



Celebrating 60 Years

Spirit of The Banda

Friday 15th May 2026

A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER

The middle of May marks the onset of exam season in many schools and it's no different here, with each of the Upper School year groups set to do so over the coming few weeks. Whilst Year 8s Common Entrance papers mark an end point for their time at The Banda, at least from an academic perspective, the papers for Years 5, 6 and 7 are a temperature check of their progress over the year. They tell us what has been mastered and where sails need to be readjusted. They are not a definition of a child's personality or potential - we don't want 'exam-ready' children, but rather 'life-ready' children who happen to be sitting exams.

So please support your children through this process but also try to do so within a low stakes environment at home. Whilst exams test memory and logic, they don't test kindness, humour, artistic flair or the ability to be a good friend. They are a snapshot of progress, not character defining.

Away from the classroom, it's been another busy week: from a superb second place finish overall at the IAPS cross-country meeting to the inaugural first rounds of the inter-house debating competition; from a high octane drum concert to the Year 7s around the grounds Shakespeare performance. These and the host of other activities and experiences mould children's character just as much as what happens in the exam room.

And finally.... Good luck to our Under 13 boys at tomorrow's IAPS rugby tournament at Hillcrest.

James Moss-Gibbons



See April Week 5 events overleaf

Follow us on:     

An Invitation to...



Secondary Schools Exhibition Fair

Hosted at The Banda IAPS

U13 & U11 Netball Tournament

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2026 | 9AM - 2PM



EXHIBITING
SECONDARY
SCHOOLS

10 UNITED
KINGDOM
SCHOOLS

6 BRITISH
CURRICULUM
SCHOOLS-KENYA

1 SOUTH
AFRICAN
SCHOOL

EXHIBITORS



**BROOKHOUSE
SCHOOLS**
NAIROBI, KENYA



MILLFIELD



Wildlife Photography Competition!



Send your photos to
k.sweetnam@bandaschool.com

Remember you only get to send in 6 photos so take a lot and send in your best ones.

Deadline: Friday 5th June

This is after half term so during the break go outside and start taking photos of the beautiful nature and wildlife we have surrounding us!

Word OF THE Week

Risible

Something that is silly or laughable.

CHALLENGE: ADD THIS WORD TO YOUR WRITING THIS WEEK!

**Stop asking
"How was your day?"**

**What is one thing
at school
that you are
thankful for?**



wellbeing WALL

PREPARING FOR EXAMINATIONS

Mrs Moss-Gibbons gave the Upper School lots of useful guidance this week on how to prepare for the forthcoming exams. It is a time for revision, but also a time to look after ourselves. Here is a [link to the slides she used in the session.](#)

COFFEE AT THE CAR PARK - THE WALL

It's been great to chat to some of our parents over a coffee during our 'Coffee by the Car Park' events. Thanks for attending, and we look forward to seeing you at the next one on 18th June at the Kisembe Car Park!



Last Friday's assembly made tribute to all the wonderful work of David Attenborough in recognition of his 100th birthday.

Mrs Sweetnam and Mr DeWet also shared their passion for wildlife and introduced the wildlife photography competition. We thought it appropriate to share this fantastic video put together by Tally Kwolek for her Curiosity Project about sea turtles. It outlines the amazing work being done by some of our coastal conservationists.

There's more to look forward to on this topic when we introduce our exciting Big Blue Day next week, which will take place after Half Term



NASHI SECURES GLOBAL FIRST PRIZE



We are absolutely thrilled to share some momentous news from our Art Department. A massive congratulations to Nashipae (Nashi), who has been crowned the 1st Place Winner in the prestigious IAPS iArt Competition for the Years 3 and 4 category.

This is a monumental achievement. Nashi rose to the top of a global field, competing against talented young artists from over 660 IAPS schools worldwide. To be recognised as the best in her age group on an international stage is a testament to her incredible dedication, skill and technique.

This year's theme was entitled, 'Contrast' and Nashi's painting is, quite simply, exceptional. Her work didn't just catch the judges' eyes; it captivated them. In their official feedback, the judging panel praised her sophisticated use of medium and colour, noting that the sky was reminiscent of Van Gogh's 'The Starry Night', beautifully complementing the blue-green sea. They specifically highlighted that the use of impasto added a striking sense of drama to the waves, while the red of the boat provided a strong and effective contrast.

To win such a prestigious competition at such a young age is a rare honour, and the drama Nashi captured through her textured paint strokes truly set her work apart.

In recognition of this stunning victory, Nashi has been invited to a formal prize giving ceremony in London on Thursday 11 June 2026, held at Wetherby Prep School.

We are incredibly proud of Nashi for this thoroughly deserved win. Her passion for art shines through in every brushstroke, and we cannot wait to see where her creativity takes her next.

Well done, Nashi, you have made the entire school community proud.



RUGBY & NETBALL SEASON

Our rugby and netball seasons have got off to a brilliant start, with pupils from Year 3 to Year 8 proudly representing The Banda in matches against Cavina, Pembroke, and Peponi. There have been many outstanding performances, alongside excellent sportsmanship shown by all of our pupils. We have plenty more fixtures to look forward to against St Christopher's, Kenton, Braeburn, and St Andrew's Turi over the next couple of months. I have no doubt that our Banda teams will continue to improve and go from strength to strength. Keep up the excellent work, Banda pupils!





BANDA ON ICE

Banda on Ice! Panari Hotel welcomed Banda students to its ice rink for an unforgettable skating experience. Excitement filled the air as students and teachers glided (and sometimes wobbled) across the ice. With expert tips from Mr. Marsh, everyone gained confidence and discovered the joy of skating. A truly cool experience for all!



IAPS CROSS-COUNTRY AT ST ANDREW'S, TURI

On Friday 8th May, 35 pupils and four staff members travelled to St Andrew's Turi for the IAPS Cross-Country event. Shortly after we arrived in the early afternoon, the rain began to pour, giving pupils, parents, and staff flashbacks to last year's torrential downpour. Fortunately, it stopped after an hour. We were then able to continue our tradition of walking the course with the team and parents, offering the pupils helpful tips along the way. Thankfully, the rain stayed away for the rest of the day, allowing everyone to enjoy a fun evening with pupils from the other schools.

On Saturday morning, the pupils were up early for breakfast before packing up camp and beginning their warm-up for the big races. The Under 9 races were first, followed by the Under 11s, with the Under 13s rounding off the event. All of our pupils performed exceptionally well, and every runner completed their race brilliantly. While we did not have any individual podium finishes, we achieved an impressive 3rd place in the Under 9 Boys category and 2nd place in the Under 11 Boys category. Even more impressively, the whole team finished 2nd overall, a fantastic achievement that truly reflected a collective team effort, with every runner playing their part.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Peter Nthiga and Mr Jo Osunga, who gave up their Tuesday and Thursday mornings for training sessions and played a key role in the team's success. Thank you also to the parents who travelled up to support the team, your encouragement was greatly appreciated. It was a special 36 hours, and The Banda should be incredibly proud of the entire team. Well done!





INTER HOUSE DEBATE

The Inter House Debate Competition began on Monday with Simba debating Swara on whether children should be allowed to use mobile phones in school. Both teams spoke confidently and shared thoughtful arguments, while many pupils attended during break time to support their houses. The debate was well led by chairs Henry and Alex, with the judges listening carefully and giving helpful feedback. After careful consideration, Simba were announced as the winners of the first round. Well done to all pupils who took part, and thank you to the Judges who gave such positive feedback to both teams.

The second round saw Duma take on Twiga with the motion: "Homework should be banned." Both teams spoke confidently and gave thoughtful reasons for their views. Duma argued that children need more time to rest, enjoy hobbies, and spend time with family. Twiga argued that homework should remain because it helps pupils practise their learning, build responsibility, and develop good study habits. After careful judging, Twiga was declared the winner, successfully arguing that we should have homework. Well done to both teams for an excellent debate and for showing such confidence, teamwork, and critical thinking.



HILLCREST INTER-SCHOOLS HORSE SHOW

Hillcrest School is very pleased to be able to invite you to participate in their annual Inter-Schools Horse Show featuring a horse jumping contest and riding exhibition. This event will take place on Sunday 14th June 2026 at Hillcrest Secondary School. Should your child be interested in competing, please email Claire Viljoen on c.viljoen@bandaschool.com indicating your child's name, pony name and the class. [Find the schedule here.](#)



YEAR 8

Year 8 have been carrying out the final rehearsals of their abstract theatre pieces. Mr and Mrs Foster and Mrs Moss Gibbons were treated to a performance from Year 8 Group 3, showing features of Antonin Artaud's experimental and jarring style of theatre. Thank you for being a good audience, and well done Year 8! More performances next week to look forward to.



YEAR 7

Year 7 Maths pupils enjoyed the opportunity to put their solving linear equations skills to the test in a Treasure Hunt style race against their classmates. Each pair solved more than 10 equations in less than 7 minutes and remembered to show full working! They then went to their Performing Arts lesson where they completed their Commedia dell'arte masks.



On Tuesday, the Year 7's put on a promenade performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Our beautiful Banda grounds were their stage, as they took their audience on a magical journey through one of Shakespeare's most famous plays. It was extremely entertaining and Year 7 should be extremely proud of themselves and all they achieved.





YEAR 6

The 6IP pupils enjoyed their Wednesday morning wellbeing session with a calming tai chi class led by Max, who developed his skills during summer camps in China. It was a wonderful way to start the day, promoting focus, balance, and mindfulness together.



Word OF THE Week

JUNIOR

Familiar
Well known or easily recognised.

CHALLENGE: ADD THIS WORD TO YOUR WRITING THIS WEEK!

YEAR 4

This week we had Hari Dave bring his telescope into school as we have been studying the moon phases this week. He gave us a brief summary of what he has seen and how the moon rises and sets work. We also tried to spot the moon with our naked eye. All this was fabulous as it made the learning come to life.

The children took out their bug houses from the bug hotel to allow the Year 3 children to take their completed bug houses into the hotel.



YEAR 3

We had fun creating our own Rangoli patterns during RS. This was because we are learning about Diwali. Hindus create Rangoli patterns with a variety of different materials. We used coloured paper and coloured pencils to create a bright effect! In Science, we enjoyed learning how water travels through plants by experimenting with celery, water and food dye. We wrote up our results.





Challenge accepted. Teamwork at its greatest as these four took on a challenge to build two sand castles, join them together (there is a moat) and create a marble run. Awesome teamwork.



YEAR 3

We enjoyed sailing The Banda seas to find and match pirates to different ages through time, from Ancient world - Vikings - Elizabethan - to Modern Day.



YEAR 2

In our Art lesson, we learnt about the Artist Pablo Picasso and created imaginative faces using the artist's cubism style of using bold colours and patterns.



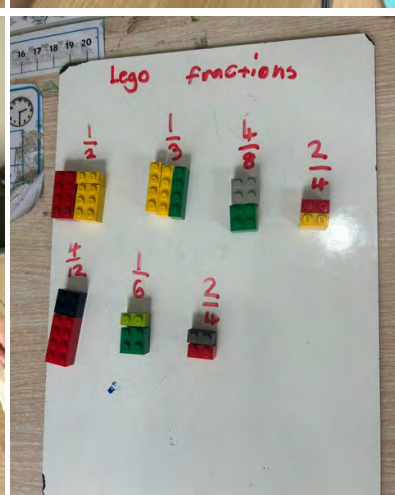
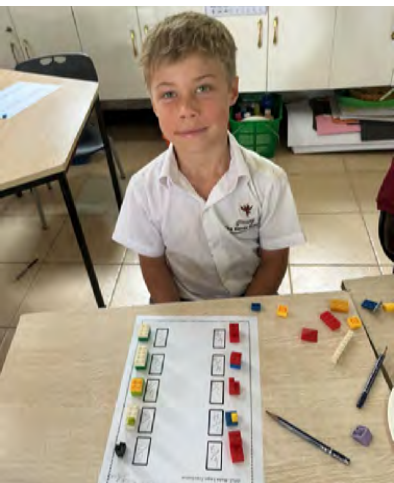
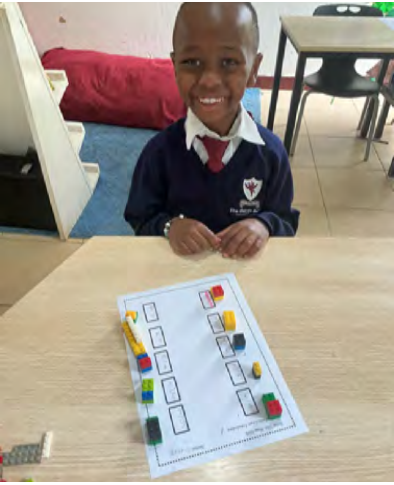
YEAR 2

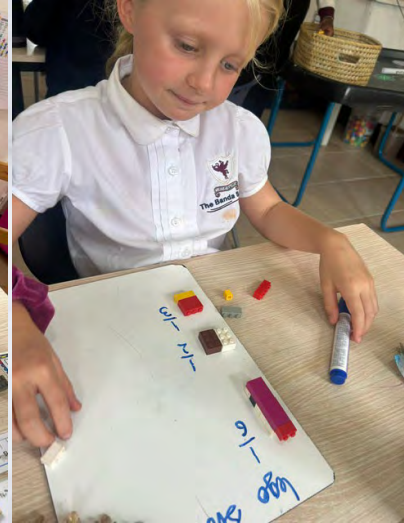
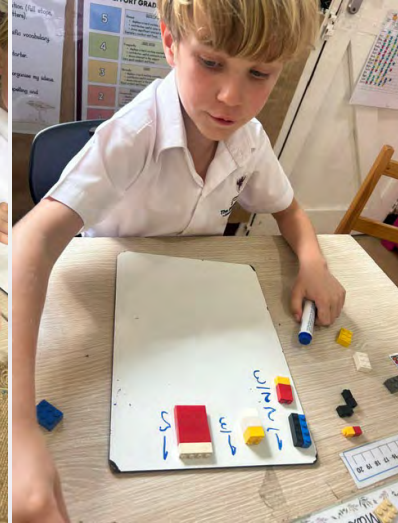
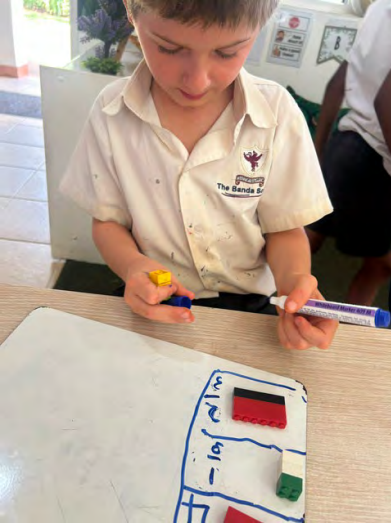
Year 2 took inspiration from their Topic on Ancient Egypt. They wrote their name in hieroglyphics and drew an Egyptian cat and scarab beetle by following step by step drawing. We also learned about the mummification process! We learnt about the steps the Ancient Egyptians followed then we worked in teams to make our own mummies using tissue rolls.



YEAR 2

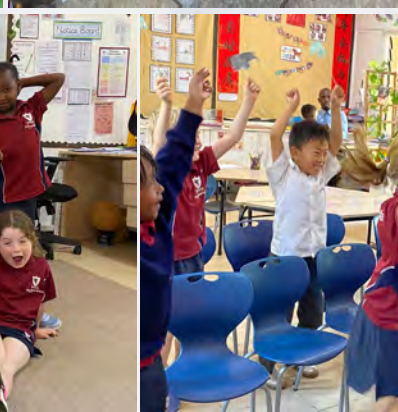
Year 2 enjoyed their recent Numeracy unit on fractions. They have been learning about fractions of shapes and amounts. They finished off the topic with some fun fraction creations using Lego.





YEAR 1

In Science Year 1 explored materials further and thought about the three little pigs and the properties of the materials used to build their houses. In Literacy, we have been busy crafting puppets in small groups, which we use to act out the classic adventures of The Elephant and the Bad Baby.





In Humanities Year 1 learnt about Chinese food and how it is similar/different to the food we eat at home. The highlight? A delicious tasting session of noodles and spring rolls where everyone put their motor skills to the test with a fun chopstick challenge! They did a noodle toss which is a Chinese celebration!





Pegasus

Word of the Week

tired



PEGASUS EARLY YEARS

Pegasus Early Years would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for 4 of these awesome 'water' walls. They were designed by the teachers and manufactured here in Kenya from recycled plastic by Plastiki Rafiki. The children got to work straight away using them with balls of various sizes, testing out their ideas, experimenting with cause and effect, working with others, negotiating, discussing and sharing.





RECEPTION

Reception children have been busy with numbers, this time round it was all about taking away using numicons and ten frames and they nailed it. Well done to all of them. When they had some downtime, they enjoyed Tuesday afternoon Cubz dance!





NURSERY 2

Listening to the story "Pterodactyl Show and Tell" by Thad Krasnesky was thoroughly engaging. After painting recycled materials and practising our cutting, we crafted our favourite dinosaurs. The children then took to the airwaves as weather reporters in a roleplay setup, enhancing their communication, understanding of the world, and oracy.



NURSERY 1

Children enjoyed an exciting sinking and floating investigation, discovering how size and weight affect objects in water while having lots of fun exploring and experimenting together.



RISING STARS

Five little ducks went swimming one day nursery rhyme put in play for The Rising Stars. Sensory play is what we are all about.





Recipe to Try at Home

Chicken Pasta Bake

Key Ingredients

- Onions
- Garlic and oregano
- Chicken cut into strips
- Tomatoes
- Tomato concasse
- Baby spinach
- Pasta
- Cheese

Method

1. Cook the chicken, and add chopped onions to brown evenly
2. Toss the chicken in the herbs and garlic
3. Place the baby spinach, cooked pasta, chicken, and tomato concasse in a baking tray.
4. Mix slightly, and season
5. Sprinkle grated cheese on top
6. Bake till golden brown
7. Serve and enjoy!



Did You Know?

Did you know we serve fresh, seasonal food, which is sourced every week!



A NUGGET

It was lovely to have some of the PTA Food Committee join us for lunch in the Lower and Upper School on Tuesday and see first-hand what was on offer to the children.

WEEK 5 MENU

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MORNING BREAK

Vanilla Cookies
Fresh Fruit

Cheese Sandwiches
Fresh Fruits

Honey Drop Scones
Carrot Sticks

Savoury Bread Sticks
Fresh Fruit

Tomato Sandwiches
Fresh Fruits

LUNCH: SOUP

Tomato Soup

MAINS

Meat Balls in Marinara Sauce
Spaghetti

Grilled Sausages
GF Sausages
Maxim Potatoes

Chicken Stir Fry & Noodles

Beef Stroganoff
Steamed Buttered Rice

Fish Goujons
PEY: Chicken Goujons
French Fries

VEGGIE

Veggie Balls in Marinara Sauce
Vegan Balls
Spaghetti

Lentil Croquettes
Veg Sausages
Maxim Potatoes

Vegetable Stir-Fry with Tofu & Noodles

Bean Stroganoff
Steamed Buttered Rice

Battered Mozzarella Sticks
Vegan Chickpea Cutlets
French Fries

SIDES

Grated Cheese
Seasonal Vegetables

Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce
Fried Onions

Garlic Butter Soy Sauce
Assorted Salads

Glazed Carrots & Baby Marrow

Cauliflower & Broccoli

DESSERT MAIN SCHOOL

Fruit Platter

Fruit Salad & Custard

Yoghurt

Apple Crumble & Custard

Fruit Platter

DESSERT PEY

Fruit Platter

Fruit Salad

Natural Yoghurt & Honey

Apple Crumble

Fruit Platter

- From sauces and chutneys to flapjacks and focaccia, 95% of our what we serve is cooked on-site by our catering staff
 - We cater for varied food preferences in our menu and always have Halal and allergen free options
 - All eggs are free range and organic as well as many of the vegetables

NOTICE BOARD

WILDLIFE DIRECT

PRESENTED BY PAULA KAHUMBU

ANNUAL CONSERVATION & CULTURE GATHERING

Wild Roots Festival

A community-centred, art and science gathering in the wild — celebrating wildlife conservation, African cultural heritage, and the next generation of stewards.



WHAT IT IS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ◆ Family-centred conservation gathering | ◆ Inter-generational & cross-cultural |
| ◆ Educational without classroom-based | ◆ Joyful & sober — values-aligned |
| ◆ Co-created, not consumed | ◆ Celebration of African Heritage |

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

- DAY 1** Arrivals · Orientation · BBQ · **Campfire Stories & Songs**
- DAY 2** Conference · Workshops · **Evening Music & Film Screenings**
- DAY 3** Conference · Activities · **Evening Awards & Music**
- DAY 4** Closing Keynote · Networking · **Departures**

PROGRAMMING THREADS

- Land & Sky · Citizen Science · Art & Expression
Music & Rhythm · Film & Theatre · Youth Skills & Futures
Wellness & Belonging · African Media Awards

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FOUNDING PARTNER Ksh 5M ~\$40k USD	PLATINUM SUPPORTER Ksh 3M ~\$25k USD	GOLD SUPPORTER Ksh 1.5M ~\$12k USD	SILVER SUPPORTER Ksh 500k ~\$5k USD
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Benefits include on-site branding, website & social media presence, session recognition, merchandise, and VIP / Premiere Festival access depending on tier.



OUR PARTNERS

Wildlife Direct | Jogi Wildlife Conservancy | Travelling Telescope | The Elephant Queen

CONSERVATION AS CULTURE · ROOTED IN PLACE · CHILDREN & LAND FIRST · LEARNING BEFORE SPECTACLE · AFRICAN EXCELLENCE

Join Us! — Partners & contributors welcome
Seeking aligned sponsors, facilitators & community members

paula@wildlifedirect.org

WILDLIFEDIRECT.ORG

Have a lovely weekend!