

# This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Family,

As you know, I love music so it might surprise you to find out that, until this weekend, I had not been to the Cairo Opera House. This weekend a group of us from the choir I sing in went to see a production of Carmen. I am very lucky that I have seen this opera several times but I have to say that this was one of the best performance I have seen. Inspired by real tales collected by the author of the original 1845 novella while travelling in Spain, Carmen is a dramatic tale of love, jealousy and tragedy. It tells the story of a hopeless soldier, Don José, who falls in love with Carmen, a fiery gypsy woman with an appetite for smuggling. However, Carmen transfers her affections to the dashing toreador, Escamillo. As with many operas of the time, there is no happy ending. The singers who portrayed Carmen and Don Jose did so with such humour and drama that the audience could not help but laugh. Many people are wary of opera fearing that they may not understand the plot. Thankfully, most opera houses now show the translation of the songs on screens – why not watch out for the next shows in the opera house and treat yourself to an amazing night out.



## BSME Conference

When I attended the British Schools of the Middle East conference in Abu Dhabi earlier this year, I was voted on to the Executive Committee. Next week is the first meeting of the Executive Committee in Dubai so I will be there for part of next week. It is with much regret that I will miss most of our International Week but look forward to seeing the pictures and hearing of the events.

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

29<sup>th</sup> May: Walking Museum

1<sup>st</sup> June : International Week

## Index

- [1 - Ms Jane's message](#)
- [2 - Ms Jane's message](#)
- [3 - Ms Jane's message](#)
- [4 - Ms Rachel's message](#)
- [5 - Year 4](#)
- [6 - EYFS](#)
- [7 - Y9 trip](#)
- [8 - important reminders](#)
- [9 - important reminders](#)
- [10 - useful links](#)

## Examination Updates

### Good luck to our Y10, 11 and 12 students in their exams this week:

- Tuesday, 27th May: IALBiology, IGCSE Sociology, IGCSE Arabic Language First language, AS Biology
- Wednesday, 28th May: IAL Chemistry, IGCSE English Second Language, IAL Arabic
- Thursday, 29th May: IAL Mathematics, IGCSE Psychology, IAL Physics, AS Chemistry
- Also good luck to all our students in Primary and Secondary with their end of year Ministry Arabic Examinations.

## This Week's Big Question

Thank you for all your feedback with the topics I have been sharing this past week. I would now like to share with you the Big Question from our Fascinating Facts ASA.

This week's Big Question: Is it more important to be rich or to be kind?

I would love to hear your family's thoughts on this question and the discussion it generated.

## GEMS TBS Annual Parent Survey

Thanks to the valuable feedback and suggestions we received from you via previous Parent Surveys, our schools have been able to introduce a variety of important improvements to their provision and service.

The purpose of our survey is to give a voice to our parents and enable us to act on the feedback we receive and enhance the education we provide. We are delighted that our survey is helping to make a positive difference.

We invite you to participate in the latest Parent Survey. As always, this is an opportunity for you to tell us where you think we are on track and where we can make further improvements. You will be asked to rate different aspects of the school from 1-10. Scores from 1-4 show as negative whilst scores from 6-10 show as positive. Your comments and recommendations are taken extremely seriously. You can be sure that they will all be carefully reviewed and acted upon as necessary.

Please note that the survey opened on Wednesday, May 14th and will remain accessible until Tuesday, June 3rd.

We encourage you to complete it within this period to ensure your feedback is included.

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete, and we strongly encourage you to make your voice count. We want to hear from you!

Thank you for being an important part of our journey. Click [here](#) to take the survey.

## GEMS TBS International Week

June 1st sees the start of our annual International Week. Our theme for this year is 'Voices of the World' and our aim is to acknowledge the diversity at TBS while celebrating the unity as part of our community and living in Egypt. You will be receiving more information about the key events during the week but June 2nd our focus will be French Culture Day and on June 3rd, Arabic Culture Day. As is our tradition, the week will end with a Parade of Nations. We encourage children to come to school wearing the colours of the French Flag on French Culture Day and in Arabic dress on Arabic Culture Day.

## **TBSMUN – we are sold out, waitlisting for places!**

We are extremely excited to announce that TBS will be hosting an internal MUN Conference, offering our students an amazing opportunity to gain hands-on experience and develop their skills as effective delegates, chairs and co-chairs. The conference will be held right here at TBS on Friday 20th June and Saturday 21st June 2025, making it a convenient and exciting opportunity for students from Year 6 and above to get involved. The TBSMUN Conference aims to encourage delegates to think critically and creatively, enabling them to propose innovative solutions to pressing global challenges. Through participation, your child will gain valuable experience, understand global issues, and develop essential public speaking skills that will benefit them throughout their educational journey and beyond.

TBSMUN provides a safe platform for discussing key issues faced by societies worldwide. These discussions promote individuality, foster the sharing of diverse perspectives, and allow participants to become part of something much larger than themselves. The UN Charter, which inspires this conference, stands on four pillars: Peace and Security; Human Rights; the Rule of Law; and Development. It emphasises the importance of stability and strength in societies, enabling growth while allowing individual identities to flourish.

Our seniors will be symbolically handing the torch over to our future generation during this event, empowering our youth to recognise their roles and responsibilities as global citizens.

## **BYOD at GEMS TBS: What Parents Need to Know**

Starting next academic year, our school will introduce a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative for students in Years 10–12.

In preparation for BYOD next term, we will be sharing device specifications, usage guidelines, and frequently asked questions in a dedicated parent guide. There will also be an information session to answer any questions you may have. We encourage families to start discussing responsible device use at home and setting boundaries for screen time outside school hours. Together, we can ensure this initiative enhances learning while fostering safe, balanced technology habits.

We will be running webinars after Eid to share more about our BYOD plans and some exciting partnership deals with laptop providers.

**Thank you for everything you do to help your child grow, learn, and succeed.**

*MS Jane Knight*  
**School Principal**

## A message from MS Rachel Harwick, Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks, it has been a real pleasure for myself and the Assistant Heads to join our students on a number of school trips. These outings offer invaluable opportunities for children to explore their learning in different environments, and it has been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm in action. We have also been incredibly proud of how well our students have represented the school during these visits—with excellent behaviour, thoughtful questions, and positive attitudes throughout.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to our Walking Museum on Thursday 29th May. The children are excited to share their learning with you, and we know it will be a fantastic celebration of their hard work and creativity. As we approach the end of the academic year, I would also like to take a moment to praise our students for their resilience and perseverance during their recent end-of-year assessments. In particular, we recognise the extra effort from those sitting Ministry exams in Arabic subjects—well done to all for your determination and focus.

Although we are in the final stretch of the year, there is still plenty of rich learning ahead. To help your child make the most of this time, we kindly ask for your continued support in maintaining a healthy school routine: early bedtimes and punctual morning arrivals make a big difference.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support.

*MS Rachel Hardwick*



# YEAR 4 DIVING INTO THE WORLD OF ANCIENT EGYPT



This month, our Year 4 students have been diving into the world of Ancient Egypt through exciting hands-on activities. They created their own papyrus-style paper, designed beautiful jewelry inspired by ancient Egyptian rings and necklaces, and built impressive pyramid models. Students also enjoyed writing their names in hieroglyphics, bringing history to life in a fun and creative way!







# EYFS

Excitement is building across all EYFS classes as our children prepare to celebrate their wonderful learning at the upcoming Walking Museum event.

In FS2, the children have been thoroughly enjoying their exploration of the animal kingdom. From roaring like lions to waddling like penguins, they've been immersing themselves in fascinating facts about their favourite animals. Their enthusiasm has been a joy to witness, and they are eager to share what they've discovered with you during the event. Our Preschoolers have also been very busy! They've loved sharing stories about their favourite toys, talking about their daily routines, and developing their speaking and listening skills with growing confidence. They're now more than ready to present their learning journey. Meanwhile, in FS1, we've been diving into the world of transport by land, air, and water! From making train sounds and flying like aeroplanes to spotting vehicles in their surroundings, the children are looking forward to identifying as many modes of transport as they can on our walk.

We're very much looking forward to welcoming our parents to our special museum, where they'll be able to see first-hand the children's incredible efforts.





# Y9 Trip to Al Fayoum



## 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:

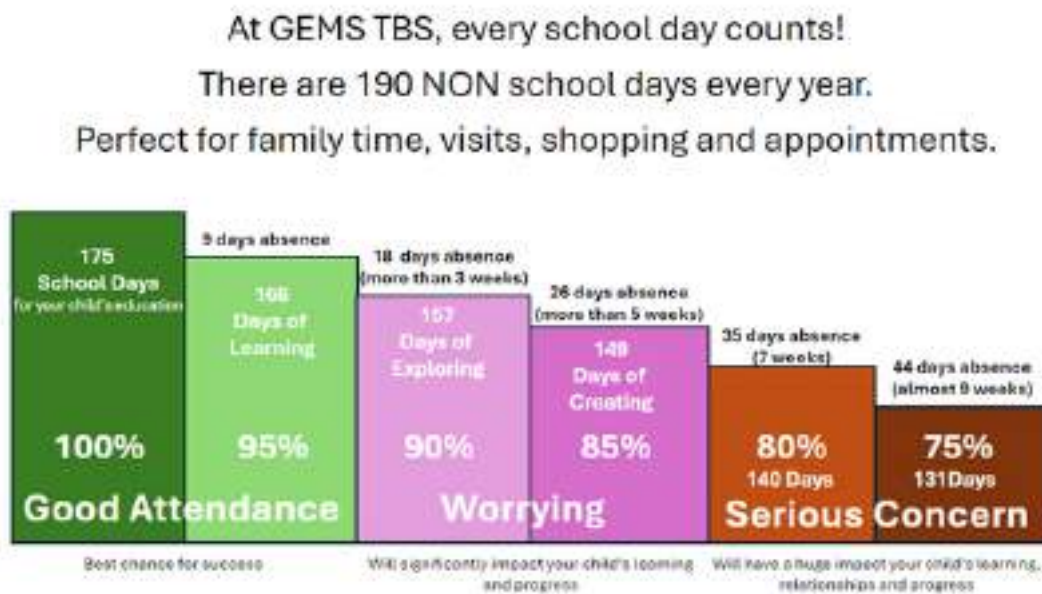
Our uniform not only promotes a sense of unity but also minimises distraction, allowing students to focus on their studies. Please, ensure that your child adheres to our school's uniform policy. Only items that are part of our school uniform are allowed within the school campus except on specified dress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



# 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