Our New Unit:
How We Organise Ourselves

Transdisciplinary Theme
An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organisations, societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

Purpose of the Exhibition
• For students to engage in an in-depth, collaborative inquiry.
• To provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning.
• For students to synthesize and apply learning from previous years and to reflect upon their journey through the PYP.
• To demonstrate how students can take action as a result of their learning.
• To unite the students, teachers, parents and other members of the school community in a collaborative experience that incorporates the essential elements of the PYP.

The role of the student:
• Help to select a real-life issue or problem for our exhibition; decide on lines of inquiry and questions.
• Carry out an inquiry into a real-life issue or problem.
• Use the IB Learner Profile attributes and PYP Attitudes.
• Show their understanding of the five essential elements: key concepts, knowledge, transdisciplinary skills, attitudes and action.
• Select and use a variety of resources (first-hand experiences, interviews, surveys, field visits, artifacts, science investigations, working models... not just book or internet research).

The role of the mentor:
• Encourage and support the efforts of the students
• Suggest/provide resources
• Ask questions
• Help interpret difficult information
• Facilitate interviews/telephone calls
• Offer suggestions for action
• Document all meetings and give appropriate feedback
• Reflect on their meetings with the mentor group students they work with
How We Express Ourselves:

Perceptions of people can be connected to people’s preferences and outward appearances.

Our previous unit ‘How We Express Ourselves’ explored beauty around the world, stereotypes, perceptions and misconceptions.

Students developed an understanding that the perception of beauty differs between countries around the world.

They deepened their understanding of the Habit of Mind ‘Thinking Flexibly’, as some students changed their perspectives over time. Through investigations of cultural beauty and outward appearances, students developed an appreciation and acceptance of the differences of others.

‘My favourite thing was finding out what people considered beautiful around the world.’ Margaux H39

‘I liked the part where we matched pictures to where they are considered beautiful on a map.’ Marcus H39

‘My favourite part was when we researched beauty from different countries.’ Joan H44

‘My favourite thing was making an identity poster and finding out about the identity of other people.’ Kass H44

‘I really liked making my identity poster and sharing things about me.’ Sachitha H45