

# This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Family,

I hope you are all keeping warm on these chilly days – the power of fleece blankets (especially those you can wear) is just what we all need. I was very surprised to see on my weather app that it was only one degree warmer here in Cairo from my home city of Glasgow! Hopefully the temperatures will be rising a little now that the rain clouds have gone.

With a new year we are always full of good intentions and mine were to re-start lessons to play the piano and return to Arabic lessons. I am happy to report that I have had my first piano lesson and have been diligently practicing scales and pieces. My first Arabic lesson will be at the weekend so will let you know next week how I get on. What were your new year intentions and how are you getting on with them?

## Annual GEMS School Development Partners

Every year we welcome other principals, leaders and teachers from other GEMS schools to visit us, act as critical friends highlighting areas of success and make recommendations for development. As well as looking at Learning and Teaching across the schools, they also will look at our safeguarding provision, pastoral care, use of assessment data and health and safety procedures. Our visitors will be meeting with teachers, groups of parents and, most importantly, our students in addition to visiting classes. Their feedback alongside the feedback from CIS earlier this academic year and your survey comments will be invaluable as we build our Strategic Development Plan for the upcoming years.

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

**6th Feb- Y10-12 Parents Workshop on revision techniques and study skills**

**07-10.02.24 HIAMUN at Hayah International School**

**11.02-24 – 15.02.24 Kindness Week**

**21.02.24 - 24.02.24 Mid-term break**

**27th Feb– EYFS Parent workshop – learning through Play @ 8:00am**

**27th Feb– EYFS Sports Day @9:00am rescheduled from Term1**

**WB 3rd March – Book Week**

**5th March – Primary Parents workshop – Reading**

**6th March – Book Character dress up day**

**7th March – Student Led Conference (No school for students)**

**10th March –Ramadan Hours begin (Gate open 730am, Registration 745am, First lesson 800am, End of day 100pm)**

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## Emergency Procedures Update

Every term we run a fire drill to remind our students and staff of what to do should such an emergency arise. The drill also allows us to update our procedures. In addition to these fire drills, this year in line with safeguarding best practices, we are introducing an annual 'Lockdown Drill'. A lockdown is a procedure to manage the risks of a scenario where an intruder enters the school. Although this is extremely unlikely in Rehab because it is already a secure compound and we have our own security staff, we still need to ensure that we have procedures in place. All staff, including our support staff, are aware of procedures for this drill, and we will run it on Thursday. We will also make sure that our students understand what it is for and how to respond. If you are worried that your child might, for whatever reason, find such a drill of alarm, please let your class/form teacher know.

Below are our procedures shared with our teachers just in case you are also in school when the alarm is sounded:

- Alarm sounds
- If you are in your classroom, lock the door from the inside. Move away from any windows so not to be visible. Remain silent.
- If you are a specialist teacher, ensure you are aware of the location of the keys for all rooms you teach in so that you are prepared to lock the room from the inside.
- If you are in an outdoor area (or the POD), move as quickly as possible to the nearest classroom and ensure the door is locked.
- If you are in the hall, stay there – the doors will be locked.
- If you are in a specialist room e.g. Library, ICT room, the keys should be hanging on the inside of the door – lock the door and stay there.
- If you are not teaching and are in the hallways or any other open space and visible, move to the nearest lockable room.
- Wait until informed that the doors may be unlocked.

## GEMS and EEP School Timings for Ramadan

I can now confirm our Ramadan hours which will begin on Sunday, 10th March:

- Gates open 7:30 am for students
- Registration 7:45 am (all students to be in class/line up by this time)
- Lessons begin 8:00 am
- End of day 1:00pm

## Uniform Committee Updates

Last week our Students Uniform Committee will be meeting with our TBS uniform supplier to look at options for a new sports uniform and discuss their thoughts on additional winter items for the academic year 2024-25. Our Students learnt about the making and cost of uniforms as well as how the business runs to ensure stock is always available. A further meeting is planned to finalise materials and designs.

# The Challenge of the Pharaohs 2024

The Challenge of the Pharaohs 2024 launched last week when we spoke to our students during assemblies. [The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development](#), adopted by all United Nations Member states in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Our challenge is designed to support the sustainable development goals, create awareness of the goals amongst students, and to develop 21st century learning skills. This year's Challenge of the Pharaohs is asking you to think of Just 1 Thing (JIT) that we change in our daily lives at home, in school or in the wider community that will make a difference to SDG 14 and 15 (Life below water and Life on land). New for this year, we have added two more categories for students to participate in. One is for our young musicians and composers where the challenge is to compose an original song or piece of music for the theme tune to this year's challenge. The other is for our young entrepreneurs asking them to share their ideas, product designs and projects that will support one of the SDGs. Those selected will have the opportunity to present their ideas to a panel of local business people who might mentor or even invest in their ideas. Please click [Here](#)

for more information in English and here for the same document in Arabic. [Here](#)

## Planning ahead for TBS Events

A couple of events that are on our calendar that you need to be thinking ahead for. First is our Character Day on Wednesday, 6th March when we invite students to come to school dressed as a favourite book character – get thinking about costumes now! The second is our Student Led Conference on Thursday, 7th March when you are invited with your child to attend meetings with their teachers to review targets and discuss next steps in learning. Please note that there are no classes this day but our teachers will be putting lots of learning on the VLE for them to access when not visiting their teachers. You will be receiving a link to sign up for meetings shortly.

## TBS Model United Nations Participation

We are coming into the Model United Nations season when many of our senior students will be taking on the challenge to represent countries within this exciting student forum discussing real world issues in model committees. Our first MUN is at Hayah International this weekend. The second is in Al Gouna during the half-term break. We are honoured to have been one of the schools invited to participate in this country wide event.

# A Message From Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

As we now enter the month of February, I would like to thank our parents, as the majority of our children are wearing the correct school uniform pieces, even though it is colder, and more layers may be necessary.

This term, the focus for many of our year groups is on Sustainability and the children have the opportunity to contribute to the famous 'Challenge of the Pharaoh's' competition. Ms. Jane launched this to the children in our assemblies and I know that many are keen to begin thinking about interesting projects which would have a positive impact on the UN Sustainable Development Goals which we are focusing on:

SDG 14: Life Under Water

SDG 15: Life on Land.

I am excited to see what our students come up with.

Alongside this, I am very happy to see many of the children in Years 1-6 are enthusiastically participating in the Reading competition and doing lots of reading at home. This is the key to unlocking all other areas of the curriculum and is so important. Well done.

Finally, as we approach World Safer Internet Day (6th February), may I remind parents to check the online content your children are accessing. We are aware that apps such as TikTok are widely used by students, despite age restrictions. Please ensure that you are monitoring online usage and teach children of the risks of the digital world. We are committed to doing this in school and appreciate parent support.

Thank you!

Warm regards,  
Rachel Hardwick



# Focus on Primary

## Year 4 - Winter Fair Extravaganza!

We were extremely busy in Year 4 preparing for our wonderful Winter Fair which was a resounding success, and our Year 4 students played an integral role in bringing joy and merriment to the event. Students in Year 4 have worked so hard to plan and execute these wonderful products that were all sold out! From creative and vibrant stalls to captivating vibes, their enthusiastic participation and teamwork contributed to the lively and heartwarming atmosphere of the fair. Year 4 stole the show with their success and the fair left an indelible mark on the school community. What an amazing day that was and so much money raised for charity.

Meanwhile, the young scientists of Year 4 delved into the wonders of science, conducting experiments that involved crafting slime and mimicking volcanic eruptions. Through hands-on investigations, they delved into the properties of matter and states of materials, exploring the realms of solids, liquids, and gases.



### The Art of Slime:

One of the highlights of our scientific explorations was the creation of slime. Year 4 students embarked on a mesmerizing journey to prepare their own slime, unlocking the secrets of polymers and non-Newtonian fluids. Their inquisitive minds and enthusiasm for hands-on learning were truly inspiring.



### Volcanic Eruptions:

Year 4 has also embarked on a captivating experiment to simulate volcanic eruptions. Through the construction of model volcanoes and the exploration of chemical reactions, they delved into the fascinating dynamics of geology and natural phenomena. As we celebrate the accomplishments and spirited participation of our Year 4 students, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our supportive parents and guardians, for fostering an environment of curiosity and exploration at home.

Wishing our inquisitive learners continued success and joy in their educational journey.

# Focus on Primary

## Year 6

Year 6 students have been engaging in a wonderful reading program with Year 2 students. This program has been a great opportunity for the older children to share their love of reading and help the younger ones develop their reading skills. The scheme has been a success, with both groups of students enjoying the experience and learning from each other. It is a great way to build a sense of community within the school and foster a love of reading in all the children. Some of the Year 6 students also commented that it was like a trip down memory lane, revisiting some of the classrooms that they had once learned in.

Year 6 also worked hard recently, preparing and presenting their creative products for the Winter Fair. From handmade crafts to delicious baked goods, the students poured their hearts into crafting a wide variety of items for the event. Not only was the Winter Fair a great opportunity for the students to showcase their entrepreneurial skills, but it also served a noble cause. All the proceeds from the fair will be donated to a local charity, making the event not just a fun day out, but also a chance to make a real difference in the community. Thank you to all the parents and families who came along and supported Year 6 as they put their creativity to good use and raised money for those in need.



# A Message From Mr Daniel Centeno, Head of Secondary

Dear Parents or Guardians,

We hope this message finds you well. This month we are seeing the final preparations for the International Award Adventurous Journey for the Bronze award. After hearing details for this trip, I would like to thank the organizing teachers in advance for all the hard work they are doing to give the students at TBS opportunities to develop their soft skills.

We would like to inform you about a recent change in our educational policy regarding end-of-year examinations for students in year's 7 to 9. After careful consideration and consultation with educational experts, we have decided to reinstate the tradition of conducting end-of-year exams for all secondary classes.

## Importance of End-of-Year Examinations:

- 1. Comprehensive Assessment:** End-of-year examinations provide a comprehensive assessment of students' understanding of the academic content covered throughout the year. They serve as a tool to gauge the students' grasp of the material, ensuring a thorough evaluation of their knowledge and skills.
- 2. Preparation for Future Challenges:** Exams simulate real-world scenarios where individuals are required to apply their acquired knowledge and skills under time constraints. By facing such challenges in a controlled environment, students develop problem-solving abilities and critical thinking skills that are essential for their future endeavors.
- 3. Benchmarking Performance:** End-of-year exams enable educators to benchmark students' performance against set standards and benchmarks. This helps identify areas of improvement, strengths, and weaknesses, allowing for targeted interventions to enhance learning outcomes.
- 4. Motivation and Goal Setting:** Having a set date for end-of-year exams encourages students to stay focused and motivated throughout the academic year. It provides a tangible goal for students to work towards, fostering a sense of responsibility and discipline in their academic pursuits.
- 5. Preparation for Higher Education:** Many higher education institutions and professional certifications require standardized testing for admission. End-of-year examinations serve as a preparation for such standardized assessments, ensuring that students are adequately equipped for future academic challenges.

## A Message From Mr Daniel Centeno, Head of Secondary

**6.Feedback for Continuous Improvement:** Exam results offer valuable feedback to both students and educators. Students can identify areas for improvement, while teachers can refine their teaching methods based on the performance of the students, creating a cycle of continuous improvement.

We understand that this change may raise questions, and we assure you that adequate support and resources will be provided to facilitate a smooth transition. We believe that the reinstatement of end-of-year examinations will contribute to the overall academic development and success of our students.

If you have any concerns or require further clarification, please feel free to reach out to the school administration.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Daniel Centeno**  
Head of Secondary



# Focus on Secondary

## English

This month the English and Global team have been working collaboratively to support students with an exciting new project from Generation Global!

Our Year 8 students have been working hard in their Global Perspectives and English lessons to complete a 4-week course developing their knowledge of Global Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). Each week, students are engaging in online material and international live peer- conferences to achieve a certificate in the following SDG areas:

- 22 January - 26 January 2024 - SDG #3: Good Health and Well-Being
- 29 January - 2 February 2024 - SDG #13: Climate Action
- 5 February - 9 February 2024 - SDG #16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 12 February - 16 February 2024 - SDG #8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Students will receive a certificate for each of the courses they complete and a 'Gold Award' on completion of all four SDGs!

In other year groups, we have been focusing on exam skills and practise. Year 9 have been focusing on pre- IGCSE exam skills in our study of The Maze Runner and are preparing for a pre-IGCSE style exam at the end of the term. This is to support those who are taking the exam this year, and build the skills for the students who will be taking IGCSE next year.

Year 10-12 will be starting their mock exams next week, so the last few weeks the English department (inc. sociology) has been preparing students for their exams. Revision materials are readily available for all students. Students have been given resources (in person and via Phoenix) to support their revision and past papers/ mark schemes can easily be found on the Cambridge website:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-upper-secondary/cambridge-igcse/subjects/>

How can I support my child with their exams?

- Ensure they are revising each day:
- For English language this includes practising the reading, writing, speaking and listening skills
- For English Literature this includes revising content (novel/ play/ poetry) and making essay plans
- For Sociology this includes revising content (perspectives and research) and essay practise.
- Ensure they are getting enough sleep each night
- Support them in being organised- do they know their exam timetable? Do they have the correct equipment?

# KS1 parents workshop





# Our Week in Photos

