

This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents,

Another amazing week at TBS last week with Primary's amazing Walking Museum and Secondary's turn to have a Sports Day. From talking to many of you who came to see the Walking Museum, you were as impressed as I was at your children's demonstration of their knowledge and understanding of their learning this term. Songs, plays, tableaux, displays and more – a great way to share and celebrate their learning.

Our Secondary School students had a full day of activity in our House Sports Day. Wonderful to see everyone participating and supporting their friends no matter which House they were in. The morning was all about potted skills activities earning points as they rotated around eight different stations. We then moved on to our TBS World Cup tournament with the initial group penalty shootouts happening. Day ended with relays and our traditional Tug-of-War. I can honestly say that this was the best Secondary School sports day I have ever been at because it was inclusive in that every student participated, had fun and felt part of their team.

Duke of Edinburgh International Award Launch

This weekend we are hosting a taster International Award overnight camp here on campus to give our students 14 years and older the chance to find out more about this amazing opportunity. We have had a tremendous response from students who are keen to participate.

Photographs have arrived

Many thanks to Basta Studios for coming in and taking our individual and class photographs and thank you to all of you who ordered copies. The printed photographs (individual on a wooden frame, class print and small individual prints) will be coming home this week. If you still want to order packs (great gifts for grandparents) it is not too late. Basta Studios are more than happy to print more packs.





TBS Parent Survey – Please check your emails and take the survey

Thank you to all of you who have already completed our parent survey. If you have not yet done it, please take some time to do so as we value your feedback on what we are doing well and what we need to focus on. If you are having any issues accessing the survey or cannot find the email, please contact our Front of House team who will direct your issues to our IT team.

Here are some key topics that were raised in your comments from May which fed into our Strategic Improvement Plan:

What you say we do well:

- Communication with parents – keeping parents in touch
- Range of after school activities
- Character development
- Focus on child's well-being and education
- Keeping us updated about our child's progress
- Not putting pressure on students
- Let children like school
- Caring environment
- You listen carefully, try to work out problems and satisfy parents
- Follow up with any concerns or learning issues
- Create an atmosphere for students to be happy and comfortable learning
- Parent teacher meetings
- Responsive support staff
- Student leadership
- Preparing students for after graduation

What you want us to work on:

- Communication with parents – continue to improve our modes of communicating with you (whole school and class/form tutors) and sharing more of what is going on across the school through newsletters
- Improve progress and attainment in Arabic Language subjects – our new Head of Arabic has already made an impact with teaching and learning as well as updating the curriculum
- Following up – through the triangulation of data and pupil progress meetings we are monitoring every child's progress and taking rapid action to provide additional support, intervention plans or supporting you with learning at home.
- Qualified and up teachers – all of our teachers are part of a two year professional development programme focusing on embedding formative assessment. In addition staff who are teaching exam courses are attending professional development to ensure they are up to day with expectations. All of our teachers have access to TELLAL, the GEMS professional development network allowing them to select courses linked to their professional targets.
- Learning Support Assistants – as well as recruiting experienced LSAs with strong English and good qualifications, we have LSAs in all classes in Primary with additional LSAs in preschool and FS1
- Supervision – we have increased the number of staff on duty at all break and lunchtimes to support students. All staff on duty wear high-viz jackets so students can see them easily should there be a concern.



- More shaded areas – addition of shading in the EYFS playground as well as a new age appropriate climbing frame. We have also developed the learning areas for KS1 students with a bike track and range of interactive games.
- Developing the ASA range – we have taken the time to speak to our students to find out what ASAs they would like to do and built our programme around them. We have seen a marked engagement of students in Y7 and above in our ASAs this term so far.
- More meetings with teachers – our Meet the Teacher session prior to starting school was key to developing relationships with students as well as supporting them to set targets for themselves as part of our ongoing theme to make students more involved in their learning. Our mid term meetings with class teachers and form tutors reviewed targets and looked at any areas of concern raised including attendance, time keeping and organisation. Remember that you as a parent, have the right to call a meeting with any of your child's teachers should you wish to find out more about their learning or raise a concern.

Attendance Policy Updates

- 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 [here](#).
- We have already reported the impact of arriving late to school has on an individual's learning. We are now focusing on the impact on the students who arrive on time for registration yet their learning is disrupted by a student arriving late.
- To minimise this impact I would like to draw you attention to one section in the Late Arrival part of our policy:
- **If a student arrives after 07:55am they may be required to wait until the next lesson change before attending a class to avoid the disruption of others' learning.**
- Please note that this came into effect as from Sunday, 13th November and will impact on all students from Year 7-12.
- We have already seen a dramatic change in our Secondary Students being On Time In School. Thank you for your support with this.
- We ask for your support to ensure that all students are OTIS (On Time In School) everyday.

We are a Learning Community

Many thanks to our EYFS parents for joining the amazing Ms Sue for her Tapestry workshop last week.

Updates from around the school!

An update from Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

Primary started the week with the exceptional Walking Museum. This was the first time I have seen this event but I was blown away by the efforts of the students and teachers in demonstrating their fantastic topic work from the first half of the term. Thank you to all of the parents who attended to support.

We continued the week with work on our Winter crafts to sell for charity at the end of the term.

I was also really impressed by the contributions received for the Hayah Art Competition. These have been sent to be formally judged and I wish all of the entrees the best of luck.

Please could I kindly remind all parents about healthy lunches for the children. Our school canteen is available for children from year 3 upwards. A labelled water bottle should be sent with all children so that they can keep hydrated throughout the day.



The Stone Age in Y3

Year Three children celebrated end of unit in our first half term "The Stone Age". The Stone Age was a huge period of time, which lasted over 2 million years. The Stone Age period began when the first human-like animal came into existence. This period is described as being prehistoric because it was at a time before written records were kept.



During Term 1B, they have enjoyed creating different types of artistic work including Stonehenge silhouette, cave art painting and stone age jewellery. Children also have been looking at different types of shelters and settlements projects from throughout the Stone Age period. They have gathered evidence from various historical sources to inform their own shelter designs. They have been considering these size, shape and materials that they could use to build their own designs. Much fun was had by all during the activities in class and at home they were extremely proud of their finished work. Eventually children had an exciting day with their parents during the Walking Museum Day in classes to celebrate the end of unit. They took part in a range of activities to explore early human history!



Why is Maths important in EYFS?

To answer the question: '**Why is Maths important in Early Years?**' we need to think about the world in which we live in. Mathematics is all around us. From the moment children are born, they are surrounded by mathematical concepts in one form or another.

Parts of their day from the very beginning will most likely involve some sort of structured routine based around times of the day. They will almost certainly accompany an adult on a visit to a shop, where written numbers will be placed everywhere and could also provide opportunities to learn about the concept of money. At some point, as they get a little older, they may help with things like baking and learn how measuring ingredients works. So, you get the idea; Maths is EVERYWHERE!

Maths is an important part of learning for children in the Early Years because it provides vital life skills. Maths facilitates children to problem solve, measure, and develop their own spatial awareness, along with how to use and understand shapes.

It is a great idea to include 'real-life' Maths for young children. There is no doubt, that these everyday conversations and that drawing children's attention to mathematical aspects of daily life will help to support children with their Maths skills development. One great example of this is the opportunities presented to adults when out and about with young children. A simple walk can mean spotting plenty of numbers and shapes within the environment. You can do things like counting the number of cars for example or sing and repeat number rhymes and songs that involve counting. <https://theimaginationtree.com/tag/playful-maths/> has some fun activity suggestions that you may like to do with your child at home.



An update from Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary

We had a lovely Sports Day on Wednesday with a great atmosphere and a lot of friendly competition. I won't spoil the outcome of the event and will leave it to this week's Assembly where we will also be looking at Movember. There were also no staff injuries this year as teachers tried to regain the successes of their youth.

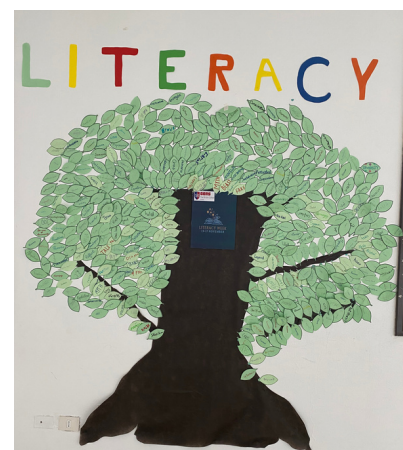
Our own TBS World Cup Event started on Sports Day and we now know 14 of our teams that progress to the next round of competition culminating in the our Final on the last day of Term. Our big upsets are the loss of England but the promotion of Qatar! We have knock-out games nearly every day and are happy to see the excitement grow! We will keep you updated as the tournament progresses.

The Y7/8 Trip was another great event in our calendar that gave students the opportunity to continue their learning in another environment and further their cohesion as Year Groups. It was a long day but all returned tired and happy, especially Mr Fady who was behind the successful trip

This Thursday we will have our Introductory International Award camp on our campus. This is another great opportunity for students to develop their interests and independence with a well renowned qualification. Miss Karmen already has a huge shopping list for the food that includes several kilograms of marshmallows! I am looking forward to the evening – but not sleeping on a thin foam mattress in the school hall.

Global Perspectives

The last two weeks the students of year groups 7-9 have been discussing the term sustainability. The timing of this topic coincides with COP 27, and it has been met with great interest by the students. It has been evident that the students have care for the environment, and they are beginning to appreciate the challenges faced by global communities. Specifically, the students have been discussing the use of plastic, and its uses in everyday life. Furthermore, they have made suggestions for alternative uses of plastics, and recommended sustainable materials to counter the use of plastic. In alignment with the year 7 and 8 field trip, the students will begin this week to think critically about the impact of tourism on the local landscape and identify some of the deeper challenges that go along with this type of tourism. We recommend that students begin to start thinking critically about the actions they take on a day to day basis, such as do they need to buy a plastic throw away water bottle, could they use a refillable flask type bottle instead?



The English Department

Last TBS Secondary students immersed themselves in a variety of exciting literacy challenges and activities. The English department were thrilled to see such interest by many of the students, and the tremendous courage some showed to go up on stage and present a poem, or by entering into the writing competitions.

At the beginning of the week we began with a virtual author visit by Chris Bradford, a best-selling author who has sold millions of copies in 25 languages. The virtual visit was interactive, students had to listen to a story told by Chris, and then answer questions to show their amazing listening skills. They also practiced how to be a Ninja warrior in a battle. We hope that this experience captured their imagination, and will encourage them to read different genre of books.

The students showed their competitive side by demonstrating their knowledge of books, and authors. The Big Literacy Quiz was a big success, and the students were excited to be involved in this fun activity. Here are some photos of the activities that happened during the class-time



Getting Festive

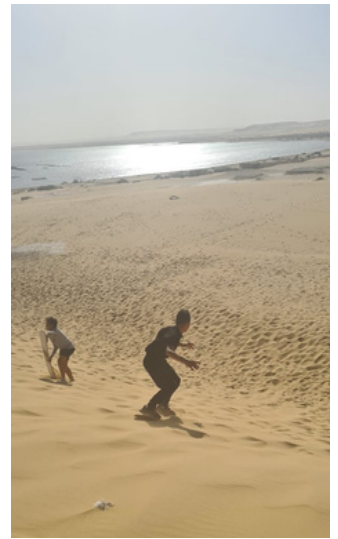
As you will see from our calendar and the diary events at the end of this newsletter, we have a lot more events for you to be part of. Most of these events have a festive theme. However, if you are looking for more events outside of school to get into the festive spirit I have two suggestions when you will be able to hear the choir I sing in, The Maadi International Community Choir, perform. One event is on Saturday, 3rd December at Osana Wellness Centre in Maadi. They will be hosting a festive bazaar with lots of stalls and activities and my choir will be performing at 2:00 pm. The other is my choir's concert in St John's, Maadi at 6:30pm. Would be lovely to see you at either event.

Alternatively, why not come to the British Embassy on Tuesday, 13th December to enjoy an evening of festive music led by a combined choir from all the British Schools in Cairo including twenty of our very own TBS choir. Watch out for more information on how to buy tickets for this special event.

Key Stage 3 Fayoum Trip

The key stage 3 trip was a resounding success, not only were our students shown a variety of beautiful scenery, but they also enjoyed some very special activities. From sandboarding to roasting marshmallows on a campfire. Our students had a brilliant time visiting Medawara Mountain and Wadi El Rayan Waterfall.

On the whole, all students found the experience a positive one, from engaging in physical activities, to enjoying beautiful natural sights. It was also a thought-provoking experience, and now enables the students to consider the impact of tourism on the local community. This trip will now be discussed in Global Perspectives classes where the students will critically explore the impact of domestic tourism. In addition, the trip also supports the development of IGCSE English skills, through report writing. We hope that the students were able to report to you some of their fantastic experiences.





Baker Books

Many thanks to all of you who ordered from the Baker Books catalogue this term. We have been informed that the orders are with customs and we are expecting their delivery before the end of term.

BSME Games update

We are all very proud of our Under 13 Football teams who have been playing the past two weekends at BISC against our fellow BSME schools. Our teams played good football and impressed everyone with their determination and team support, particularly with so many players not turning up and our Tigers having to play without any subs. Thank you to all of you for supporting our football teams. Next week it is the turn of our Athletics Squad, wishing them the very best of luck.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 29th November – Parent Workshop – Primary Focus on progression in mathematics

Wednesday, 30th November – Moustache Day, end of awareness month for male health issues

Wednesday, 30th November and Thursday, 1st December – Vaccination for some year groups – please check emails.

Thursday, 1st December – Coffee Morning

Thursday – Friday – Duke of Edinburgh International Award overnight taster camp

Tuesday, 6th December – Parent Workshop – Secondary Focus

Thursday, 8th December – Festive Jumper Day

Thursday, 8th December – Coffee Morning

Monday, 12th December – KS1 and Y3/4 Festive Assemblies

Tuesday, 13th December – Winter Fair

Tuesday, 13th December – TBS Choir sings at the British Embassy

Wednesday, 14th December – Reports Released

Thursday, 15th December – Last Day of Term 1

Sunday, 8th January – First Day of Term 2

Have a great Week!

School Principal
Jane Knight