

Mission Statement

The Banjul American Embassy School is an international community providing a high quality, accredited American-Style education for students. In partnership with our community, we empower students to become enthusiastic, creative, lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity and global responsibility.

READING MONTH @ BAES!!!!!!!!!!

You're never too old,
too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book
and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss

Gambian Independence: There will be no school on February 18th; however we have no way of knowing if the President will call the 19th as a holiday also. We are guessing no as they government already has Friday off. However, you will all need to listen to radios or watch the local 8:00 news or ask your guards etc. If we find out ahead of time we will let you know. Or if any of you working with embassies, EU, etc. find out ahead of time please let us know. At the moment we plan to have school on Friday, February 19th.

Important dates for Book Month:

- February 17th Parade of book characters
- February 17th International luncheon
- February 26th Authors' Tea, Poetry Reading-Hungry Caterpillar Tea
- February 26th Book Exchange

February 17th:

8:30-8:45	Assemble in French Area for Parade
8:45-9:00	Water/ Toilet Break
9:00-10:45	Dances
10:45-11:30	Snack/Break
11:30-11:45	Barbara Bandar Poetry
11:45 -12:15	Music
12:15-12:30	Wash hands/Toilet etc.
12:30-1:45	International Lunch/Break

Parents are welcome to watch the parade and **we do hope everyone will contribute to the International luncheon, please have your contributions at school by 12:00.**

Last After School: The last after school for the second trimester ends for Mondays –February 22nd and for Thursdays March 3rd with the exception of Annie practices which will continue.

MAY AGM: At the Board meeting in January the Board agreed to moving the AGM to May. This would allow for:

- Succession planning
- No long gap between June and October when we might have to appoint temporary Board members, or go without board members.
- Allow new families to settle in for 8-9months to consider if they would like to run for the Board.
- Allow new Directors a chance to settle in before having to plan an AGM.
- Allow the Board to have their retreat and training early in the year

To do this however we need to have a vote, so we will hold an extraordinary AGM on May 24th to vote on this issue and to present the annual report

“And Now A Word From Our Teachers”

Pre-K



We enjoyed our guest readers from Grade 1. They created BIG books on animals.
Grade 1, thank you for sharing your Big Books with us!



We keep discovering the world around us. In our science class we made our erupting volcano with bubbly red hot lava.



VALENTINE TREES

First we did some marble painting. It took great concentration and hand-eye coordination to keep the marbles moving back and forth, but once the children mastered this skill, they wanted to do it over and over again.

Grade K

Hello from Kindergarten. This has been a busy month! We've continued on with our map unit in social studies. In addition to the activities mentioned in last month's Buzz, students have practiced using cardinal directions to describe a route from one place to another, mapped the playground area of the school, and are in the midst of a project integrated with ELA to create a book of maps. It's a fairly ambitious project, requiring a considerable amount of writing from the students, and I'm very proud of their work thus far.

We're into numbers up to 31 in math. Students are working to write and recognize these two-digit numbers, and learning to recognize the patterns involved with the progression of numbers. We've also been practicing our number sense, recognizing quantities associated with these larger numbers and trying our hand at skip counting by 2's and 5's.

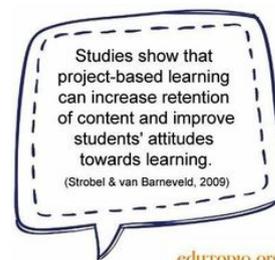
In ELA we have continued meeting letters from the Land of the Letter People, learning about their special characteristics, and putting emphasis on how to form their letters correctly. Our work with Everyday Words and reading pre-decodable books has also continued. Of special note: this past week Kindergarten participated in the second round (first for us) of writing prompts. Just as with the MAP test, the students approached this new challenge with excellent attitudes, and did very well handling this new experience.

Finally, we've been building up to a pretty exciting event that will be happening next week. Every day at school, since the very first day, we've been adding a link to a chain we have displayed in our class. Every Monday and Friday we count the number of links in our chain – sometimes in English, sometimes in French, sometimes in Spanish, and sometimes in all three – and next week we'll be arriving at an important milestone: 100 days of school! We're planning to celebrate together with the Grade 1 class. We can't wait!
Ms Durgin



Grade One may be the smallest class size at BAES, but they are full of BIG ideas! I am amazed and excited everyday seeing how much they are growing as readers, writers, math mathematician, artists, French speakers, scientists and more!

Grade One students are currently working on a student initiated Service Learning project. Students are collecting used markers and other school supplies to donate to local schools here in Gambia. This will partner a Service Learning project that two of our High School students are working on! Students will not be just collecting supplies however, that is just the beginning. Grade one students are learning about communities in Social Studies with a focus on Gambian communities. Here students will learn about similarities and differences to communities they have lived in before to the one we live in now. This unit will include how local schools in our community are different than BAES. Keep an ear out for how you can help!



February reading month is off to a great start! My six students have already read 60 books! Grade One is also hard at work writing books for our Authors Tea. This year Grade One books are being written and illustrated on the computer, utilizing the great technology we have at our school.

Did you know that BAES is an Inquiry based school? If you want to support that idea at home as well, take a look at this TED talk and/or start your dinner conversation with your child by asking "What was the best thing that happened to you today?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IDMOqH1Nak>
Ms. Savage

Grade 2/3

In Grade 2/3 science, we have enjoyed building electric circuits, lighting up light bulbs and running small motors. Our noise level has gotten quite high during these explorations, with the whizzing of motors and "We did it!" exclamations! In the coming days, you may see us walking around campus with strange motorized circuit boards around our necks (called R2D2s!) as we go on a "Conductor Hunt". This week, we have worked hard at our writing



assessments and enjoyed composing nice messages on class valentines. In math, third graders just learned how to measure angles accurately with a protractor and second graders are discovering that multiplication isn't all that hard if you use arrays to help visualize the facts. Our can drive has been going well, as we strive to collect 1,000 cans and recycle them with the help of a Gambian craftsman.

Grade 4/5

Students have dedicated much of the past 4 weeks to math and there will never be time enough to cover all ground it seems. Students have taken 3 recent tests that go back to earlier units. We have reviewed fractions, decimals and percentages and some students are stills struggling with rapid translation from one to the other. We have worked considerably on geometry and measurement an most students have been able to come to terms with imperial and metric systems of measurement. They are more aware of the notion of division or multiplication by 10 or multiples of 10 to convert cm into dm etc... We are currently working on calculating areas and will next tackle volume.

In LA we have essentially worked on skills to construct a good piece of persuasive writing. This has been difficult for most and we are still working on the notion of good planning prior to composition. Students have studied and enjoyed 2 short stories recently, Greyling, which borrows from Celtic culture and The Homecoming, which was influenced by Chinese tales and myths. Students appear to have especially been captivated by the latter. We have studied plot in a story and the stages needed. During this month, students will create their own short stories for the Author's Tea. We are also continuing with our shared reading of Belle Prater's Boy and its main themes of friendship, small town attitudes and appearance.

In Social Studies we are continuing with the Map Reading and History of Map Making unit. We have studied in particular the life and achievements of Mercator and his map projections. Students are currently researching famous explorers and navigators and showing on large posters maps showing the course of their travels.
Mr. Ewan Good

Grade 6-9 Humanities

Love is in the air—courtly love that is, and bawdy married love from Chaucer as the 8/9 class finished reading *The Canterbury Tales* and finalized their own version of a Medieval Romance. We then moved on to investigating the motivation for the Crusades. Students wrote well on the impact of the Crusades on the "Dark Ages". Finally, this month we began the second part of our unit which is a full scale study of the Archimedes palimpsest and how it is an example of ideas surviving through human history. We will look into how the lives of Archimedes, Copernicus, and Galileo and their discoveries were affected by the religion and politics of their times. This group polished their oral presentation skills when they presented an amazing lesson to the 6/7 on The Golden Ratio and th Fibonacci Series, which they had created in Mathematics class. Bravo to them, they have really worked hard to speak well in front of an audience. The presentation got us all excited about the Golden Ratio—so we took some time afterwards to explore the work of M.C. Escher (one of my favorite artists), Albrecht Durer, and the patterns in DNA double helix spirals.

When did the Industrial Revolution end? Was a question asked by a seventh grader this past month. The answer was evident to some in the class already as they demonstrated on a unit test—it hasn't ended because some parts of the world are not industrialized yet. This class is right in the middle of reading David Copperfield, as well as turning in final drafts of a research paper on one of our essential questions—how does the way a society regards children and childhood affect the economic prosperity of that society over time? To improve our understanding of writing clearly, students worked in teams to create their own writing rubric, using a typical six traits writing rubric and a critical thinking skills taxonomy. I was proud of this class—some of the rubrics showed how aware they are of what they need to be doing in their writing. Rubrics are not easy to make, and this class rose to the challenge.

The entire middle school is reading, reading, reading to earn prizes and put scales on our Reading Dragon! Every time students have a spare moment they can be seen with their noses in a book. Keep up the good work.
Pastoral Care

The middle school students have drafted an initial Service Learning Proposal, with possible contacts and site visits. They will type it up and submit it to the Director next week. Lots of great ideas are shared in this class. We are all learning about how the problem of getting electricity is tackled in this country.

ESL

This month, the students practiced words and phrases they are learning in their class unit on maps and directions. We had fun playing follow the leader and Simon Says while we practiced right, left, up, down, turn, etc. Each day we also keep writing letters with chalk and crayon, while saying the sounds and tracing our letters. Our latest challenge is the /ch/sound. As a reward for the class, we tried out the interactive whiteboard games on the website

pbskids.org/whiteboard. The Reading between the Lions games are exactly what we need—reinforcing letter-sound correspondence and the students form simple words using sounds they know (cat, pat, bat, mat).

Student Council

This group is busy selling candy grams! Students are enjoying filling out cards and choosing candy for their classmates and teachers. The student council will deliver the treats on Friday. The student council wants to thank the PTO for a great movie night. Morale is way up because the older kids got their own movie, plus they had a great time socializing.

Grades 6-9 Mathematics

After their unit on fractions, 6th & 7th graders started the unit on Ratios, Proportions, and Percents. These are topics that are very important to learn in mathematics as they touch many areas of our daily lives. We use them constantly, whether we realize it or not. Do you ever talk about going 60 miles per hour? Or figure how long it takes to travel somewhere with such-and-such a speed? You have seen unit prices, such as \$1.22 per pound, \$4 per meter, or \$2.50 per liter or gallon. Have you ever figured how much something costs given the unit price or what is your monthly pay if given the hourly rate? You've used ratios (or rates) and proportion without realizing it sometimes. Hence, this unit will explore what are ratios, proportions; tackle scale models, explore the different ways to solve proportions and then move on to percents. At this level, students explore problem-solving using proportions, ratios or percents. We will also be investigating scale models and other real-life math models in preparation for Science and Math day.

The eighth graders have wrapped up their unit on the Applications of Proportions and in the process of completing assessments on the unit. They will continue to work on their scale model that is due the end of February and will be part of their final grade for term 2. Their final product will be on display at the upcoming Science and Math day sometime in April. Meanwhile, the 8th & 9th graders have also been working on applications of percents and their use in real-life applications. The 9th grade students are working on polynomials and their application in problem-solving. Our next unit will be on Geometry, concepts and application.

A great highlight of this trimester was the integrated project with Art, Humanities, Science and IT! The grade 8/9 students explored the many wonders of the Fibonacci Sequence and saw how the sequence was related to the Golden Ratio in our own natural habitat. Students brought in an apple, a lemon, sweet pepper and a mandarin. So we set out to see if we could get a Fibonacci number in any of the items that were brought in. Behold the sweet pepper had 3 chambers, the lemon had 2; the apple had 2 chambers and the mandarin happened to have 13 wedges! We checked all the flowers on our campus –they all had a Fibonacci number of petals! One of the most fascinating things about the Fibonacci numbers (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144. . .) is their connection to nature such as the petals on various flowers such as the iris, buttercup, daisy, and the sunflower; the appendages and chambers on many fruits and vegetables such as the lemon, apple, chili, sweet pepper, the artichoke and many more...



This term we will be working on preparing for exams early March. Timed 'Mock Exam' papers will be given to students to help improve their time management skills whilst taking a test or an exam. Exam papers such as the Cambridge checkpoint past papers will be used.

Mrs. Amal A. Alfa

Grade 6-9 Science

Grade 7&8 are studying classification of living things and an in-depth discussion of the five-kingdom and its evolutionary basis. The students learn the characteristics of members of each of these kingdoms, as well as the importance of such organisms in our world.

They will continue to look at plants without seeds which include algae, mosses, and ferns. Students will investigate plants with seeds concentrating on the characteristics and functions of the roots, stems and leaves, and the role and mechanics of photosynthesis.

Finally the students will venture into the wonderful world of animals, discovering the characteristics, roles, and evolutionary relationships of the various phyla. This will be done through exciting prose, visuals, and activities, introducing students to a cast of characters including sponges, corals, worms, and mollusks.

They will look at the evolution of vertebrates, starting with the fishes and moving from sea to land-reptiles, birds, and mammals.

To conclude the program, the students will go a field trip.

Grade 6/7 students are discovering the nature of materials that make up themselves and their universe. They have been looking at the general properties of matter, physical and chemical changes that are taking place. Students have also discovered the five phases that matter can exist in. They will be learning how to classify matter according to its makeup. As they learn about the various kinds of mixtures, they discover why solutions are different from other mixtures. The students also learn to use chemical symbols, and formulas, They will be outlining the atomic model, from the early Greek concept to modern atomic theory. Students will explore the structure of the atom and discover the relationships among atomic number, isotope, mass number, and atomic mass. Finally they will give an in-depth look at the eight families of the elements and discuss how the periodic law explains the physical and chemical properties of elements.

French K-9

In February, G6-7 students are to be found editing their book report about French Polynesia. In this final stage students wrote about Matisse and Gauguin who lived for a while in these Pacific Islands. Each student selected a painting from either Matisse or Gauguin and tried to make a picture similar to the painting.

In G8-9, students are reading a simplified version of Les Miserables by Victor Hugo. They have finished their research on the plot, the characters and Victor Hugo's biography. We focus on the conjugation of the past tenses and how they are used in a novel.

In G4-5, students are focusing on learning different ways for getting information. For example, when you want to know where a person is from, you can ask;

D'où viens-tu? Tu viens d'où? Quelle est ta nationalité? Tu es de quel pays?
We are beginning to write correctly most of the frequent questions learned.

From Kindergarten to G3, students are making picture books with sentences on topics covered during the first semester. It is exciting to see children remember work done and learning how to read the time. Some of the students are writing a description of a classmate for example. Reading is encouraged as each class has a weekly reading session. My goal is to have my students read easy books in French in the very near future.
Madame Joof French K-9

Physical Education PreK-9

PRE-K

Kindy(Twist and Turn/Bend and Stretch)

Pairs cooperate to pass a beanbag from side to side then overhead and between legs with increased difficulty.

GRADE 1(Stationary Rope Jumping)

Just concluded Hurdling practices where students in groups of 3 learn and practice leaping over hurdles arranged in a row and moving into Stationary and Moving Rope jumping.

GRADE 2&3 (The Hokey Pokey Dance)

A popular dance performed at weddings and special events. Students perform actions prompted by the lyrics and repetition of previous dances learned.

GRADE 4&5 (Those Tricky Transitions)

Students in this class are just getting a handle on the Daily Dozen which includes flexibility exercises and strength builders. 85% of the class are already pulling off some amazing gymnastic stunts and are helping others up. Still working on the finishing and the tricky transitions between stunts and tumbling.

GRADE 6, 7, 8&9(Volleyball Underhand serve)

A 20 minute drill in the volleyball pepper game which involves a combination of the set, pass and hit in pair in a repetitive session. Students learn and practice the basics of underhand serve with challenges.

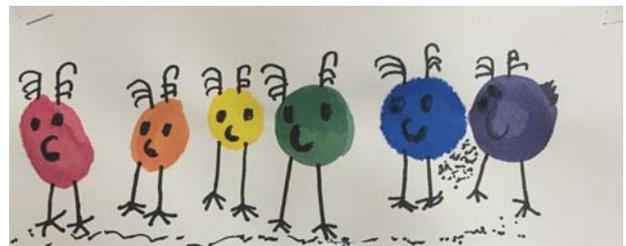
Mr. Wright

Art K-9

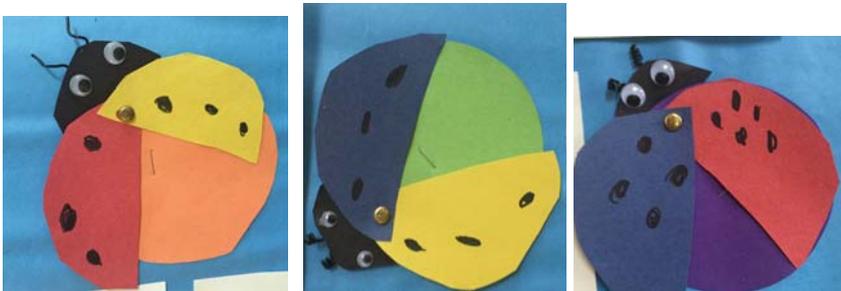


Grade K-1

The Kindergartners and first graders explored the element of color. They should be able to tell you what primary and secondary colors are and how to mix them! After mixing tempera paints with their hands, the Kindergartners mixed water paints and created fun watercolor birds, they revised their knowledge of color mixing theory when assembling their ladybugs.



Gaelle- Alexandra

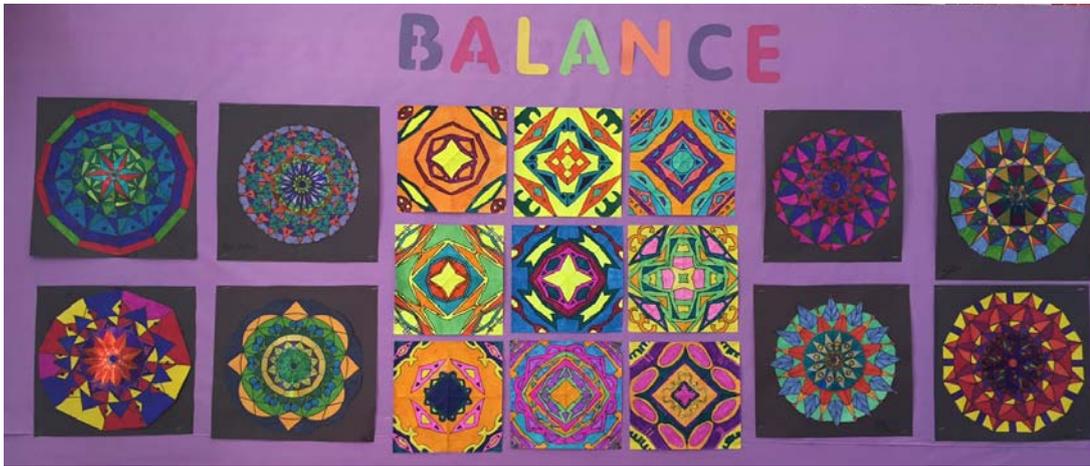


Kindergarten

The first graders were really engaged while meeting their challenge of creating 100 different colors! They did not only mix the colors but also gave every color a name in RLA class with Ms. Savage! In order to refresh their color mixing theory the first graders painted mouth-watering popsicles.



Adham



The second and third graders are still working on their totem pole made from glue bottles. They focused on symmetry while doing so. One of these days we will display our finished products.

The fourth and fifth graders traced their names several times in order to create radial balance



Martha

Madeleine

Carl

The sixth and seventh graders used an old CD to create and color a mandala while using their math skills to measure and design while exploring radial balance.

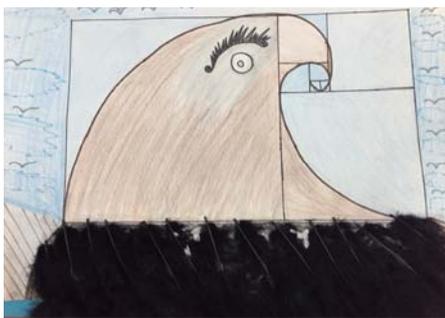


Daire

Nezer

Garv

The seventh and eighth graders explored the Golden spiral and Fibonacci sequence in arts and math and showed great creativity integrating the Golden spiral in their artwork.



Esther

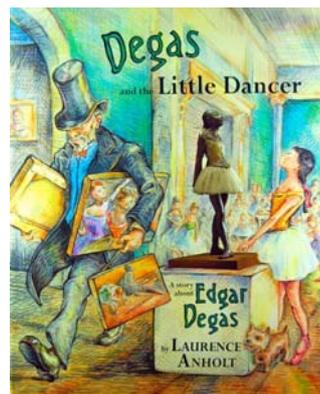


Estelle-Erika

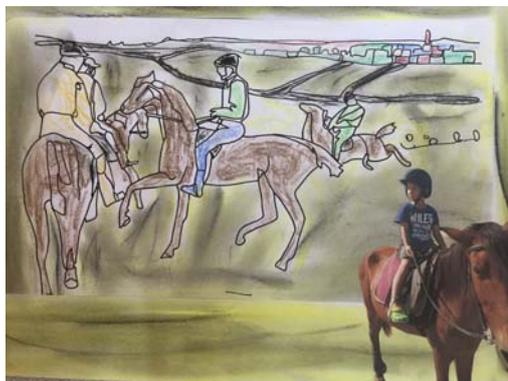
After the revelation of our Mystery Artists all students in K-9 discussed Edgar Degas's life and artwork.

We read the book *Degas and the Little Dancer* by Laurence Anholt and the students had a chance to observe and discuss several of his masterpieces.

The Middle School students Watched the BBC documentary 'Fake or Fortune: Degas and the blue dancer' where investigators go on a quest to prove the authenticity of a Degas painting. It is a journey that takes them to Paris, Hamburg and Berlin and crosses many disciplines such as science, ballet, history,....



All students are now in the process of creating their Degas inspired masterpieces. Have a sneak peek of work in progress.



Left: Grade 4-5
Right: Saydullo Kindergarten



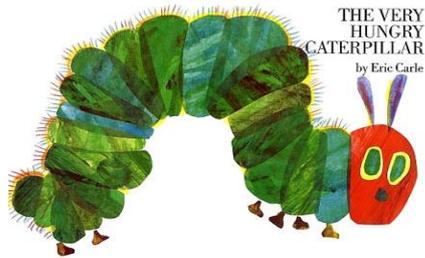
Ms. Leen



Left: Martina
Right: Liliane Kindergarten

- **What is happening next week at BAES?**

- February 17th- International Day
- February 18th Gambian Independence Day (no idea about the 19th)



Important dates for Book Month:

- February 17th Parade of book characters
- February 17th International luncheon
- February 26th Authors' Tea, Poetry Reading-Hungry Caterpillar Tea
- February 26th Book Exchange

Have a great weekend!

Sharon



Lots Happening at BAES- Please put these dates on your calendar. Please note that a few days such as French Assembly and Math/Science day have changed since the original was made.

Important Dates

February	What is happening at BAES?
	Reading Month
February 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parade of book characters • International luncheon
February 18th	Gambian Independence NO SCHOOL The President might call Friday off and in that case there will be no school on Friday. Please watch TV listen to the radio or ask your staff. If the President does not officially call Friday we will have school!
February 22 nd	Last After School except for "Annie"
February 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors' Tea, Poetry Reading-Hungry Caterpillar Tea 8:15am • Book Exchange
February 26th	Board meeting 2:00
March	What is Happening at BAES?
March 18th	MS Assembly 8:00am
March 18th	Board 2:00pm
March 24th	French Assembly 8:00am School finishes at 12:00
March 24th	"Annie" 6:00 Ocean Bay
March 25 th -April 3 rd	Spring Break
April	What is happening at BAES?
April 4 th	School resumes at 8:00am
April 22 nd	PreK Assembly
April 22 nd	Math/Science Day
April 22 nd	Board 2:00pm
April 23-April 30 th	MSA Visiting Team is here for the Team Visit
May	What is Happening at BAES?
May 3 rd	PD noon dismissal
May 1-20	MAP Testing
May 16th—20th	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 20th	PE Assembly
May 25 th -29th	Long Weekend May 25 th is Africa Liberation Day
May 30-June 2 nd	Writing Prompts
June	What is Happening at BAES?
June 8th	Moving Up Day Grade 5
June 9th	Moving Up Project Presentations Grade 5
June 15th	Student-Led Conference Students come only when they have their conference with their parents/guardians
June 17th	Board meeting 2:00pm
June 21st	Field Day
June 22 nd	Graduation and Leaving Ceremony. School Finishes for the year directly after the ceremony
June 22 nd	After Graduation and Leaving Ceremony Summer Holidays begin.