replace Martina Sangiorgio beginning on October 1, 2021. It may seem that our hiring policy for leadership positions is based on first names, but I can assure you that this is just a nice coincidence! We are very happy and lucky that we were able to appoint Martina Nickel just in time to take over this important role for our ELC. Martina brings a tremendous wealth of experience in Early Childhood Education and is very passionate about this stage in education. She worked in different places locally and internationally and during the interview she expressed that this seems to be a “dream position” because of the different academic programs we provide, the international environment of our school, as well as the opportunity to work in a Kita and Preschool which is connected to a school and to experience transition firsthand. I hope that you all will help to welcome Martina to our school.

Most of our community members in Primary School are aware that Jenny O’Fee, our Primary School Principal, will leave BMS in February 2022. As much as we support Jenny with her new endeavors, we will miss her tremendously. Her hard work, dedication, as well as her innovation has been truly inspiring and we would like to thank her sincerely for her commitment over the past 8 years. We are now focused on the task of carefully preparing for the change in this very important leadership role. We have formed a hiring committee which consists of a representation of our middle leaders from the Primary School, the Primary School Vice Principal Tim Stroh, as well as Samantha Hearn, our Secondary School Principal, and Silke Friedrich as Director of the School. As much as we would like to hire a new principal by February 2022, we will remain realistic with our timeline and are currently planning to welcome a new colleague by August 2022 at the very latest. We will of course keep you informed

regarding the next steps and developments. We will also ensure that the right format to highlight the achievements of Ms. O'Fee before her departure is organized and announced to our community, as she has undoubtedly developed our Primary School into a modern and engaging learning community.

## BMS Student Leadership



Finally, we would like to thank those students who campaigned for positions in our Student Leadership Teams across the school. Your videos, statements, and campaign speeches were truly inspiring. We now have a team of 48 leadership positions in our Primary Student Leadership team and 30 positions in our Secondary Leadership team. Congratulations to our elected leaders! We would also like to extend a special congratulations to Maud from Gr.11 on being elected School Captain for the 2021/22 Academic Year.

As a school community, we are excited to see the projects and engagement activities our student leaders introduce and are encouraged by their enthusiasm to get started. After close to two years of a limited ability to implement student leadership initiatives, it will be nice to enjoy student engagement on campus again!

With these thoughts and sentiments, I would finally like to wish all BMS families, staff, and students a wonderful October Break. We look forward to welcoming you back on October 25th!

With kind regards,

Silke Friedrich