

This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents,

At last we are back! Wonderful to see you all of your children in their classrooms, the corridors and outdoor areas and hear their voices again. Our school without you is just a building without a heart.

Coffee Mornings are back!

Every Thursday morning at 0800am you are invited to join myself and my leadership teams for a cup of coffee or tea. This week on Thursday, 29th September come and meet our new Head of Arabic and Secondary Assistant Head of Curriculum.

Parent Workshops

Throughout the year we will be running Tuesday Parent Workshops each with a different focus for different parts of the school. This week's workshop on Tuesday, 27th September, will be led by Ms Sue Lessiter, Assistant Head of Early Years and KS1, will be on the topic of 'Learning Through Play: Young Children'. This workshop will start at 1.30pm in our hall and explore the following areas:

- Different kinds of play
- Schemas and child led learning
- Continuous Provision in school
- Open ended resources that enhance play
- How Parents can support play at home

After the workshop, EYFS parents are invited to go to their child's classroom to enjoy some time playing. Although specifically designed for parents of children in EYFS, the workshop is open to all.





Additional Parent Workshops

We are delighted to welcome Dr Hala Hammad the well renowned educational psychologist into school this week to run workshops with both parents and children. These workshops cover parents and children from Y3 to Y12. If you have children in these year groups you will already have received an invitation with more details. We ask that you complete the forms to register your attendance and your permission for your child to attend the workshops too.

Discussion topic	Date and Time	Year group
Bullying	Tuesday 27/9	Year 3 & 4
Sexual Awareness	Sunday 2/10	Year 7 to 12
Sexual Awareness and Bullying	Monday 3/10	Year 5 & 6

Baker Books are back!

We will be sending out the latest Baker Books catalogues shortly. Baker Books offer amazing deals on the most popular children's books that are sure to keep your child's imagination buzzing. Make sure that you meet the deadline for ordering books. Please note that we all benefit from Baker Books: you build your child's reading skills and TBS gets more books for our library!

Education over time challenge

One of the things we were looking at during our extended staff induction was the way education has changed over time...or has it?

Answers to last week's quotes:

1. Education is the kindling of a flame not the filling of a vessel – Socrates 400BCE
2. It's better to learn late than never – Syrus 50BCE
3. An educator is a man (woman) who can make hard things easy – Benjamin Franklin 1700
4. It's a mystery that curiosity survives formal education – Albert Einstein early 1900
5. Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world – Nelson Mandela late 1900

How well did you do?

Here are five more for you to try, answers next week:

1. Children should be taught how to think not what to think
2. Educating the mind without the heart is no education at all
3. One child, one teacher, one pen, one book can change the world
4. We often offer children answers to remember instead of problems to solve
5. An educator is a man (woman) who can make hard things easy

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.

Friends of TBS

We will also be looking for some new volunteers to join our Friend of TBS group as class or year group representatives. Our friends are a vital support for new families joining TBS as well as the community as a whole. In previous years, the FTBS have organised many different events and activities both in and out of school: from bake sales to family picnics. Let's start our new academic year with an even stronger friends of TBS group – why not get involved and be part of our TBS community.

Updates from around the school!

EYFS

It was wonderful to welcome our youngest students to school, some of them for the first time ever.

Thank you to the parents for being so supportive and patient, we are impressed at how quickly the children are settling in. The classrooms and corridors are coming alive with children's creations and there is a lovely noise of fun and laughter which we have missed during the holidays.

The children have been having fun getting to know their new friends and teachers. The new outdoor play area with shades and a new climbing frame is also a big hit and the children look forward to garden times each day.

We are trying to protect the children from the Sun, so please remember to send a sunhat to school each day and make sure it is labelled with your child's name.

Our students are showing real independence in school, especially during snack and lunch times. Please remember we are encouraging healthy eating and children do not need sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks during the day. We also have a strict 'NO NUTS' policy because of allergies, but some children have brought nuts this week, you may have found a note from the teacher to remind you.

We are enjoying getting to know the children through our first 'All About Me' topic. In FS2B they had fun marching around the classroom while exploring the letters of their names (see the photo).

We hope to see many of you at our first Parent Workshop next week on Tuesday 27th September at 1.30pm. We will talk about 'Learning through play' then parents can go to the classrooms to play with their children.



New commercial studies Team

There has been an exciting start to this academic year in the Commercial Studies department, with Ms. Hassan and Mr. Stock making a new team blending vital TBS experience with innovative ideas. IGCSE Business Studies Y11 also has an exciting new edition with Mr. Rafferty "concentrically diversifying" into the Commercial Studies department from ICT. The department had impressive grades last academic year at both A2 and IGCSE

- A2 Economics 75% of students achieved A-A*
- A2 Accounting 9-4 (A*-C) : 82%
- IGCSE Economics 7-9 (A*-A*) : 43%
- IGCSE Business Studies 9-7 (A*-A) : 42%
- Travel and Tourism 9-4 (A*-C) : 80%

The results are a testament to the team and our students' hard working ethic. We are now looking to continuously improve and add value to the results in 2023, through contextual based learning with a collaborative approach to assessment.



Meet Ms Areeg, new PE teacher

We are really excited to welcome Ms Areeg Shash to our TBS family, Areeg will be joining the PE team, her personality, experience, and vision is exactly what we are looking for at TBS. She has extensive knowledge and experience and will add so much value to the PE team. Areeg has a passion for Karate and has represented Egypt, she is World, European, African and Arab Karate champion. Areeg has been honoured for her contribution and success to sport from the president of Egypt – Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

What an amazing role model to our students!



We are the English Department

My name is Hywel Ward, I am the Head of English and Humanities. I am very excited to join TBS this year, along with Elizabeth Ward, and Sumayah Hassan also both new members. We are joining Lenka Starkova who has worked at the school for several years too. We will all endeavor to make the English language experience exciting, creative, and appealing to students of all levels.

This week, the English teaching team have spent time getting to know the students. They are of course all wonderful people, with excellent ideas and creativity. We have been looking at the student needs as well such as identifying any area of language development that they might need to focus on. Most importantly, we have been trying to find out what the students' interests are, so we can produce lessons that are appealing to the students and can generate an interest in reading and writing. Fostering a love of English can promote success for both first and second language learners.

Some of the book titles that Year 7 were keen to talk about were "Diary of a Wimpy Kid", "Sherlock Holmes" and even "Hunger Games", a fantastic range of novels! We love reading in the English department, so please encourage your child to bring in a book to read each day, we'd love to hear their reviews.

TBS House system

As featured in Harry Potter, The House system is a traditional theme for schools in England and the United Kingdom.

The House system was devised to promote team spirit and a sense of belonging to the school. Collaboration is one of the main strengths of the House system, giving students of all ages the opportunity to work together, creating a truly cohesive environment and ensuring that age is not a barrier to friendship and collaboration. Also, this enables the senior students at the school to provide care and direction to their junior schoolmates. The House system provides excellent opportunities for student leadership and peer group support.

A secondary feature of House systems is the competition between houses. For example, the traditional school sports day is usually an inter-house competition. Debating competitions and charity drives are also often organised along inter-House lines. Merit points for behaviour and academic achievement may also be totaled up for comparison between houses.

At TBS, we have a year-long programme of inter-House events, in which each House "hosts" an event at which all houses compete, with points contributing to the award of the House Cup at the end of the year. Inspired by Egyptian History, TBS Houses are named after four famous Ancient Egyptian characters reflecting their significant strengths and leadership traits. A school captain and vice-captain are selected from the senior cohort of students who are in their senior years of schooling. School captains represent the school at special events, school activities and functions and play a role in school assembly.



Connection before Correction – Encourage rather than Praise
Solutions VS Consequences – Be Kind and Firm

[illegible]



TBS Strategic Improvement Plan

In our last newsletter I shared an overview of the TBS Strategic Improvement Plan for the next three years. Each week I will focus on one of the Strategic Goals and the milestones that we have put in place for this academic year. As I list the Milestones, I will also comment on what this will look like as they develop in school and how you can be supporting as stakeholders.

Strategic Goal 2: Assessment for Learning

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

Our Milestones for this year are:

1. Clear agreed whole school assessment and reporting procedures

As a whole school we have looked carefully at previous years plans for assessment and considered which assessments have given us interesting data and those which have given us useful data. It is the useful data giving assessments which allow teachers to make changes to planning or provide personalised learning options. Often the most useful assessments are not those involving students taking a written exam. Especially not every six weeks when there is not time to analyse, implement and measure progress.

All assessments, whether formal or informal, formative or summative, need to be graded against an agreed rubric focusing on the Key Performance Indicators for each year and subject. To verify results, moderation across teachers is planned as is a shared grading system: Working Below, Working Towards, Working Within, Working Above or 1-9 for external exam subjects.

Our integrated timeline and workflow for this academic year sets out the times when teacher assessment needs to be added to our tracking system (data drops) and the subsequent Student Progress Meetings across year groups and departments. This leads to target setting meetings with students and, where necessary, interventions for 'student of concern' – those who are not making expected progress. Student Led Conferences involve you in this discussion reviewing agreed targets and setting new ones.

We have already spoken with many of you about what you want from our formal reports. The overwhelming response is that you want to know where your children are now and what the next steps in learning need to be. Last year we included targets at all levels and will continue to do so.

One key aspect to support children's learning is the marking and feedback from their work. For our younger students this is often given orally or through stickers and as students move into the higher years, marking is coded so the students can act on the advice. A written conversation showing actions and response on pieces of work is our goal. Rather than feedback this is 'feedforward' giving students strategies and further challenges to raise their level of attainment.



2. Data Action

All data gathered from planned 'data drops' needs to be carefully analysed to impact planning and support all learners as mentioned above. Again the aim is that all data generated is useful and in a format that all staff can access to impact learning. We use a range of ways to share analysed data with staff from an excel sheet to power BI generated graphs and charts.

At TBS we use a range of external standardised assessments to gather data as well as using teacher assessment from ongoing class work and measure against international benchmarks. The standardised assessments (GL CAT4, GL PTE, GL PTM, GL PTS, iGCSE and A-levels) allow us as school to look at data from a micro and macro perspective gaining an insight into such trends as: across year groups, subjects, gender differences. Such data analysis informs us of areas to focus on, curriculum and planning changes required and with our staffing requirements. Our aim is for our TBS students to make progress of greater than 75% relative to similar students worldwide.

3. Assessment for Learning planned in all lessons

This week we launched our Embedding Formative Assessment continuing professional development for all our staff at TBS. This is a two year programme led by the SSAT learning group from the UK and involves our staff in implementing and peer observations as well as sharing of good practice. We will be leading workshops related to our work with this so you are aware of how we are focusing on learning and changing teaching habits throughout our classes.

Have a great week!

School Principal

Ms Jane Knight