

This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Family,

How lovely to see so many of you at the EEP Run this past weekend. Organised by our very own GEMS TBS Senior Students who were part of the CAST Run for a Cause Group. It has been a huge task and each and every one of them should be very proud of their achievements. Of course, they could not have done it without the help of the marketing and procurement teams at EEP and our mentors from the British University of Egypt and the TBS team. The cause we were raising money for was the Egyptian Red Crescent charity who do invaluable work all across the country and the region. If you would still like to make a donation, click [here](#).



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

25th Feb: Year 6's Futuristic Innovation Showcase @1pm at school Hall.

25th Feb: parents' workshop on digital Safety @2pm at school Hall.

27th Feb: SLC

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We are all looking forward to welcoming you on Thursday for our Student Led Conferences. Although this is a non-teaching day, it is a very special day when we invite you to come to school with your children and visit their teachers for your scheduled meetings. Your children will be leading the meeting sharing their successes and their next targets. You can only book your meetings on GEMS Connect. Please make sure that you leave enough time between appointments and that you are prompt for your meetings which are 10 minutes long in Secondary and 15 minutes long in Primary. Specialist teachers will be in the hall unless they have a designated classroom. If you are having any issues accessing GEMS Connect, our IT support will be here on Wednesday. I would also advise you to check with finance as any outstanding fees from installment one or two will have closed your account.

Ramadan is Here!

Our Ramadan Food Drive has begun. This is an annual GEMS TBS event lead by our Student Leadership Team and we are very proud that, with your continued support, we are able to support so many families in our local communities in the past years. We are asking for canned beans, sugar, dates, pasta, oil, lentils, raisin, Qamar el Din and nuts – but anything you can donate will go to making Ramadan bags. Thanking you in advance for your support.



Ramadan School hours are from 0830 to 1330. Gate 4 (the back gate) will close at 0840. Any students arriving after 0840 will be marked as late so we are asking for your support to get your children to school on time. During the day, all students will have a 15 minute and a 20 minute break. La Cantina will be open for students from Year 3. The prayer rooms will be open during the 20 minute second break for our Senior Students.

Uniform Survey

Thank you to those of you who have already completed our School Uniform survey. I know that many of you were frustrated by the availability of sizes in our formal uniform and we are keen to work with BTM to ensure that all issues are remedied. I know that BTM are working to deliver missing items to those of you who have made requests. They will also be in school in the coming weeks so you can get ready for the spring and summer and they will be having some great discounts on our current PE uniform items in stock.

Congratulations to TBS students!

Congratulations to all our GEMS TBS students who took part in the recent EEP Innova8 competition at the Egyptian Space Agency. Teams from Year 6 and secondary shared their innovations for the future with tech-driven solutions. As this has been a focus in Year 6, the students will be hosting their very one showcase of their inventions and ability to problem solve on Tuesday, 25th February.

Congratulations to all our budding artists who submitted pictures for this year's Hayah Art Competition. From all the submissions, 15 pieces of art were judged and I am delighted to share that Dania in Year 3 has won for her collage piece. The 15 students were invited to the opening ceremony this week.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

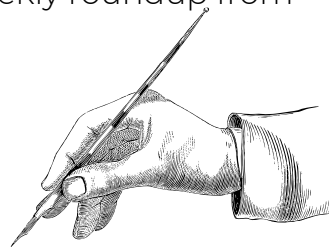
Good luck to all of our Secondary Students who are embarking on their Bronze International Award (Duke of Edinburgh) with a camping trip this weekend. They will have to take all their own food to cook as well as sleep under canvas and undertake some additional challenges.

International Book Week

Next week is International Book week and across the school we have a lot of book-based activities planned including a 'Stop and Read' time everyday. Thursday will be a Character Day for Primary so we invite students to come to school dressed as a book character and we will have a parade at the end of the day for you to come and join in. Check your weekly roundup from your class teachers for more updates.



Why do we still need to learn to write?



Why do we still need to learn to write? This is a question that comes up regularly with students and parents and in an era dominated by screens, keyboards, and voice-to-text technology, the art of handwriting might seem like a relic of the past. Yet, research and educators increasingly emphasise that handwriting remains a vital skill for children's development—even in our tech-driven world. As parents, understanding its unique benefits can help you support your child's learning journey. So here is my rationale why handwriting deserves a place in education.

Handwriting is not just about putting pen to paper; it is a workout for the brain. Studies show that the physical act of writing activates regions of the brain linked to memory, critical thinking, and creativity. For example, a 2014 study found that students who took notes by hand retained information better than those who typed, as writing forces the brain to process and summarise ideas rather than passively transcribe them.

Joined up or cursive writing, in particular, engages both hemispheres of the brain, strengthening neural connections that support language processing and fine motor skills. This "brain boost" can enhance performance in all subjects, even mathematics!

Handwriting is a foundational skill that goes beyond academics. The precise movements required to form letters—especially in joined-up writing—strengthen hand muscles, improve hand-eye coordination, and refine dexterity. These skills are transferable to everyday tasks, from tying shoelaces to playing musical instruments. For younger children, mastering pencil grip and letter formation builds confidence and readiness for more complex tasks. There is something uniquely personal about handwriting. The rhythm of cursive writing, the flow of ideas without the distraction of autocorrect, and the tactile experience of paper can unlock creativity. Journaling, storytelling, or even doodling in the margins allows children to express themselves in ways that typing often stifles. Handwriting also slows down the thinking process, encouraging reflection and thoughtful communication.

In a world of constant digital distractions, handwriting offers a rare opportunity for mindfulness. The deliberate pace of writing by hand helps children focus on the task at hand, reducing impulsivity and fostering patience. Many teachers report that students who practice handwriting are better able to concentrate during lessons and retain information longer.

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Cursive handwriting is a cultural bridge. From reading historical documents like the U.S. Constitution to deciphering a grandparent's handwritten letter, the ability to write and read cursive keeps children connected to the past. Additionally, a handwritten signature remains a lifelong tool for personal and professional identity.



So handwriting is not about rejecting technology—it is about equipping children with a versatile set of tools for success. In a digital age, the ability to write by hand cultivates cognitive, emotional, and practical skills that typing alone cannot replicate. By valuing both tradition and innovation, we prepare our kids not just to navigate the future, but to shape it thoughtfully.

How can you support handwriting at home?

1. Make it fun: Use colorful pens, journals, or chalkboards to spark interest.
2. Practice together: Write grocery lists, thank-you notes, or stories as a family.
3. Celebrate progress: Frame their first cursive letter or “best handwriting” as a keepsake.
4. Limit digital shortcuts: Encourage handwritten homework when appropriate.

Let's keep the pencil moving!



Ms Jane Knight

School Principal



our EYFS students had two unforgettable adventures that brought their learning to life in the most exciting way!

MonZoo: Our little explorers embarked on a thrilling journey into the animal kingdom, where they discovered a variety of fascinating species, learned about their natural habitats, and understood the importance of caring for wildlife.

KidZania: The FS2 children stepped into the shoes of professionals, role-playing real-life jobs such as doctors, chefs, and more. Through this immersive experience, they developed creativity, independence, teamwork, and communication skills, all while having fun!

We loved seeing our students enjoy these enriching experiences and look forward to many more exciting adventures in the future!



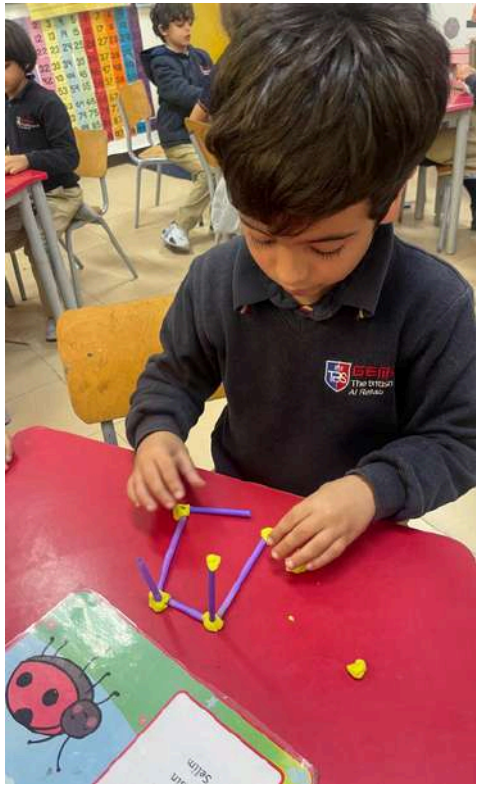


Our recent Secondary trip to Spain was a huge success with students and staff enjoying the experience of a different culture, food and language. A trip to Andorra to the ski slopes was the first time most of our students and staff have seen and played in snow – where next, what this space to see what plans we have for next year!





Y2 had an exciting half term, full of learning and wonderful hands-on activities. Y2 students learnt how to create detailed story maps while learning about recycling stories. In Mathematics, they enjoyed using play dough and strews/pipe cleaners to learn about the properties of 3D shapes.





A huge shout out to our sports teams as they have been shining bright in recent tournaments. Both our girls and boys teams took first place in a recent inter-schools competition at Repton and our basketballers took 3rd overall place in the East Cairo division of the NBA Egypt League.



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 asked 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

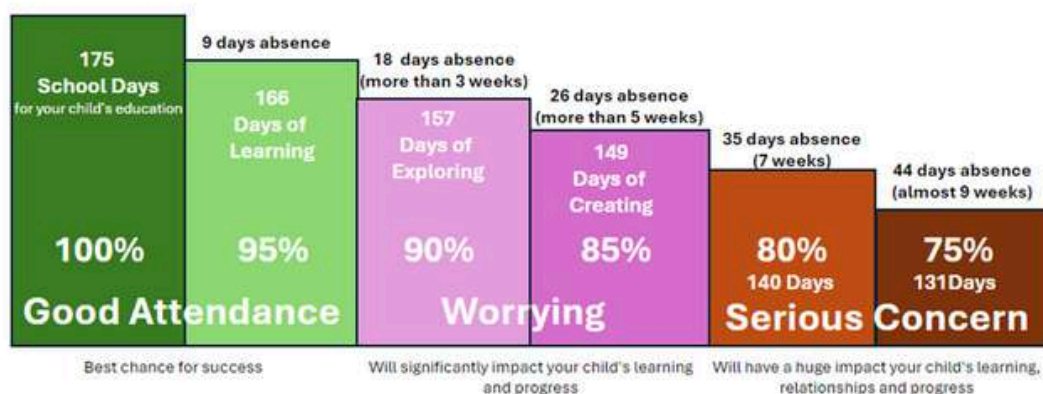
At GEMS TBS we emphasize the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. We believe that through good attendance at school children will achieve higher attainment, have better opportunities and establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives. This is supported by the Ministry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

This infographic clearly shows the impact absences will have on your child: academically and emotionally.

At GEMS TBS, every school day counts!

There are 190 NON school days every year.

Perfect for family time, visits, shopping and appointments.



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 social 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