

This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents and Students,

It was Book Club this week and our focus had been on historical fiction. I read a book by an author with whom many of you will be familiar: Naguib Mahfouz. If you have not heard his name, this Cairo based author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988. He was a prolific writer but the one I chose to read is the first of the Cairo Trilogy, *The Palace Walk*. Set around 1910, this book follows the daily lives and challenges of a family living in Old Cairo. If you have not read this book in particular, make sure you take a walk around Al Moez Street before starting as it will help you imagine the places and streets Mahfouz uses in his descriptive and emotive writing.

Last week I was honoured to be invited to take part in the Education Experts Conference. A first for Cairo, it brought together speakers and panellists from Egypt and beyond all focusing on the challenges of Egypt's Vision 2030. Educators from both the private, government and international school sectors had the opportunity to share experiences and network for ongoing support. Our very own VP Dave Pontich was a key note speaker reminding us of the impact education can have on everyone's lives – no matter their humble background – and the need for quality provision for all. Ambassadors from New Zealand, Singapore, Australia and Finland all spoke about recent curriculum changes and how that has impacted on overall education provision and standards. I was part of a panel of educators discussing ways schools can stay on track to meet the 2030 Vision. We discussed the challenges and opportunities of the following topics:

- Infrastructure and resources
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Teacher training and Professional Development
- Collaboration and partnerships
- A focus on student centred learning

At TBS all these topics are part of our School Improvement Plan for 2025 and beyond. For me, it was most encouraging to hear about the changes made in the government sector where the drive to make learning accessible to all was already impacting standards. The use of TV stations to reinforce learning, adaptations to the curriculum and most of all the ongoing upskilling of teachers.

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

Parent workshop-15th May
focus - talking about
nutrition

Arabic Exams start-9th May

Y4 Educational Visit-23rd
May

French Day-5th June

Health Week-18th June

End of Academic Year- 26th
June

Colours of Spring around New Cairo

With spring comes the array of flowering plants in the gardens, parks and street planting all over Cairo. For the next weeks we are going to have a closer look at some of the most common plants and trees that you see when walking or driving around. Today it is the turn of the Royal Poinciana to be showcased. There is one beside my balcony that has come into flower this weekend and I know it is going to be a riot of colour and live up to its other apt name: Flamboyant Tree. You might also know it from its long dark seed pods. Originally from the forests of Madagascar, it is a decorative favourite worldwide.



CIS Community Survey

CIS is a membership community working collaboratively to shape international education through professional services to schools, higher education institutions, and individuals. The CIS vision is to inspire the development of global citizens through high quality international education: connecting ideas, cultures, and educators from every corner of the world.

The CIS Accreditation process has long been recognised in international school circles as a highly effective means of initiating and maintaining school improvement while adhering to globally-benchmarked standards. Approximately 665 international schools are served by the membership organisation known as the Council of International Schools (CIS). Since 1970, it has accredited member schools, and many nations around the world hold a high regard for its accreditation process. During 2021-2022 GEMS TBS welcomed the Council of International Schools (CIS) to visit us virtually as part of our international accreditation. The evaluators from CIS were impressed with our school and have provided much valuable feedback for us to advance to the next stage in the accreditation process: the school self-study.

Part of this self-study is a Community Survey which involves all stakeholders of the school. At GEMS TBS we want you to experience excellence, and we know this means continuously evaluating what we do. In addition to our GEMS Parent Satisfaction Survey, the CIS Community Survey will help us better understand how we are doing as a school in different areas and from all stakeholders. The more parents, students, teachers and support staff we hear from, the more confident we can be in our development plan.

Please take a moment to check your email, take this short survey and help us shape the school's future by providing us with feedback through the CIS Community Survey

You should complete one survey per child enrolled in the school before 15th May.

For your ease and comfort, the survey is available in both English and Arabic. If you have not received the survey link via email, please inform our Front of House team.

A message from The Safeguarding Team

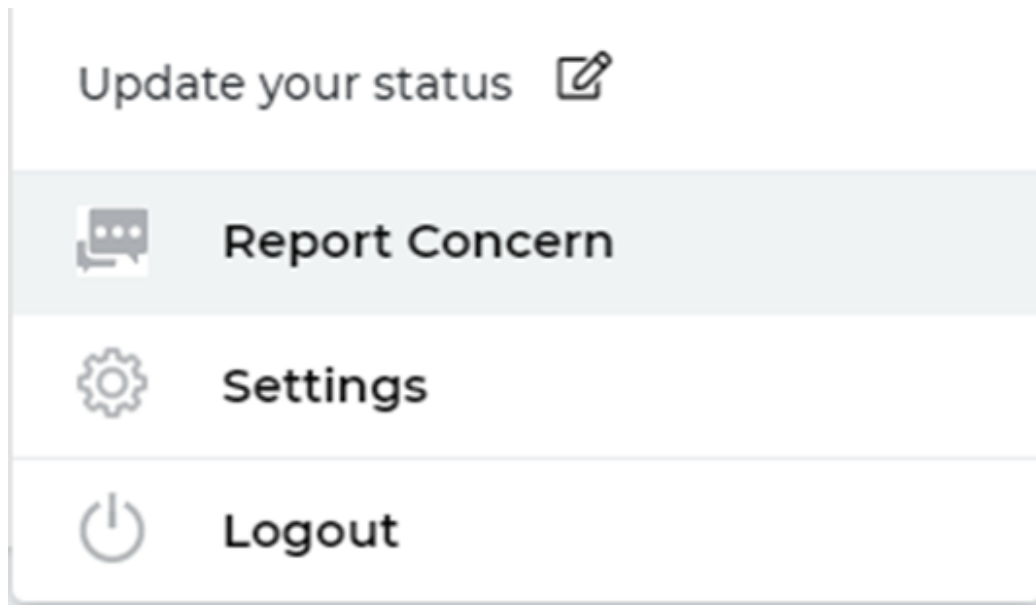
I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for attending the workshop this week about Safeguarding.

Safeguarding is the umbrella over everything we do in school and we know that children and young people need to be safe, secure, healthy and happy in order to learn productively.

Amongst some of the topics discussed were how children can raise concerns.

We discussed a feature on Phoenix classroom where students can inform a member of the Safeguarding team that they wish to talk by just the click of a button.

This can be found underneath the student picture on the top right of the screen:



Students are able to talk to any adult at any time if they are worried or concerned.

However, this is an additional method of reaching out if needed.

Also discussed was the ever-changing topic of Online Safety. An initial resource for parents to go to regarding this is the National Online Safety website where you can find Parent webinars for parents of children in different age groups:

[Online Safety for Parents of Children aged 7-11 \(International\)](#) | [National Online Safety](#).

We will continue to work with the children in school on this topic also.

A Message From Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy first couple of weeks of Term 3.

In the Primary School, our Y4-6 students have been working hard on their Ministry of Education Arabic subject exams. Additionally, students have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum and should be praised for their efforts.

We had a very successful book week and I have been inundated with pictures of children reading in unusual places. These will be shared as soon as possible.

We are also looking forward to International Week from 4-8 June. During this week, each class will be focusing on a country and taking part in a variety of activities to understand more about different cultures and traditions. More information will be shared with you shortly.

We are approaching the end of the school year but have lots in store for the remainder of the term. As well as end of year assessments and reports, we have planned transition activities and will discuss with the children how it feels to move to a new year group. Some children can experience anxiety or nerves and we are here to support in any ways needed. There is a lot to look forward to in the remainder of this term and I would like to thank you in advance for ensuring consistent and punctual attendance.

Best wishes,

Head of Primary
Rachel Hardwick

Focus on Primary

EYFS

Thank you to those parents who came along to the workshop on Tuesday morning. The biggest take home message was that we are here to support you, we understand that children can be fussy at times and like to stick to the same familiar foods. We encourage you to get the children involved in making their lunches, give them choices from the following food groups



Children will compare lunchboxes and fussy eaters are more likely to eat when influenced by a friend than an adult.

Please avoid putting Fast food such as McDonalds or KFC in lunch boxes, we do not allow fizzy drinks in school – water is much better and please do not put chocolate in for a treat, a piece of fruit is a good choice.

We are a 'Nut Free' school due to allergies. Dr Marwa explained that Nuts are a healthy dietary choice but unfortunately it can cause serious reactions to students with nuts allergy that is why our school is nut free to protect them and ensure a safe and healthy environment for them to learn and interact with others.

Although we have snack 'breakfast' at 8.45am the children should eat before they come to school.

Please ensure your children has enough food to last them for lunchtime too. We appreciate that not everybody could attend the workshop, but if you have any specific questions relating to your child, nutrition, weight gain, weight loss etc you can speak to Dr Marwa and she can give you some advice.

A Message From Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary

Dear parents and students,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We've had a busy couple of weeks at school and I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on a few important events.

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate our students who have recently begun their Ministry Arabic Exams. These exams are a significant milestone for our students, and we are proud of their hard work and dedication in preparing for them. We wish them all the best of luck and remind them to stay focused and calm during this period.

In addition to the exams, we recently held a Parent Workshop on safeguarding, which highlighted the need for parents to have more help with online safety for their children. The internet can be a fantastic resource for learning and socialising, but it also poses some significant risks. We must work together as a community to ensure that our students are safe and responsible online. We would like to remind parents to keep an open dialogue with their children about their online activities, set parental controls, and monitor their online behaviour.

We understand that this can be a challenging topic to navigate, and as such, we are committed to providing support to parents in this area. We will be offering further workshops and resources in the coming weeks to help parents and students stay safe online.

In addition, I would like to remind parents and students that we will be celebrating International Week from 4-8 June. This is an exciting event where we celebrate the diverse cultures and nationalities represented in our school community. We encourage students to participate in various activities and events to learn more about different cultures and traditions. During International Week, we will focus on themes from the UN Sustainable Development Goals and UN Rights of the Child. We believe that educating our students about these important global issues is crucial in developing them into responsible and informed citizens of the world.

Lastly, I want to inform parents that the GL Progress Tests will be held for our Y7/8/9 students in the final two full weeks of the term. These tests provide valuable insights into our students' progress and help us identify areas where we can offer additional support. The results of these assessments will give insight into the targets students will be able to set themselves at the beginning of next year. We encourage students to take these tests seriously and prepare diligently for them.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to a successful Term 3

Kind regards

Nigel Wilsonlock
Head of Secondary

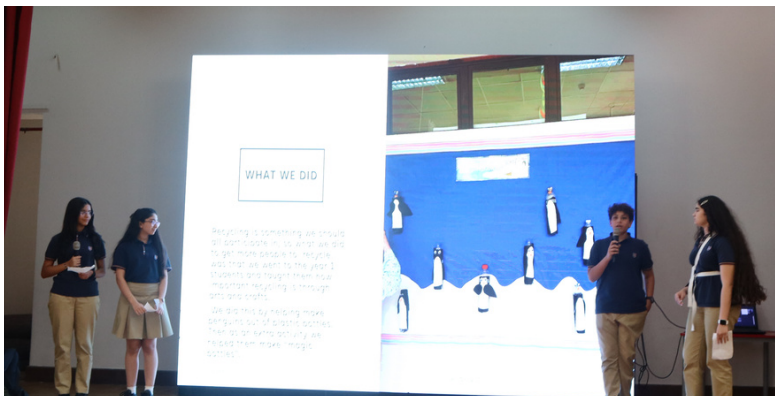
Focus on Secondary

Global Perspectives

Last week was a celebration of several student projects coming together. Challenge of the Pharaohs began almost 60 days ago. Research tells us that to form a habit can take between 30 and 60 days. Based on this principle, and under the umbrella themes of “responsible consumption” and production, and “Climate action” the students came together to form action groups. The students have taken on the tasks of identifying key areas of where they felt that they could make a change. For example, looking at our own water consumption at home and making subtle changes to reduce water use, such as turning the tap off while brushing your teeth, or through prompting staff in school to switch off lights by creating stickers near the switches. Imagine if we all made those small changes what a saving to the environment that would be!

There were other groups who identified environmental challenges in their immediate surroundings, focusing on the waste generated by us at school. An initiative that was met with enthusiasm was the collection of recyclable materials which could be turned into cash that could be donated to a charity. The benefits of these initiatives could contribute to a society just through recycling material that might otherwise become landfill.

The students will submit their projects this week along with other schools across the platform. We wish them all the best, and we appreciate their huge efforts.



MUN Egypt Executive team 2024

TBS is extremely excited to announce that Abdullah Mandil, Nagham Sharaf and Omar Abbass have been selected to be part of the first ever MUN Egypt Executive Team 2024. Their selection is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and willingness to collaborate to make a change in society. We are confident that our students will make us proud and inspire others to aim high and help make a difference.

TBS has always been at the forefront in promoting the holistic development of our students. Our school's philosophy has always been to nurture critical thinking, leadership, and global citizenship to prepare our students for their futures. Our students have proven that they are capable of achieving beyond their potential, and this latest achievement is no different.

MUNE will be an annual meetup of all the conferences in Egypt in an effort to increase collaboration and cooperation. Ideas to be discussed in the meeting include:

- Creating a unified calendar of all conferences
 - Connecting all executive teams
 - Expanding MUN contribution to community service projects
 - The impact of AI on MUN
 - We would like to congratulate our students on their journey.
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- **Go TBS Go!!**



TBS Medical update

Spring is here but so is some illnesses!!!!

Spring is here which means warmer weather and beautiful flower blooms but also it brings a whole list of illness:

- Common cold
- Gastroenteritis
- Chicken pox
- Pink eye
- Allergies\Asthma
- Flu
- Insect allergies
- Sinus infection

All these illnesses start with the same symptoms: runny nose and cough vomiting and diarrhea and in the case of chicken pox a rash that starts on his abdomen and /or back. Most of these illnesses except for Chicken pox are self-limiting and last for a few days.

Why this happens in Spring?

In addition to the warmer weather there is a big variation to the temperature throughout the day with wind which irritate the nasal passages and compromise the immune system's ability to fight off infections especially viral infections

How to stay healthy and avoid illnesses?

We should participate in preventive measures

- Washing your hands regularly
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes
- Eating healthy
- Exercising

What should we do if my child seems sick?

Keep him home to avoid spreading of the disease and consult his doctor for proper treatment especially if Chicken pox was suspected usually with the exception of chicken pox it will clear in 3 to 5 days

Enjoy the beautiful season and stay healthy!!

DR Marwa Shehata
School Doctor

PE - Dance combinations

In dance, repetition and recapitulation are vital ingredients in the learning process, and so being presented with phrases of movement that progress and develop in complexity will allow the individual to progress and develop too.

The purposes of dance combinations are:

- to increase and develop movement vocabulary.
- to develop movement and muscle memory.
- to increase the range of movement.
- to increase and develop understanding of physical capabilities.
- to increase mobility in the body.
- to improve co-ordination and performance skills.



Parent workshop

Our next Parent Workshop will be on Tuesday, 16th May and will have an Early Years Focus talking about nutrition. Why not come along and share your lunch box tips to get children eating healthy options.

Time for a Spring Clean!

The TBS Senior Leadership Team's JIT focuses on 'Pre-loved Uniforms'. Our children grow so quickly needing new uniform items yearly or even every term. Often the items are still in very good condition and could be reused. We have all had 'hand-me-downs' from older brothers, sisters or cousins but here is an opportunity to reduce the amount of new uniforms being bought and share within our TBS family. We ask you to bring in those pre-loved yet still wearable and freshly laundered uniform items that your children have grown out of for other children to reuse.

Challenge of the Pharaohs 2023 – the deadline is coming...

This year the Challenge of the Pharaohs is not only for our schools but invites you, our TBS families, to get involved too. Developed to highlight the UN Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 13 (Responsible Consumption and Production and Climate Action) the challenge asks you to think of Just 1 Thing (JIT) that you can change in your daily lives that will make a change. Ask your child about this year's challenge as they were talking about it in school last week. Read more about how you can get involved as a family by clicking this link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1au3cNCLsCKB33gqWfPjNPbnU_OXO_juo/view?usp=share_link

TBS Updated Assessment Policy

Please click link to read our updated TBS Assessment Policy which outlines the many different assessments used throughout the school, how we feedback to you, how we use data to inform learning and our target setting process.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kKh9g0gBavRHG8ReU8iM9WqHUGE9g6rZ/view?usp=share_link

Academic Calendar for 2023-24

Please click here to view and download the term dates and holidays for the next academic year.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yZvNn_ClaEk9K63gYgZrW8M2rJKjATrb/view?usp=share_link

Attendance Policy Reminders

Thank you to everyone in supporting TBS in prioritising the need for all students to be On Time In School everyday. To continue to focus on this we have updated our Attendance Policy which you can read in full.

Dress Code Reminder

Every morning as your children enter school we monitor their uniform to ensure that they are in keeping with our TBS Dress Code. Thank you for your support with keeping jewellery at home and for taking note in regards to facial piercing.

We would ask for your continued support ensuring that all students attend every day in the correct uniform items. Only TBS branded sports items should be worn on PE days. Only TBS branded jumpers, jackets, shirts, tshirts and trousers should be worn on non-PE days. Please note that sports shoes are only acceptable on PE days.

If your child comes to school wearing non TBS uniform items, we will call you and ask for your support to ensure the correct uniform is worn from now on or to bring in the uniform item for your child to change.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping up our TBS Dress Code Standards:

- All children to attend school in the TBS uniform at all times. This also includes suitable footwear.
- All long hair must be tied back at all times. This includes boys with longer hair.
- For girls, small stud earrings can be worn. Nose rings are not acceptable at any time.
- Jewellery is not allowed and should be left at home to avoid any loss or damage.
- No smart watches

Our Week in Photos

