



# BRIGHTON COLLEGE

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## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BANGKOK

### Expectations: Brighton College Bangkok

#### Welcome

Hello, *Sawasdee Krab!* Wherever it is in the world that you sit as you read these pages, we'd like to thank you for your interest in our school. It goes without saying that we feel enormously privileged to be working here in the wonderful city of Bangkok, as part of the Brighton College family of schools – we have a reputation for excellence and we trust that this forms at least part of your motivation in applying to join us. The following few pages strive to provide a glimpse into what makes working at Brighton College Bangkok so special. Having said this, it is important to note that it is our intention to paint a realistic picture of what life here might be like, should your application be successful. Whether this would be your first, second or fifth post abroad, there are many considerations to make when deciding on which school is the right choice for you and your family. This overview will be divided into 3 sections:

1. The College
2. The Brighton College Group
3. The Country



## The College

By joining Brighton College Bangkok, you become part of a very special family of schools, where a love of learning, innovation and ambition are all nurtured and celebrated.

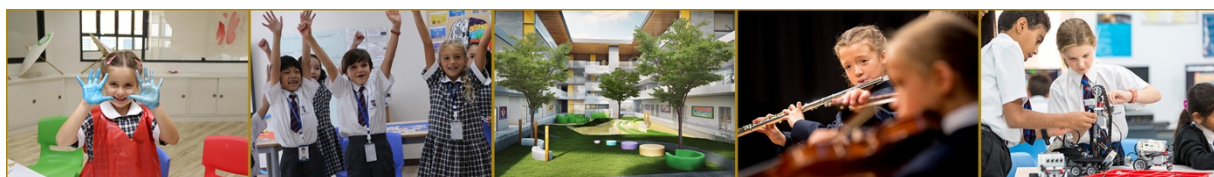
On September 8<sup>th</sup> 2016, our Pre-Prep opened its doors to the first Brighton College Bangkok pupils becoming the newest of the Brighton College schools. Brighton College Abu Dhabi opened in 2011 with Al Ain following in 2013; both became leading schools within the UAE in a very short space of time. With pupils up to Year 4, Brighton College Bangkok's dedicated and ambitious staff have already created an extremely dynamic and vibrant school, fulfilling our dream of giving every child an excellent and holistic education, full of challenge, enthusiasm and variety.

The College will comprise 3 autonomous schools: The Pre-Prep (Pre-Nursery to Year 3), The Prep School (Year 4 to Year 8) and the Senior School (Years 9 - 13). Many of our staff will work across the schools, being involved in all three, and the overarching feeling will be of one community. In our second year the Prep and Senior Schools will be housed in the same building and a feeling of being one school will prevail but the identity of each will begin to develop immediately.

The purpose-built Pre Prep has given us a glimpse of what to expect when the Prep School opens in August 2017. The state of the art facilities will really enhance the experience of both pupils and teachers, encouraging innovation, creativity and, in turn, a love of learning - all of which are the hallmarks of a Brighton College education and workplace. The Prep School is currently under construction along with a fabulous Sports Hall, an IOC approved 400m athletics track and a 25m swimming pool, tennis courts and a football pitch. The Hub, our Performing Arts Centre, will be truly outstanding with a number of recording studios, standard music rooms, instrumental teaching spaces, purpose-built dance and drama studios and a 650 seat theatre. The following year, our innovative Senior School will be completed, together with an IOC approved 50m swimming pool.

By joining Brighton College Bangkok, you will be joining a team of committed and passionate teachers who strive to be the very best at what they do. Across the Brighton College family, professional development is a particular focal point. There is a generous budget for external professional development; however, in addition, staff meet regularly to share best practice, to challenge and inspire each other and to discuss ideas and research. A love of learning is not just limited to the children, Brighton College staff all want to know more and to discover how to go from strength to strength and we regularly celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the Common Room.

Brighton College encourages innovation and 'big thinking' amongst the staff. We are always on the lookout for 'wow' ideas, those that will distinguish us from the rest, whether within or beyond the classroom. This is true across all aspects of school life and so gives every member of the community the opportunity to be creative and to spread their wings. At Brighton College Bangkok you will not be held back by traditions or limited by what has been done before.



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Our curriculum, whilst based on the National Curriculum of England, is so much more. The College offers an enhanced and original programme making the most of where we are in the World and our internationally minded pupils. This allows us to be innovative and creative across all aspects of the children's learning and to deliver a truly constructive and meaningful experience. Our aim is to deliver a curriculum that goes beyond the tests, where excitement and enthusiasm lead to a love of learning for its own sake, and, in turn, benefits every pupil as they prepare for academic goals, such as Common Entrance and IGCSE. Individualised targets ensure that Brighton College pupils always know where they are headed and why; however, these become a part of school life rather than the dominant force.

As a startup school, with ambitious plans and a state of the art campus, we will be looking to maximise the input from the staff; we will be drawing on the vast array of experience that such a school attracts and will strive to ensure that you are professionally challenged. As such, there will be a variety of leadership opportunities available and areas for which individuals may take responsibility. Startup schools are exciting places to be; being involved right at the beginning means having a real stake in the school and at Brighton College Bangkok we want all members of the team to have a role in laying the foundations. Our expectations of staff will be high and you will need a strong work ethic, particularly in the early months. Being ready for the unexpected and willing to turn your hand to whatever needs doing is essential but if you have what it takes then there is no better place to be - it is exciting, challenging and hugely rewarding.

On top of offering an exciting and unique working experience we are also very lucky to have an outstanding HR Department who have shown themselves in the past 12 months to be extremely helpful and efficient, and perhaps most importantly very caring and supportive. This is a huge bonus when making the decision to relocate across the World or within Thailand itself.





## The Group

The Brighton College family of schools has been quick to establish itself as a leading international brand - a hallmark of excellence. Unlike many branded schools that have entered the international market, we work very closely with our sister school in the UK and have built on their incredible success; we do not simply ride on their coat tails but add to and enhance all that they are doing. The results/league tables speak for themselves with all members of the group excelling in their own market.

Our reputation and ambitious aims attract outstanding teachers from across the globe, teachers who are passionate and enthusiastic, knowledgeable and proven, leading to a dynamic workplace and super opportunities for collaboration within each school and across the group. We encourage movement between the schools and recognise excellence with promotions and responsibilities that challenge and develop individual teachers. Joining the Brighton College family will open the door to a stimulating and inspiring journey for those outstanding teachers who do not believe that good is good enough.



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# Why work in Thailand?

Thailand teems with life, variety and culture – certainly, it is never dull. Its beauty, beyond the fabled temples, forests and beaches is undoubtedly found in its diversity and especially in its people. Expatriates are made to feel very welcome and the extracts below are merely glimpses, provided by a couple of members of our founding staff

## Staff Perceptions of Living and Working in Thailand

Edward joined Brighton College Bangkok as Deputy Head of the Prep School in August 2016. He and his family have lived and worked in Bangkok for the past five years.

Bangkok has been described as a hub, or a portal or even a decompression chamber between East and West, a place with a synergy that comes from a merging of traditions, with contrasting people, cultures and bank balances. The joy of living here comes from the potential to find the best of many worlds all on one's doorstep. Yes, the heat, especially to begin with, is intense but the sanctuary of aircon is never far away. Assimilation here is easier than in most new countries. Home comforts of almost any kind can be found. The backdrop to life is stunning and the skyline above the daily bustle is perpetually changing, with architects' ambitious designs strutting higher and higher along Bangkok's architectural catwalk.

Living in this chaotic, often smelly, but always stimulating city is a privilege. One is never bored, for there is always so much to see and do. It is a city of contrast: there is obviously great wealth and, in places, pronounced poverty and these extremes are often side by side. Yet, amidst the chaos, is a sometimes baffling harmony, typified, of course, by the clichéd legend – a land of smiles – and a people whose culture of respect sets the tone for any empathetic visitor. After a while the chaos starts to make sense, and I suppose the most amazing thing I reflect upon after five years in Bangkok, is how normal everything seems. It is most definitely home, a home where friends and relatives love to visit, and where my wife, two children and I are delighted to be staying.

When we first arrived, I remember being greeted by incessant rain and a wall of heat that seemed to have smell and texture. This was August and thus rainy season; this year was wetter than most, with deluge after deluge punctuating steamy and sunny interludes. We had arrived in the tropics and our adventure had begun. The key we found to marrying the demands of a new job, new curriculums, and new schools for our own children was to have treats to which we could look forward. Settling in a new country is not without challenges, so it was important for us in the long first term to remind ourselves of where we were and why we had come. Sampling a selection of culinary delights from the extraordinary array of restaurants in Bangkok was and continues to be great fun. After a couple of weeks, with our children happy in the company of our new nanny, we had nights out together as a couple with far greater frequency than was ever possible in the UK. We booked family weekends away in Hua Hin, Koh Samet and



Pattaya; and when we didn't go away, I remember the days when I didn't take going for a swim in our lovely condominium pool for granted.

As an expat in Bangkok, it is easy to save money, to live cheaply and to still have a really good time. Street food is ubiquitous, incredibly cheap and enormously popular; taxis are ridiculously cheap, etc. There are museums, cinemas, markets and more. And yet, it must be said, it is also easy to spend. If you love your wine, brace yourself for the taxes. There are price tags on other imported goods that will also make you question just how much you love or need them. But a splash of luxury is surely irresistible and there is an extravagance of options. Sky bars, for example, boast astonishing views and are wonderful preludes to fine gourmet dining. An army of tuk tuks, taxis and boat shuttles awaits, ready to do battle with the ever-frustrating traffic. Avoiding certain roads at certain times is definitely something we've learned through experience – in fact, we've had five years' experience here now and we're still hooked.

## Thoughts on Bangkok from our SENCO Cynthia Marlow Gould

Bangkok is a city of vibrant colours and personality. My first suggestion for anyone moving here, is that you leave all of your winter clothes in the UK: you definitely won't need them in Bangkok. There are two seasons in Bangkok - hot, and hot and rainy; however, before long, you become acclimatized and you no longer feel the heat, or at least you wilt less frequently. The Sky Train is the main and quickest mode of transportation to get around the city, as traffic can be quite heavy. Taxis and tuk-tuks are very inexpensive and there is usually some sort of story to tell your friends once you get out of one. Thai people are some of the nicest and most helpful people in the world. They love expats and want to make you feel at home with a smile on their face.

Bangkok is a melting pot of culinary cuisine. It has two of the top 10 best restaurants in Asia and the street food is addictive. Once you start to eat Thai food, you keep wanting it spicier and spicier every time. You will quickly find your 'local' stand at which to eat in the evenings.

Bangkok is also 'smack in the middle' of Asia. Because the airport is so large, it is easy to find inexpensive travel both locally and abroad. My husband and I have enjoyed trips to Phuket and Koh Samui and loved our holidays to Tokyo, Seoul, Hanoi, Beijing and Hong Kong. For some of these holidays, however, you will need warm clothing as it can get very cold once you go north. Sorry for telling you to leave them at home!

We have loved our move to Bangkok. It does take time to find things that you are missing but you do have everything you need in the city, including supermarkets where you can purchase the majority of your food products from home. Usually our weekends include a massage, so inexpensive it will make your jaw drop, some fine dining, and even a trip along the very brown, but bustling Chao Praya river. The great thing about Bangkok is that there is so much to do and see that you are never bored. Once you get over the culture shock of leaving home, which will take a few weeks, you will find Bangkok to be an exciting yet chaotic city filled with a richness in culture that is very hard to find anywhere else in Asia.

