



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge International School



NINGBO BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter 1
August 29th, 2025



WELCOME BACK!

Hello everyone!

The wait is over—school is back, and we couldn't be more excited! Whether you're joining us for the first time or coming back with sun-soaked holiday stories, welcome to a brand-new school year full of fresh starts, big dreams, and exciting discoveries.

In this special back-to-school edition of our Newsletter, you'll hear warm words from our International Principal and Section Heads as we kick off this wonderful new chapter together.



Simon Attwood
International Principal

I am delighted to welcome you back to the new school year and hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. The start of the new school year is always a time of nervous excitement for everyone involved in the school and I am sure this year will be just the same! This summer I stayed in Ningbo and, looking at the news around the world, I am constantly reminded of the fact that NBIS is a beacon of light in its diversity and tolerance.

Another of NBIS' greatest strengths is the warmth and professionalism of all our staff in school, whatever their role. Despite being new to school myself, I have already had the pleasure of experiencing these attributes from my colleagues even before the semester has started. I look forward to meeting our students and parents at the start of what I know will be another great year at NBIS.



Angela Thompson
Head of Early Years

I am thrilled to be returning to NBIS and welcoming our youngest learners for the 2025–2026 school year!

The Early Years team are especially excited to begin the year with two wonderful additions; a redesigned outdoor play area and a refreshed Early Years corridor and undercover play area. These areas have been designed with our youngest students learning and development in mind.

We are looking forward to seeing the children and guiding them as they explore these new spaces, build meaningful friendships with their peers, and grow in confidence as they learn through play, discovery, and hands-on experiences.

It is a joy and privilege to share in your child's journey, and we can't wait to see all the wonderful things this year will bring. Here's to a fantastic start and a year full of fun, learning, and growth!

Hello team, my name is Mathew Thompson and I am the new Head of Primary at NBIS.

I have taught for five years previously at NBIS occasionally filling in as Head over the years. This time I'm taking on the position permanently and I could not be more delighted or proud to do so.

It is an honour and a privilege to work both for NBIS and here in Ningbo, a beautiful, green, safe and modern city I love. I look forward to a really positive and progressive year where our section will aim to deliver quality education for your children. NBIS has given us the most wonderful work environment to teach in and the best tools to do so.



Mathew Thompson
Head of Primary

A key message I have for my staff is to own your classroom and develop the children's ownership of their learning; this will lead to self-motivated staff and students.

I look forward to meeting with you, to both listen to your feedback and to share our vision of the Primary's future.

A message I want to share with all staff and students

"You are special and you can do it!"



Aaron Lowe
Head of Secondary

Welcome back to NBIS for the 2025–2026 school year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer. It's a real pleasure to welcome both our returning families and those joining the NBIS Secondary Section for the first time.

Secondary section is a unique and exciting journey—full of opportunities for growth, challenge, and achievement. It is a time when students begin to discover more about who they are, explore their interests, and develop the skills and mindset they will carry into adulthood. At NBIS, we aim to provide a supportive and stimulating environment where every student is encouraged to take ownership of their learning and strive to reach their full potential.

I am looking forward to working closely with our passionate staff, supportive families, and ambitious students as we begin another year of learning, leadership, and personal growth.



Orientation and Campus Tour



This Friday, 29th August, NBIS was delighted to welcome our new families to campus for the 2025 academic year orientation. The event commenced with a warm welcome from our staff as families gathered in the Auditorium.



The programme featured a heartfelt address from our International Principal, Mr Simon Attwood. Parents then had the valuable opportunity to meet with the Heads of Section and their children's Homeroom Teachers. Ms Angela Thompson (Early Years), Mr Mathew Thompson (Primary), and Mr Aaron Lowe (Secondary) each introduced their teams and shared important information about the upcoming school year.



The orientation provided an excellent opportunity for new families to become acquainted with our school community and feel fully prepared for the start of classes. We extend our sincere appreciation to all the families who joined us and look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growth together!





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Meet our new staff!



Name: Louise Thorpe
Department: Early Years
Position: Homeroom Teacher

My name is Louise Thorpe. I began teaching in my hometown of Nottingham, UK, and have since taught abroad in Korea, Australia, Shanghai and Guangdong. I am honored that China has become my second home. Having spent much of my career in international schools, I am passionately committed to this role. I hold a Postgraduate Certificate in International Education and a degree in Early Childhood Studies. As a lifelong learner, I continue to grow as a Green Educator, supporting student independence and a holistic approach to early years learning. I am dedicated to nurturing globally minded, confident and compassionate individuals.

Fiona holds British, Irish, Australian and New Zealand citizenship. She is graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism from the Queensland University of Technology and a PGCE from the University of Worcester. Fiona has worked as an Early Years teacher in an international school in Italy for the past eight years. She enjoys travelling, art, reading and speaks both English and Italian.



Name: Fiona McCabe
Department: Early Years
Position: Homeroom Teacher



Name: Philip Dobson
Department: Primary School
Position: Homeroom Teacher

Phil is a British national who graduated with a BA in History from Huddersfield University and a PGCE from the University of Sunderland. He has 10 years of teaching experience in both the UK and China, beginning his career as an English teacher and then Kindergarten teacher in Shanghai before returning to England and teaching as a Year 5 and 6 teacher in the Northeast of England. He has taught children of ages all the way from two years old to eighteen and, having returned to China with his family, is extremely proud to continue his teaching journey here at NBIS.

In his free time, he enjoys table-top gaming, playing squash and reading with his son, Ben.

Stacey is a South African educator with a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of South Africa (UNISA). She is currently pursuing an MA in Education. With 15 years of teaching experience, Stacey has taught in South Africa, Oman, and China. She spent over a decade teaching in South Africa, four years in Oman, and is currently in her second year in China. Her background includes teaching from Nursery up to Primary, with a strong focus on early years and primary education in multicultural and international environments. Stacey is passionate about creating inclusive, engaging, and nurturing learning environments. She believes in supporting each child's unique growth, fostering curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love for learning. In her free time, Stacey enjoys spending time with her family, exploring nature, cycling, and watching movies. She is excited to be part of the NBIS community and looks forward to contributing to its vibrant and diverse educational culture.



Name: Stacey Vosloo
Department: Primary School
Position: Homeroom Teacher



Rachel is a UK teacher with nine years teaching experience. Over the past four years, she has been living and teaching in Ningbo, having previously taught in the UK, the UAE, and South Korea. In her free time, Rachel enjoys reading, watching musicals, and spending time with friends.

Name: Rachel Kirk

Department: Secondary School

Position: English Language and Literature Teacher

Rinaldi is an Indonesian national. He holds a Master of Music in Piano Performance, Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

Rinaldi has worked as a private music tutor.

Over the past four years, he has been teaching at an international school in Jakarta, Indonesia—serving as an IB MYP music teacher during the first three years and an IB DP music teacher in the last two years, while also leading the department as the Head of Music for Secondary School (MYP and DP).

In his free time, he enjoys running, swimming, learning Chinese, and traveling with his family.



Name: Rinaldi Yonathan

Department: Secondary School

Position: Music Teacher

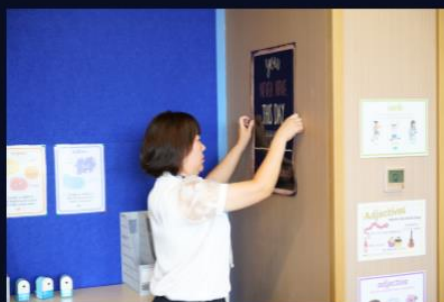
A Reflective Look Back at Our Productive Teachers' Week 2025

August 25-29

This week, our entire educational team came together for a highly productive and collaborative Teachers' Week, following the successful New Teacher Orientation. This dedicated period of professional development and preparation was instrumental in uniting our staff and aligning our goals for the year ahead. The week provided invaluable opportunities for section-specific planning, in-depth curriculum reviews, and essential training sessions on safeguarding and first aid. Colleagues had ample time to thoughtfully prepare their learning environments, collaborate with their teaching partners, and engage in meaningful departmental meetings. These efforts have firmly established a strong foundation for a successful start to the term.



Beyond the practical preparations, the week was a wonderful chance to reconnect as a community, share best practices, and build positive momentum. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your incredible energy and commitment. Our classrooms and hearts are now fully ready to warmly welcome back our students!





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Jul 2026						
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2025-26 Semester 1 (School Days-90 Days) **01/09/2025 Semester 1 Begins, 30/01/2026 Semester 1 Ends**

Holidays in Semester 1

- 01/10/2025 to 08/10/2025 Chinese National/Mid-Autumn Holiday
- 21/11/2025 PD Day
- 17/12/2025 to 04/01/2026 Winter Holiday

2025-26 Semester 2 (School Days-90 Days) **02/02/2026 Semester 2 Begins, 03/07/2026 Semester 2 Ends**

Holidays in Semester 2

- 09/02/2026 to 01/03/2026 Spring Festival Holiday
- 04/04/2026 to 06/04/2026 Qingming Holiday
- 01/05/2026 to 05/05/2026 Labour Day Holiday
- 19/06/2026 to 21/06/2026 Dragon Boat Holiday





Ningbo British International School 浙江宁波英伦外籍人员子女学校

Unity - Diversity - Excellence

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