issue 2 | 14th April 2025

This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Family,

I want to start by congratulating the 42 students who took part in the Cairo Regional round of The World Scholars Cup. Myself, Ms Jo, Ms Hoda, Ms Nat, Ms Rachel and Ms Mai joined them on this amazing journey. They spend a very busy two days taking part in debates, quizzes, collaborative writing challenges while meeting new friends. This was the largest regional Cairo round with over 450 students taking part from all over Egypt. In fact the significance of this achievement was marked by the programme founder and 'Alpaca in Chief', Daniel Berdichevsky hosting the event. I have been involved with the World Scholars Cup for many years and had the honour of taking a group of students to a Global Round in 2017 in Vietnam and this groups then went on to the Champion of Champions at Harvard University in the USA. We are already planning to take our GEMS TBS students who passed through to the Global Rounds, to compete in Dubai in December.

The theme of this year's event is 'Reigniting the Future' and all writing prompts and debating topics were around this theme and you can click here to access the thought provoking curriculum material our students were studying. For the next six weeks I will share one of the debate resolutions for you to discuss around your dinner table as this is a great way to develop your child's critical thinking and reasoning skills.

You Don't Want to Miss Out on...

27th April : ASAs cycle 3 starts

5th & 6th May : EEP Cup

29th May: Walking Museum

1st June : International Week

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Examination Updates

- Good luck to all our students who have external examinations this week:
- OAQA IGCSE English paper 4 (speaking)
- CIE IGCSE Information Communication Technology paper 22 and 23 Practicals

This week's discussion Topic!

We should pause technological development until we understand the impact of current technologies on human well-being.
I would love to hear your family's thoughts on this topic, whether you are for or against and your rationale behind your thoughts.

Late for morning line, registration and to first class

An ongoing concern we have is the number of times students are late for school in the morning, and I want you to understand the impact this has on your child both academically and on their well-being. We understand that mornings can be hectic—alarm clocks fail, traffic backs up, shoes go missing. Life happens. But when lateness becomes a pattern, it can have more of an impact on your child than you might think.

Think for a moment about being late to work. If you walk into a meeting ten minutes after it starts, you miss key information, disrupt the flow for others, and may feel a little embarrassed or unprepared. Now imagine this happening to your child every morning at school.

The Academic Impact

When students arrive late, they miss important parts of the day—morning routines, instructional time, or even class announcements. Just like adults starting their day behind schedule, students spend the rest of the morning trying to catch up. That initial stress can affect their ability to focus, absorb information, and participate confidently.
Being just 5–10 minutes late each day adds up to nearly 30 hours of missed learning time over the school year. That's nearly a full week of instruction lost.

The Social and Emotional Impact

Beyond academics, there's the emotional toll. Walking into a room after everyone else has settled can make children feel anxious, self-conscious, or like they're not fully part of the group. This can affect their confidence and sense of belonging—two key ingredients for a successful learning environment.

What Message Are We Sending?

Children learn from everything we do—not just what we say. When we allow them to be consistently late, the unspoken message might be:

- "Being on time isn't that important."
- "School isn't a priority."
- "It's okay to disrupt others' time."

In contrast, making punctuality a priority teaches children responsibility, respect for others' time, and the importance of commitments—lessons that carry well beyond the classroom.

How You Can Help

- Plan ahead: Lay out clothes, pack lunches, and organise bags the night before.
- Set a consistent routine: Try to build a buffer into your morning in case of small delays.
- Talk about the "why": Help your child understand the value of being present and prepared from the start of the day.

We know mornings aren't always perfect, and no one expects them to be. But even small changes can make a big difference in how your child experiences school and how they build habits for the future. When you joined GEMS TBS, the fourth point in our Home-School Agreement states:

"I understand that it is essential that my child attends school every day and is punctual."

In addition, The Ministry of Education Disciplinary Regulations, Violations and Sanctions for Schools Article 12 states sanctions should be applied for the following:

- 1.1 Missing out in the morning line or attending it late with no valid excuse.
- 1.2 Arriving to the class late with no valid excuse

Thank you for partnering with us to give every student the best possible start—On Time In School every day.

Thank you for everything you do to help your child grow, learn, and succeed.

MS Jane Knight
School Principal

Message from Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well.

This past weekend, I had the extreme honour of attending the World Scholar's Cup, where our Year 6 students represented our school with pride and excellence. I was incredibly proud to witness their impressive debating skills and teamwork in action. They performed exceptionally well, and we returned with a wonderful collection of medals! We will continue to celebrate this outstanding achievement within our school community.

A gentle reminder: if your child in Years 4–6 would like to participate in the EcoArt Competition, please refer to the instruction letter previously sent home. All art pieces should be submitted to class teachers by the specified deadline.
This week, I've had the absolute pleasure of visiting classrooms and spending some extended time with our amazing children. In EYFS, it was particularly lovely to see child-led learning in full swing—children exploring topics in fun, imaginative, and meaningful ways. Their creativity and curiosity are truly inspiring.

As we approach the final part of the academic year, I would like to kindly remind all families of the importance of regular attendance, punctuality, and wearing the correct school uniform. These small but vital routines help ensure a smooth and productive school experience for everyone.

Teachers are now busily preparing for our exciting end-of-year events and trips. You will receive full details about these activities in due course—there's lots to look forward to!
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

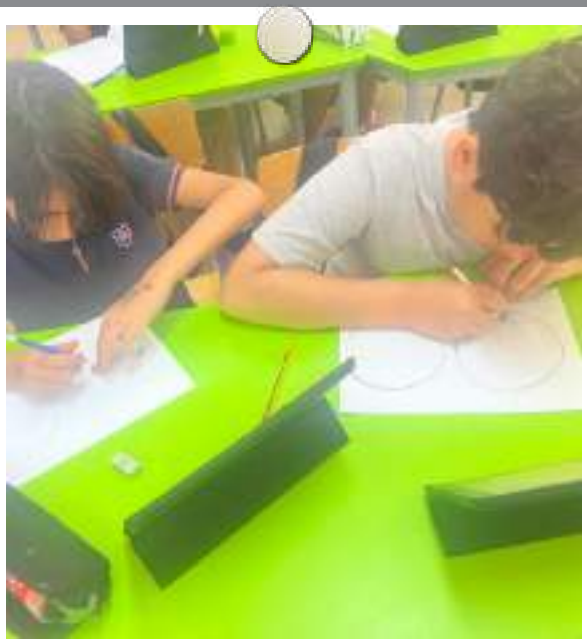
Warm regards,

Rachel Hardwick
Head of Primary

YEAR 5 STUDENTS DIVE INTO ANCIENT GREECE AND MYTHS!

As the Year 5 students embark on an exciting journey through the fascinating world of Ancient Greece, their enthusiasm is contagious! This term, they are delving into one of the most influential civilizations in history, exploring its rich culture, legendary myths, and incredible achievements that continue to shape our world today.

The students are working diligently on a variety of engaging projects, including research on famous Greek myths, the gods and goddesses, and the daily life of Ancient Greeks. Students will focus on unique aspect of Ancient Greek culture to explore in detail. From the mighty gods of Mount Olympus to the incredible warriors of the Trojan War, the stories and lessons of Ancient Greece are being brought to life through their research and creative projects.



Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International School
Pearson Edexcel
BSME
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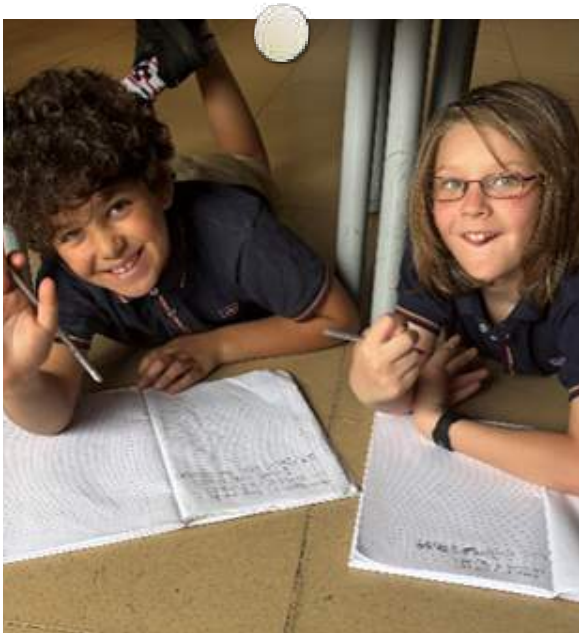
YEAR 3 PERSUASIVE WRITING TO HAVE THEIR CHAIRS BACK!

Year 3 have kicked off Term 3 with their persuasive writing unit with great enthusiasm! To begin, students were challenged to persuade their teachers to return their chairs after they were mysteriously removed from the classroom. This fun and imaginative task sparked a range of creative arguments and ideas as pupils developed their persuasive writing skills.

In addition to this, preparations are underway for our upcoming Walking Museum, where the focus will be on the Romans. Students will soon be designing and creating exciting projects to showcase during this special event. We can't wait to see their fantastic work come to life!



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TBS Scholars

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CAIRO
ROUND
CAIRO

Important reminders

Trust in School Decisions re classes: We would like to emphasise the importance of trust in the decisions made by our experienced and dedicated teaching staff. Classes are carefully crafted to provide balance by our qualified and experienced teachers and Heads of School, and any decisions they make to shuffle classes and allocate teachers are done with the best interests of our students in mind. It is essential to note that we will not accept requests from parents regarding their son/daughter's assigned class. Our primary goal is to create an optimal learning environment for every student, and we appreciate your support and trust in this matter.

A gentle reminder about GEMS TBS expectations which are part of the School-Parent Agreement:

Appearance:

We believe that a neat and well-groomed appearance is not only a reflection of personal pride but also essential for fostering a readiness to learn. Please note that all girls and boys with longer hair are required to have their hair tied back at all times. No extreme or fashion hairstyles are permitted. This includes hair shaving for boys and braids and coloured hair for both girls and boys.

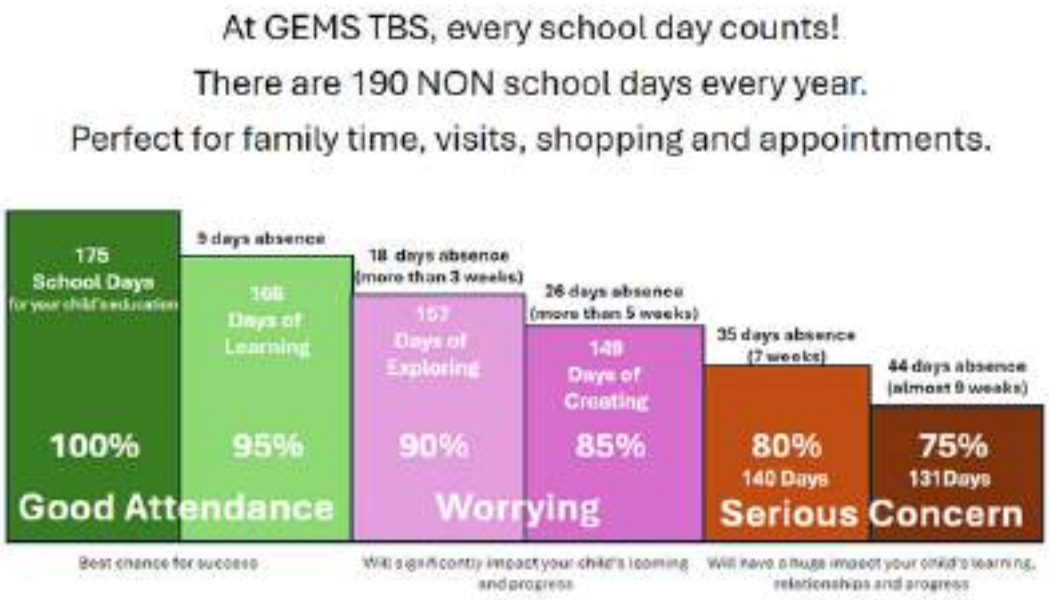
No jewelry or accessories are permitted, including piercings other than studs in ears, and will be ask to be removed if worn. Neither make-up nor nail polish is allowed and students with either will be asked to remove it. Smart watches are not permitted in school.

School Uniform Policy:

Our uniform not only promotes a sense of unity but also minimises distraction, allowing students to focus on their studies. Please, ensure that your child adheres to our school's uniform policy. Only items that are part of our school uniform are allowed within the school campus except on specified dress up days. Children will be asked to remove non-uniform items of clothing before entering school and if this is not possible, you will receive a call asking for you to bring the correct uniform. Please note that this includes shoes – trainers are to be worn only on allocated PE days.

Attendance

At GEMS TBS we emphasize the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. We believe that through good attendance at school children will achieve higher attainment, have better opportunities and establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives. This is supported by the Ministry of Education guidelines and sanctions for lateness and absences.
This infographic clearly shows the impact absences will have on your child: academically and emotionally.



Useful websites to help keep your child safe online

- **NSPCC: The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children offers a range of resources and guidance for parents on online safety, including tips on setting parental controls and talking to children about online risks.**
- **Internet Matters: Internet Matters provides advice and support to help parents keep their children safe online. Their website offers guides on various topics, from social media safety to gaming and streaming.**
- **Childnet International: Childnet International works to make the internet a safer place for children. Their website features educational resources, interactive games, and advice for parents, educators, and young people.**
- **UK Safer Internet Centre: The UK Safer Internet Centre provides resources, helplines, and advice for parents, schools, and young people to promote the safe and responsible use of technology.**
- **Thinkuknow: Thinkuknow is an education program from the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command. Their website offers resources for parents, including age-specific advice on online safety and how to report concerns.**

- **ParentsGuideToABetterInternet.pdf (npc.ie) very useful PDF guide to all aspects of internet safety**
- **Guardian's Guide | TikTok everything you need to know about how to keep your child safe on this socal media app**
- **Parental Guide for Teens on Instagram | About Instagram specifically written to support parents with older children and how to support**
- **Whatsapp for kids. Parental control on the popular messenger | Kidslox guide on how to set up security measures**
- **Top 5 Must-Have Apps for Monitoring Kids' Social Media Activity (eyezy.com) Apps that could help keep your child safe online monitoring their usage**