

Sixth formers at Harrow Bangkok



Harrow Bangkok's broad approach to education reaps rewards in university offers

There is a joke that describes a university professor as someone who talks in someone else's sleep. This may well be the case on occasions, yet we have sought this year to liaise with universities to expose our students to an increased number of university lecturers, says Phil Walters of Harrow Bangkok

The aim has been to help prepare the students for what they will face at university, challenge them academically and to develop closer links between Harrow International School Bangkok and a range of strong academic institutions. Seven visiting academics in Term two have discussed subjects including The United Nations and Minority Rights Protection (Durham University Law School); Peak Oil and Alternative Energy Strategies (Sheffield University Chemical Engineering faculty) and Immunology, cancer and stem cells (School of Biomedical Sciences, Newcastle University). Our students have always filled the mini-theatre and are eager to take advantage of such opportunities.

The examination results of our Sixth Form students have continued to be very impressive. The Sixth Form experience though, as indicated by our lecture programme, offers so much more than an examination treadmill and Harrow's commitment to a broad education remains our key strength. "Teachers and Heads of House look to us to lead the way and expect us to manage and lead," says Sukrit Friestad (Mike K13).

I am delighted to report that our students have had tremendous success again in gaining offers of university places subject to good grades in their final A-level examinations. Our students have received offers from Oxford (Nattapoom Asavareongchai, Phoom), Cambridge (Rachakarn Wasontakorn, Oh), LSE (several) and all other UK applicants hold offers from a variety of top universities. It is perhaps the medical applicants that have been truly remarkable this year with several students gaining multiple interviews and, as I write, Ellen Beer, Tanapon Boonchuaysream (Teddy), Chayuth Bunyapamai (Palm), Sita Techaboonake (Prim), Pimpisa Taleongpong (Pim) have all achieved offers on a UK medical course whilst Kanokporn Laorerkuthai (Yoyo)

has been offered a place on a dentistry course.

Disha Jain and Rishabh Rastogi are likely to take up places at Hong Kong University to study engineering and Natnaree Suwanpotipra (Belle) has been offered a number of scholarship opportunities in the USA, Singapore (Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at NUS) and the UK to study music, and is currently deciding between her number of impressive offers. USA and Canadian offers arrive in March and April but already our students have received offers from colleges such as the University of Michigan, University of Illinois, Northeastern and University of Minnesota. Rattika Sudechawongsakul (Kiki) and Disha Jain (receiving a leadership scholarship) have both been accepted to McGill in Canada.

The poet Yeats wrote that, "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." We hope that the Sixth Form years have prepared the students for the challenges of university and beyond; that a nascent interest in their subject has been sparked and that they think back fondly on their time here at Harrow. – Phil Walters, Head of Sixth Form, Harrow International School Bangkok