

This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Family,

This weekend I joined a group of friends aboard the Motor Yacht Christina. We spend a leisurely afternoon sailing along the Nile watching the world go by. What a lovely way to spend a Friday. As we travelled south and then north I had to keep reminding myself that this was the Nile: the river that inspired a country and still to this day supports the farming far into the barren desert. This water has come all the way from Sudan and Ethiopia and here I am sailing on it – I feel honoured to live and work in Cairo and Egypt.

Next weekend will be slightly different as I will be joining our Under 15's Football Teams as they play in the first tournament of the new academic year. This tournament is the first of the British Schools of the Middle East Egyptian schools sports fixtures. This one is at NCBIS and we are looking forward to seeing our teams in their new 'TBS Tigers' team kit. Watch out for updates of our Social Media platforms! Go TBS Tigers!

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

1st October: Unipal University Fair

7th October: Bahya visit to TBS

13th October: 6th October Celebration

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Talking of Tigers, our new families might not know about our school mascots. The TBS Tigers called OTIS and OTIS come out to say hello every Thursday greeting children coming into school on time at Gate 1 and Gate 4 (they go and say hello to bus children too!). Their names stand for 'On Time In School', something that we actively promote to ensure children are settled and ready to learn. In the Primary years, children who are consistently on time and in school every day, receive an OTIS certificate at the end of each term.



Recently you will have received a catalogue for the Baker Book Club. Good books in English can be difficult to find and expensive to buy in Cairo. The Baker Book Club books are a range for specific age groups featuring the most popular children's authors. If you choose to order books, we as a school get to order some books for our library. The deadline for orders has been extended to October 7th so there is still time to choose. If you want to know more, please contact your class teacher.

Recently we had a visit from representatives from the British Council and the Oxford Examinations board to inspect our educational provision in order to gain a license to offer students the chance to sit for Oxford AQA examinations. We are already an approved Pearson's Edexcel and Cambridge CIE examination centres and now having the approval from Oxford this means we are approved by all the British International examination boards offering IGCSE and A-Levels. Thanks goes to everyone in our secondary teams for the hard work collating all the documents that were requested for this inspection.

One aspect of this inspection along with the three inspections we undertook the last academic year was that of safer recruitment. We are compliant with Oxford Examinations, CIS, BISM Penta and GEMS Dubai for our adherence to the best international practice when recruiting new staff. We no longer accept CVs but ask any applicants to complete our own comprehensive application form. When you share a CV you are saying what you want a future employer wants to know – whereas when completing an application form you are required to share all the information that we want to know. All successful applicants have a minimum of two interviews and, if in Egypt, invited to give a demonstration lesson. They are also required to provide the contacts of three referees using professional emails. At least one of the referees must be the Head of School from their previous place of employment. We share a form for the referees to complete and this is followed up by a call from one of our Heads of School to ensure the referees are who they say they are. Successful candidates are offered contracts on the condition of good references. New employees are required to submit a Police Check if they have been living and working in Egypt and for those coming from overseas, an international police check is mandatory. A fit to work certificate issued by a doctor or health centre is also required. By following our strict procedures we ensure that all staff have gone through safer recruitment.

Every month our GEMS TBS Health and Safety Committee meet. Made up from representatives from all departments in the school, we review any concerns raised by staff and monitor updates required from GEMS Dubai. One of these updates asked us to plan for off site evacuation. EEP HSE collaborated with Al Rehab City Hall as to the best location and before the start of school this year we ran a mock off site evacuation. As a staff we mustered on the pitch and then exited through Gate 4, across the road and mustered in the car park near the banks. We are now working with City Hall for an alternative should we not be able to leave through this gate. Behind Mall 1 is the most likely option. We will be running a fire evacuation drill during this term, mustering on the pitch.

An invaluable tool for our students, to help them decide about their university and career path, is to participate in work experience (an internship). Here, at GEMS-TBS, we will be offering this eye-opening exposure during our October 2024 Half Term break (Sun 27.10.24 – Thu 31.10.24). An opportunity for our Year 10-12 students to not only gain hands-on experience, and firsthand perspective, with reputable cooperations (attached) but to also character build and enhance their university applications. For this round of internships we will be offering student the opportunity to select from the below fields of interest from a range of some of Cairo's most renowned companies:

IT – Networking	Sports Management	Fintech
IT – Technical Support	Hospitality	Tourism
Podcasting / Marketing	Banking / Finance	Insurance
Manufacturing / Design	Law	Teaching
Medicine	Photography	Quality Assurance / Health & Safety
Sales & Human Resources	Engineering	Environment and Interior Planning
Community Service	Events Planning & Market Research	Media & Communication



If your company would like to be part of our GEMS TBS Internship Programme offering our students work experience, please let us know.

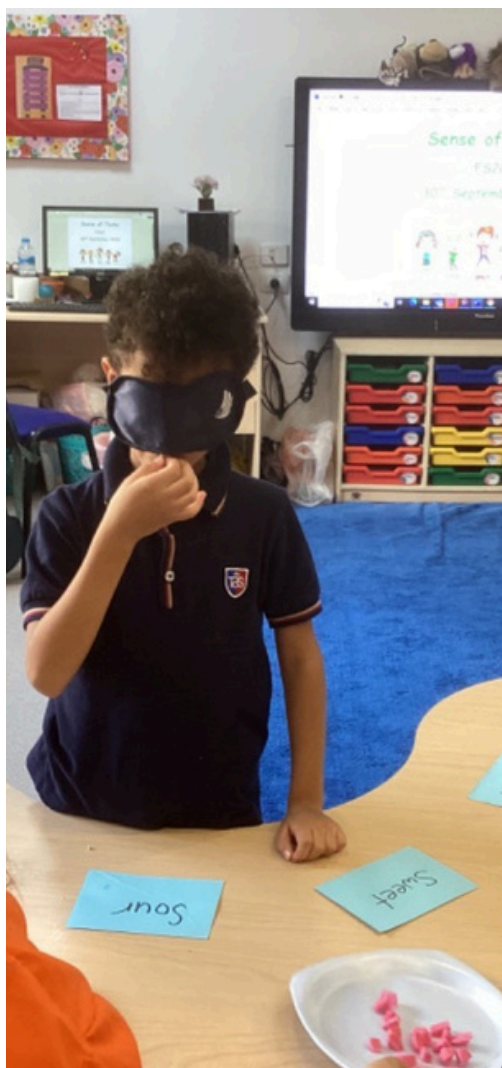
Have a great week.

MS Jane knight

School principal



EYFS



We are delighted to see the EYFS students building new relationships and adapting to the school routine. Their friendly nature shines through as they eagerly greet each other, share experiences and work collaboratively on various activities.

YAY





Year
5

A STELLAR START TO THE NEW TERM!

Welcome back to school! We are thrilled to kick off this term filled with exploration and discovery. It has been a pleasure getting to know all the students better and hearing their thoughtful contributions during class meetings. Their enthusiasm for learning truly shines!

This term, we've jumped into our class novel, *Space Oddity*, which has sparked engaging discussions and tied beautifully into our history lessons. Students have researched famous astronomers and their groundbreaking discoveries, enhancing their understanding of space while building descriptive writing skills in English. They've been crafting sentences with varied vocabulary and experimenting with different sentence openers, which is already showing in their writing.

In Maths, we've tackled addition and subtraction with 5-digit numbers, exploring various strategies to identify patterns and improve their skills. This practical approach has made math both relevant and enjoyable. Meanwhile, in Science, our focus on the Sun, the Moon, and orbits has led to enriching discussions, helping students understand the interactions of these celestial bodies and their significance in our solar system.

As we look forward to the exciting topics ahead, including further exploration of the solar system, we are eager to see our students continue to grow, create, and inspire each other. Each day promises new opportunities for learning, and we can't wait to embark on this journey together!



A message from Mr Daniel Centeno, Head of Secondary

Embracing the Future: Creativity, Action, Service, and Teamwork - CAST

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we welcome a new school year at our British International School in Cairo, we are excited to share our vision for preparing students for the rapidly evolving world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and future careers. In this dynamic landscape, the importance of Creativity, Action, Service, and Teamwork cannot be overstated.

Creativity: The Heart of Innovation

In the age of AI, creativity is a vital skill. It is the driving force behind innovation and problem-solving. We encourage our students to think outside the box, explore new ideas, and embrace their creative potential. Whether through art, music, writing, or technology, fostering creativity helps students develop unique perspectives and solutions.

Action: Turning Ideas into Reality

Creativity alone is not enough; it must be coupled with action. We inspire our students to take initiative and turn their ideas into reality. Through hands-on projects, coding challenges, and entrepreneurial endeavors, students learn the importance of perseverance and the impact of their actions. This proactive mindset is essential for success in any future career, especially in the tech-driven world of AI.

Service: Making a Difference

Service to others is a cornerstone of our educational philosophy. By engaging in community service projects, students develop empathy, social responsibility, and a sense of purpose. These experiences not only enrich their lives but also prepare them to use their skills and knowledge to make a positive impact on society. In the context of AI, ethical considerations and the responsible use of technology are paramount, and service-oriented mindsets will guide our students in making ethical decisions.

Teamwork: Collaborating for Success

The ability to work effectively in teams is crucial in today's interconnected world. Collaborative projects and group activities teach students the value of diverse perspectives, communication, and cooperation. In the realm of AI and future careers, teamwork is essential for tackling complex challenges and achieving common goals. By working together, students learn to leverage each other's strengths and create innovative solutions.

Preparing for the Future

As we prepare our students for the future, we are committed to providing them with the skills and experiences they need to thrive in a world shaped by AI and technological advancements. Our curriculum is designed to integrate these core values—creativity, action, service, and teamwork—into every aspect of their education.

We invite you to join us in supporting and encouraging your children as they embark on this exciting journey. Together, we can help them become well-rounded individuals who are ready to make a meaningful impact in the world.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a successful and inspiring school year ahead!

Warm regards,

Mr. Daniel Centeno
Head of Secondary School

لغتنا العربية

لغتنا العربية هذا الأسبوع تتنوع كعادتها بين الأنشطة المختلفة بين الناطقين باللغة العربية وغير الناطقين بها وكما عودناكم كل عام نجتمع لتوضيح أمور قسم اللغة العربية خاصة وأن هذا العام يتميز بطابع خاص وقرارات وزارية جديدة وجب توضيحها لذا أتوجه بالشكر لكل الحضور الذين شرفونا بحضور اجتماعنا اليوم وأعدكم بتقديم كل الدعم لكل تلاميذنا كما اتفقنا .



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:

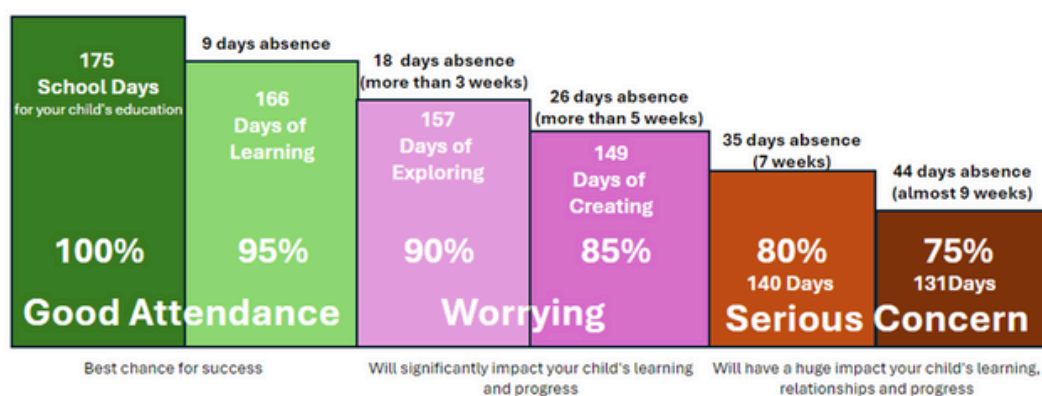
Our uniform not only promotes a sense of unity but also minimises distraction, allowing students to focus on their studies. Please, ensure that your child adheres to our school's uniform policy. Only items that are part of our school uniform are allowed within the school campus except on specified dress 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.



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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