

## UISZ Community Summary – Week 5



### INTRO

It has been another busy week at UISZ - with so many classroom activities and weekend Boarding activities going on. On Wednesday the new Head of School Mr Sebastien talked to students about his own background - all the countries he has taught in around the world. Students were very impressed. Mr Sebastien reiterated the importance of students taking their studies seriously to progress their learning journeys.





Now let's take a closer look at what's been happening this week...

### PYP

Year 3 has had a fun start to the year. We started the year with some fun but challenging topics, what is time? How does our brain work? How we learn? These led to some very interesting conversations and opened up many new questions for us to think about and research! We are currently learning about the internet and how to be a good, safe digital citizen. The children now know about what makes a good password, what information is best kept secret, and I learned what a TikTok is. Fascinating! The “selfie” activity was especially fun and showed the kids creative side and produced some very funny photos.

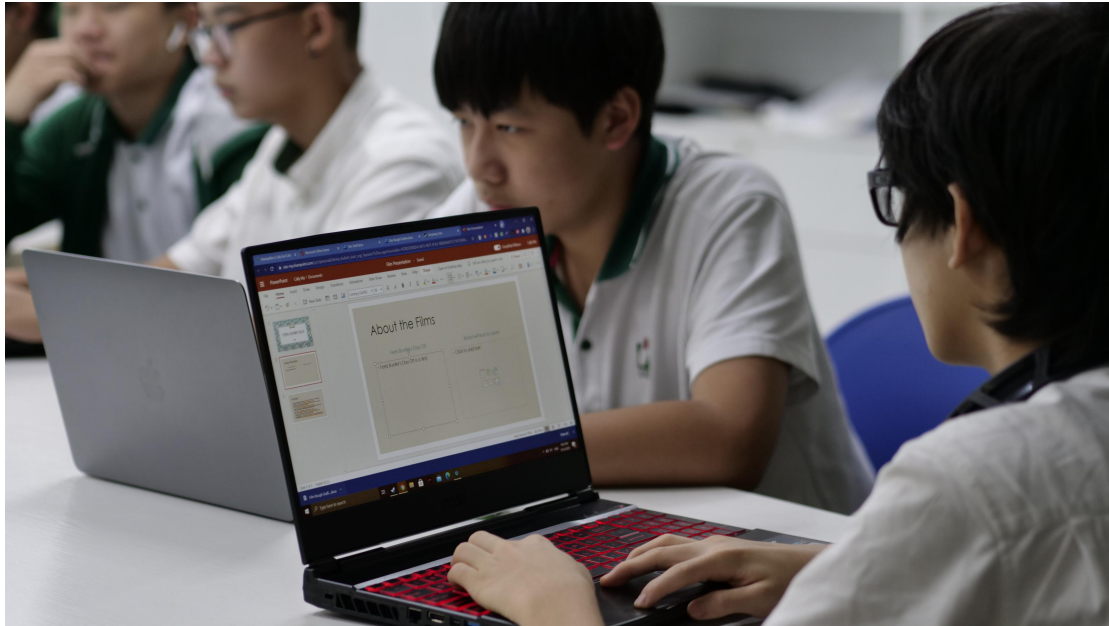






## MYP

The Y9 Arts/Media students in Mr Justin's class are busy preparing their 10 minute teen genre comparative study slide presentations which analyse the similarities and differences between the 1950s film Rebel Without a Cause and the 1980s film Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Slide presentations are a unique format that requires the ability to summarise textual and visual information and present to an audience in an engaging way - using both text and visuals.





**Message from Ms Francesca**

Wellbeing is a class where students are exposed to ideas and skills about identity, relationships, conflict management and responsible decision making. This week, Year 9 has been working on making 'About me' T-shirts: both I and the students have made our own paper T-shirt describing some of our personality characteristics, some special interests that we have and something about us that most people don't know.

While 'wearing' their T-shirts, students have been encouraged to talk to each other and find out more about themselves. They have been asked to find people who have

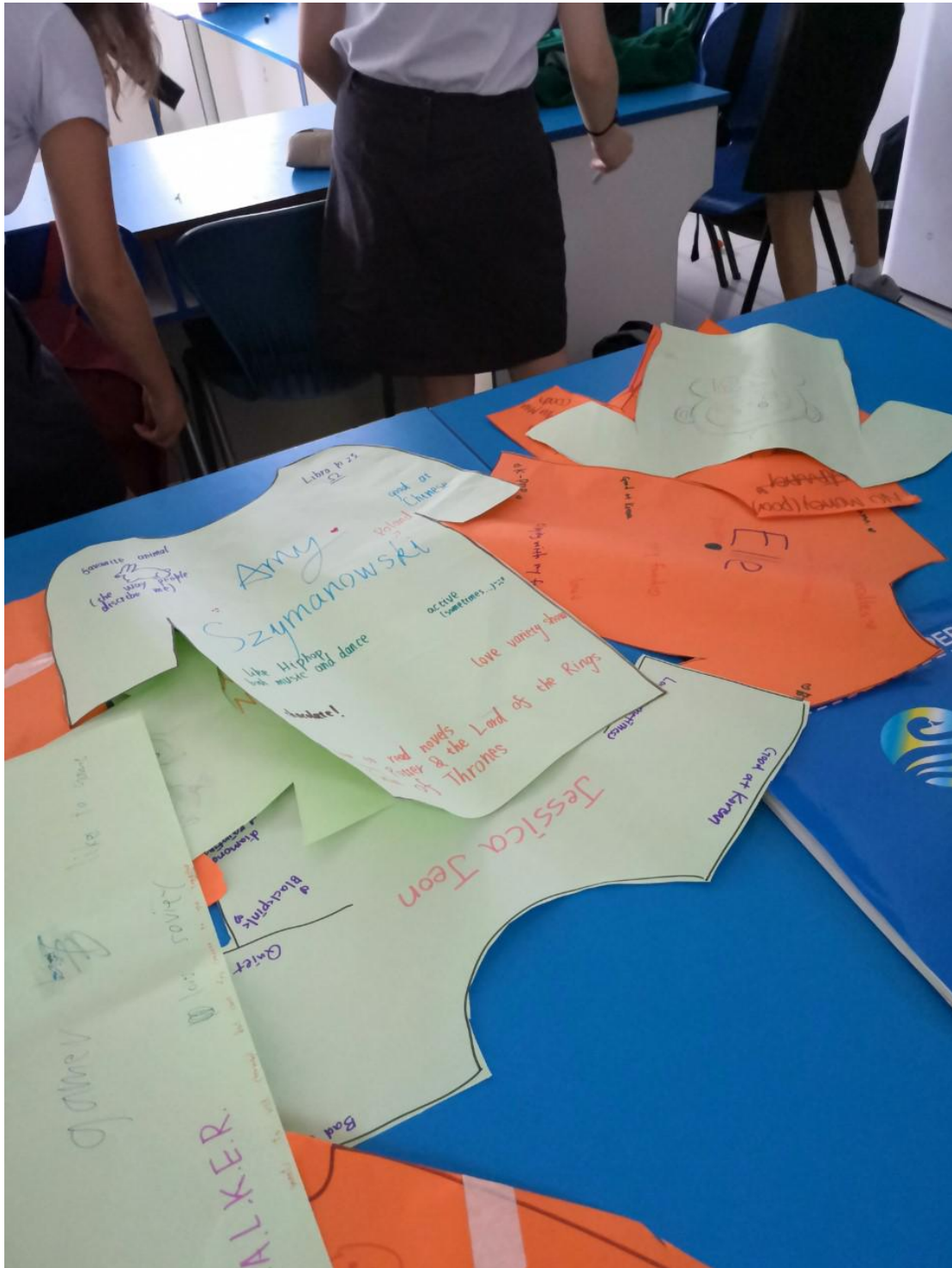
skills or interests that they would like to learn from and people who share similar interests. Some students found it really hard to define themselves!

Activities like this are meant to support the development of self-awareness and social skills, which are key aspects in creating good relationships and a positive environment in the classroom.









**DP**

Message from Ms. Dina

DP Biology Year 11 & 12: have you ever wondered why cells are SO small? Our DP Biologists wondered, so they looked at the cell size question and tried to find a reason why cells are small through real inquiry-based activity.



We began our exploration of the question by creating a model cell. Its shape is that of a cube. The model cell is made of agar-agar containing an acid-base indicator. Students used varied dimensions of the model like 1cm, 1.5 cm, 2cm and 3 cm sized cubes. Placing the agar cubes in acid causes a color change which was used to measure the rate at which diffusion occurred.

While conducting this investigation, our young biologists were also practicing important skills such as calculating averages and standard deviations, presenting this processed data in an appropriate graph, and writing a conclusion of the practical.

Meanwhile, year 12 DP biologists were designing their own mesocosm (terrarium). There are many ways to build a mesocosm. What students did is a particularly simple model from just two or three clear plastic bottles. The width of the bottles at the place they are cut so they fit together. We used glue guns for the sticking and spoons / spatulas to get the soil into the middle layer. Mesocosms have been used in research to test the effects of herbicides and other pesticides, to evaluate climate change effects and for many other purposes.





## BOARDING

On Saturday 12th September, the 7-day boarders were set the challenge to scale to the top of Baishui Zhai Waterfall. It was a risk, as the weather forecast predicted heavy rain and thunderstorms. However, we were greeted with blue skies and an unforgiving sun. Now, 9999 steps on a Fitbit is easy, 9999 steps climbing up a mountain is a different story all together.

We started the challenge at 9:30am and reached 4099 (Sky lake) after 3hrs of hiking(led by the Leo Wang, also known as: Mountain Goat), and many rests. There were big decisions to be made. Do we continue to the summit with a further 3hours, adding to the level of fatigue and getting caught in the inevitable rain? Or do we start the decent, get back, eat some food, and enjoy a well-earned rest? Easy decision!

The next challenge was how long would it take us to get down? The challenge was set, and we ran all the way down from Sky Lake. Some took alternative means of getting to the bottom, via bouncing on their posterior! The final time for our decent was clocked at 45minutes, with the outcome: calf muscles filled with lactic acid and the need for some serious rehydration.



We also managed to escape the downpour that followed. As soon as we stepped out of the exit and boarded the bus, the heavens opened. Looks like it was a great decision at the halfway point to climb descend Baishui Zhai waterfall!



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## OUTRO

And so we come to the end of another exciting week of activities in and out of the classroom - which encourage all our students to explore, adapt and impact in so many different ways. We wish all students and parents a relaxing weekend.

Warmest wishes,  
UISZ School & Boarding Community