

This Week at TBS!

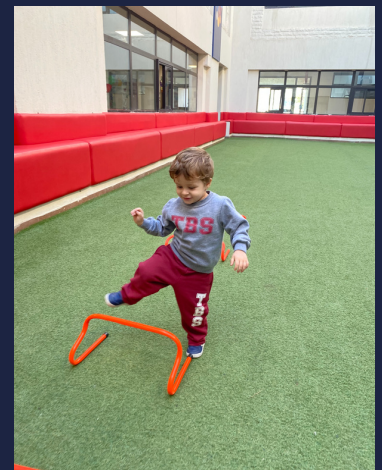
Dear Parents,

I feel as if I am coming full circle: it is a year ago since I first visited TBS to meet with everyone and learn more about my new school. I arrived the week when the Winter Fair was happening having the opportunity to meet with staff and students who were very busy with end of term preparations. A year on and again we have very busy staff and students making final preparations for end of term assemblies and the winter fair. The 'Tiger's Den' gave the students the opportunity to present their ideas and ask for additional investment to support their sales pitches. Resources are here and every day I get to try out sample cookies, slime or see how other ideas are being turned into real products to be sold. Make sure that you come to the Winter Fair and see our innovative entrepreneurs in action. Tuesday, 13th December.

We are a Learning Community

Many thanks to our KS1 parents who joined us for our Parent Workshop last week. Our Heads of Year shared our teaching approaches to phonics and mathematics and then parents joined their children in class to see learning in action. We will be planning more Parent Workshops inviting you to be a TBS student for lessons for more year groups next term.

This week our Parent Workshop is about the work of two psychologists whose work has had a tremendous impact on our understanding of learning: Malsow and Bloom. I will be leading the workshop introducing to the work of Maslow and Bloom sharing how this impacts teaching and learning at TBS and how you can use their work to support your child's learning at home – no matter their age. Everyone welcome.





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

Thank you to all of you who completed our parent survey. We will read all your feedback carefully and reviewing our Strategic Improvement Plan considering your suggestions.

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.

Feeling festive?

If you are still not in the festive spirit why not come along to here the choir I sing in, Maadi International Choir, perform on Wednesday, 7th December at St John's church in Maadi at 7:30pm. Alternatively, why not come along to the British Embassy on Tuesday, 13th December to hear our TBS choir join with choirs from other British Schools across Cairo for a festive evening.

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Save The Children Festive Jumper Day

You will be receiving an email about this event but I wanted to give you a heads up so you can dig out those festive jumpers, buy bigger ones for those growing children and buy a jumper for a child in need. This event will be on Thursday, 8th December and all donated jumpers will be given to Save the Children here in Egypt to distribute to children in need.

TBS Updated Assessment Policy

Please click here ([Whole School Assessment policy - REVISION Sep 22 \(1\).pdf - Google Drive](#)) to read our updated TBS Assessment Policy which outlines the many different assessments used throughout the school, how we feedback to you, how we use data to inform learning and our target setting process.

Updates from around the school!

An update from Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

This week in Primary has been special as children presented their learning in assemblies. Each class will have a turn throughout the year. This week, the children spoke about financial awareness and recognised the difference between things we need to survive and things we want. This links with the learning in class in preparation for the Winter Fayre.

In FS1, the week ended with a birthday party celebration for teddies. Children have been learning about different traditions and celebrations from around the world and enjoyed dressing in party clothes and enjoying yummy food.

Year 1 and 2 parents were invited to attend a workshop to see how we teach Phonics and Maths in these year groups. Thank you to all of the parents who attended and joined the children in the classrooms.

The Arabic department have also been learning about food and understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy food. The children enjoyed a cooking activity in the hall where they made fruit salad whilst discussing the topic using their Arabic language skills.

We are fast approaching the end of Term 1 and are beginning to collect in library books and reading books. This is so that they can be organised and collated ready for Term 2. Teachers will set books on E-Collins if you wish to read over the holiday. However, we do encourage you to use the upcoming break for rest, rejuvenation and valuable family time.



لغتنا العربية

قام قسم اللغة العربية بتنظيم نشاط للصيفين الثانى والثالث الابتدائى لربط مايدرسونه بالواقع وكان النشاط عن الطعام الصحى وعناصره المتوازنة وقام التلاميذ بعمل سلطة الخضار والفاكهة وكان يوما رائعا وقضى تلاميذنا حصة ممتعة مع معلميهـم



KS1 Hands-on Workshop

KS1 parents were invited to attend an insightful workshop at TBS last week. The workshop involved crucial information about the Phonics and Mathematics curriculum in Years 1 & 2 as well as valuable information about the tools and strategies used in the classroom. It commenced with a brief introduction in the school Hall, where Ms. Laura, Head of Year One, talked about various phonics strategies and Ms. Sarah, Head of Year Two, discussed Mathematics tools used on a day-to-day basis. Later on, parents were given the opportunity to take part in an exciting carousel of Phonics and Mathematics activities in the classroom with their children, where they learnt more about how to support their children at home. The activities involved the use of part- whole models, hundred squares, base ten frame and a number of phonics games and interactive activities using Education City website. We were thrilled to have all the parents participating enthusiastically with their and looking forward to our next workshop with all of you.



It's not "just play"

Play is an essential part of early learning. It is the lifeblood of the learning process. As children play, they are developing the cognitive, socio-emotional, and physical skills they will need to take them into a successful adulthood.



An update from Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary

We ended last week with a 'sold-out' International Award Sleepover here on the TBS Campus. Students were full of excitement, enthusiasm and high expectations. The event was a big learning experience for many of our students as they realised preparing chicken kebabs and a hot charcoal grill needed skills they might not have! In no particular order students learnt that:

1. You can't light lumps of charcoal with a match
2. Sleeping on the ground can get very cold
3. You can't see if chicken is cooked if it is dark
4. It gets coldest in the hour before dawn
5. You can survive the night without a smart phone

This was a very good way to introduce students to the need for planning. From what they will eat through to how they will cook everything. Within this group we are hopeful that we have our first Bronze Award students and perhaps Silver too. They will definitely be the first group of many to know what it means to overcome challenges on our IA programme.

Staff are also hard at work finalising their Term One reports that will be sent out at the end of next week. These reports will have the following information:

- Tutor report on the general progress and achievements over the Term
- Subject Attainment Grades
- Subject Target Grades
- Subject learning skills
- Attendance

Please note that in KS3 subjects the new grading system will be fully used:

- WA: working above the standard for the year
- WW: working within the standard for the year
- WT: working towards the standard for the year
- WB: Working below the standard for the year

This early in the year it is unlikely that students will be working above or within the standard for the year group, as they have had little time to develop the skills needed to be successful alongside new knowledge and understanding. Similarly, students are unlikely to be hitting the top levels in IGCSE/AS and A Levels this early as they are full one- or two-year courses. If a teacher has concerns about your child's progress, they will be contacting you independently. Finally, our own TBS World Cup competition enters the Quarter-Final stage with the following games scheduled over the week:

- Monday: Qatar vs Mexico
- Tuesday: Costa Rica vs Uruguay
- Wednesday: Wales vs Saudi Arabia
- Thursday: Germany vs Serbia

Teams are finding out that it is not the strength of individual players that will get them through, but being able to get a full team of eight students to turn up! This is a valuable lesson for the team captains to learn. Focus on your strengths, but remember your areas for development! The strength of a chain, is always dependent on the weakest link!

Have a great week, and please remember that Thursday is Christmas Jumper Day!

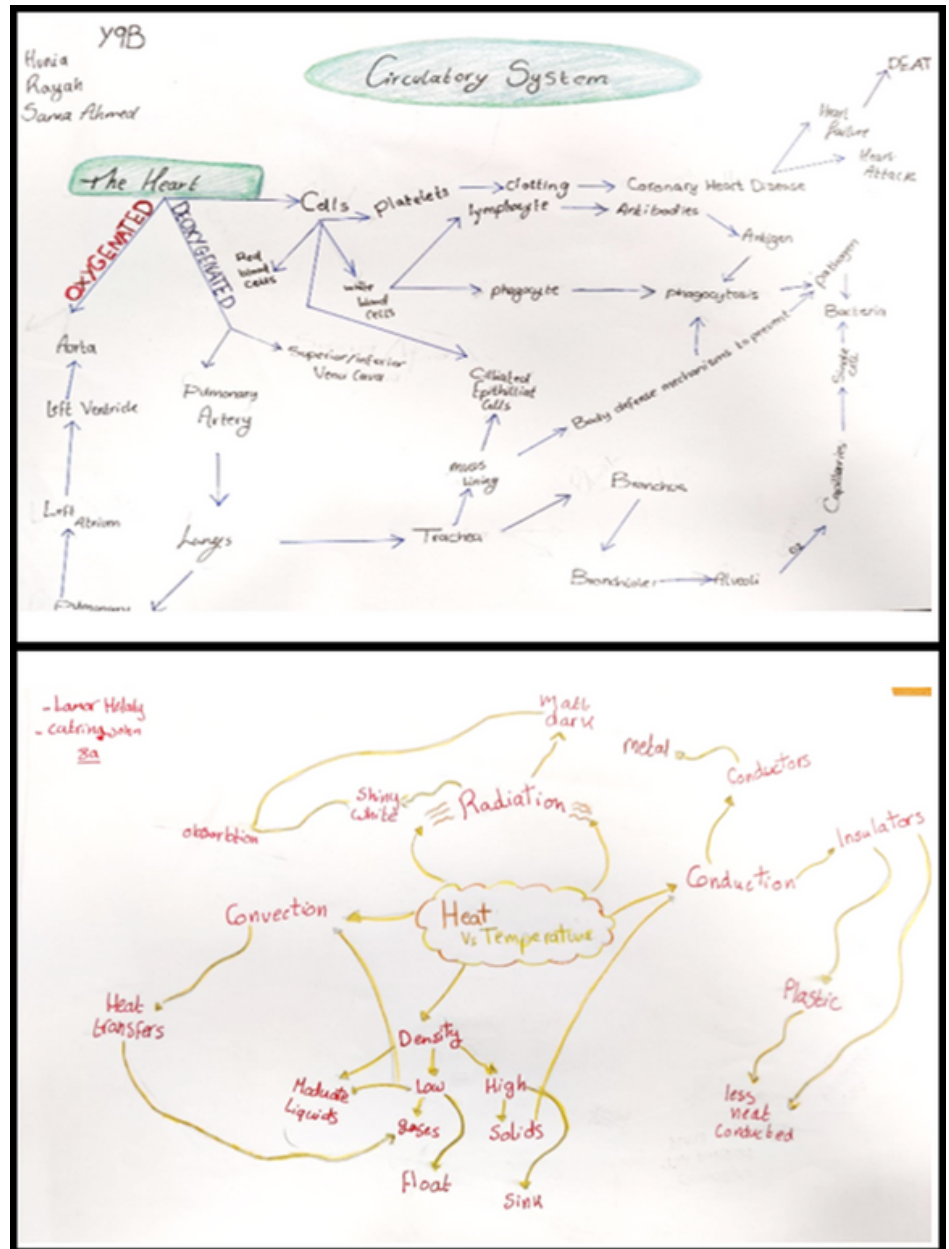
Mind Mapping in Science

In Year 8 and 9, students have been experimenting with building effective mind maps for challenging science topics. This is part of the Science department's drive this year into promoting skills-based learning next to knowledge-based. Research has shown that skills-based education promotes greater independence, increases learning speed, and provides inter-curricular development.

Mind Mapping is a useful technique that supports learning, improves information recording, shows how different facts and ideas are related, and enhances creative problem solving. It uses a two-dimensional structure, instead of the list format

conventionally used to take notes. This makes information easier to remember, as it's held in a format that our minds find easy to recall and quick to review.

Mind Maps are more compact than conventional notes, and often take up just one side of paper. This helps you to make associations and to generate new ideas. You can also add new information easily, even to a Mind Map that you've already drawn.





Dates for your Diary:

- Tuesday, 6th December – Parent Workshop at 8am – Whole School focus on ‘Maslow before Blooms’
- Tuesday, 6th December – Y12 Careers and Guidance Event
- Wednesday, 7th December – Y11 Careers and Guidance Event
- Wednesday, 7th December – Y6 Educational trip
- Thursday, 8th December – Festive Jumper Day
- Thursday, 8th December – Coffee Morning
- Sunday, 11th December – MOH polio vaccinations for under 5 year olds. (by parental agreement)
- 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