

**Email from British Council 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016**

**Subject:** Congratulations on your Re/Accreditation of the International School Award 2016-2019



## Congratulations on your Re/Accreditation of the International School Award 2016-2019

Dear International Coordinator,

Thank you for submitting your Impact Evaluation of international learning activities. We are delighted to inform you that **Breakspeare School** has been successful in gaining Reaccreditation of the International School Award and is accredited for three years from **1 September 2016 to 31 August 2019**.

Here are the assessor's comments on your Impact Evaluation, to highlight where your application was particularly impressive and points to take note of as you continue to develop the international dimension in your school:

*Dear Mr White, Having duly considered the information you have submitted in your recent Impact Evaluation it is evident to the assessor that all success criteria have been satisfactorily achieved, and it is now a pleasure to recommend Breakspeare School for the Reaccreditation Level of the International School Award. It is clear that you have continued to develop and embed the international dimension into your school since your last reaccreditation and it is pleasing to note that this was recognized by your last OFSTED inspection in 2013. You now ensure that there is a specific international focus in your School Improvement Plan and it is clear you wish to continue to provide a curriculum where students will experience a rich opportunity to learn from other cultures and languages. In addition to this, you are committed to using the international dimension to broaden pupils awareness, knowledge and understanding of moral, social, cultural*

*and spiritual values. You have described a wide range of activities for the last year which include opportunities for collaboration with your partner school and language learning. These activities have played a large part in developing the global citizenship of the pupils along with a deepened awareness and understanding of global issues and themes. All pupils in the school have been involved in many of the activities and it now may be the case that pupils themselves, perhaps through a student council, can develop a role in the planning, implementation, review and dissemination of future projects. Your teachers and support staff are clearly highly enthusiastic about the international dimension and ensure that their planning has an appropriate international focus. The activities and events have also served to develop a staff sense of common purpose and teamwork. However, your application might have been improved by providing explicit examples of how education practice in your school has been enhanced by your international work. Meanwhile, the visual, engaging and multi faceted nature of the international activities provided has matched the complex needs of the pupils and resulted in effective learning taking place. The pupils have learnt by seeing and doing as well as by being immersed in cultural experiences. It is clear that your international work is well known within your community and it is pleasing to note that parents and family friends participate in key events. You have also engaged the support of local businesses. There might, however, be opportunities for engaging other local organisations who might support your initiatives, or contribute expertise towards events and activities. Consequently, it may be possible that an audit of parent and community skills and expertise might provide some usable resources to enhance future projects. You partially fulfil your ambassadorial role by the international sharing and support you provide to other SLD schools in Hertfordshire, although more information about the actual support given would improve the application. Given the wealth of experience and success you have gained, there may be further ways in which you can develop your ambassadorial role in the future, with a particular focus on encouraging other schools to proceed along the International Schools Award route. Your plans for sustainability involve repeating a similar structure of activities in the next academic year with the possibility of fundraising to enable exchange visits. The proposal to include Skype sessions will significantly benefit your activities. It may be of value, however, to consider whether the Connecting Classrooms or Erasmus+ programmes offer additional possibilities to your future planning. Similarly, it may be worthwhile also making use of British Council online resources and training opportunities to boost staff expertise even further. Congratulations on embedding the international dimension so effectively into your school and community and you arwished continued success in the future. Well done.*

Congratulations on working so hard to co-ordinate such an impressive range of work as the International Co-ordinator. You are a credit to the school and the wider community.

We are pleased to announce that we will be having **an awards ceremony** to celebrate the many great achievements of all recent recipients of the International Schools Award!

The event will take place this autumn. Teachers and head teachers from across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland will be in attendance, with other guests to be confirmed. The award's location, venue as well as the exact date and time will be announced during the month of September 2016. All international coordinators will receive an invite by email and will be asked to confirm attendance.

We will be sending you **a certificate** of achievement by post in the next few weeks if you are unable to attend the Award ceremony. If the name of your school or your head teacher has

changed since you submitted your application please inform us at [isa@britishcouncil.org](mailto:isa@britishcouncil.org) to ensure we have the correct information for your certificate of achievement.

The scheme kite mark, which is a key part of the Award, and press release template, will be sent with a separate email in the upcoming week.

To retain your Reaccreditation status you will need to reapply in the 2018/2019 academic year (during third year of your Reaccreditation). We will contact you nearer the time to confirm the Reaccreditation process. Further information is available from the British Council Schools Online [website](#).

We hope that the scope of your excellent international activities will continue to develop and benefit the school community; your support, commitment, creativity and innovative international work is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking part in the International School Award. Please convey our very best wishes and many congratulations to all staff and students both in the UK and overseas who have taken part in the scheme. Please also contact your local media to inform them about your successful international work - this is a great achievement and one that deserves celebrating and sharing widely.

Kind regards

International School Award team  
British Council