



# SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

Issue No.320

6th January 2017

## Head of secondary's MESSAGE



IN THIS ISSUE:	PAGE
Head of Secondary's Message	1
Director's Message	2
Music Dynamics	3
Gadget Corner	4
PTA News	5

Teachers can be a little confused by new years. Does the New Year start in August or does it start in January? Let us just be a little greedy and say that we can have more than one New Year!

Whilst the end of every term can be a little sad with students leaving, the start of the new term is exciting with new students arriving. This term we welcome new students from at least 3 different continents – Europe, Africa and Asia. I am sure that they will all make new friends quickly and that our current KISU students will give them their normal warm and friendly welcome.

It is not only students who leave and arrive at the end and start of terms, like all international schools teachers sometimes have to leave and new ones arrive. Martin Kizito has left us to start his Masters degree and he will be replaced by Anne Hecker – for those of you who have been with KISU for a few years you might remember Anne as she previously taught here for a number of years. We also welcome back Saba Rewald who took a few weeks compassionate leave due to her father's illness. We are very pleased to have her back and equally pleased to hear that her father is making progress, even if it is a little slow.

The new term gets off to a flying start with teachers having had a day of training on Tuesday covering topics as diverse as Google App for Education (GAPE), Differentiation, Classroom management, Consolidation Games, Hinge point questions, group work, Learning Objectives and a whole lot more. We are currently writing half year reports for Key Stage 3, Year 10 and DP1 and preparing mock examinations for Year 11 and DP2 – so quite a busy start for teachers.

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Sometimes I feel as though my day is full of problems – students who have not done their work, are in the wrong uniform, arrive late for lessons, don't have the correct equipment or have said cruel things to each other etc. etc. I have taken the holidays to step back and look at our students overall. They are really nice people! My New Year's resolution is to tell them and you, as parents and guardians, this more often. I will be sending emails, making phone calls or just having a quick word in reception just to let you know that your son/daughter has done something well or been really nice!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

9th Jan	Secondary House Colour Day
11th Jan	PTA Coffee Morning
16th Jan	Secondary I/H Basketball
17th Jan	ISSAK Cross Country @ Entebbe Botanical Gardens
18th Jan	PTA Coffee morning
21st Jan	Secondary ISSAK Basketball @ ISU
23rd-3rd Feb	Mock Exams
26th Jan	Liberation Day (PH)
1st-3rd Feb	Mocks Contd
4th Feb	ISSAK Basketball Girls @ GEMS, Boys @ KISU
4th Feb	Half year reports for years 7, 8, 9, 10 & DP1 to be sent home

## Head of Primary

Many of you will know by now, but it is time for me to inform you officially, that, with no little sadness on either side, Jude Payne has decided to call time on her stint as Head of Primary at KISU at the end of the coming academic year. Jude has been a huge support to me in my first year as School Director and we will all miss her greatly. It seems to me that our primary school is in many ways an expression of Jude's personality: it is a happy, warm and welcoming place and there is a great sense of energy and fun about it that I think is attributable in no small amount to Jude's leadership. You only need to hear Jude's wonderful laugh to know that she is a wholehearted, kind and positive soul. Her teachers will attest to the same and so will her students.

And do not under-estimate Jude's sheer professionalism and expertise. In many ways, Jude chose one of the most challenging possible times to become Head of an English curriculum international primary school because of the upheaval the British government (in its wisdom....yes, that **is** sarcasm!) has foisted upon us with the new curriculum and the scrapping of levels. But she has led us through the transition with a steady hand and a clear focus on what she believed to be in the best interests of our children. Ironically, some of the developments that Jude has been leading behind the scenes will only just be coming to fruition just as she is leaving us but I hope she will take solace from the fact that she will definitely have left a stronger school than she found. Jude feels that she would

like to be closer to family back home in Wales and, and at the end of the day, while work is important, nothing is more important than family so we respect her decision and wish her only good things in the years ahead.

Of course, this means that we need to appoint a successor to carry on Jude's excellent work. I am delighted to say that we drew a very strong field of approaching 40 applicants from the adverts that we placed. We whittled these down to 5 candidates whom Terry, Jude and I interviewed, and I must say that by the end of that process we felt all 5 were eminently appointable. However, I am delighted to confirm that the top two candidates will be in Kampala next week for final interviews. They are:

**Christine Gibbon:** Chris has 8 years of experience as a Deputy Head in two UK primary schools and has also acted as Headteacher for 2 years. She passed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) in June 2015

**Maha Griffin:** Maha has been Vice Principal at CAS school in Dubai since 2012 and has an M Ed. from Penn State University

This is a really important moment for us as a school and I have tried to design an interview process that involves as many school stakeholders as possible. During the course of the two days (Tuesday and Wednesday) the candidates will be involved in a series of panel interviews with the PTA, Students, Teachers/TA's and the Board. They will also be leading specially arranged assemblies on each morning, at which you are most welcome, and you can also meet them at the PTA Coffee Morning above Reception on Wednesday before school.

I am really excited to meet the two candidates in person and I believe either one of them will make an excellent appointment.....**but we will still miss Jude!!**

**Steve Lang**

A warm welcome to all our new students and parents, and to our continuing ones! Please take note of the following information from the music department!

### Associated Board of the Royal School of Music Examinations 2017

As you may know, KISU is a centre of the International Music Examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). Students who take lessons on individual instruments are presented with the opportunity to take music examinations conducted by an international assessor from the United Kingdom. Should you wish to have your child examined under this scheme, please let me know so that we start working towards that.



### ABRSM theory exams and registration deadlines

The dates and fees structure for the ABRSM theory examinations for 2017 are out. The first session of the ABRSM theory exams will take place on *Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 2:00pm*. The deadline for registration for this exam is **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017**. The Fees for the Theory Exams are as follows below.

Grade	Fees in UGX	Fees in Dollars
1	130,000	36
2	135,000	37
3	140,000	38
4	144,000	39
5	154,000	42
6	173,000	47
7	183,000	50
8	188,000	51

### Individual Private Music Lessons

KISU runs a Private Music Lessons program for all age-groups where students seeking to improve their playing or singing ability have the option of taking individual private lessons for an additional fee. Approximately 10 professional musicians from around Kampala offer intensive weekly instruction in voice, keyboard, wind, string, and percussion instruments. Students may study voice, piano, classical guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, modern drums, African drums, cornet, recorder, violin, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and African Xylophone.

Registration is in progress now and you forms can be obtained from the Secondary or Primary office or from the reception area. The cost per lesson is UGSHS 35,000 and a minimum of 10 lessons is required at registration each term. All payments must be in advance.

**Dr. Benon Kigozi**  
Head of Music

## Dell XPS 13 2-in-1

Happy new year. It is 2017 and that means even better gadgets are coming and I am looking forward to that. It is just a couple of days to CES 2017 and I cannot wait to see what awaits us. To give you a taste of what is to come this year, we shall look at what Dell is doing with the new XPS.

Dell is unveiling a convertible version of its popular XPS 13 laptop today at the Consumer Electronics Show. While the CES surprise leaked out a little early yesterday, the new Dell XPS 2-in-1 still has some surprises in store for fans of the original.

Just like the regular XPS 13, Dell's 2-in-1 version uses an InfinityEdge display with just a 5.2mm border. Dell is claiming this makes its 2-in-1 the smallest 13-inch model in the world, as everything is squeezed into an 11-inch form factor.

The real change is the hinge and the ability to rotate this beautiful display into four modes just like Lenovo's Yoga line. It's essentially a slightly smaller and lighter XPS 13 that converts into a tablet. Dell is also using Intel's latest Kaby Lake Core i5 and Core i7 processors on this new 2-in-1, but they're not the regular Core versions you'd expect.

Thanks to Intel's new confusing naming, these are actually the Core M line of processors, which means the XPS 13 2-in-1 is fanless, but the performance might not be what we've come to expect from the XPS 13. Dell is claiming around 15 hours of battery life on the FHD model, and that will obviously drop significantly on the Quad HD display version.

Elsewhere, most of the design is identical to the XPS 13 but there are some compromises on the ports. There's the same carbon fiber palm rest and machined aluminium shell, alongside a precision trackpad and optional Dell Active Pen for stylus input. However, Dell has switched to just USB Type-C ports on the 2-in-1, with two available for charging and display output. One is also a Thunderbolt 3 port, so you can charge and power two 4K monitors. Dell is including a USB-A adapter in the box so people with regular USB accessories can still use them with the XPS 13 2-in-1. Dell has also removed its full SD card reader and opted for a micro SD slot, a change that will disappoint photographers.

One of the disadvantages of the XPS 13 was the awkward and weird webcam position, and Dell is rectifying that a little on the 2-in-1. Dell has now moved the webcam to the center of this XPS 13 2-in-1, but it sits just above the keyboard so the angle will still be a little awkward for video calls. Fortunately, Dell has switched to a Windows Hello-compatible camera, so you can log into Windows 10 with just your face.

Dell is really taking one of the best Windows laptops out there and flipping it into a convertible model. This new XPS 2-in-1 isn't designed as a successor to the XPS 13 or even a replacement, it's simply a new model that is an option if you really want this type of computer. Dell is planning to start shipping the 2-in-1 later this month starting at \$999. That's a \$100 premium on top of the regular XPS 13 to get a slightly smaller and lighter model that converts into a tablet. Most people will probably stick to the regular XPS 13 laptop, but we're hoping Dell brings some of these 2-in-1 hardware changes over to the regular model in time.

<http://www.theverge.com/2017/1/2/14144396/new-dell-xps-13-inch-laptop-convertible-price-ces-2017>

**Robert Buga - Head of IT**



Dear All,

Happy New-year!!!!!!

Welcome back. I hope you had a wonderful festive season and you are rested and yet ready for 2017. It's great seeing our children back with great enthusiasm for the new term. I would like to welcome the new parents that have joined the KISU family and hope you are settling in well. We will be having our coffee morning on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7:45am in the area above the main reception and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 7:45am same venue to welcome the new parents which is a great opportunity for the new parents to get to know the old parents.

Upcoming events:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – welcome back coffee morning

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – coffee morning

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February – ISSAK football – Boys

Julia Karungi Kimbaleeba

PTA Chairperson