

9th September ,2022

This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Families,

Summer is coming to an end with more clouds appearing, temperatures slowly dropping, balconies opening up and the North Coast season closing.

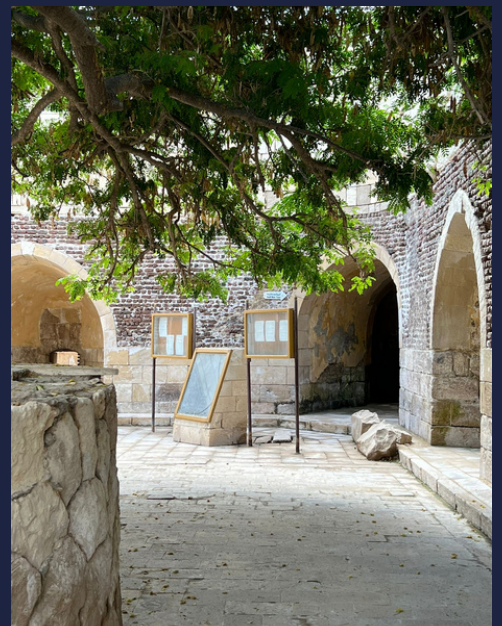
Last weekend I took the opportunity to visit the North Coast too but it was not the beach that I wanted to see, it was Alexandria. I have explored the historical sites before but this time it was the small city of Rashid I wanted to see for it was in this place that Napoleon's soldiers and historical documenters came across an interesting stone.

The large black stone was carved with what looked like letters and deemed of interest so on a hot June day in 1799 they carefully removed this incredibly heavy granodiorite tablet from the wall of the 13th century citadel.

Little did they know that this stone, the 2,400 year old Rosetta Stone, would later in 1822 be translated giving us our current insight into Ancient Egypt. 200 years on the original stone is on display in the British Museum in London and the small city of Rashid welcomes the few tourists who know about it. The other amazing thing about Rashid is that it is where the river Nile meets the Mediterranean Sea and at one point by the water's edge you can see the waves of the sea one way and the other the calm waters of the Nile as it ends its journey from the mountains of Ethiopia.

Facilities Update

EYFS playground shading and a new climbing frame!



Share your First Day at School pictures

All families take those first day at school or back to school pictures. Why not tag us when you share them on social media @britishschoolrehab #TBS_onefamily #TBS_backtoschool

Alternatively, email us your pictures and we will share them as our TBS family.

Philosophy of Education

As part of Induction and Preparation for the opening of TBS for another academic year, as a staff we have started each day reflecting on and debating current Educational Research and the philosophy of education and it's impact on learning at TBS. One quote that was most relevant was 'If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn'. For me this linked with another quote attributed to Einstein 'Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results'. We all agree that we need to reflect on our teaching practices and turn them into learning practices. This year all our teaching staff will be working on a two year course focusing on Embedding Formative Assessment in TBS – no longer can we be doing the same things expecting different outcomes, it is time to change. Of course we will make sure that you are part of this change so why not come along to our weekly Parent Workshops to be part of the "great education for the 21 century and beyond debate."

Meet The Teacher

You should have already received a message about how to log into your Phoenix account and book an appointment with your new class teacher or tutor. For Primary School students, you will also have received an attachment with a task for either your child to fill in or one to complete together. Please make sure that you bring the completed task with you to your Meet The Teacher (MTT) meeting as it is designed to help your teacher get to know your child as an individual.

We cannot stress enough how important the MTT meetings are this year. As well as an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other, the meeting will form the start of your child's learning profile for the year ahead with mutually agreed targets for academic and pastoral progress. I will also stress how important it is for you to be at your MTT meetings in good time to make full use of the time allocated. Late arrival to meetings might shorten your time with your teacher or tutor.

At our MTT on both days, we will have representatives from our uniform supplier, Valu for supporting with fees, our transportation team, our IT team to support with Phoenix concerns, our Exams Officer, our PRE and Admissions team. These 'Hot Desks' will be located in the Reception area.

Our Specialist teachers who are not Tutors will all be available in the Hall so please come and meet them too...and see our new screen!

As is our way, refreshments will be available on both days near the Hall.

If you have any issues accessing the booking form, please contact our PRE or Front of House Team who will assist you.



Net Promoter Score Update

Twice a year we ask you to complete a Parent Satisfaction Survey to let us know what you value most about TBS and what areas we could be developing. This is very valuable information for us as a school and impacts on our improvement plans moving forward. Thanks to your feedback and our work as a school to impact change, our Net Promoter Score has gone from -28 to +1. This is quite a turnaround for the whole school community. We can now build on your latest feedback to ensure that we continue to listen to you, through the survey and from our ongoing conversations, and make positive changes to our very special TBS family school.

TBS Strategic Improvement Plan

As part of our MTT we will be talking to you and your child about setting targets for their learning. Meanwhile we have been doing the same for TBS as a whole. Part of ongoing school improvement is reflecting on areas of strength and areas development using feedback from stakeholders and then prioritising key areas to focus on in a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP). At an Inservice Training Day in May, the whole TBS staff came together to work on our SIP using feedback from Parent Surveys and comments, CIS report, GEMS Strategic Improvement Partners visit and their own professional experience to identify our four Strategic Goals for the next three years. We then defined each of the Goals with a Visionary Statement for 2025 and mapping our Milestones for the academic year 2022-23. Today I am sharing with you our Strategic Goals and Visionary Statements and each week I will elaborate on one and your role in supporting our SIP – as we are Partners in Learning.

Strategic Goal 1: Learning and Teaching

Vision Statement: Empowering students to take responsibility within a supporting yet challenging environment to achieve their true potential as learners

Strategic Goal 2: Assessment for Learning

Vision Statement: Providing purposeful ongoing assessments to adapt teaching impacting student progress and attainment

Strategic Goal 3: Developing Stakeholders

Vision Statement: Fostering a culture of continuous self-improvement, promoting responsibility, leadership and reflective practice with a commitment to life-long learning

Strategic Goal 4: Curriculum for Tomorrow

Vision Statement: Delivering a broad and balanced whole school British curriculum that caters for all students' learning and pastoral needs

Our Middle Leaders (Heads of Year, Heads of Key Stage and Heads of Departments) have been working on their own Department Improvement Plans (DIP) outlining the actions they will be taking to support the SIP.

Examination Results – an update from Nigel Wilsonlock, TBS Head of Secondary

I have been delighted to greet our students collecting their exam results over the last few weeks. We have had some excellent results; you may have seen our posts on social media. Students have been rewarded by their hard work and in many cases have achieved a string of grades at the top level. Of most importance to us as a school is that our IGCSE and AS/AL results continue to improve, we have even beaten the inflationary years of COVID:

- IGCSE A*/A (9-7) grades are at 43% up from a pre-COVID figure of 38%
- AS/AL A*/A grades are at 55% up from a pre-COVID figure of 50%

We continue to build our reputation as a centre of Scientific and Maths excellence. Science results at AS/AL averaged Grade B for all 42 entries in all subjects, over 50% were A/A*. Maths turned in something similar with 19 candidates earning a Grade A out of 40 candidates. Arabic showcased the excellence of teaching in all areas, with an average of Grade A across 10 students. We are in a great position going forward, our teaching continues to improve as does the skills of our students.

We build an excellent base for AS/AL success in our IGCSE programmes. Our core subjects have average point scores of; Maths (6.3/B); English (6.7/B) and Science (6.3/B). Highlights in non-core option subjects are Computing (7.3/A), Commercial Studies (5.7/B) and Arabic (7.5/A). These are averages so half our students earn grades above this. Our aim now is to get even better and help all students to achieve more. Key to this will be our Target Setting process that will support students in addressing the barriers to their own success. This will begin in our Meet the Teacher meetings next week. These are crucial so students start the year with real purpose. Our biggest finding has been the effect of attendance on grades. It is very clear. Please see our Principal's message for more on this.

Impact of attendance on student progress and attainment

From our whole school analysis of TBS student's academic results over the past year, one thing in particular stands out: the direct correlation between attendance and lateness in both progress and attainment. Educational research is clear that students who attend school regularly and on time are able to learn more, have fewer discipline problems, develop better study habits and are often more successful than students who do not.

Within Egypt it is a statutory requirement that students must attend a minimum of 85% to move to the next year group. However, here at TBS our expectation is for 100% attendance from our students. Students who miss school frequently fall behind with their work and miss being part of the school community routines. Good attendance also shows universities and future employers that students are reliable.

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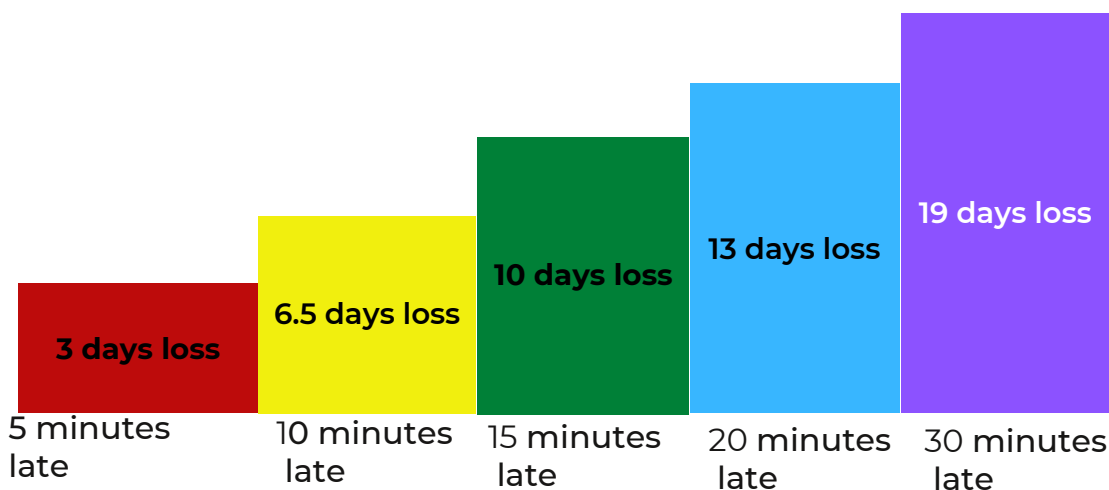
Keep in mind that just 17 days absent from school a year could mean a drop in their iGCSE or A Level grades – in all subjects!

Let me try and put this into perspective:

Attendance during the school year	Equivalent Days Absent	Equivalent Weeks Absent	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	72
90%	19 days	4 weeks (one month)	152
85%	29 days	6 weeks (half a term)	232
80%	38 days	8 weeks (two months)	304
75%	48 days	10 weeks	384
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks (almost 3 months)	456
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks (more than one term)	536

Every minute counts

If your child arrives late to school regularly, their learning and self-esteem begins to suffer.



There are no workplaces that would permit such an interruption to workflow or accommodate this much time absent or late – why are you allowing such a habit to form during your child's school days?

Keeping this in mind, any Secondary School students arriving after the start of registration (0745) may be asked to wait until the next lesson to enter the class due to the learning disruption for those students already in class.

How can we support you?

- We will ask for notes and explanations from parents for every single absence
- We will contact you and follow up about any unexplained absences
- We will let you know if your child's absence (or lateness) is of concern and work with you to find a way of improving it

Please note that it is your responsibility to let the school know the reason for your child's absence as soon as possible, on the first day of the absences.

What can you do to help ensure good attendance at school:

- Let your child know how important education is
- Ensure your child arrives punctually and is properly equipped (enough sleep, healthy breakfast)
- Send your child to school every day
- Make time to encourage and show interest in their school day
- Attend school events
- Avoid taking family holidays during school term time
- Check any homework tasks

Absence can hide problems that could be sorting out together:

- Staying away from school and not wanting to go to school for a variety of reasons (such as tummy ache, feeling sick etc.) often means that there is something which is worrying your child
- Even things that we as adults might consider to be minor matters can be very big worries to your child. If you see a change in your child's behaviour, sleep patterns, eating habits or if there is a change in family circumstances, please let us know so we can support.
- Children may try to cover up their own fears and worries by relaying stories from their own perspective, please make sure you contact us to discuss more if this is happening.



What can you do if your child refuses to attend school?

- Never cover for your child (do not tell us they are sick when they are not)
- Make early contact with the school
- Help the school to put things right
- Make sure that your child understands that you do not approve of their being absent
- Let us know – we will be able to help

First dates for your diary:

- Thursday, 22nd September – Coffee Morning with Ms Knight, come and meet our new Head of Primary, 0800 in the Quad
- Tuesday, 27th September – Our first Parent Workshop: EYFS – Learning through Play

Have a great weekend and see you all next week at our New Parent Day on the 13th September and our Meet The Teacher days on 14th and 15th September

School Principal

Ms Jane Knight