

# This Week at TBS!

## Dear Parents,

I hope you are enjoying these cooler temperatures as much as I am. This is my first autumn in Cairo. I loved this season in Kazakhstan as the leaves changed to amazing colours of reds and oranges before they dropped to the ground leaving a blanket before the snow fell. However, here in Cairo how lovely to be able to sit outside for dinner and take time to enjoy the lovely walks around Rehab in the evening through the well-kept garden areas. Those hot days of summer are now a distant memory: Snuggs, a local clothing brand, are already advertising their full length wearable fleecy blankets. Winter is coming...

## Coffee Mornings are back!

Every Thursday morning at 800am you are invited to join myself and my leadership teams for a cup of coffee or tea.

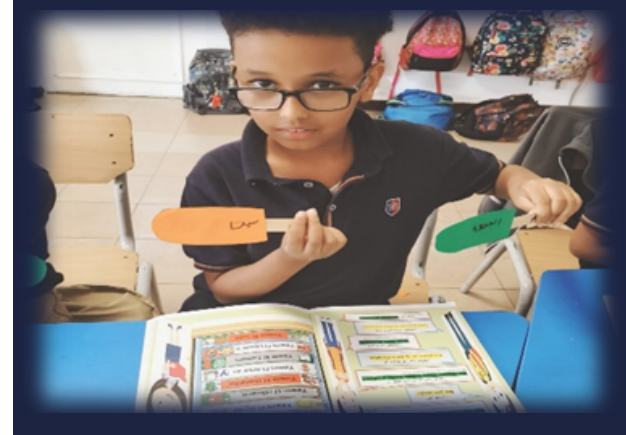
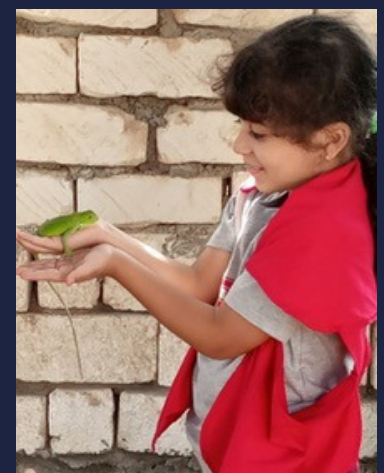
A huge thank you to everyone who attended last week and signed up to be part of our Friends of TBS group and those who volunteered to be part of our Advisory Council. We are still looking for class mums (or dads) to represent many classes or year groups so please sign up at the front desk or email to let us know you are willing to help.

This Thursday I will not be at Coffee Morning as I am attending a very special event with our parent company EEP as they celebrate a year of achievements with more schools and support companies joining our every growing family. However, Mr Nigel and Ms Rachel will be there along with Ms Alia our new Head of Arabic.

## We are a Community of Learners

A huge thank you to everyone who attended Mr Nigel's workshop which focused on the use of summative and formative assessment as well as how we use data to impact on your child's learning. Watch out for more workshops from Mr Nigel and the Secondary Team later this term.

This week it is my turn to lead a workshop. I will be sharing the presentation that I gave to all our new parents before the start of term focusing on 'curriculum' and I will go on to talk about a vitamin that you might not be aware of but is vital to your child's success...



## Tie your hair back!

A gentle reminder that all long hair should be tied back when students are in school. We are entering the hair lice season and there is nothing like better than loose hair so make sure that your child has their hair tied back securely everyday to try to prevent any transfer of these very itchy bugs

## Winter is Coming...

How lovely these cooler days are and we all know that cooler temperatures are on their way. Already I have noticed some children coming in with light jackets so I would like to remind you that only uniform jackets and jumpers should be worn in class. Please click here to visit BTM's website to see what is available for different year groups and to order online. BTM representatives will be in school this week located in the reception area on Wednesday, 26th October from 800am to 430pm and Thursday, 27th October from 800am to 330pm. Why not come and see what is on offer, check sizes and make an order here at TBS.

## Updates from around the school!

### An update from Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

This week in Primary, children have looked extremely smart for their school photographs. I wish to extend my thanks to parents for supporting with ensuring correct school uniform. We have also enjoyed the start of our After School Activity programme. This year, we have structured the ASAs to give children the opportunities to explore skills and talents in many different areas; for example arts, sports, STEM and global awareness. Children have enjoyed participating in a variety of activities including cooking, martial arts, drama, music, team sports etc. We look forward to seeing how the children develop their talents moving forward.

Also, this week, our Year 2 students were the first to go out of school on a trip. Year 2 visited Arty Science farm where they learnt about different animals, made pizza from scratch (and ate it), planted seedlings and learnt how to care for them, and created some fantastic artwork on pottery. A fun time was had by all and I am happy to say that the children were great representatives of TBS. Our other Year groups within Primary have lots of exciting trips and events coming up in this very busy term. Watch this space!





## Having fun in ArtyScience Farm!

Year Two went on a fantastic trip to ArtyScience Farm this week! They had a wonderful time at the farm where they were able to link their learning in Science about plants and nature with fun and engaging activities. The students took part in STEM activities including cooking, planting and painting.

They had the opportunity to learn about different animals and incorporate their sensory learning by touching the animals and smelling different types of plants and fruit. They were able to learn all about the plant life cycle and experience what they have learnt in school and see it in reality. They also got the chance to bake their very own pizzas using naturally grown farm ingredients, from farm to table.

Overall, Year Two had an amazing time at their trip at the farm and they are at the edge of their seats for their next trip!



## لغتنا العربية

يقدم معلمو قسم اللغة العربية حصصاً غنية بالأنشطة كل يوم ليستمتع تلاميذنا بخصص اللغة العربية والدراسات الاجتماعية فهؤلاء المعلمون لا يدخرون جهداً لتوصيل المعلومة لتلاميذهم فعلى سبيل المثال الاستاذ تامر يبتكر كل يوم طريقة لتوصيل المعلومة بأجمل الطرق والأستاذ مصطفى إسماعيل معلمنا الأول وصاحب أفضل نتائج IG ومعلمنا الاستاذ وائل الذي يقدم اللغة العربية للشهادة الإعدادية فى قناة مدرستنا كل هؤلاء فخر مدرستنا فلهم كل الشكر والعرفان



## Music; it's not brain surgery ... or is it?

If you have ever watched any American hospital drama, it's a common thing to see surgeons conducting complex operations whilst listening to classical music. This is not just some romantic notion of highly cultured doctors; scientific studies have demonstrated that certain musical styles do help calm nerves, aid concentration and reduce the perception of pain.

However, beyond it's calming effect, did you know that musical training is actually valued in medical schools? Why? Because musical (and art) training develops a whole set of skills that are not developed in any other subject. Fine motor skills, and ability to really sense minute changes with just the tips of fingers is one area that music develops in children that they will not get the chance to elsewhere. The ability to use and control a complex musical instrument to create a range of results is very similar to the ability to control and feel with a medical instrument. Also, the ability to react to momentary changes quickly and controlled, and with excellent muscle memory is something that young people really can master, way before anyone lets them loose with a scalpel in an operating theatre... through playing an instrument.

We are 5 weeks into the term and each class I am now seeing the changes that playing the violin is having on our students. They are standing taller, are more aware of their own bodies, their fingers, their arm movements, their legs... they are able to control a complex mechanism like the bow to deliver different types of tone, and are starting to understand how the smallest change in pressure of their fingers on the strings has a massive impact on the sound the create.

After learning how to utilize one finger to change pitch this week, I was amazed that a student came to me and showed me, with excellent control the same technique with each of his fingers. With practice he might be a future musician... or a surgeon... or any number of other fields where control and accuracy of coordination are essential. In short, through music, and focusing on the smallest of movements, your children's worlds, and their potential is growing every day.







## **An update from Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary**

We finished yet another busy week with our Assemblies on Thursday afternoon. At these we were able to share the names of our new Head Girl and Boy with their Deputies.

- Head Girl: Nour Mansi
- Head Boy: Abdullah Mandil
- Deputy Head Boy: Yousif Hayat
- Deputy Head Girl: Fadwa Elghamry

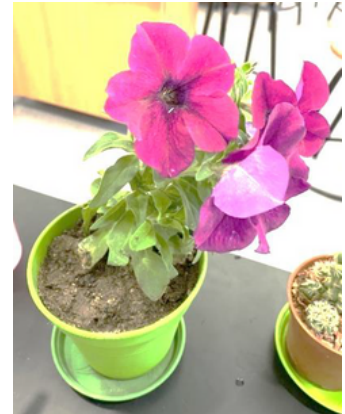
I would like to congratulate these students and the other applicants for engaging in the process so professionally and giving us the opportunity to select the most suitable applicants from a strong field. My commiserations go to those who weren't appointed, but I believe that their passion will be amply rewarded in future endeavours. The process of selection has been a rigorous one. Students had to submit an application that needed endorsing by a member of staff. All applicants then had to make a presentation to an interview panel on their vision and suitability for their desired role. The panel then asked a number of questions to gauge their thoughts, experiences and beliefs. These were then scored and totalled to establish evidence-based choices. We had five students on the interview panel who had also applied for junior positions, they were joined by two students from Year 6 to ensure Primary students were also represented. Hamza, Taha, David, Sarah, Maya, Habiba and Pranjali grew into their roles and should be good candidates for the top student roles in years to come.

On Tuesday we had our best attended Parent Workshop on Assessment. I was delighted to welcome 29 parents to the workshop where we looked at the mysteries of what used to be called 'marking'. Assessment is an essential teacher tool used to measure where a student is at and more importantly, what they need to do to progress. Attendees were introduced to the power of formative and summative assessment whilst learning about the use of the golden triangle in predicting student outcomes; prior attainment, potential and attitudes to learning. Please come along to our workshops, we want to support your understanding of what we do and breakdown the jargon, mystery and barriers to student progress. Learning and schools have moved on a lot in the last 20-30 years so we are keen to share what we have learnt.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in school at our Student Led Conferences on Sunday and Monday 30/31 October. These will be after school and have been delayed by a week to allow more time to settle after the delayed start of term, please see Thursday's letter from me for details and booking instructions.

## It's all about plants!

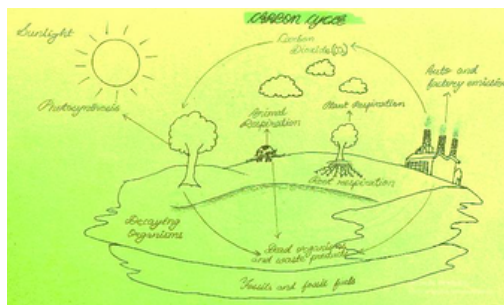
KS3 science classes have been learning all about plants. From plant structures being studied in year 7, to nutrient cycles and climate change in year 8, plants are wonderful organisms at the very centre of our existence. We beautify our surroundings with them, they contribute to our well-being, and most importantly, they provide us with the oxygen we breathe. The science department, with the help of Mr. Ibrahim (our up and coming plant enthusiast), have adopted several plants in the science labs as an aid to improving the learning environment in classrooms.



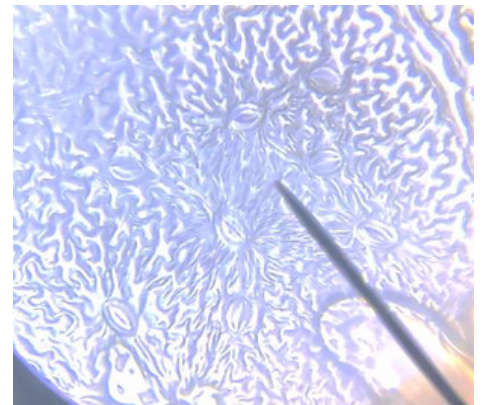
Year 7 students prepared slides of onion skin cells to look under the microscope as well as taking imprints of leaves and identifying special structures in the leaf called stomata, which are used for gas exchange. Year 8 students have composed carbon cycles, studied the structure of leaves and the tissues they are composed of.



**Onion skin tissue slide prepared by Y7 students**



**The carbon cycle by Vanita Sahu Y8**



**Stomata imprints prepared by Y7 students**

With Egypt hosting COP27 in just a few weeks' time this is an exciting opportunity for us all to think about climate change and the impact our actions have on the environment. With plants at the very heart of the issue, and our youth, the generation who will be affected most by climate change, we cannot stress enough the importance of the scientific understanding behind climate change.



Two students will be selected from TBS to represent our school at COP27 at the invitation of the Egyptian government. You will have a chance to meet hundreds of other students from schools all over Egypt including dignitaries from all over the world to discuss the challenges facing us in combating climate change. If you are interested, let your teacher know.

We are all looking forward to the discussions, agreements and action points resulting from COP27 and seeing how we, at TBS, can contribute to creating a brighter future for our youth.

## Commercial Studies

I will start off by welcoming Mr. Ashraf Guirgues from our partner school GEMS British International School Madinaty who will be teaching year 11 IGCSE Accounting to support our students. Students are engaged and focussed on learning in classes. Please do not forget your calculators though year 11!

What a time to be studying IGCSE and AS level Economics with a British based qualification in an international school! There is current political and economic turmoil in the United Kingdom with inflation now at over 10%, we are currently having remarkably interesting analytical discussions in class. These class conversations can not only bring economics theory to into context, but also build core skills for exams. I have been incredibly pleased to see students applying economic knowledge and relating it to the impact on business in A level Business Studies classes. There, students have been able to discuss the impact of the Macro Environment on Industry.

Please encourage students to read and watch the Business and Economics news as it is beneficial for their learning and can lead to remarkably interesting conversations at home. Here is an interesting link to start you off [www.bbc.co.uk/business](http://www.bbc.co.uk/business)  
In Commercial Studies subjects students are assessed regularly, on their learning. Moreover, students are reflecting on areas of strength and development to enhance their exam taking skills. What is working well? Even Better IF!? Is our current focus.



## Head Boy / Head Girl / Deputy Head Boy / Deputy Head Girl

All students that applied for Head and Deputy Head positions took part in an interview process this week.

Students were asked to prepare a Power Point Presentation on their vision and why they believe they will be the best candidate to lead our school and represent the student body.

Students received a fair and rigorous process of selection, answering questions from a panel of secondary leaders and students from both primary and secondary.

They clearly demonstrated that TBS produces confident, well rounded, articulate young people who have developed outstanding qualities.

All the students that applied are excellent role models who serve our students and community very well. Their leadership skills are already evident and will be of real benefit to the student body throughout 2022-2023.





# Think Pink

This month is our Breast Cancer and Women's Health month. Unfortunately, most of us have been affected by cancer either personally or someone we know and love. We have learned that one of our TBS family has been diagnosed with early-stage cervical cancer and we all hope and pray that due to the early detection a minor procedure will ensure this does not spread. It is often a difficult subject to talk about but make sure that everyone in your family is undergoing regular screening as early detection and treatment is the key.

On 31st October we are inviting all staff, parents and students to either dress in pink or wear a pink ribbon to show their support. We also ask that you give generously as all proceeds of this fundraiser will go to cancer research local cancer hospitals. Thank you in advance.

Also look out for our House Competition on our Social Media challenging you to take a family selfie with everyone wearing pink to highlight cancer awareness – 20 points for every entry: who will be the winning House?

The month of November will focus on Prostate Cancer and Men's Health culminating on 30th November with a 'Moustache and Odd Socks Day' with all fundraising proceeds towards Cancer research.

## The TBS Learner Profile

One of the Milestones for Strategic Goal was to create the TBS Learner Profile which shares the key attributes and skills of a TBS student future-proofing them. Attributes are the qualities and characteristics of a person. Skills are acquirable abilities and habits that allow a learner to achieve academically and personally.

As a staff we have collected our ideas and now want your input on the three key attributes and three key skills you see as the most important for your child as they move through school and on to university.

Here are our Word Clouds for TBS Skills and TBS Attributes:



Thank you to everyone who has already completed my questionnaire –do not worry if you have not had the opportunity – the link is still live for you to use. Click <https://forms.office.com/r/hYR1PwnXMV> to complete my questionnaire to select the top three skills and attributes from the list that you think are the most important to your child's future.



## Why reading a bedtime story is so important

We all loved having stories read to us as children and many of us as adults spend time listening to podcasts and audio books but did you realise that reading to your children is a better teaching tool than anything else at home? Way back in 1985 the US Education Department issued a report on falling standards in education. It made two simple declarations from its initial findings:

- The single most important activity for building the knowledge for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.
- The practice of reading aloud to children must be continued throughout the year groups.

Why can 'reading aloud' be so effective? We read to children for all the same reasons as you talk to them: to reassure, to entertain, to bond, to inform or explain, to arouse curiosity, to inspire.

In reading aloud you also:

- Condition the child's brain to associate reading with pleasure
- Create background knowledge
- Build vocabulary
- Provide a reading role model

Most conversation is plain and simple, whether between two adults or with children, consisting of the 5000 words that we use all the time. There are another 5000 words that we use less often and beyond that are the 'rare words' which play a critical role in reading and strengthening our vocabulary. These 'rare words' are found in printed texts.

Regular conversations will take care of the basic vocabulary but when you read to a child you leap into the 'rare words' that help the most at school. Until a child is four months old it may not matter a great deal what you read, as long as you are reading. Your child is becoming accustomed to the rhythmic sound of your reading voice and associate it with a peaceful, secure time of the day. Recommendations are that you should continue to read aloud to your child, even when they can read by themselves so why stop such an enjoyable activity which enhances your child's listening skills and vocabulary.

For children under eighteen months the following behaviour during reading aloud is normal:

- At four months your child has limited mobility so has little or no choice but to sit and listen thus making a passive audience for the reader – this is easy! Your arms should encircle the child in such a way as to suggest support and bonding...not imprisonment.
- By six months your child will be more interested in tasting your book but will be listening too.
- At eight months he will be turning pages for you, pointing to objects and making appropriate noises.
- By fifteen months and the onset of walking you must take care that reading times do not frustrate his immediate interest – do not give up.
- At age sixteen – this time should be a very special shared moment keeping avenues of communication open.

A word of advice for those with younger children – Reading a different book every day will keep the parent from being bored but it stops your child from receiving the reinforcement needed for learning. Children are most comfortable with the familiar, and when they are relaxed, they are better able to absorb. Those of us who have seen a movie more than once fully realise how many subtleties escaped us the first time. Even more so with children and books. Repeated readings also help build your child's self-esteem. First the reader makes the child feel good by granting a repeat performance. Second, with each repetition the child is better able to predict what will happen next. Very little in your child's life is predictable. They never know what you will give them to wear, eat or where they might be on a given day. And then along comes this book that your repeated readings have made entirely predictable, something at which your child is suddenly an expert. They can tell you exactly what will happen next, word for word, page by page. Expert, what a proud badge to wear so young – the child feels good about himself and associates that good feeling with reading.

Some questions that are often asked are about watching TV and listening to audio books. One consideration for younger children is that the image on the screen moves but the one on the page stays static. In a typical video, the image of an insect speeds across the screen at a pace of 24 frames per second – 170,000 frames in a two hour film – few of which can be studied for detail. Because visual literacy comes before print literacy, two-thirds of the questions and comments from young children are about the illustrations.

Audio stories are a great way for children to listen to the spoken word. For families audio books can be a great option for long car rides. While they lack the immediacy of a live person who can hug and answer questions an audio story can fill a gap. When used as background noise when a child is playing, its verbal contents are still enriching their vocabulary more than TV would with its abbreviated sentences. One option would be to record some stories yourself.

A few guidelines for reading aloud (age birth to 99!)

- Read stories that you enjoy yourself
- Pre-read the story or chapter ahead of time. This will allow you to spot material you may wish to shorten, eliminate or elaborate on
- Adjust your pace to fit the story – a lowered voice in the correct place can bring an audience to the edge of their chairs!
- Use different voices and match the expressions required to bring the written word to life (another reason to pre-read)
- Set aside one time each day for a story but read as often as you and your child have time for
- Remember the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually – it does not happen overnight. Short and often rather than a long session!
- Before you begin to read always say the name of the book, author and illustrator. Ask 'what do you think this book is going to be about' if it is a first time read.
- Encourage involvement by turning pages, asking what they think will happen next and joining in.
- If you start a book it is your responsibility to continue it – do not leave children hanging between chapters and expect sustained interest.
- Occasionally read above your child's intellectual level and challenge their minds
- Even Year 12s love a good picture book!

Reading aloud comes naturally to very few people- to do it successfully and with ease you must practice, however most importantly you must enjoy the experience.





## **Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday, 25th October – Parent Workshop: What is a curriculum? + Vitamin N: what is it and why your child needs it. At 0800 (Whole School Focus)

Wednesday, 26th October – School Uniform Shop at TBS from 800am to 430pm

Thursday, 27th October – School Uniform Shop at TBS from 800am to 330pm

Week beginning 30th October – Senior School Student Led Conferences Week

Monday, 31st October – Think Pink Fundraiser Day. Students invited to come to school dressed in pink and bring a donation for Breast Cancer Research

Tuesday, 1st November – Parent Workshop: PASS assessments – what are they and how do we use them (Primary Focus but relevant to all parents)

Tuesday, 1st November – University Fair at TBS with over 20 Universities represented from 1200pm to 245pm

1st-3rd November – BSME Language Championships for KS2-4

Thursday, 3rd November – Coffee Morning with TBS SLT at 800am

Have a great Week!

**School Principal**  
**Jane Knight**