

This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents,

While we are still experiencing summer heat here in Cairo, friends in Kazakhstan are experiencing very early snows and having to cancel an annual event due to the rapid drop in temperatures and icy conditions: I wonder which scenario you would rather have? I have had some people talk of snow here in Rehab and I laughed at first until a friend who used to live here sent me a picture of a white Rehab in 2014!

This is my first autumn in Egypt and breakfasts on my balcony are becoming more of an option. One thing I have noticed is the change in light both in the morning and evening. It was particularly noticeable on Monday when I went to Maadi to sing in the Maadi International Choir. I had to check my watch when I left Rehab as the sun already set. As we would say in Scotland 'the nights are drawing in'.

Thank you to your feedback from our last newsletter. All of our school departments are keen to share with you the great learning that is going on and their plans for the rest of the term.

Coffee Mornings are back!

Please note that due to 6th October being a holiday, our next Coffee Morning will be on Thursday, 13th October at 0800 in the Quad.

We are a Community of Learners

Throughout the year we will be running Tuesday Parent Workshops each with a different focus for different parts of the school. Our next Parent Workshops will be on Tuesday, 4th October at 0800 in our Hall and will focus on reading. Led by Ms Rachel, our Head of Primary, this workshop is aimed at primary school parents but is open to all.

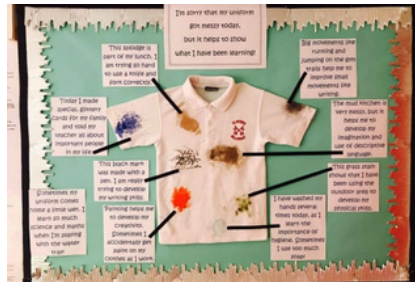


A huge thank you to everyone who attended our parent workshops this week.

On Monday we welcomed Dr Hala Hammad, renowned child and teenager psychiatrist and family therapist who spoke to a group of parents about the challenges of keeping children safe. Dr Hala then went on to speak with our Y3 and 4 students about how to deal with difficult friendships and the differences between being rude, being mean and bullying.

On Tuesday our very own Ms Sue, Assistant Head of Early Years and KS1, lead a workshop focusing on play and learning. It was a packed house for this workshop and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. After the workshop the EYFS parents joined their children for some learning through play sessions in the classroom.

This image is reminder that learning can be messy.



Baker Books are back!

We have sent 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. Educating the mind without the heart is no education at all – Aristotle 300BCE
2. Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn – Benjamin Franklin 1700
3. Children should be taught how to think not what to think – Margaret Mead 1900
4. We often offer children answers to remember instead of problems to solve – Roger Lewin mid 1900
5. One child, one teacher, one pen, one book can change the world – Malala 2000

How well did you do?



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!

An update from Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

School has been buzzing with an excited energy this week as children have settled back into school, after returning with great enthusiasm. I am very proud of the manner in which children have settled into their new classes, with new teachers and friends. New joiners to our TBS family have been made to feel very welcome by all of the community.

Every class has been busy getting to know one another through lots of fun activities. The teachers have been observing and reviewing what the children can do through a variety of informal assessments – we call these baseline assessments as they provide us with information about what the children can already do and how we will move them forwards. I look forward to watching them grow as we continue with the term.

I would like to take this opportunity to kindly remind parents to wear the yellow lanyards when entering school. If you are collecting your child from school, please ensure that the class teacher is aware that you have collected your child.



A community of musicians at TBS!

Having taught music in Egypt for 7 years now, I am very aware of how music is an often-overlooked part of children's education. We understand; subjects where there are formal exams will always take precedence. As such it is often easy for the achievements, and impact music has on a school to go unnoticed. But the impacts are huge.

Here, I am not just talking about concerts; sure, we all love the end of the year productions, and seeing our children shine on stage, but here at TBS we have been building something that goes way beyond that. Last years end of year spectacular "The Lion Thing" was, well, spectacular, there is something equally amazing that happens in school every week. Every week we have more than 200 students playing the violin. We have more than 200 violinists in our school.

I feel pretty secure in saying that means TBS has more violinists than any other school in Egypt (and probably most other countries). That's pretty impressive, and something we should all feel excited by.

But what impact does that have the school community?

Learning a musical instrument develops so many skills in students, and you will hear more about this in future newsletters. One of the most noticeable is a sense of both personal and interpersonal discipline; developing the fine physical control needed to manipulate the bow and strings, students also develop the mental control to be able focus on detail and accuracy. In performing as an ensemble, in unity, we learn how even our smallest actions contribute to a groups success and progress. We learn how to stand strong together, and how to support one another.

We only began this process of learning a year ago, but already our students are showing great potential, and there is a real team spirit showing through; they are keen to help each other progress. With violin studies at TBS only being in it's second year, things are only going to get better with each year that passes.



Here's to an exciting year in Year 5!

Welcome to Year 5! We had a great start to the year last week, especially with the All about me projects. This week, we had fun starting our autobiographies. In Year 5, we will encourage the children to be independent and take ownership of their learning. We look forward to a year full of learning, growth and development. We have planned a year full of activities and projects to allow the children to showcase their talents. While we are now focusing on the Ancient Greeks and Romans, there are several exciting topics coming your way throughout the year.

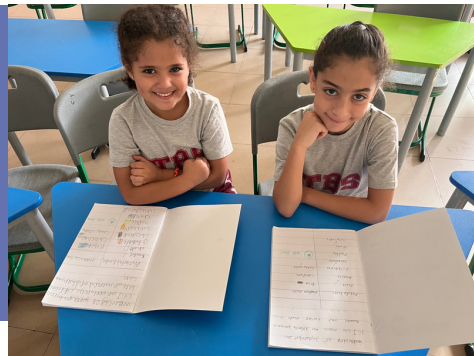
We always remind our children to continuously use their Jewels of Kindness and for this they will be rewarded during our weekly assembly.



Year 3 - A warm welcome back after the summer holidays!

Being able to welcome the kids back after such a lengthy absence has been amazing. The year three children have adapted very well to this school year. With the help of numerous icebreaker activities and games, the children have been able to get to know their classrooms, classmates, and teachers. The children have begun to expand their understanding of place value using various techniques. The children were writing a recollection of their summer vacation events last week in English class. I like reading them. Many people had the good fortune to take vacations, visit the Egyptian beaches, or move to Egypt like Mrs. Aisha and Ms. Alex. This week in English, we read Stone Age Boy and liked using Talk for Writing to recreate the story.

Talk for Writing which is a unique process that uses spoken activities to develop the children's writing skills. The children have used this efficiently and written a fantastic retell of the story. We hope to use engaging teaching framework throughout the year. Having read Stone Age Boy, the children have easily transitioned to learning about Stone Age in Thematic Learning. Did you know that The Stone Age is the longest time period in human timeline? Please feel free to share any information you may have regarding the Stone Age with your child to share with the rest of their class. We look forward to teaching them more about it this term!



An update from Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary

There is a great sense of purpose building around school that can be seen and felt in our classrooms, corridors and playing fields. Our students want to be the 'best versions of themselves' and are safe in the knowledge that teachers are there to support them. I hope you can also feel the changes in how our students are conducting and applying themselves. We are finalising the After School Activity programme and will be sharing details with you shortly. The signup deadline will be Monday 10 October. It will then take place for eight weeks between 17 October and 5 December. We have a good selection across sport, skills, clubs, the arts and action. The 17 activities open to Secondary students offer something for everyone.

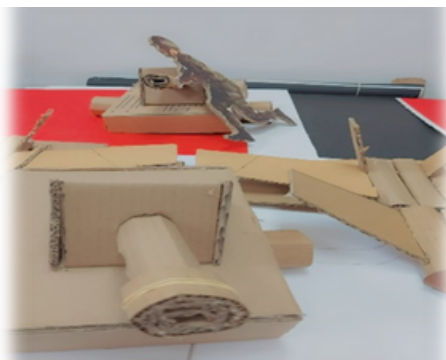
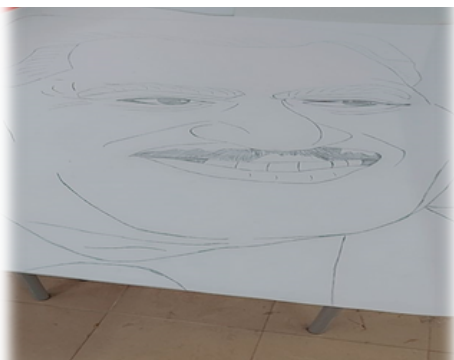
This is the first week of our new Y12 Attendance model, both students and staff have responded positively to the changes with the focus on developing independence and responsibility. In today's Assembly students launched the beginning of our Think Pink initiative for October to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer. We raised over 23kLE last year and I'm sure students will want to do better this year! Its success as well as other events will come from our students and their leadership. This launch coincided with our closing date for Student Leader applications. Miss Jo and Miss Liz have been overwhelmed by the response from students to get involved and grow our community. We look forward to sharing their plans in the coming weeks.

Our curriculum is designed to fulfil the needs of exam boards, the MoE, our students as well as our vision. It becomes a reality in the 'timetable' and gets designed early in the year to identify recruitment needs based on student choices. However, student needs change, so Mr. Chris and Mr. Stephen are working creatively to fulfil student needs. They are ably supported by flexible staff and patient students.

لغتنا العربية



يستعد قسم اللغة العربية والدراسات الاجتماعية لاحتفال من أهم الاحتفالات في تاريخنا العظيم ألا وهو نصر أكتوبر المجيد ولذلك كان الاسبوع الماضي حافلا بتدريبات واستعداد كبير لهذا الاحتفال الذي بات قريبا والذي ندعوكم لمشاركتنا فيه عبر الأثير حتى نشعر جميعا بالفخر بوطننا العظيم مصر ونرى بانوراما مصغرة لحرب أكتوبر من تنفيذ قسم الدراسات الاجتماعية بقيادة العظيم (مستر تامر).



Lab Safety and science skills

The past two weeks Year 7 and 8 students learned about lab safety and hazards. During science practicals, students are exposed to many potential hazards. It is important to not only be aware of these hazards but to remain actively attentive to one's surroundings to prevent accidents. Students learned the basic lab safety rules and hazard signs, and also produced short video clips for their colleagues where they emphasized what they learned.

Take a look at the picture below with your child and see if you can identify any hazards in a science lab:



As Key Stage 3 students begin their journey in secondary science, they will continue to develop and improve certain science skills used by the professional scientific community in their research. Behind their learning will be the hardworking and committed TBS science teachers who will not only guide our students' scientific discoveries, but also forge positive and lasting relationships in the process.



The TBS Science team wishes you a safe and exciting new 2022-23 academic year!





Term 1 Standardised Assessments at TBS

One tool that TBS uses to learn about students is a standardised assessment. This term we will be using both the GL CAT4 assessment and GL PASS assessment with specific year groups across the school.

Usually created by commercial test publishers, standardised tests are designed to give a common measure of students' performance. Because large numbers of students throughout the UK and internationally take the same test, they give educators a common yardstick or "standard" of measure. Educators use these standardised tests to tell how well school programs are succeeding or to give themselves a picture of the skills and abilities of today's students.

GL PASS assessment is a tool that we use to support students' wellbeing in learning and offers practical next steps to support. Social and emotional wellbeing is essential for effective learning, yet there will always be students who lack confidence in their learning and who do not always feel connected with school and their teachers. PASS takes the guesswork out of understanding why this might be, focusing on three broad areas: how a student feels about themselves, their engagement with the curriculum, and their feelings about school. Students from Y3 – 12 will take the GL PASS assessment online later this term.

GL CAT4 standardised assessment measures verbal, non-verbal, quantitative, and special reasoning and individual and group analysis on strengths and how to support areas for development. The GL CAT4 assessments are run for students every two years. Over the coming weeks the students in Y2, 4, 6, 8 & 9 will be taking these online assessments.

The GL CAT4 measure students' abilities to learn in school-how well they are likely to do in future schoolwork. Instead of measuring knowledge of subjects taught in school, these tests measure a broad range of abilities or skills that are considered important to success in school. They can measure verbal ability, mechanical ability, creativity, clerical ability, or abstract reasoning. The results from aptitude tests help teachers to plan instruction that is appropriate for the students' levels.

Standardised tests have limitations. These tests are not perfect measures of what individual students can or cannot do or of everything students learn. Also, your child's scores on a particular test may vary from day to day, depending on whether your child guesses, receives clear directions, follows the directions carefully, takes the test seriously, and is comfortable in taking the test.

We use the data from both assessments to triangulate with teacher's observations to ensure we provide the very best supported learning for your child.

Many parents ask about what they can do to support their children during assessment times. The best advice I can give is to make sure that they get plenty of sleep and physical exercise as well as a healthy diet so they are ready for whatever challenge faces them each day – assessments or not.



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 3: Developing Stakeholders

Visionary Statement: Fostering a culture of self-improvement, promoting responsibility, leadership and reflective practice with a commitment to life-long learning.

Our Milestones for this year are:

1. Develop middle-leadership to impact change and become pro-active whilst being accountable

As part of our induction this year, all our Middle Leaders at TBS took part in a Leadership Course with High Performance Learning from the UK. This course was specifically designed to support these very important leaders at TBS with action planning and how to get the best from their team. Our Middle Leaders are our Heads of Year in Primary and Heads of Key Stage and Heads of Department in Secondary and they are the 'engines' of our learning community. Throughout the academic year our Middle Leaders will continue to be supported and mentored by our Senior Leadership Team to develop their leadership skills and support their teams and students.

2. Stakeholders actively involved in school and self-development

Who are the stakeholders in TBS? The answer is all of us! So, this Milestone is directed at not only our teachers but also at our students and you, our parents.

Below in our Dates for Your Dairy you will see the range of weekly Parent Workshops that are in place for the next month. These workshops are designed to support you, our parents, so you have a deeper understanding of learning at TBS. We all have come from different educational backgrounds and experiences so any opportunity to look at 21st century learning based on current educational research gives you the tools to support your children. Each week there is a different focus on areas of the school. However, you are all welcome to come to any session. In addition to our Parent Workshops, we have planned some special Open Days for you to come and be a student and experience the TBS classroom for real. Of course, your input is vital, and we are always open to constructive feedback on how to keep supporting our learning community. Participating in the twice-yearly Parent Satisfaction Survey helps us prioritise and celebrate our achievements.

For our students of all ages, opportunities for leadership and to share their opinions is essential. Throughout the school students are currently applying for roles ranging from class representative for our Student Councils to Head Boy and Girl. In addition to support our emerging student leaders we also have Student Volunteers who will support our Student Leaders and become our learners of the future.

For our teachers (and all TBS staff) our weekly CPD sessions, online course options, subject training opportunities and more including our Quality Assurance programme ensure everyone receives the support they need. More about our CPD sessions and our Embedding Formative Assessment course next week.



Dates for your Diary:

- Tuesday, 4th October – Parent Workshop: The Importance of Reading at 0800 (Primary Focus)
- Wednesday, 5th October – Celebration of 6th October (in school event)
- Thursday, 6th October – Monday, 10th October: Public and School Holidays
- Tuesday, 11th October – Back to School
- Tuesday, 11th October – Parent Workshop: Learning Through Play (EYFS Focus)
- Tuesday, 11th October – TBS supporting National Polio Vaccination Programme for under 5's
- Thursday, 13th October – Coffee Morning with TBS SLT at 0800
- Thursday, 13th October – Celebration of the Birthday of Prophet Mohamed (PBUH)
- Week beginning 16th October – School Photography Week
- Tuesday, 18th October – Parent Workshop: Formative vs Summative Assessment(Secondary Focus)
- Thursday, 20th October – Coffee Morning with TBS SLT at 0800
- Week beginning 25th October – Student Led Conferences Week
- Tuesday, 25th October – What is a curriculum? At 0800 (Whole School Focus)
- Monday, 31st October – Think Pink Fundraiser Day. Students invited to come to school dressed in pink and bring a donation for Breast Cancer Research

Have a great week!

School Principal

Ms Jane Knight