



# Diploma Programme



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## IB Newsletter

April 2020



This year at the IB Music group performance we enjoyed among others the Neil Yong classic *Heart of gold* and yet BLUR echoes (apropos):  
*Get through it...*  
*Come on, come on, come on*  
*Love's the greatest thing...*

### Group 4 Project



CAS



BIGMUN

## News from the IB Coordinator, *Malene Sørensen*



*Dear current and upcoming students, parents and other stakeholders*

### **School merger**

Education is a broad concept and most of us associate immediately the idea of education with attending school *one way or another*. This phrase with the emphasis on "...or another", I can assure you, is to a great extent true for the IB students graduating this summer. The school has been undergoing turbulent times during the preceding year with the merger of Langkaer Gymnasium and AARHUS TECH, and as exciting as it is taking part in building up a new school based on the best of both schools, certain teething troubles like change of IT-systems and 'schedule bantering' have required patient and flexible students. Although these skills will not appear on the final diploma, I hope that these attributes of adaptability will be a strength for our students in the future.

### **New IB Coordinator**

In the middle of the school year there has also been a change of the IB Coordinator, so the students and the teachers have had to become accustomed to that too. I have been the new IB Coordinator at Aarhus Gymnasium, Tilst since January 1<sup>st</sup>. Once upon a time I graduated from Aarhus University, and since then I have been working in education and management professions. I have been involved in the IB School system several years, and I am an experienced IB history teacher. I find my new school exciting with budding initiatives, experienced and highly skilled IB teachers and a bunch of creative, humorous and forthcoming students that, so far, mostly know me as the dragon guarding deadlines.

### **Altogether a lot of changes and challenges for the IB students!!**

**... And it did not stop there.** In March we realized that the International Baccalaureate exams set for May have been cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic. The big question has been how the IB organization then will determine the students' final grades. The answer is that the IB will use a calculation that is based on the relationship between coursework marks, predicted grades and subject grades to estimate the subject grades candidates would have received if the exams had gone ahead.

### **Details about assessment**

The IB has required schools to submit the coursework for all candidates instead of taking samples and applying moderation - and then they will externally mark work that is usually marked by teachers. This means that the students' grades will be assessed on predicted grades awarded by the teachers based on all the work our students have done in the subjects as well as based on a prediction of how they would have done at the exams (the teachers include class performance, general written work, mocks, in class tests etc.). In addition, the IB has the IAs and externally assessed coursework and they will look at data from previous years, both globally and from the school. In the IB's own words, they "*will be undertaking significant data analysis from previous exam sessions, individual school data, subject data as well as comparative data of schools*".

And in the time of writing I still cannot confirm the date of the 3i graduation ceremony. Indeed, an unpredictable school year in every manner possible. **Take care everyone.**

*Kind regards,*  
*Malene Sørensen,* mas@aarhustech.dk

## Group 4 project

The group 4 project is an interdisciplinary activity in which all IB DP science students must participate. The intention is that students from the different group 4 subjects analyze a common topic or problem. The exercise should be a collaborative experience where the emphasis is on the processes involved in, rather than the products of, such an activity.



*By Tobias Bjerno Dath, 2i*

For my group, the group 4 project was a process largely focused on observation. This comes mainly through the nature of our experiment, being the effect of heat on the respiration and activity levels of mealworms, being an experiment that neither our teachers nor we had any idea what to expect as an outcome.

Therefore, we had to spend a large amount of time in discussion before we could begin the experiment, and after the experiment, we had to do a rigorous amount of analysis on the data we had observed.

For the presentation, it was quite interesting how curious others were about the experiment, and we spent a lot of time on open discussion about the nature of the mealworms' movement patterns.

As a whole the group 4 project was a very informative experience, that gave us the chance to better understand how to use the scientific method in our research.

*The IB students at AARHUS GYMNASIUM did a group 4 presentation February 27, 2020. Afterwards they wrote a reflection.*



## BIGMUN

Global Politics teacher Danny Treacher and a group of 2i students participated in February in BIGMUN (Model United Nations) at Birkerød Gymnasium. The overall topic was climate changes, and in the panel debate a member of IBM, a member of the European Parliament and professor in Architecture participated. **Two of our students won Awards:** *Yoonseo Chung for Best Delegate and Stella Christensen for Best Plenary Delegate. Well done!!*



*Pictured is Yoonseo Chung in the front row number three from the left. Stella Christensen is seen in the back row number four from the left,*

Model United Nations is an authentic simulation of the U.N. General Assembly and other multilateral bodies.

It not only involves young people in the study and discussion of global issues, but also encourages the development of skills useful throughout their lives, such as research, writing, public speaking, problem solving, consensus building, conflict resolution and compromise and cooperation.

### BIGMUN was an experience like no other



*By Yoonseo Chung, 2i*

To be honest, I was really nervous about going to BIGMUN. You're taught all these procedures, motions and points you need to know, and there's a punishment waiting for you as soon as you slip up.

I had blindly chosen Libya without even knowing about the conflicts going on and didn't do enough research to confidently represent it. BIGMUN sounded so official, and I thought that I would stick out like a sore thumb and regret going. But it was nothing like that.

The chairs and delegates were incredibly friendly. Everyone helped each other in writing clauses, and the debates were entertaining as well as educational.

I met new people from the Netherlands to Saudi Arabia and took part in fun punishments like sassy catwalks and proposals. In fact, I am currently engaged to a delegate whom I've known for the entirety of 3 whole minutes.

In the end, someone like me, who didn't expect anything from BIGMUN, was able to win an award, partake in an incredible learning experience and create a memory that I will forever cherish.

And now I can confidently say that no one will regret going to BIGMUN.

# CAS

By CAS Coordinator Danny Goodwin

CAS is an acronym for the three strands: **creativity**, **activity**, and **service**. It is a core component of the IB Diploma Programme. Everyone must engage in experiences that cover these three areas throughout the entire course of the DP. The students are not necessarily doing CAS every day, not even every week, but the idea is that they get involved in various activities in every semester.

Our students are always bubbling with ideas for CAS and they are engaged in a variety of experiences and events that benefit both the school and themselves in many ways. CAS allows them to focus on their individual growth through planning, collaboration, taking on responsibility, making ethical choices, etc.

Here are some of the past year's great CAS projects that involved many IB students: This year's **musical** – "Oh My God!" - was a great cooperation between students from IB, STX and HTX. Everyone did their very best weekend after weekend to put all the pieces together, and the result was a magnificent show.



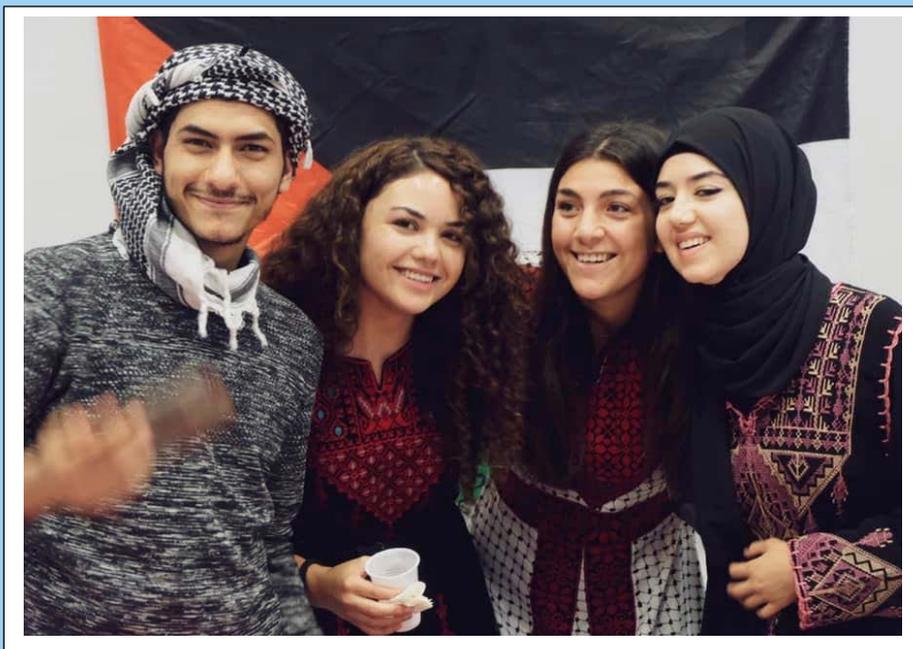
For the past four years we have gone to **Lisbon** on our **study trip**. The trip is a mix between TOK and CAS activities and a great experience for everyone involved. Plus, the weather's often quite good 😊



For the first time ever, we hosted a **TEDx event** at the school. It was a great success, primarily due to Sietske and Noor (both from 3i) who worked so hard for months to make this happen.



For several years, we have sent IB students and teachers to visit our **partner school in Ramallah**. This is a great opportunity to experience the culture and history of Israel and Palestine up close.



One of the school's annual traditions is the **International Day** where students from all classes create stalls and entertainment that celebrate a specific culture from around the world.

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