

This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend. I travelled to Fayyoun to Wadi Rayan and Wadi Hitan. What an incredibly area and so close to Cairo. Wadi Hitan is particularly spectacular with its stunning rock formations created by the wind and sand of countless generations. Walking around the pathways looking back in time to where these huge whales once swam was something I will never forget. Even after my many years of living in the UAE I am still enthralled by the desert landscape and our driver taking us off road and up and down rocky cliffs showed us the many faces of this part of the Western Desert. If you have been you will understand, if you have not been – add it to your list of ‘must do’ things.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the online Parent Satisfaction Survey last term. We have now received the feedback and are delighted to report that our Net Promoter Score (NPS) which is a culmination of your contributions has risen from -28 last year to +15. We are very appreciative of all your comments and suggestions and are analysing them at the moment to see what we can action. We will also be celebrating the things that you say we do well.

You Don't Want to Miss Out on...

Parent Workshop on Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship - 31st Jan @ 1:30pm

Our Parent Coffee Morning with SLT - 2nd Feb @ 8:00 am

Road Safety Week- 5th – 9th Feb

Parent Workshop on Internet Safety (Primary Focus)-7th Feb

Random Act of Kindness Day - 14th Feb

Mid-term Break - 23rd February – 5th March

EYFS Mother's Day Celebration- 8th March

Student Led Conference Day for Whole School and Parent Workshops (no timetables lessons) - 12th March

Drop and Go

Can I ask that we be considerate when dropping off at Gate 4, particularly in the mornings, that we do not block any of our neighbours cars. You may be parked for just a few minutes but I am sure you can appreciate how frustrating that can be for those parked in the designated parking bays.

In addition, can we suggest that you try a 'Drop and Go' at Gate 4 to help both the with flow of traffic and the developing independence of your children. Either myself or Ms Rachel are at Gate 4 in the mornings in addition to our TBS Security Team to welcome children to school and help them from cars if necessary. Our class teachers for FS1 to Y2 are also on the field to welcome their classes. Saying a 'Good Goodbye' in the car and encouraging your children to enter the gate alone is a great way to show that you trust them and support their self-confidence – make sure you say goodbye with a smile on your face, no matter how you feel as your growing children head into school.

Hair Lice

Although an ongoing issue throughout the year, with the cooler weather and many children wearing hoods and hats we are seeing a rise in cases of hair lice. To help prevent this spread I would like to remind you of our school uniform policy that long hair must be tied back at all times. We will be reinforcing this message during the next weeks so we ask for your support to ensure that your daughters all have hair tied up and have additional hairbands should they need them.

Academic Trips

In line with new protocols from the Ministry of Education deadlines for permissions slips to be returned for all academic trips must be observed. All permission slips signed by parents are to be submitted along with our school documents for Ministry of Education trip approval. Unfortunately, if we have not received the signed permission slip by the deadline we cannot accept any late slips and your child will not be able to go on the trip. Please make sure that you return any permission slips on time to prevent any disappointment.

TBS is a No Nut school.

A gentle reminder that we have students who have a severe allergy to nuts. We ask that you avoid sending any snacks to school with nuts and that any birthday cakes are nut free. This is vital as students can have a reaction to nuts even without eating them. If you have any questions, please contact Doctor Marwa.

TBS Updated Assessment Policy

Please click [here](#) 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.

Attendance Policy Reminders

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 ([Attendance Policy- updated Nov 2022 Final.pdf - Google Drive](#)).

A Message From Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

I would like to start by congratulating the children for their efforts in the Ministry exams. I see a great work ethic of children in the Primary school who always strive to do their best. In relation to this, I have had some conversations with parents regarding student learning targets and consideration of end of year expectations.

Shared prior to the previous report cards, you received Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each year group in the core subjects. These show what a child is expected to be able to do by the end of each academic year. Teachers continuously use these to check individual student progress and set targets for further development. I will resend the information for your reference and please do contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

We recently had some children choose to participate in an optional Maths competition. Congratulations to all who took part. Particular congratulations to Atharva Sood (Year 1) and Yara Waleed (Year 2) who ranked in the top 15 for their year groups.

Year groups are beginning to plan for trips and events for the remainder of the year.

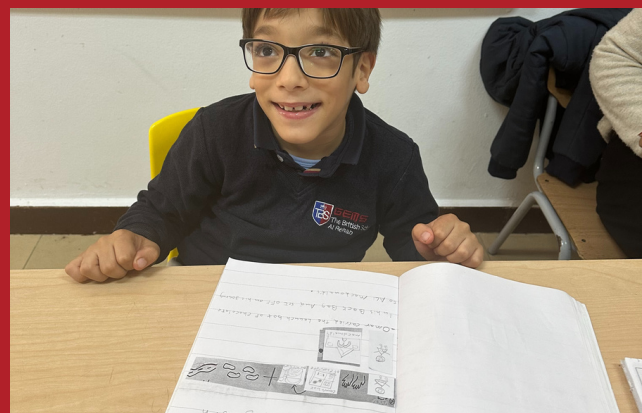
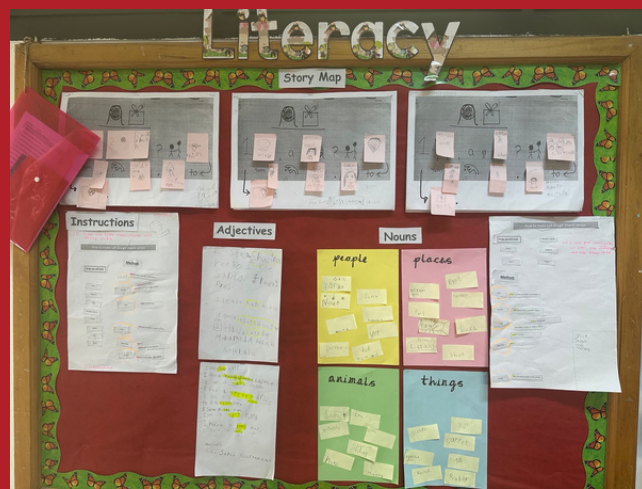
Please note, under new Ministry guidance, we will be sending out consent forms that must be completed in order to confirm attendance for the trip. Please look out for any letters from your child's year group. We are also looking forward to Road Safety Week coming up – more information to be shared shortly.

Focus on Primary

Y1

This week Year One have been busy working on innovating the story of Handa's Surprise. They used the talk for writing method to retell the story using actions and now they are currently working on creating their own stories based on the story of Handa's Surprise.

Children have also enjoyed being explorers and are developing their geographical skills through locating where they live in the world. They are looking at continents, countries, cities and streets. They are currently creating maps using compass directions and are having a lot of fun exploring the world.



Y2

Y2 students had a very exciting start of Term Two. They have started off the term with learning all about comic strips, their features and found similarities and differences between comics and stories. They have specifically looked at the famous, 'Traction Man', where they identified new vocabulary, sequenced the events and wrote captions and speech bubbles for different parts of the comic.

They have also started a new topic in Mathematics; 'Money' where they learnt about British coins and notes, used plastic money to calculate amounts and found accurate change as part of their class shop activities. In Science, they are learning about habitats and went on an exciting hunt around the school grounds to explore plants and animals in their local habitat.

Music

I would like to start by congratulating all of the students who participated in our recent Key Stage 1 production "A Snowman at Sunset", the Lower Key Stage 2 Festive Fun Concert, and the Winter Fair. The success of these events is a testament to the children's efforts and the support of their class teachers.

After the busy end of the last term, our students are now back to focusing on their main music classes. Year three students are making great progress in learning how to use the bow while playing the violin.

Years four, five, and six are now in their second year of violin lessons and they are becoming more confident in using their fingers on their left hand to play more notes and more complex pieces. It's early days yet, but the signs are promising.

The students are showing a lot of enthusiasm and dedication in learning the violin, and we are pleased with the steady progress they are making.

We hope that with continued effort, parents will have the opportunity to see their children perform on the violin before the school year is over. It's our goal to encourage our students to continue developing their skills and to share their talents with the community. As the music teacher, I am very pleased with the progress and dedication of our students and I look forward to seeing them perform in the future.

PE

Playing with balls makes physical activity fun.

Also, throwing, catching, rolling, and kicking balls:

- works arm and leg muscles.
- improves hand-eye coordination.
- increases fitness.

When children practice ball skills, they'll notice their skills improving. This helps children understand that they can learn and get better at something if they try. And this builds self-esteem and confidence.

Playing with balls with children is also a great way to spend quality time together and build relationships.



A Message From Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary

Dear parents and students,

Short weeks always seem to be busier as we still try to get five days' worth of work and learning into the four days, but it did mean we get a long weekend. I took advantage of this and was fortunate to go camping in the vast deserts, west of Cairo, near the UNESCO World Heritage site of Wādī al-Hītān. I found the vastness of the dunes and escarpments truly breath-taking. Another bonus was the complete lack of 4G signal and any connectivity. This disconnection from the web and 'always-on' lifestyle is becoming quite popular as a 'digital detox'. Like all good things, the internet is good in moderation. To look at this further and how we can help children stay safe, I will be leading a parent workshop on how to set up good behaviours around student's use of the internet. Please come along on Tuesday from 1:30-2:30pm, RSVPing Mohammed our PA to indicate attendance.

Later this term we will change our timetable to accommodate Ramadan and will give you notice of these changes in good time. The timing has limited our options around the scheduling of our Mock Exams and Student Led Conference, which will be held on Sunday 12 March. This will be a full day event in school where you will be able to see all your teachers.

Finally, if your child intends to apply for one of our GEMS Egypt Scholarships, please be reminded that the deadline for applications is 15 February 2023.

I hope you had a relaxing long weekend and look forward to seeing you soon.

Nigel Wilsonlock
Head of Secondary

Focus on Secondary

Students in Year 07, starting the Gaming Project with their first attempts at level design and FPS creation using Unity.



Global Perspectives

For Global Perspectives, KS3 have been exploring the roles and functions of the family. We have specifically been discussing what a family is for and our responsibilities within it. Furthermore, students were asked to research organisations within Egypt that help less fortunate families. Students worked exceptionally well to gather information on various agencies and programs and presented all their fascinating findings in the lesson. Consequently, we have had very informative and structured debates on how society helps families.

More recently, students have been learning how to recognise the features of coercive friendships. This lesson teaches students to manage and respond to situations and friendships that are unhealthy and supports them to reflect on a young person's need to belong. Students were given scenarios and were able to identify whether this was a coercive friendship. Shortly after, learners wrote advice on speech bubbles for a comic character on what he should say or do in a concerning or risky situation. Finally, we put these speech bubbles all over the Global Perspectives classroom. KS3, I am amazed at your work so far, keep up the excellent effort!



Commercial Studies

The Commercial Studies team have started term 2 with exciting topics such as human resources, for IGCSE Business Studies in year 10. There have been invaluable links to context looking at internal and external recruitment using the GEMS Egypt group of schools as an example, because as we grow, we will need to recruit further. There are also the recent problems at Amazon which could affect nearly 18,000 people which we have used for context, when discussing redundancies.

Students taking year 11 IGCSE Business Studies are now well into finance and accounts and are in safe hands with Mrs. Hassan, who is also teaching IGCSE year 10 Accounts this year! Regarding Economics IGCSE in year 10, we are now studying macroeconomic decision makers and the central bank. The United Kingdom's recent rate hikes and inflation rates as well as the recent exchange rate in Egypt and current interest rates, have really helped with some invaluable contextual discussions.

Please encourage further discussions on the economy and business at home with students, it is very beneficial for their learning. Here is an interesting link to start you off www.bbc.co.uk/business

Commercial Studies subjects students will have unit tests in term 2 and have feedback on other shorter exam style questions, these assessments will go towards their half term assessment grades.

MUN Workshop

In preparation for the HIAMUN 2023 Conference, 20 of our students attended their first MUN workshop at BISM. They gained valuable knowledge and were given extensive advice and guidance from MUN members. They participated in a mock MUN debate and information was shared regarding protocols and procedures, they were also given direction on how to write and share a resolution.

The students were really engaged and felt they had gained so much knowledge and direction from the workshop, they will attend another workshop for their final preparation before attending the conference.



GEMS Jewels of Kindness

Our Senior students Abdullah Mandil, Nour Mansi and Ahmed Saad displaying their GEMS Jewels of Kindness in every aspect of school life. They are fantastic role models to our younger students leading by example and making sure student voice is heard. They have put so much time and effort into our charity events, raising awareness about important topics and explaining in assemblies how we can make a difference.



Our Week in Photos

