



The last eighteen months have seen a rapid development in IT facilities at the British International School which are reflective of the school as a whole. The school is fast regaining the popularity it enjoyed before the events of 2003. All year group numbers are buoyant and several have waiting lists.

One of the reasons for this is the continued raising of pupil achievement across the whole school. Examination results came out over the summer and the school can be proud of the performance of its pupils at all levels.

This is the third year of GCSE graduates and some relevant statistics of the results are seen below with UK comparisons in brackets:

Percentage of grades A*,A	51.3%	(19%)
Percentage of grades A*,A,B	74.8%	(37%)
Percentage of pupils achieving A*toC including English and maths, Percentage of pupils achieving A*toC	92.3%	(62%)
	81%	

This would put the school in the top 90 state schools in England. This is a remarkable achievement, considering that 86 of those schools are the top grammar schools. Our pupils make up a comprehensive intake, and only 3 comprehensives performed better than BIS on this criterion.

Our SAT results showed similar academic excellence compared with the UK national benchmarks. One hundred percent of our pupils reached the UK benchmark in KS1 science (level 2 and above), KS2 science (level 4 and above), KS3 science and English (level 5 and above). In all other areas, the figures were 95% or better.

Well over 50% of our pupils at KS2 level are working above the UK average in all three areas of English, maths and science. At KS3 maths we have 27% of our pupils working at the highest level 8, while 71% and 35% are working at level 7 in science and English respectively.

This shows a remarkable commitment from pupils, staff, governors, parents and the community as a whole. All are working together to achieve this success. Two groups that have fully supported the school in a practical way are the governors and elements of the British business community. The governors backed and financed an IT development in the last year which has seen the school make huge strides in its

SABB Supports British International School

by Barry Hynes



computer provision: another fully networked room was added; all teaching rooms have been networked; many teachers have been equipped with network computers and projectors; mobile computing has been introduced with a trolley of laptops being wheeled around; broadband internet was brought in. This work will continue over the next two years to the extent that all teachers will use computers and the internet to radically extend their teaching methodology. Pupils will have access to a much larger and richer source of information and be subject to a variety of teaching methods.

But we recognise that children do not just learn by listening and watching; they must also participate, predict, demonstrate and contribute in any number of ways. The 'interactive board' was designed for this purpose.

The concept is of a 'live' 'whiteboard'. The image reflected from the screen can be manipulated by a 'pen' or a finger in the same way as a mouse manipulates the image on the screen. With some cleverly designed software, pupils are able to come to the front (or control the 'pen' remotely) and take part in, or lead the lesson. While the school is no stranger to this technology, having had one such board for 4 years, SABB has provided the funding for 3 further boards, complete with computer and projector. The school added a further two and now all classes have opportunity to enjoy interactive lessons. Ad hoc surveys show that pupils look forward to these lessons and to using the creative software to give active learning the chance to take place.

The school wishes to acknowledge the contribution from SABB and to express thanks on behalf of all staff and pupils. The boards are set up and will be in full use this term. Staff are also enthusiastic about the new developments and are keen to use projectors and interactive boards as part of their teaching. We hope to cater for this enthusiasm and equip every teaching room with the same. The school will hope to fund some of this but would welcome similar contributions from other sections of the business community to equip individual rooms. The school would also like to acknowledge contributions, support etc made to the school from many other companies, organisations and leisure and music clubs. We are a strong and central part of the British and Dutch communities and are always keen to extend links of a financial, business, sporting or social nature.