

# This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to everyone and a particularly warm welcome to our new TBS families who have joined us for Term 3. I hope you all had a relaxing spring break and had the time to spend it with your loved ones. I had a lovely time in and around Cairo and spending some time at Dolphin Bay at Ein Sokhna (no dolphins unfortunately). This month's genre from the Book Club I am part of was Historical Fiction. I chose to read Palace Walk by the esteemed Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz. If you have not read this, the first of a trilogy, it is set in Old Cairo in the early 1900 and follows the lives of a family and their community as the world changes around them. He is a beautiful descriptive writer and was even more special for me as this book is about one of my favourite areas of Cairo: Al Moez Street. During Eid I took a friend to that area and although the monuments were closed for the holiday there was such a great atmosphere with families enjoying the music and time together. I had just finished Palace Walk and was able to relive his words as we walked through backstreets looking up at the covered windows and hidden roof gardens. My friend has now started reading the book and is loving it. I believe the trilogy has been made into a film – make sure you read it first!

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

Book Week- 30th April

Dress up day-2nd May

Labour Day Public Holiday- 4th May

Y3 Educational visit- 7th May

Parent workshop-9th May focus -whole school.

Arabic Exams start-9th May

Coffee Morning- 11th May

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. First on the list is the amazing Blue Jacaranda which begins to show a haze of lilac and violet before boughs of flowers appear and then later as summer approaches the pale green leaves show. Jacaranda mimosifolia to give it its Latin name, is a sub-tropical tree native to south America yet is now associated with Pretoria in South Africa where they thrive. The wood of the tree can be used for carving. The best place to see this amazing tree as it comes into bloom is at Cairo Festival City where Jacaranda trees line the streets.



# **Examination Updates**

This week sees our Year 9 students take part in their first international examination, the Pre-iGCSE.

We also have students who will be sitting examinations for these courses: AS Business Studies, iGCSE Biology, O Level Arabic, iGCSE English as a Second Language, iGCSE Chemistry and AS Economics.

All student who are taking international examinations will be doing so in an examination centre in New Cairo.

We know how hard they have been working to prepare for these exams and we wish them all good luck.

## **Book Week**

As part of our Book Week Celebrations we are running a Book Fair in the Hall. Students will be visiting the Fair during the week with opportunities to buy books at this time or at breaks. Parents are welcome to visit the Fair at the end of the school day.

We are looking forward to our Book Character Day on Tuesday. A gentle reminder that characters should be from books (Year 2 are combining their Super Hero Day with Character Day) and age appropriate. No toy weapons please.

## **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 (J1T) 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.

## **Time for a Spring Clean!**

The TBS Senior Leadership Team's J1T 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.

# 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.

## Parent Workshop

Our next Parent Workshop will be on Tuesday, 9th May and will have a whole school focus as we discuss the role of the Safeguarding Team at TBS and how they support students and families.

## Friends of TBS Coffee Morning

Our next Coffee Morning will be on Thursday, 11th May. We will be discussing our upcoming International Week in June and asking for your support to make it an extra special event.

# A Message From Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

After a restful and relaxing vacation, children have returned to school ready for a productive Term 3. We have launched straight into Book Week. Classroom doors are decorated based on book covers and make our corridors bright and colourful. I have enjoyed visiting classrooms with a special bell to signify that everyone should D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read). We look forward to seeing the students dressed up for Character Dress up day. I also want to thank parents for submitting photos of children reading in unusual places. If you have any, please do send them through to your child's class teacher and we will be sharing them. I look forward to a positive term ahead.

Best wishes,

Head of Primary  
Rachel Hardwick



# A Message From Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary

Dear parents and students,

Welcome back after your recent holiday and I hope you enjoyed the extra days. I think of holidays as a bit like sleep – we probably never get enough of it and benefit most when we have had a good one!

One downside of a holiday is that they take us out of our routines that have allowed us to work quickly and efficiently. Personally, I know that it takes about a week before I have re-established my routines and am at the ‘top of my game’. I have learnt to speed up this process by using my email, reminders and calendar to prompt me on my first week back. Do you have the same, and more importantly, do you share them with your children?

We have started back with our Book Week and use it to promote the importance of reading. It is probably the most important skill that we can teach our children, as it allows them to take responsibility for their own learning. We know that parents have the biggest influence on child behaviour, so I would like to encourage you to read in front of your children and help establish reading as something that adults do.

Did you know that in the UK, students don’t take a degree at university? They actually ‘read’ a subject. This is a historical reference to how students are expected to gain the wide knowledge and skills needed to earn a degree.

External exams are upon us again and I would like to wish all students the best of luck. I will also remind them that the luckiest students are those that seem to do the most preparation!

Nigel Wilsonlock  
Head of Secondary

# **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](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\\_C1aEk9K63qYgZrW8M2rJKjATrb/view?  
usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yZvNn_C1aEk9K63qYgZrW8M2rJKjATrb/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

