

This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Family,

I want to share with you another of my favourite places to visit when I am home in Scotland. Further down the Clyde coast from Helensburgh, Portencross is one of those places that feels like stepping into another time. The tiny harbour and sweeping views across the Firth of Clyde give it a quiet magic, but it's the history that makes it truly special. At its heart stands Portencross Castle, a 14th-century stronghold linked to the Stewart kings of Scotland, with legends suggesting that ships carrying the bodies of Scottish monarchs once sailed from here to Iona. In later years, Portencross became part of the great "*doon the watter*" tradition, when paddle steamers carried Glaswegian families down the Clyde in search of sea breezes and adventure. Even today, the Waverley can sometimes be spotted passing by, a living link to those golden holiday days. Whether you are drawn by the history, the coastal walks, or the unforgettable sunsets behind Arran, Portencross is a place where Scotland's past and present meet in the most beautiful way. The castle is being partly restored by some dedicated volunteers and funds from Historic Scotland.

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

28th September: Launch Think Pink

6th October: 6th October Celebration.

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As we come to the end of September the focus for our assemblies' changes from Goal Setting to Mental and Physical Health. For the past weeks primary and secondary assemblies have been led by classes and students talking about dreams and goals. We have had mini-plays, songs, stories and even dances asking us to all think about what we want to achieve this academic year and how we are going to do this. Why not ask your child about what they have learnt from our assemblies and about their goals. Last week in the Year 7-9 assembly, two of our senior students introduced our new theme by talking about mental health and sharing some of their own and their friends experiences. It is of vital importance that we are able to talk about our feelings and understand that it is 'ok to not be ok'.

Laptop offers for TBS students

Our Innovation Team at EEP have secured an amazing offer for Dell laptops. If your child is in Year 10-12 you might want to consider upgrading your child's current device for BYOD. For all other secondary parents, Bring Your Own Device will be coming for more year groups so you might want to get a great deal now. offer [link](#)

GEMS TBS Parent's Academy

Thank you to everyone who came to our first Parent Academy workshop last week. The session was led by a group of Secondary students who talked about keeping safe online.

Some upcoming Parent Academies that you will not want to miss:

- 31.09.25: Learning Through Play – EYFS focus – in-person workshop
- 8.10.25: Career and University Readiness – Secondary focus – online webinar

P&G Internships

We are delighted that Procter & Gamble (P&G) have offered to host a 2-day workshop for a representation of GEMS TBS students from Years 11 and 12.

The programme includes:

- Day 1 (1st October): Talks and panel discussions at the P&G office covering the company, branding, and various departments.
- Day 2 (2nd October): A plant visit where students will be divided into groups for a guided experience.

This is a unique and enriching opportunity for our students to engage directly with a leading global company, gain industry insights, and broaden their perspectives.

Y11/12 CAST 2nd Cycle Launches with Unique Industry Collaborations

The second cycle of the Y11/12 CAST program kicked off with exciting opportunities in collaboration with the Egypt Space Agency. Students gained exclusive access to a high-security facility where they viewed real satellite prototypes and cutting-edge aerospace tools, thanks to support from Trace EdTech. This experience offered valuable insights into aerospace engineering and related career pathways.

Meanwhile, another group engaged in a dynamic design thinking workshop at the Universities of Canada in Egypt's School of Business. Through inquiry-based learning and problem-solving exercises, students began laying the groundwork for their upcoming Game Design and Mobile Robot Cleaner projects.

Mobile Phones in Schools – We Want Your Views

Across the world, many countries are reviewing the use of mobile phones in schools, with several introducing partial or complete bans. France, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary, Greece, Finland, Brazil, South Korea (from 2026), and others have already acted, while the UAE Ministry of Education recently prohibited students from bringing phones to public schools, with strict rules for confiscation if phones are found.

The reasons are similar everywhere: reducing distractions in lessons, improving focus, supporting student wellbeing, and limiting the pressures of constant screen and social media use. At the same time, some parents and students value phones for communication and safety, particularly on journeys to and from school.

As a school, we are now reflecting on this important issue and would like to hear your views. Should we consider restricting or banning mobile phones in school? Your feedback will help us find the best approach for our community and our students' learning. Please email your thoughts to Mai Ali, my Executive Assistant (m.ali3_tbs@gemsedu.com).

Parent Representatives

We are looking for Parent Representatives from each class to help strengthen the partnership between home and school. Parent Representatives play an important role in building community, sharing ideas, supporting communication, and helping to coordinate class and whole-school events. If you are interested in representing your child's class, please let Ms Dalia, our PRE know—we would love to have you involved.

Accessories, jewelry and toys

A gentle reminder that children should not wear jewellery or accessories to school, and should avoid bringing toys, personal items, or valuables. These items can easily be lost, damaged, or cause unnecessary distractions during the school day. We appreciate your support in helping students focus on their learning and keeping their belongings safe.

Uniform Updates

Thank you for all the positive feedback on our new PE uniform. We involved both students and parents in selecting designs and fabrics to bring you comfortable and practical clothing. The fabric is the very latest in sweat wicking and antibacterial – certainly not 'just nylon'! The winter PE uniform will be ready for purchase next month. The light weight jacket that completes the tracksuit can be ordered from BTS online and in their store, later this week. This jacket can be worn as a cardigan with our regular uniform too.

Phoenix Updates

Apologies for the frustrations many of you have experienced with access to Phoenix Classroom at the start of term. The GEMS IT Team in Dubai have been working to try to resolve the technical issues that are affecting parent access. Please note that student access has not been affected apart from timetables. Please bear with us and note that we are following up to resolve the bugs.

Cashless Purchasing

We will be moving to a fully cashless system from 1st October 2025 for purchasing from La Cantina for students in Years 3-12. The pre-packed breakfast and lunch options for EYFS-Year 2 have proved very popular. Please click [here](#) to view the Spare guide on how to register for these services.

Have your say in our Guiding Statements

This term we are beginning a review of our school's guiding statements—our vision, mission, and core values. These statements are at the heart of everything we do, shaping the way we teach, learn, and grow as a community. We would love for parents to be part of this important process. Your perspectives will help ensure our guiding statements truly reflect the aspirations and strengths of our school family. Please let Mai Ali, my Executive Assistant (m.ali3_tbs@gemsedu.com), know if you would like to volunteer.

Ms Jane Knight

School Principal

A message from MS Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a wonderful week at TBS, and I would like to take a moment to share some highlights from across the school.

In our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), I have been delighted to observe some fantastic role-play opportunities designed to enhance learning through creativity and expression. It is heartening to witness our youngest learners engaging in meaningful play as a tool for development.

In Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2), I have seen exciting multisensory activities being implemented to aid our children in practising their phonics and improving their letter formation. Such hands-on learning significantly contributes to their literacy skills. Moving on to Key Stage 2, it has been impressive to see our students applying practical mathematics to real-life scenarios, including calculating prices and change. This application of learning is vital in helping them understand the relevance of mathematics in everyday life.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents who attended our recent webinar on "Homework: Helping Your Child Without Doing It for Them." Your engagement and support are greatly appreciated. As a gentle reminder, while homework in Primary is not compulsory, it is encouraged as a means of practice and consolidation. It is equally important for children to maintain a healthy work/life balance. Should there be any compulsory homework, it will solely pertain to reading. Listening to your child read and reading to them are crucial for developing literacy skills that foster lifelong learning. Finally, I am excited to announce that we have just commenced our mental maths times tables quizzes in Key Stage 2, with Key Stage 1 also beginning their practice. I encourage you to ask your child about this and to support their learning at home with some times tables drills.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this year a successful and enjoyable one for all.

Warm regards,

Rachel Hardwick

Head of Primary

A message from MS Eloise Morgan, Head of Secondary

Resilience – Rising Strong Together

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we settle into the rhythm of the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on a quality that is essential not only for success in school but for life beyond our gates: resilience. Resilience is more than just bouncing back from setbacks. It's about growing through challenges, learning from failure, and developing the inner strength to persevere when things get tough. In our ever-changing world, resilience is a skill that will serve our students well—whether they're navigating exams, friendships, university applications, or personal growth.

This term, we've already seen remarkable examples of resilience across our school community:

- Year 10, 11 and 12 have shown determination as they begin exam focus, balancing revision with extracurricular commitments.
- Our student leaders have stepped up to lead presentations and students have begun the process of completing leadership applications, demonstrating emotional intelligence and maturity in the face of challenges.
- Teachers and support staff continue to model resilience daily, adapting to new technologies, curriculum updates, and the evolving needs of our learners.

We are committed to nurturing resilience in every student. Through our pastoral systems, assemblies, and classroom discussions, we are encouraging students to:

- Embrace mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Set realistic goals and celebrate progress.
- Reach out for support when needed.
- Reflect on their experiences and build self-awareness.

I encourage parents to reinforce these messages at home. Ask your child about a time they overcame a challenge recently. Celebrate their effort, not just the outcome. Remind them that setbacks are stepping stones to success.

As we look ahead to many opportunities for students to be involved in events and trips, we are reminded that resilience also plays a role in shaping future aspirations. Exploring university options, making decisions, and preparing for life beyond school all require courage and adaptability.

Let's continue to build a culture where resilience is not just taught—but lived.

Warm regards,

Eloise Morgan

Head of Secondary

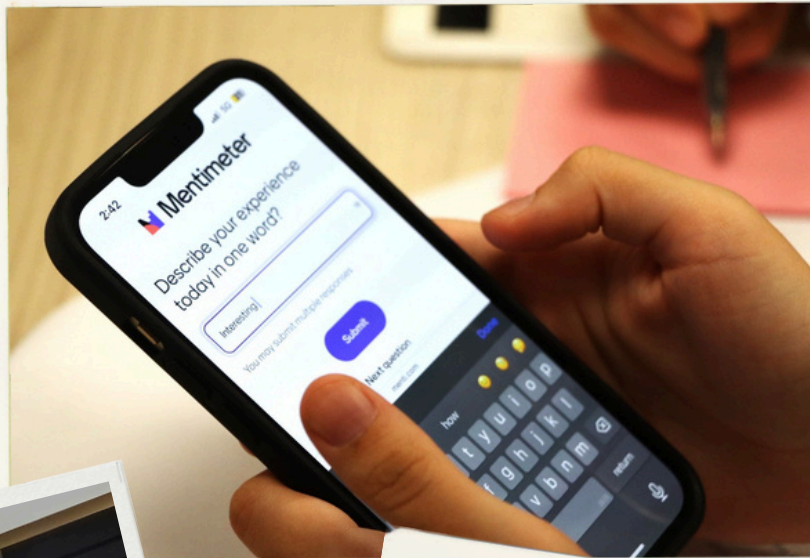
FS2



The FS2 children have begun the new topic with great enthusiasm. They have enjoyed meeting new friends and reconnecting with familiar faces from last year, which has helped them to feel happy and confident in class and outdoor areas. We have now completed our first topic 'All About Me' where we spent time getting to know the children, celebrating their individuality, and learning about their families. Our new topic 'The Five Senses' has already captured their interest! The children have been actively engaged in hands-on experiments, exploring their favourite tastes and smells, and are beginning to use their senses to explore and understand the world around them. We are looking forward to seeing how their curiosity continues to grow as we explore this topic further together.



CAST



Year 6

Our Year 6 students led an inspiring assembly about the importance of setting goals. They shared how having clear aims helps us stay focused and motivated. To celebrate this message, the children performed a lively dance to Shakira's Waka Waka, showing energy, teamwork, and determination. The assembly reminded us all that with effort and positivity, we can achieve great things.

Year 6 enjoyed a special Team Building session on the field. Students worked in groups to play fun activities such as Rock-Paper-Scissors Train and Pass the Hoop. The session encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and stronger peer relationships.

We ended with a whole year group game, bringing everyone together in a positive way.



LEARNING HISTORY HAS NEVER BEEN THIS IMMERSIVE!



'This week Year 4 strapped on our VR headsets and stepped straight into the heart of the Mayan jungle, marvelling at towering pyramids and bustling marketplaces without leaving the classroom! The children loved deciphering ancient glyphs and spotting temples hidden in the rainforest—an unforgettable, time-travelling start to our new history topic.'



GEMUN 2025

'We are super excited to introduce the GEMUN 2025 Team alongside - Secretary General Hunia Abbas, Deputy Secretary General of OC Aya Wael and Deputy Secretary General of AC Lily Ammar.

With their passion, knowledge and experience, GEMUN 2025 is already shaping up to be an unforgettable event.

Due to a very high demand, this year we will be adding additional councils to ensure all delegates have an opportunity to help make a positive change – Inflection.

Delegate and Admin applications will be opening soon – watch this space.

GEMUN 2025 is going to be something truly special, you definitely do not want to miss out!!



MUSIC



Year 4 students are hitting the right notes in their music classes this term! Their progress in singing has been remarkable, with improved pitch accuracy, vocal control, and confidence. They've embraced a variety of songs, showcasing enthusiasm and teamwork during group performances. Students are learning to project their voices clearly and maintain rhythm, making each session lively and engaging. Their dedication is shining through, preparing them wonderfully for upcoming school assemblies. Well done, Year 4—keep singing with spirit!



أستاذ وائل الطيب يحفّز طلاب الثانوية العامة على كتابة سيرتهم الذاتية كتمهيد ممتع وفّعال لدراسة سيرة طه حسين.



أستاذ تامر زيدان يجسد شخصية نابليون بونابرت أمام الطلاب بروح قيادية وحضور قوي يجعل التاريخ حيًا بين أيديهم.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF MATHS

Welcome back to a new academic year! Our department's mission is clear: to ensure that every student achieves beyond international benchmarks through engaging, rigorous, and supportive mathematics learning. This year, we are aligning tightly with the School Improvement Plan (SIP) by focusing on attainment, progress, teaching quality, and student well-being.

Key Priorities for 2025–26

- Raising Attainment:
 - Building on last year's successes in Year 7 (+6.8 progress in Maths), we aim to replicate this growth across all year groups. Year 8 has been identified as a priority cohort following DIPs in fluency and reasoning.
- Assessment for Learning (AfL):
 - Weekly planners, consistent use of RAG-challenge feedback, and differentiated homework will support visible progress in every lesson.
- Student Agency & Engagement:
 - From cross-curricular STEAM projects to real-world problem-solving (e.g., "Why do bikes have gears?" in Year 8), our learners will connect Maths to meaningful contexts.
- Fluency & Problem Solving:
 - Daily fluency drills (number bonds, times tables) combined with open-ended reasoning tasks will ensure depth as well as speed.

What We're Teaching This Term

- Year 7: Building strong foundations in number, rounding, and factors.
- Year 8: Powers of 10, Rounding, Factors & Multiples, Estimation, and early Algebra.
- Year 9: Statistics, transformations, and algebraic reasoning.
- Year 10 (IGCSE): Focus on algebraic techniques, percentages, and circle theorems.

Each year group will complete Baseline Assessments this month, with feedback shared to parents in the first progress report.

Celebrating Success

- Congratulations to Year 7 for their outstanding start, with 21 students already achieving "much higher than expected progress" in Maths.
- Special recognition to students who supported peers in lessons, modelling resilience and kindness.

Rewards will be consistently applied across the school: weekly positive points, half-term certificates, and end-of-year academic awards.

How Parents Can Support at Home

- Encourage daily practice of mental arithmetic and times tables.
- Discuss "real life maths" at home—percentages while shopping, measurements in cooking, or graphs in the news.
- Ensure homework is completed weekly (set on Phoenix, due the following week).

Looking Ahead

This year, our Maths Department will:

- Host an Innovation Fair with a cross-curricular STEAM showcase.
- Launch weekly fluency challenges with inter-class competitions.
- Host parent workshops on supporting mathematical reasoning at home.

Final Word: Mathematics is more than numbers—it's problem-solving, logical thinking, and resilience. Together—teachers, students, and parents—we will ensure that every learner not only meets but exceeds expectations.

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.

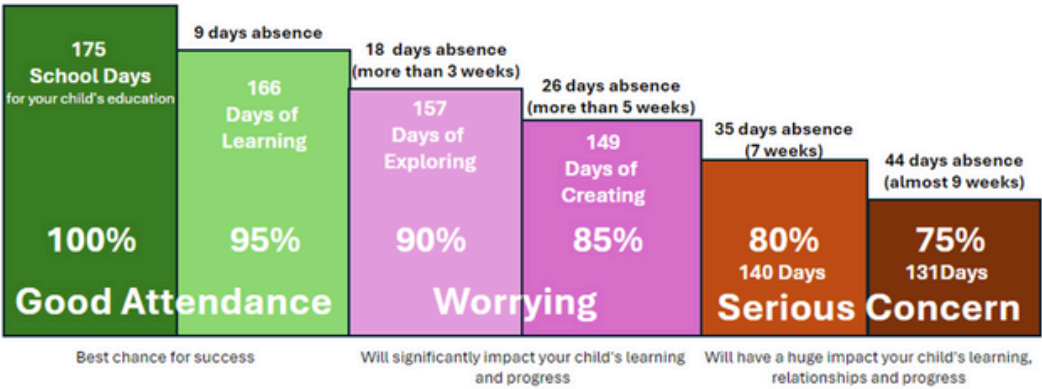
School Uniform Policy:

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