

1st September, 2022

This Week at TBS!

Dear TBS Families,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and are refreshed, ready for a new busy school year. I travelled home to Scotland spending time with family and friends and enjoying the much warmer than the normal summer temperatures and sunshine. The area I come from is very close to Loch Lomond and some other amazing places to visit with stunning views of mountains, lochs and the River Clyde. For my family and I there is nothing better than packing a picnic and heading out in the car to explore and find a new place to enjoy the views and time together. We would love to share in your holiday adventures so why not share some pictures on social media and tag us?

Over the summer months our maintenance and operations teams at school have been busy with some renovations and the upgrading of our building. All our classrooms and corridors have been painted and our teachers are now turning them back into inviting learning environments to welcome your children back.

In addition to the regular maintenance, we have some very exciting additions that will directly impact on our children in all areas of the school. You might have seen some images on social media of the new screen in our hall. Gone is the slightly yellowing projector screen, gone is the projector with its cables and wires and in comes a custom designed LED screen with unbelievable clarity and a new sound system. As a staff, we have been using it extensively for our induction training and there have been many conversations about how we can use the new screen to enhance performances, workshops, assemblies, art projects and more. There is even talk of movie afternoons for our children...and watching World Cup matches! Be assured that this new screen and sound system is going to enhance many aspects of the curriculum.





We have made some changes

More additions are around our football pitch with some much-needed shading and seating areas for lunch, chatting, reflection and cheering our sports teams. Currently being installed in our Early Years play area is a sail which will provide shading over a large part of the area enabling our youngest children to use this valuable learning area not only all year round but throughout the day. When the sail has been installed, we will have a brand-new climbing frame replacing our previous structure that I know will be much enjoyed by all the children in EYFS.

The Pod area in EYFS has been brought to life with some motivational banners and the hard edges all covered with custom designed padding so this area can be safely used for physical activities. Upstairs our Y11/12 Common Room is having a face-lift.

Our Library

Our library has a fresh new look and we have a lot of new books coming to upgrade our collection. The new books are for all ages and many have been requested by our regular library visitors. Throughout the year we will continue to add new books to the shelves. For me, reading is the key to language development and an insight into the world around us so encouraging our children to access the library to read for enjoyment will be a focus in all years. Following on from your positive feedback we are planning more Book Fayres – you can never have too many books!

Meet the Teacher

Next week you will be receiving an invitation for you and your children to our Meet the Teacher event which will be on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th September. This event will run much like our Student Led Conferences where the focus will be on setting age-appropriate targets for the start of term as well as an opportunity to get to know each other. It is therefore vital that you attend these meetings.

External Examination Results

The much-awaited external exam results are in and we are very proud of all our TBS students' achievements. At this time, there are always a range of emotions from both our students and parents when anticipated grades are either higher or lower than expected. Our Academic and Pastoral teams are always on hand to support and advise on next steps. Although a small minority of our students will need to re-sit some of their exams, we are so proud of the resilience they have demonstrated.



Top achieving students

You might have already seen some of our A Level Success Stories on social media, but if you have not, here is an overview of our top achieving students, most of which are 'home grown' TBS students having been with us since early primary:

- Youssef Metias – 4 A*s at A Level
- Karma Ghanem - 4 A/A*s at AS and A Level
- Youssef Shehab – 4 As at AS Level
- Aditya Chaudhari – 3 A* at A Level
- Hussein Ehab Ragab – 3 A/A*s at AS and A Level
- Adam Othman– 3 A/A*s at A Level
- Ammar Farouk – 3 A/A*s at AS and A Level
- Youssef Abo El Dahab – 3 As at AS level
- Yasmine Aly El Fiky – 3 As at AS and A level
- Nicole Attia – 3 As at AS level
- Yusuf Yeniocak – 3 A/Bs at A Level

Our IGCSE Success Stories will be shared next.

Our overall results for both the iGCSE, AS and A Level are very positive and a deeper analysis of all our results by our department heads allows us to adapt our curriculum provision to ensure that we provide the support for our students to build on their areas of strength and areas for reinforcement.

We are waiting for the UK statistics to be released for both IGCSE and A Level so we can compare our overall results with the national averages. However, here is an overview of our TBS statistics which, compared to pre-pandemic results, are on an upward trend.

IGCSE:

- 83% of our entries achieved A*/C equivalent
- 57% of these entries achieved A*/A equivalent

A Level :

- 65% of our entries achieved A*/C in AS and A2
- 43% of those entries achieved A*/A in AS and A2
- 74% of our entries achieved 74% A*/C in A2
- 58% of those entries achieved 58% A*/A in A2

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A guide for grading terminology

If you are not a parent of a child who is in the exam years, you might not be so familiar with the terminology related to grades. Here is a quick guide:

Equivalent – in 2017 the UK government changed the grading system from letters to numbers. A score of 7-8 is equivalent to an A and 9 to an A*

AS – The Advanced Subsidiary Level is the end of the first year of the two year A Level course. It is a qualification in its own right.

A2 – This is the second half of the two year A Level course and follows on from the AS. The AS and the A2 combined give the A Level award

A* - this grade was introduced in 2010 as an additional score for top % scores

Introducing you to our new leaders

Make sure you keep checking our social media feeds for interviews with some of our new senior and middle leaders talking about themselves and their plans for TBS. We have new Heads of Department for Mathematics, English, Commercial Studies and Arabic who are bringing their vast experience and subject knowledge to TBS. We will be sharing the bios of our new staff over the coming weeks.

Next week I will share more exam statistics focusing on specific subject areas and the results of our Year 9 external results as well as our School Strategic Plans for the year. I will also share the areas we have been working on during our induction weeks.

Have a great Week!

School Principal

MS Jane Knight