

This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents,

Many of you already know that I lived for a long time in the Emirates. This time of the year when the temperatures are rising always reminds me of an age old Emirati tradition: The Changing of the Taps. This happens twice a year signals that either summer is here or that summer has gone – there are only two seasons in the Emirates: Hot and not quite so hot! The Changing of the taps happens around this time when the water in the cold tap is as hot as the water in the hot tap – time to turn off the water heater and use the hot water tap for cold water!

In Kazakhstan there was a similar tradition but it was The Changing of the Pipes. Again this happened twice a year and meant a whole day without water while the hot water used for the heating system was either turned off or on centrally. It was always a sign that the seasons were changing. Many of my Kazakh friends would say that there were three seasons there: dry mud, wet mud and frozen mud.

Are there any changing of the season traditions here in Cairo? Was last Thursday's no water in parts of Rehab a sign that summer is here?

For those of you who were asking about Sharq Orchestra that I played with I have put some YouTube links below. Thanks to playing with these amazing musicians I now love the music of Dalida, Fairouz and of course Om Kalthoum. I have also included the link for the amazing video at the top of the Burj Khalifa. Can you spot me!

<https://youtu.be/jYY-53XvOTc>

[https://youtu.be/fIYI1fPKU2M?](https://youtu.be/fIYI1fPKU2M?list=PL3jY_5oCvVxmplIUVKD0m3GjZVKJpF3Pyk)

[list=PL3jY_5oCvVxmplIUVKD0m3GjZVKJpF3Pyk](https://youtu.be/fIYI1fPKU2M?list=PL3jY_5oCvVxmplIUVKD0m3GjZVKJpF3Pyk)

<https://youtu.be/W5frO-VRrL8>





Parents' Survey

I mentioned last week that you will be receiving a link to participate in our latest Parent Survey. Although we value your input and are always available to listen to your suggestions, we would also ask that you take the time to complete this survey. We analyse the data carefully and implement many changes following your comments and suggestions. Below are some of the things we actioned as a result of your comments from the November survey.

There is what you said – and how we responded:

We want to know more about our child's academic level:

We initiated regular target setting reviews with all students in all subjects which were shared either as a target review sheet or part of a report and updated half termly
Inclusion of our Secondary students in the parents meetings as the Primary model to allow them to discuss their targets and next steps
Live marking trials on Phoenix to allow Secondary parents to see which key objectives have been met on specific assignments
Introduction of Tapestry for all EYFS parents to show learning in action updated every week against specific Early Learning Goals – this is available to all family members to share in the learning
Parent workshops for all sections of the school focusing on reading, careers, study skills, phonics, maths – all with practical ideas on how to support learning at home.

Arabic Language proficiency needs attention across all grades:

Additional language ASAs to support students who need additional support .

Y9-12 students for exams and careers plans:

Our flexible iGCSE and A-level programme allowing students to study subjects for the two years or more if required alongside personalised university guidance.

Communications need to be more informative and timely:

Our new weekly whole school newsletter from the Principal gives an overview of events across the year groups and more indepth information about activities, educational workshops and key themes
Weekly overviews from Primary Year Groups celebrating learning and updating parents with key learning objectives
Weekly 'postcards' from Primary Year Groups celebrating individual achievements
Active Facebook and Instagram pages with live event feeds and interaction
Weekly Coffee Mornings with the Principal to share learning at TBS.



Real-life application of learning:

Our Financial Literacy Programme in conjunction with the Central Bank of Egypt gave students the opportunity to learn about money management

Our Water for All Project, Challenge of the Pharaohs, and International Day linked directly with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and, through a cross curricular style project, linked all areas of the curriculum including Global Citizenship

Science Fair for Secondary incorporating all science learning with real life questions or challenges

Our Internship Programme for Y11 and 12 students in February and planned again for August gave them an insight into the world beyond university and the need for collaboration and teamwork in action.

TBS held the first GEMS Egypt Model United Nations Conference.

Quality of learning:

Through weekly Peer Learning and Professional Development sessions as well as our ongoing Performance Management reviews all teachers have had the opportunity to develop their teaching skills and work collaboratively to embed Assessment for Learning, goal setting and Positive Discipline amongst others

We invited our School Improvement Partners to visit TBS and share with us the key areas for development which we have, as a whole school, included in our three year Strategic Development Plan which we will share with everyone in the near future.

Student Voice and leadership:

Student council in both Primary and Secondary meet weekly to plan events and environmental concerns as well as raising money for charity

Ramadan Food Drive led by Student Councils providing over 100 bags to share with our local community

Student Council met with School Improvement Partners to discuss the ways they impact on the school community

Student led Well-being Week.

Registration

Another gentle reminder for everyone:

All gates open at 0730.

For all classes, registration is at 0745 all students are required to be in their classes by this time.

Any student arriving in school after 0745 is late.

It may seem like 10 minutes is not really that much, but for the typical school day, a student who is only 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of school time that year. If a child is 10 minutes late getting to school, it is more like 20 minutes until they are actually learning.

The impact on the class as a whole is even larger: if two students are late, one by 5 minutes and one by 10 minutes, then the class schedule will be impacted. This may mean that a teacher has to alter something else during the day to account for the time lost helping a late student catch up.

Please make sure that your child is in class by 0745 am to allow them time to get organised and be ready for the learning day ahead.

**23rd
May, 2022**

Term 3 Week 3



Reading workshops

Reading workshops – these past weeks we have held two parents workshops focussed on reading. Our Head of EYFS, Sue Lessiter shared with us the first steps of starting to read and our Assistant Head, Cheryl Tome, talked about becoming a fluent reader. Thank you to everyone who joined us for these valuable workshops. Not only do they give you an insight into how we teach, they also give you some great ideas for supporting children at home. Watch out for more workshops coming up this week and beyond.



Educational Trips

It was the turn of our year 5 students to set off from TBS on a learning adventure. Their trip took them to Fagnoon where they were able to find out about farming techniques and daily life in times gone by. Each student arrived back with clay pots they made themselves, some weaving and the experience of making traditional bread, riding camels and riding horses. A great place to go and be creative while enjoying the outdoors.



Advisory Council

This term we are looking for some new parent representatives for our Advisory Council. The Council is actively involved in all aspects of school life and aims to be a 'critical friend' in upholding the school's vision and values as well as advising on matters of strategy and policy. If you would be interested in being part of the Advisory Council, please email our PRE by the end of this week.

23rd May, 2022

Dates for your Diary

Term 3 Week 3



- 9th -26th May – GL Progress Tests for Y2-6 (see T3 W1 newsletter for more information)
- 22nd – 26th May – Y1 Phonics progress screening
- 23rd May – Launch of Parents Satisfaction Survey
- 25th May – EYFS parents workshop – Developing reading
- 26th May - Join me for a coffee at 0800 – everyone welcome
- 2nd June - Join me for a coffee at 0800 – everyone welcome
- 2nd June – Announcement of Challenge of the Pharaohs Winners
- 2nd June – COVID Vaccinations for Y7-12 (for those who have already signed up)
- 9th June - Join me for a coffee at 0800 – everyone welcome
- 9th June – Challenge of the Pharaohs closing event and awards ceremony
- 16th June - Join me for a coffee at 0800 – everyone welcome
- 19th June – Health Week
- 22nd June – FS2 assembly
- 23rd June – Join me for a final coffee at 0800 – everyone welcome
- 23rd June – Y6 assembly
- 27th June – Last day of the school year – 1200 finish

Have a great week!

School Principal

Ms Jane Knight