



## *Highlighted Contents from Today's TIS Bulletin:7/4/17*

*Click on each topic to take you to the corresponding page*

- Thought for the Week
- Calendar
- Making Us Proud
- Parent Reminders
- Email Hassles
- TIS Re-registration
- Easter Long Weekend Exeat
- MYP Corner
- CAS Updates
- Rotary Interact Student Club
- Aston University Breaks Record in Global Subject Rankings
- Aston Business School Ranked one of UK's Best
- Counselor's Corner
- Outstanding Scholarship & Financial Aid Offers- IB2 Class of 2017
- Brag Rights
- IB2's - A Note about IBIS Reports
- College Application Process- IB1 Parents
- ACT June Registration Commences Next Week
- Upcoming College Visits
- University admission decisions vary, here's an article that makes interesting read
- Creative Arts

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## TIS BULLETIN: 7 APRIL, 2017.

### Thought for the Week

Venture outside your comfort zone. The rewards are worth it.  
Rapunzel (*Tangled*)

### Calendar

8/4/17: ACT; Science Fair; Praise Night

12/4/17: Sports Gala (2.00-4.00pm)

13/4/17: Easter long weekend commences

17/4/17: Easter long weekend ends

21/4/17: G9 business excursion (local)

23/4/17: Exam candidates' service (11.00am); visiting Sunday (1.00-5.00pm)

### Making Us Proud

[Back to top](#)

- Alexander Odartey-Wellington has been awarded the Pearson Scholarship at the University of Toronto.
- Our TIS delegates at MUN Haarlem 2017

### Parent Reminders

- Exeat requests for a weekend should be received by COB Wednesdays.
- Students returning to school from exeat must arrive by 5.00pm. After this time, school gates are closed.
- Students returning from an exeat on a school day must be in full school uniform.

### Email Hassles

Unfortunately, resolving our mail server woes continued until early this week. I apologise for the ongoing frustration this has caused parents, especially at the start and end of a break. Emails should not be bouncing now. If they do, or you do not receive a response to an email in 24 hours, then please forward them to [support@tis.edu.gh](mailto:support@tis.edu.gh)

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## TIS Re-registration

In order to ensure the accuracy of our student numbers for 2017/2018, parents should have received an email last Friday to complete the re-registration of their child/children by 30 April. To confirm enrolment for next year, parents will be required to complete student and family data to ensure current data on MB is accurate. Please use the specific link provided in the email.

You will enter this data on OpenApply (OA) which is MB's younger sibling. It is user-friendly, however, if you have any issues, please contact Bijoux or myself.

To date, only 8% of parents have completed the task. Your cooperation and timeliness will always be appreciated.

## Easter Long Weekend Exeat

Students and staff will commence the Easter long weekend from 4.30pm on Wednesday, 12 April and must return by 5.00pm on Monday, 17 April.

Students who wish to remain on campus during this break must inform Alex Tay by Monday, 10 April.

I appreciate your support.

Dr Ken Darvall  
Principal

## MYP Corner

### MUN and International Mindedness

I used to look down at the MUN (Model United Nations) in a bit of a negative way. Why would we want to dress up young people in suits to make them look like businessmen or politicians and stampede around in a pretentious overly formal way? It might also be my Dutch background where politicians and businessmen not necessarily walk around in suits with ties. There is a saying in Dutch, "Just act normal, that's crazy enough".

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# TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



In that light, I also wondered how it would fit in with the IB programmes finding it more in line with the Duke of Edinburgh Award activities. Luckily I don't always stick to my, sometimes fixed, ideas and allow myself to think beyond.

As much as I still don't like the dressing up and the etiquette surrounding the MUN, I do see the value of it. First, it does fit in with the Service and Action or CAS, which are compulsory in the IB programmes. With the preparations before the MUN weekend and during, the students role model and discuss global issues, which will enhance their knowledge of the world around them and the problems there are. Meeting students from other schools and other cultural backgrounds is a second advantage of the MUN. It was a pleasure to see our students mingle last weekend in Haarlem with their fellow MUN participants, making friends, exchanging emails and promising to stay in touch.

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International mindedness also means being aware of the differences and accept these differences, as they might be right as well. They were impressed by the traffic and the enormous amount of people on bikes giving a feel of chaos, yet being very organised and (mostly) abiding to the traffic rules/lights.

The students got a better picture as well as how life is in the Netherlands, and Haarlem with its historical picturesque centre will have added to this. The trip

to Amsterdam with the boat trip added even more history and, of course, shopping. The food might not always have been to their taste, and they missed the rice, but at least they did try. I did hear that they liked the brown bread, but the crust was hurting their gums!

Ate Hemmes  
MYP Coordinator

## HMUN Report

On Tuesday, 28 March 2017, 27 students from Tema International School embarked on a trip to the Haarlem Model United Nations (HMUN) conference in Haarlem, Netherlands. They were accompanied by three Advisors, Ms Angela Sermackor, Mr. Edem Amenoo and Mr. Edward Kumah-Noi.

This year happened to be the 20<sup>th</sup> edition and the theme for the conference was: “Sustainable development; problems of the past and possibilities of the future”.

This year’s conference was attended by over 600 delegates from all over the world with TIS being the only school from Africa. There were 17 committees in all, this includes the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council (SC), Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the Conflict Committee (CC), Human Right Council (HRC), International Court of Justice (ICJ), etc. Topics discussed included interesting ones such as creating financial structures which would support a fair and green economy and protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind.

Our students made us proud by contributing to the resolutions of their various committees.

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## HMUN Reflections

This trip was very interesting. My first day was very irritating due to the fact that it was very cool, but I still had fun because we went shopping. The rooms in the hostel in which we slept in were quite small and at the beginning they were very cold till we figured out how to turn on the heaters. The breakfast was quite painful because of the hard bread which cut my gum every time I had a bite. The first day of the conference was nice. I met my chairs who were very pleasant and they added some parts of my resolution to a different resolution which passed, so that kind of made my day. We had lunch there. Worst decision I have ever made in my life. Their lunch was so different. It was like I was having snack and on top of that the bread was hard, again. After lunch we went back to our conference room to laugh a little and read stuff from the gossip box. One thing that struck me as weird was the way people kept on looking at me, but I just kept on walking. We came back to the hostel for dinner and I had meatballs and bread which was actually really nice. The next day at the conference we started debating which was quite intense especially between Netherlands and Sudan. They kept on trying to find faults with each other and that was very interesting. When it was time for lunch I decided not to eat due to my experience the day before, so I just sat there and spoke to my friends, then left to my conference room for another session. After this conference I went to eat McDonalds then we went back to the hostel. We had so much fun and ordered food to be delivered.

At the end of the conference we came to a conclusion that countries will sign an agreement to ensure that medical research is shared for the betterment of developing countries. The conference was generally organised properly, even though there were some racist people and we didn't handle our items all so well. - *Josid Owusu-Akyaw*

For a whole month, I was excited to go for MUN and this definitely paid off. This trip was very amazing!! The MUN was properly organized by the executives of the school (Stedelijk Gymnasium). It was very impressive, the fluency of their English, as it is not the national language of the country. I didn't like the food, which mainly consisted of bread and yogurt. We stayed at the Stayokay hostel during the trip. The rooms were fine and we were four people per room. I loved my roommates; they were really fun, and I even got us some gari and shito for us to eat instead of the bread.

My committee, to be honest, was quite boring. I found the topics quite uninteresting and the resolutions were hard to write. We had a lot of ups and downs with the topics, but in the end all of them were deemed as efficient. The topics were on the effects on decreasing oil prices for oil exporting countries, increasing women's control over their financial resources, questioning the effect of MEDC's export and the effect on the local markets of LEDC's and finally improving sanitation in slums. I really didn't talk until the last day, because of my lack of enthusiasm for the committee and the topics, but ended up debating and voting in favor of the two final resolutions, which passed successfully. There was a lot of discrimination against women when it came to the idea of gender equality because some male delegates were against it and ended up voting against it, using religion as their stepping stone to state their problems.

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Overall, the MUN was cool, as I learnt a lot from people as others also learnt from me. I was mainly distressed about the fact that, the foreigners thought that Africa was a country and displayed their ignorance by asking the weirdest questions. This just made me realize that those who were too shy to ask would grow up thinking the same thing.

I am hoping that next time the organizers would be more diverse in the choice of food, hospitality and decoration and hope that next year they would be more open minded about being international.

I think that it would be good for everyone in school to go for this trip to improve their public speaking skills, although it is very cold and I advise everyone to go prepared. - **Baaba Yaatarba Egeyi-Mensah**

Haarlem Model United Nations was an unforgettable experience! It was a trip that opened my eyes to real world conflicts, taught me how to be more open-minded and also taught me how to relate to students from all over the world. During this 3-day conference, I saw a group of committed students who got together to plan and meticulously organize this conference. This showed me how much motivation and dedication can take you a long way because trust me, the conference was truly a success in terms of organization. Every committee was neatly prepared for the students and they really made sure every student was properly accommodated. When I first entered my committee, the International Committee of Justice (ICJ), I was very nervous and anxious because I really didn't know what to expect. But after the president thoroughly explained it to all the judges, I was truly excited and expectant of what was to come. As a judge, I was able to ask many questions that led to great discussions in my committee thus affecting the final verdict. The many questions I asked, led me to win the title '**Best Interrogator**'. In my committee, we were discussing the conflict between Croatia and Serbia, and the Vukovar Massacre as to whether it was a genocide or not. At the end of the conference, our verdict was that Serbia did purposely kill the Croatians during the massacre and it's therefore a genocide. I would strongly recommend for TIS students to come for **HMUN** because it is a truly great experience, and the shopping here is also amazing!! - **Tori Pfeifer**

This year, I attended the Haarlem Model United Nations representing the United Arab Emirates in the **Special Conference 1** which took place in Stedelijk Gymnasium for 3 days. I was both excited and nervous, and my journey through HMUN was fun yet overwhelming. I spent a lot of time researching, practicing and learning about the UAE, the rules of procedure, the topics going to be discussed in our committees, etc., which were actually quite interesting. This year's theme for MUN was "**Sustainable Development; problems of the past, possibilities of the future**", a topic that I honestly had no clue on, but over time grasped a good understanding of it. I was so impressed by the conference especially by the fact that it was planned by the students of the school. The area was really clean and extremely cold! It really surprised me how the conference was entirely different than what I had expected. The very first day, in my committee, we had a little icebreaker and then got to know each other. We then had a mock debate: "**Nutella vs Peanut Butter: which is healthier? which was really cool and interesting.**" The delegates in my committee immediately spurred into discussing the agenda, began forming

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alliances and really advocated to speak their country's stand on the various issues we had to discuss. The feeling was overwhelming; I didn't think I was prepared for the conference at all but talking to my committee chairman, Ella, made me feel a bit better. I wasn't really active on the first day of the conference but on the second and last days I gained some confidence and spoke and defended my country's views on the topics. The delegates were a lot more professional and way more experienced than I was which was one of the reasons why I didn't want to speak on the first day. The experience was much more accurate to how the actual UN works. The days were long and exhausting, but building friendships, at the same time we were trying to build resolutions was comforting. Josid, Ama and I worked with France, Syria, Nigeria, etc, and Chile and Japan were my closest allies. In the conference, I remember thinking about how thrilled I was to actually be a part of something that has the potential to improve today's living conditions around the world.

On top of all that, our group's resolution passed successfully and it was encouraging to work with many other delegates from all over the world, with different cultures, languages and experiences. I thought to myself, "so, this is what the UN really must look like." Looking back at this experience, I understand that the UAE and the royal family of Dubai, as well the world, hold a place dear to my heart. It was incredibly refreshing to put into practice what we have learned in theory, to work closely with other people from other countries. Writing the resolutions was not easy, especially when there was so much information to be included. Learning the terminology and rules of the conference were confusing and a little excruciating. I can proudly say, there is nothing that I would change, because I can take it all as a learning experience. I would like to put it out there that I won **best dressed delegate** in my committee. We also had a lot of fun and bonded too which I really liked and I would really recommend this conference for you. - *Nana Frimpomaa Afranie-Adjei*

HMUN is the first ever MUN conference I have attended. It was a very good decision I made and I had a lot of fun with my friends and the teachers. The trip was organized properly as there were no issues involved and everything went on smoothly. My first impression of my committee was that they were all so serious and they so unfriendly, but when we carried along the day, I got to make new friends and got to know new people from different places around the world. The organization was quite impressive considering that it was done by the students of that school. The food for me was not the best. The bread was so hard and raw but it was okay. The breakfast had quite an interesting variety. This was okay but sometimes the food, especially the bread, was too hard at Stayokay Hostel as well. The conference itself turned out to be what I didn't expect. The people were friendly, pleasant, welcoming and very organized. You could tell that they had really prepared for this conference by the way they were talking and asking questions or making amendments, or even making speeches. My committee had interesting topics to debate and discuss like improving the security of airports. There were so many resolutions including mine that were joined together to present to the house. About 3 resolutions of this topic were debated and it was only one that passed in which I co-submitted. The conference was successful in the end and I'm going to miss the people I met. I'm also going to miss Haarlem because we've shared so many memories here and we've had a lot fun and

## Follow us







# TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



challenges. This was when we were trying to adapt to the weather and others were trying to keep their stuff handy and trying to also adapt to their time. Especially, how we had to take care of our bus passes and room cards.

All in all I enjoyed the trip and I would like to give TIS a thumbs up and commend that they continue this, for it will help every student to inquire and analyze a lot of things happening in other countries. - *Amanda Fafa Awumee*

On the 28th March 2017 a group of ambassadors and delegates embarked on a trip to Haarlem in the Netherlands. We were accommodated at the Stayokay Hotel, a Haarlem based hotel. When we touched down in Amsterdam, the excitement on people's faces was extravagant and as we walked out of the halls of the airport, the cold breeze of Amsterdam dazed on people's faces with people trying to find warmth. The Haarlem Model United Nations (HMUN) started on Friday, 31 March, 2017. Delegates were anxious as most people from TIS were beginning delegates, so some people were faced with fear but in general, I think they really tried their best. I was honoured to be in the Group of Twenty (G20) which is a special committee focusing on countries economies, how to better countries economies and how to better the world, I was the delegate of Turkey, but later I was changed to the delegate of Poland for the crisis. One of the main topics I enjoyed debating about was the issue of ghost towns in Asia. This was a very serious problem and my committee battled to develop a suitable resolution to solve the problem. Some solutions to this problem were to rebuild these ghost towns, again which were destroyed by natural disasters and abandoned because of the shifting of economic activity to another location. So, as the delegate of Turkey, I spoke to some delegates about this issue and was really amazed by some points other delegates raised in the G20. At the end of this discussion, we were able to come up with a very strong resolution to eradicate ghost towns and bring these cities to life again by shifting services to these ghost towns. I believe as a delegate I was able to raise good questions and very suitable points to help some of these issues. I also believe I really spoke in my committee and I feel I was really recognized due to my nomination for **best accent**. But I think I had a few weaknesses which were to match up to some very experienced delegates in this committee. At the end of the day I was nominated for various award positions and finally I won **best suit** for all the three days which I think is an achievement. For all my fellow MUN inspired people I want to urge you to try this MUN which I believe increases your public speaking skills and builds your courage and allows you to know what is going on around currently us in this world. I believe all of you should try this HMUN and any other MUN that will come up along the years. - *Andrew Nartey*

Two months prior to the Haarlem Model United Nations trip, our chaperones started to conduct meetings to allow us to properly prepare for the conference. Everything was planned out carefully by our chaperones and the IB1's also helped to execute their plans. When we arrived at our accommodation we sat down for breakfast which to our surprise was a spread of cold meats, bread and cereal. Breakfast was quite repetitive and was my least favourite meal throughout the conference. The interior of the accommodation was a very colourful place which contrasts its dull exterior. On the first day as I walked into my committee room I was

## Follow us





# TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



scared as I feared racism. I was shocked to realise that no one openly expressed their racist comments. During the conference, I was able to voice my opinion a few times during the debate and made amendments to various resolutions. The host school was able to plan the conference efficiently but the food was once again a problem for us. The lunch was also a spread of cold meats and hard bread which did not have the most flavour. The conference was very interesting as I was able to interact with people from different countries and make new friends. After numerous debates, The Human Rights Council was able to conclude that countries based on religious beliefs do not have to legalise LGBT+ rights, but should put up laws to protect them.  
- ***Davina Adjua Yawson***

About 2 months ago, the student and teacher representatives for the upcoming Model United Nations anticipated the event they would embark on soon, however, they were not aware of the effort nor the hard work it would take. I remember our chaperones calling us for meetings and having 5 students show up in the new exam hall, much to the disappointment of our teachers. And so it began, the back and forth of cautioning people for not attending meetings and the late night debates we had leaving people upset from their failed resolutions. Two months later, we were all struck by the waves of cold winds blowing against our unprepared selves. Our first taste of the Dutch cuisine was very unsatisfactory as we all weren't used to the constant intake of cold food and hard bread. We all tried to cope with the meals but made constant visits to McDonalds when they become much too incompetent. When I first stepped into my conference room I was surprised. I was used to conferences of sizes ranging from 20 to 50 delegates but this room held only 9 personnel. This was by far the best committee I've ever been in. Our chairs were one of the funniest personalities I've met and my committee consisted of people representing Donald Trump, Mr. Jinping, President of the Republic of China, and Mr. Modi, the Prime Minister of India. I represented Mr. George Will, one of the most influential journalists in the world. I found myself contributing so much to discussions and debates as the size of the committee was immensely welcoming. We worked together in coming up with a Framework Convention on Sustainable Development Policy and all joined forces into what would become the product of 3 days of hard work and toil. At the end of it all we finally came up with a document that we believed would finally solve the problem of sustainable development, climate change while recognizing the needs of the corporate, social, economical and ecological aspects of sustainable development. The best part of it all was the fact that I formed lasting bonds with great people of the future after these 3 days of collaboration. I would finally like to implore all future delegates to contribute to debate, involve themselves in their committee and overall, enjoy their time at the MUN conference because this is an opportunity none would want to miss out on. - ***Enam Nana Yaa Hermon***

During this year's 2017 Haarlem Model United Nations I'd like to say that I had a completely wonderful time, but honestly if I said that I'd be lying to you. Firstly, the food was strange and sometimes unpleasant, the weather was horrid, and the people despite being very polite were sometimes ignorant, especially when it came to the subject of Africa. To be frank with you all, HMUN is really challenging and even the level of difficulty that we faced was only

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# TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



heightened when we were faced with the fact that we were the only African school attending the conference and the rest of the delegates seemingly had tons more experience than us. For them HMUN is casual and easy and that was blatantly evident as we mingled with them at the school. They were so put together, following the program to the very last second. Not a hair on their predominantly blond heads was out of place. You can imagine how shocked we all were to hear that some delegates had attended model United Nations conferences 17 times, some 23 times, some 40 times while the most experienced person in TIS had only been to the conference 5 times. As Davina and I walked into the Human Rights Council we were honestly lost and scared out of our minds. However, we both were relieved to find that our council was warm and welcoming and that our chairs were nurturing. They supported us as we stumbled and wavered as first timers usually do. In no time at all I found myself debating fearlessly with delegations that had opposing views to mine and shutting down resolutions that my delegation the United Arab Emirates could not agree with. I even won **best dressed** and the delegate with **the best hair** (braids are very uncommon in the Netherlands). For all those who are planning to attend MUN in the future I would just advise you to stay calm and collected. All in all, in spite of the few stares we got in the street because of the strange and probably rare sight of 27 dark-skinned, shivering teenagers ranging in size and shade huddling closely together at bus-stops in 10°C weather and the flocks of people with strange accents scrutinizing us from afar and admiring our hair, the conference was enlightening, insightful and most of all really fun.

- *Awura Aba K. Kufuor*

Throughout the entire conference, I was very impressed with the organization of the Haarlem Model United Nations Conference. Everything was very well planned and detailed information was given to us to help us get comfortable. My committee was very welcoming. Although, I felt shy in the beginning, as time went on, I got acquainted with everything. I began to speak up and make a lot of new friends. With regards to debating, I was quite reluctant in the morning of the first day, but as time went on, I got very comfortable because of the welcoming words of the Chair so I began to contribute to all the debates.

One of the issues my committee focused on was the issue of Syria and eventually realized that the Syrian conflict will definitely take time to solve. So the Security Council decided to keep helping those being affected by the conflict by granting humanitarian aid and putting in place other measures to save the lives of the civilians.

Generally, the conference was very enlightening and an amazing experience. My public speaking skills improved greatly as well as my communication skills. I learnt how to make new friends and debate on serious world matters. My committee, the **Security Council**, challenged me and helped me to think right on the spot to create resolutions to help solve the problems at hand.

With everything comes a little flaw. I must say the food was not really what I expected it to be. But on the bright side, it helped me learn how to live with conditions I may not find pleasant and adapt to all situations I find myself in.

All in all, it was a great and life changing experience. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the Haarlem Model United Nations. - *Audrey Antwi-Asimeng*

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# TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



I think HMUN was quite a success for a program that had a bunch of teenagers in charge. My committee, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, had a lot of people who had been to a lot of MUN conferences in the previous years and this made me feel quite awkward and nervous as it was my first time taking part in one. They were all quite confident and lively and our chairs were really nice. My co-delegate Kyle, and I, didn't really talk much but we did submit a number of amendments that passed and were added to all the final resolutions concerning the three topics discussed. At the end of the three day conference, my committee suggested in our resolutions that the general public should reduce the rate at which people cut down trees, enforce the appropriate laws to eradicate sexual exploitation in southeast Asian countries and make sure we educate others on the effects of overfishing on the ecosystem. The food that was served during our stay was quite... fascinating. Aside from the food and the fact that some delegates had certain perceptions on Africa and its people, I think it was an amazing experience. And I would like all interested students to know that being quiet is not an option. Your voices need to be heard and MUN provides the perfect platform to doing so. - *Yeyo Padikuor Nartey*

At HMUN 2017, I was very impressed and amazed by how well organized and well coordinated the conference was. We stayed at the StayOkay hostel where they treated us well with amazing rooms and splendid food. My first impression of my committee was that they were hostile and quite boring. However, at the latter part of the third day, I realized that the committee was extremely friendly and very entertaining. I enjoyed every bit of it. My associate, Audrey Asimeng, and I submitted two successful operative clauses, which became a part of the passed resolution. I believe that a major strength of this years HMUN was that it was very well organized and effective. However, a major weakness of the HMUN this year was that racial profiling and racism towards us, the Tema International students, was very disturbing. Also, the food served at the HMUN wasn't very diverse and wasn't very pleasing. Finally, I recommend all students take part in the next HMUN to strengthen their public speaking skills, enhance their CV, know more about world affairs and finally, to interact with people from different backgrounds and personalities to strengthen bonds and friendships that will bring us all together, and connect us as one family. - *McKevin Novis-Zukowski*

My HMUN experience was amazing for my first time. I was really impressed with the school that hosted HMUN as they had worked hard to make sure that we had interesting topics to debate, food to eat every day and to make sure we enjoyed the conference and our committees. I was in the Peace Building Commission where I met a lot of funny and interesting people who surprisingly did not discriminate me as I was the only colored person in my committee. As we went along with the debates, I gave points of information to people's clauses and speeches but was scared to send my own clauses. We passed resolutions on establishing an international guideline for developing countries and former war zones and the issues of Burundi and Central African Republic. The debate that got the most people talking was the debate about the international guideline and it was hot and intense. The conference

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though had its up and downs. The sandwiches they served us every day for lunch were hard like they were a rock. But, the people in my committee were very kind and welcoming so, it compensated. To be honest, I enjoyed the conference more than I thought I would and I encourage people to sign up to go for the conference as it really helps with your public speaking and it really helps with your transcript. Also, you meet a lot of new friends from all over the world. - **John Chandas Kwaatei Quartey**

HMUN 2017 was a very nice experience for me, I really enjoyed the conference as a whole. It was very well coordinated and I was able to express myself to the best of my abilities. Food was alright but by far not the best meals I've had. Coming from Africa eating sandwiches for lunch was problematic because I was used to much heavier, fulfilling foods, such as jollof and waakye for lunch.

We stayed at Stayokay Haarlem and proudly I can say this was one of the best aspects of the whole HMUN. We stayed in a nice and clean facility where staff were really nice to us. Our MUN was hosted by the Stedelijk Gymnasium Haarlem, one of Haarlem's sought after schools, which was a pleasure to behold. When I first entered, I felt a bit shy and scared to talk at first in my committee. Everyone looked so intimidating and nerve wrecking but after we started debating I realized how friendly and approachable each and every person was. I managed to argue and counter a lot of points raised by the Swedish delegate because what he was saying did not construct much intellect to the house. I implemented a resolution clause on the topic of *reducing climate change* by suggesting the manufacturing of cars with catalytic convertors to reduce the carbon footprint.

Strengths of the MUN were that I was able to cordially speak to everyone and had meaningful conversations with my peers to fabricate a great resolution that was passed successfully. A weakness was the duration of the conference from 9 to 5 which was very tedious and agonizing sitting in a single position for quite a while with mere breaks that did not last long.

I urge future delegates to plan very well and be free to speak because the conference is very enjoyable one and even if you are wrong you shall not be penalised, as we all make mistakes. Most importantly, make sure you enjoy your time and make the best out of it. Next time when such programs are held, I encourage delegates to practise proper time management and keep their items and belongings exceptionally well. - **Tsui Odonkor**

## CAS Updates

"*There is light at the end of the tunnel*", goes the old saying; and this light does not only illuminate our paths but also mould us into distinguished people. This light opens our eyes to new perspectives in life and cast shadows on our past. Here are some IB2 students sharing their lights, after two years of engaging in various CAS activities and projects. These reflections are excerpts from their final CAS essays.

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*I don't mean to be cliché but allow me to quote Mahatma Gandhi by saying "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Creativity Activity Service. Three words which are the keys to living a purposeful life and by that I don't mean monetary success, but attempting to use your talents to make things better for someone in need. CAS is just not a compulsory component of IB to me. It is through this that I have truly discovered myself and it has shaped my perspective of life. (Effie Maison \_ Grade 12)*

*I said to myself that my CAS experience would be nothing if I was not adventurous. I have been afraid of the pool since I was young and I thought to myself, "when will I ever overcome this fear? The pool instructor was free on Friday afternoons so I took this opportunity to challenge myself and to also transform my fears to something I enjoy. I persevered even when I knew I had drunk half of the pool water or the pool water had found its way into my ears and nose. I saw progress. My confidence level began to rise. I started to believe in myself and today I can proudly share my achievement with you as a proud swimmer. (Abena Boateng \_ Grade 12)*

*Before my life in Tema International School, I always had the desire to make an impact on the lives of the people around me in every little way possible. I have had dreams of transforming and changing lives in many ways, however, these dreams could not manifest due to the circumstances I found myself in. My involvement in CAS has been a life changing experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life. CAS has allowed me to grow as a person and cultivate many key values I know I will need throughout my life. (Aaron Osebre \_ Grade 12)*

*At the beginning of the IB course, I did not really understand the importance of CAS because I was more concerned about getting the best of grades. However, my CAS experiences have changed my perceptions of it, and have shaped me to become a better person, as I had the opportunity of helping many underprivileged people and engaged in creative activities. CAS has been a platform for me to impact my community and make a difference in the lives of others. (Sharon Eyram Ashun \_ Grade 12)*

*Going in and through CAS, I can honestly say that I started out as a new born baby. CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) being my parent, was the typical fun, caring and discipline single mum. She embraced me and at the same time ensured that she moulded me into the daughter that she would be proud of once completing the IB Diploma program and leaving her to venture into the world ahead. Let it be known, she did an amazing job! She instilled in me so many qualities, both hard and fun to learn, that with hindsight, would prepare me for an outstanding life. (Zoe Sawyerr \_ Grade 12)*

## Rotary Interact Student Club

On Tuesday 4 April, the first meeting of the newly formed Rotary Interact Club of Tema International School was held. We watched an introductory video about the Interacts worldwide and 4 members were presented. It is a worldwide organization that brings together young people, aged 12-18, to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of service above self.

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There are about 20, 372 Interact Clubs across the globe. As an Interactor, you can take action to make a difference in your school and community while discovering new cultures and promoting international understanding and still having fun and making new friends from around the world. Interact clubs organize at least two projects every year, one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. Rotary club sponsors mentor and guide Interactors as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills.

Interact has a global impact by getting involved in World Interact Week, Interact Video Awards, Rotary Youth Day at the United Nations and Global Youth Service Day. Interacts was born from the Rotary Club but for the teenagers. There is only one in Ghana which is at Ghana International School. We here at TIS become the second in Ghana. Make sure to get involved in Interacts for a wonderful experience.

Link for a YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXhuREFUqMA>

Link for the Interact Website: <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/interact-clubs>

## Aston University Breaks Record in Global Subject Rankings



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Aston has smashed its own personal best in the highly respected QS World University Subject Rankings, with seven subjects featuring amongst the world's best institutions, five of which were ranked in the top 250.

For the first time **electrical engineering, pharmacy** and **physics** have been featured in the rankings, which judge subjects across the world based on academic and employer reputation surveys and the number of citations per faculty.

## Aston Business School Ranked one of UK's Best



The Eduniversal 2016 Business School Rankings has placed Aston 11th out of 154 business schools in the UK and 2nd in the Midlands. Judged to hold notable influence overseas, we were ranked 4th highest in Western Europe for 'significant international excellence'.

The rankings look at the top 1,000 business schools in the world based on accreditations, position in other major rankings, links internally and the opinion of other business school deans.

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## Counselor's Corner



### **Outstanding Scholarship & Financial Aid Offers- IB2 Class of 2017**

We are thrilled that many of our IB2 students have received very generous financial aid packages! Congratulations!!!

At the top of the list so far, we are happy to highlight the following scholarship offers:

- ✓ University of Toronto, Canada- Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship- Full Ride (tuition & all expenses covered)!
- ✓ University of San Diego, USA- Full Ride Santa Clara University, USA- Full Ride
- ✓ Loyola Marymount University, USA- Full Tuition Scholarship

## **Brag Rights**

**Congratulations** to our IB2 students who have received offers from.....

**Colgate University, USA**

**Franklin & Marshall College, USA**

**Haverford College, USA**

**Villanova University, USA**

**Agnes Scott College, USA**

**Penn State University, USA**

**University of Miami, USA**

**Grinnell College, USA**

**Knox College, USA**

**Syracuse University, USA**

**Truman University, USA**

**Caldwell University, USA**

**Loyola Marymount University, USA**

**Saint Louis University, USA**

**Santa Clara University, USA**

**Clarkson University, USA**

**Illinois College, USA**

**Ithaca College, USA**

**Marquette University, USA**

**Austin College, USA**

**DePaul University, USA**

**Rochester Institute of Technology, USA**

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## IB2s - A Note about IBIS Reports

IB2 students should choose a maximum of six schools to have IB report their final DP scores for free, and give this list to their counselor. Students are allowed to choose two Canadian and one U.S. school, and unlimited Ghanaian universities. Additionally, we suggest UK applicants select both their firm and insurance choices to report their scores. Any scores in addition to the six chosen will require payment before being sent to universities, after final results are released. Deadline for notifying the Counselors about top 6 choices is Monday 10 April 2017, **any final changes to the list should however be made no later than the 24 April, 2017.**

## College Application Process- IB1 Parents

One-on-one meetings with IB1 parents and students to discuss the College Application Process, preferences and progress with the Counselors are underway. Please endeavor to keep to the appointment date and time agreed upon. We look forward to meeting with you. Thank you.

**ACT June Registration Commences Next Week** – All students interested in writing the **ACT June exam** should note that sign up begins next week. Cost of registration: US.\$110.

## Upcoming College Visits

**York University (Canada)** – Monday 10 April , 1:45 p.m. New Exam Hall (a Skype session discussing applying for Canadian study visas, preparing for studies in Canada)

**Kingston University (UK)** – Thursday 27 April, 11a.m. EPOD Room

**University of Nottingham (UK)**- Friday 28 April, 12noon, EPOD Room

**Aston University (UK)** – Friday 28 April , 1:45 p.m. EPOD Room

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHT: COLGATE UNIVERSITY (USA)



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## A highly selective liberal arts institution

- **28% acceptance rate**
- **14% international students**
- **Student to faculty ratio 9:1**
- **SAT: 1355 ACT: 31-34**
- **Tuition: \$65,000 Average Aid: \$49,000**
- **Undergraduate research available and encouraged**
- **Graduates work at companies like Google or Goldman Sachs**
- 

## University Admission Decisions Vary. Here's an Article That Makes Interesting Reading

*[You're On the Wait List? Get Ready for "Over-time!" 3.29.17](#)*

29 March , 2017

[www.bestcollegefit.com](http://www.bestcollegefit.com) By Peter Van Buskirk

Admission decisions have been hitting in-boxes fast and furiously over the last ten days. While much of the news is good, some carries with it a curious, if not confusing, announcement: “We’re pleased to offer you a place on our Wait List. Let us know if you would like to remain active on our Wait List.”

As encouraging as the words might seem, the reality is this is *not* an acceptance letter—nor is it a denial letter. This can be particularly jarring to students sitting at the top of their class with impressive resumes of achievement throughout their high school years. So, what is it then? It’s an invitation to participate in the college admission version of “over-time.”

If you choose the “over-time” route by electing to remain active on a WL, your chances of gaining admission are better than you might imagine! On the other hand, if you are fatigued or discouraged by the admission process and want to leave your game on the field of Regular Admission, you will have no chance in “over-time.”

### The Back-Story

While selective colleges and universities have historically maintained Wait Lists as “insurance policies” against coming “short” of their enrollment goals through Early Decision, Early Action or Regular Admission, the WL has taken on a more strategic look in recent years. No longer an insurance policy, the WL is now used to burnish institutional credentials (improve yield and increase selectivity). Think of it as “Early Decision” at the back end of the enrollment process. It is not hard to imagine strategic backroom conversations: “*Why should we take so many low-yielding students—often at a yield rate of 20% or lower—in Regular Admission, when we can put them on the WL to see who is really interested? Then we can take them at a 75% yield rate.*”

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## Setting the Stage for WL Activity

At the outset, a lot of students worthy of admission are offered WL status. While some of them might have presented flawed credentials, others are quite strong in every way. Many of the latter would have been admitted had they made stronger, more consistent demonstrations of interest throughout the admission process. The number of students offered WL status at a given college will often match the number of students it admits in Regular Decision. For example if 2,000 students are admitted Regular Decision, then a similar number will be offered WL status.

Typically, 25%-50% of those offered WL status will take some sort of action (an email, letter and/or campus visit) to signal a desire to remain active on the WL. It is this group that comprises the new applicant pool should the WL be needed. By the middle of April, the “active” WL will have taken shape at most colleges and, soon after, admission officers will begin to assess the need to admit more students.

While the initial ordering of students on Wait Lists typically reflects the relative academic strengths of the students, other agendas (athletic recruitment, alumni connections, the need to “balance” the class demographically, etc.) can strongly influence their positions. (Thus the importance of sending any new information, e.g., grades, honors, awards, that might speak to these possibilities.)

***However, there are three factors that can override the consideration of any of the above: ability to pay, the likelihood that the student will enroll and the student’s general accessibility.***

**Three Keys to Success in “Over-Time.”**

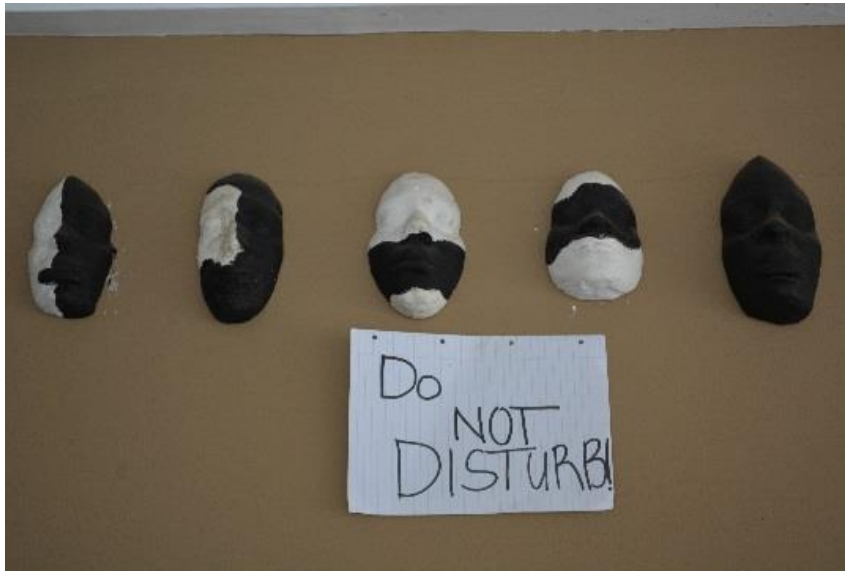
**To Read the full article, visit: <http://www.bestcollegefit.com/blog/archives/1889>**

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## Creative Arts

### Adventure with IBDP Theatre and IGCSE Drama



It has been an amazing journey for the past two weeks with the first cohorts of TIS IB Theatre and IGCSE Drama CLASSES in preparation towards their final recordings and documentations for their assessments. Drama and theatre are never ending journeys with the best ones being those starting in your mind after

leaving the theatrical space. These students have put their hands to the plough for the past 18 months or so with a lot of nerve-racking moments, smiling and joyous hearts, uncertainties, fights and agitations into a world where possibilities have no limits. Pondering on their showcase so far in the various components of their assessment tasks, one can only appreciate the power of experiential learning and growth. Each one of them I believe has gained life skills that go beyond happenings in the class room and the reward of a grade. They have gained skills that become the transformational tool in every sphere of their lives. Their collaborative projects in particular broke a number of boundaries leaving them fulfilled at the end. One record of certainty is the fact that attributes like team work, critical thinking and reasoning, adaptability, tenacity, courage, open-mindedness and effective communication have been the hallmark of their experience.

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## Pictures from MUN Haarlem



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