

19th September 2025

The Pelican Brief



Dear PYP Parents,

This week marked several exciting 'firsts' as teaching and learning gained real momentum across the Primary School. Our PYP 6 class kicked things off with the first field trip of the year, venturing along the rugged East Coast to Chalky Mount with Ms. Bec. It was an enriching expedition of discovery and exploration for the PYP 6 students.

Meanwhile, PYP 7 took centre stage with the first assembly presentations of the year. They showcased not only their knowledge but also their growing confidence and communication skills with two very entertaining presentations.

Students also participated in their first Enrichment Programme sessions, diving into new activities with spirit and enthusiasm. It's been wonderful to see such positive engagement.

So, we now feel that we're up and running at full speed. Our transition into routines and schedules has been smooth and efficient, and we're now fully settled.

Speaking of firsts, don't forget our first PTA social soirée of the year, 'Lime at Lancaster', on Saturday 11th October at the beautiful Lancaster Great House in St. James. Please RSVP to our PTA by October 3. It promises to be a fantastic evening.

A big thank you to parents for the positive feedback on our PYP classroom blogs. We've just added new updates this afternoon, so please take a few minutes to browse through and enjoy the learning and industry that took place in our classrooms this week.

All the best for the weekend.

Regards,
Rob Fuller
Head of Primary

Important Dates

- October 11:** PTA Social event - '*Lime at Lancaster*'
- October 17:** Celebration of Learning
- October 18-26:** School closed for mid-term break
- October 27:** Parent/Teacher Conferences 7.30am-3.30pm; no classes
- October 28:** Classes resume
- October 31:** Halloween Dress-up Day
- November 20:** PTA Pizza Day
- December 1:** Independence Day National Holiday (school closed)
- December 5:** Christmas concert
- December 12:** Final day of school
- Dec 13-Jan 5:** School closed for Christmas Holidays
- January 5:** Teacher Work Day
- January 6:** Classes resume for students



Slaying the Sleeping Giant

Ms. Bec's PYP 6 students have been diving into the lives of famous explorers as part of their Unit of Inquiry on Exploration & Discovery. On Monday morning, they embodied the courage, spirit & adventurous nature of those explorers as they conquered the iconic Sleeping Giant at Chalky Mount. With determination & teamwork, the students tackled the challenging slopes & proudly planted the Barbados flag at the summit. Their perseverance paid off with a well-earned morning snack at 500 feet above sea level, a rewarding end to an unforgettable trek. Well done, PYP 6!





Around campus this week





A Student-Centred Approach

At Codrington we're often asked about the key differences between the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and more traditional approaches to education. While there are many distinctions, the most significant contrast is the student-centred philosophy that lies at the heart of the PYP. This approach empowers students to take ownership of their learning, encouraging inquiry, critical thinking, and a genuine love of discovery.

With so many new families joining our community this year, many of whom are experiencing the PYP for the first time, this is the ideal opportunity to outline why we believe this programme is the most effective and meaningful way to educate young learners.

The table below offers a comparison between the PYP and traditional models, highlighting some of the key contrasts. We hope this helps clarify the approach we take, while also debunking a few common 'urban myths' about the PYP.

We invite you to engage with your child's learning journey, ask questions, and see firsthand how the PYP fosters not only academic growth, but also curiosity, independence, and a lifelong love of learning.

Traditional Approach to Education	Primary Years Programme at Codrington
1. Over-reliance on a single style of instruction by the teacher <i>ie. dissemination of information; 'chalk & talk'</i>	1. The teacher uses a wide variety and balance of teaching strategies and methodologies to accommodate different learning styles
2. Static curriculum with inflexible framework of outdated standards and practices	2. Inquiry-based, trans-disciplinary curriculum that encourages flexibility and innovation in it's delivery
3. Over-reliance on one teaching resource from one origin/culture <i>eg. a single textbook from Australia.</i>	3. Use of multiple resources representing a variety of perspectives <i>eg. textbooks; online resources; field trips; guest speakers; experiments; manipulatives; story books; case studies, etc.</i>
4. The teacher is viewed as the sole authority in the learning process	4. Students are viewed as thinkers with the capacity to build their own knowledge and understanding
5. Students memorize facts on a specific topic to regurgitate in a test or exam <i>eg. ROTE learning the names of dinosaurs</i>	5. Students develop deeper knowledge and understanding of concepts <i>eg. understanding why dinosaurs became extinct</i>
6. Focusing on what students don't know	6. Building on what students <u>do</u> know
7. Teacher-directed focus on rigid objectives	7. Students pursue open-ended inquiry and real-life investigations
8. Over-reliance on a single assessment strategy <i>eg. end of unit test/exam</i>	8. Use of a range & balance of assessment strategies and tools <i>eg. quiz; oral presentation; poster; written response; group project; model; observations; play/skit; etc.</i>
9. One size fits all	9. Students learn in different ways and at different speeds. Content & instruction is differentiated to fit individual student needs.

Enrichment Programme

Our after-school Enrichment Programme officially kicked off this week. The programme is an integral part of our holistic approach to education and is designed to provide opportunities to explore new interests and experiences beyond the traditional classroom setting. These experiences also foster self-worth and confidence, and help develop a growth mind-set in our students.



PYP Assembly

Our PYP Assemblies on Friday morning provide a wonderful platform for students to showcase their knowledge and talents in front of their peers and teachers. It presents a valuable opportunity for them to build self-confidence and develop their public speaking skills. The audience is always enthusiastic and supportive, creating a positive and encouraging atmosphere for every student who steps onto the big stage. This morning we were entertained by presentations from our two PYP 7 classes on their Unit of Inquiry on 'States of Matter'.



Learner Profile Awards

Congratulations to this week's recipients of Learner Profile Awards.



Naomi (PYP 3) - Risk-taker & Thinker



Catalina (PYP 8) - Thinker & Inquirer



Sebastian (PYP 2) - Thinker



Malik (PYP 3) - Thinker



Kiran (PYP 6) - Caring



Lilah (PYP 7Adi) - Risk-taker & Inquirer

PYP House Team Competition



New PYP 7 students Virginia (Anstey), Nicholas (Gooding Emtage) & Nathan (Elliot-Sealy) display the progressive House Team scores at the end of Week 2.

Another lap around the sun

This week we celebrated the birthday of Eva Masionneuve from Ms. Renee's PYP 3 class. We sung Happy Birthday to Eva in French, led by Ms. Cyrielle and Ms. Barbara, with the dulcet tones of the DP2 students floating through from the Biology lab! We also acknowledged Ms. Cyrielle's birthday today with another rendition of Joyeux Anniversaire. Congratulations to Eva and Ms. C!





"Lime at Lancaster"

A CODRINGTON SCHOOL PTA SOCIAL EVENT

Saturday 11th October

LANCASTER GREAT HOUSE, ST. JAMES

6:30PM

\$70 BBD per person

INCLUSIVE OF

*APPETIZER BUFFET

*LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

*WELCOME DRINK (SET SELECTION) CASH BAR TO FOLLOW

RSVP Google form by 3rd October

ADULTS ONLY

SMART CASUAL DRESS

The Codrington School, The International School of Barbados

2025-2026 School Calendar

August 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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January 2026						
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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April 2026						
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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28	29	30				

July 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- School Closed
- Early Release Day (noon)
- First Day of School for DP students
- PD Professional Development Day (no school for students)
- End of Term
- First Day of School for MYP & PYP students
- Graduation

Aug 26- Sep 2	Planning/Development Days
Sept 2	First Day of School for DP students
Sept 4	First Day of School MYP & PYP for students
Sept 7	Back to School BBQ
Oct 20-24	Half term - no school
Oct 27	Parent/teacher Conferences (no school)
Dec 1	Independence Day (national holiday)
Dec 13 - Jan 5	Winter Break - no school
Jan 5	Teacher Work Day (no school)

Jan 21	Errol Barrow Day (national holiday)
Feb 16-20	half term - no school
Apr 2	End of Term 2 (half day)
Apr 3- Apr 19	Easter Break - no school
Apr 20	Start of Term 3
Apr 28	Heroes day (national holiday)
May 1	May Day (national holiday)
May 25	Whit Monday (national holiday)
May 30	Graduation
Jun 24	Last Day of School (half day)