Dear Parents,

It has been a great half term at TBS and we are very privileged to be able to work and learn with your children. We have a final half term with some great highlights looming. Creative Arts week will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the skills of our creative young people.

We have work experience week and a bridging course for Year 11 who will be delighted to finish their examinations and look towards the wonderful Year 12 experience ahead of them. Similarly, Year 12 will return for their universities week and begin to plan for life beyond TBS. Year 13 can look forward to their Graduation Ceremony and for younger years there are a variety of trips, EYKS1 swimming gala, open afternoons to show off all the wonderful work in every Primary class and we will be packing as much fun, activities and learning into the final five weeks as we can.

I wish all TBS families a good half term break.

John Moore
Principal
The British School, Kathmandu

Next Week

FOBISIA Primary games

Our young sports people have been practising hard in lessons and clubs and a number of them will be competing in the FOBISIA Primary Games in Vietnam over half term. I am sure they will have a brilliant time competing with, and making friends with, children from different schools. Whether you win, lose or draw, it is a great experience for the children and they are very lucky to have such supportive parents to encourage them in their sporting endeavours. I am sure when parents and teachers look back on our own school days, it is the special events such as these that linger longest in the memory. Thank you also to Mr O’Sullivan and Ms Buckland for supporting the students (and giving up a chunk of their half term break in the process).

New Nursery children and Nursery spend time in Foundation!

Next years’ Nursery children (who we will call Foundation 1 from August according to new UK conventions) have been invited to school to ‘play’ for an hour from 1pm to 2pm on Tuesday 2nd June. This is so we can get to know them and make sure we are ready to teach them well from August and so they can begin to acclimatise to their new school. Our current Nursery children will be going into Foundation from 12.50pm - 2.05pm.

School Exams

All Secondary students completed their school examinations this week. It is good to have this opportunity to practise their examination technique and I am sure they will have learnt a lot from the process.

Key Stage 3 Forensic Science Day & Trips for Year 10 & 4

On Wednesday 4th June, all students in KS3 will have a cross curricular day where they solve a crime that has been committed in the school. I can say no more for fear of spoiling the surprise! Year 10 will go out on their action packed Humanities trip on Tuesday 3rd June visiting the ICIMOD demonstration centre, Jagadamba Press and the Tibetan refugee centre. Year 4 will visit Mrs Biswas’ house for a Roman food tasting session and to try their hand at ceramic painting. These year groups can look forward to some very interesting events and trips!

School Development Planning & Annual Survey

1. Every year the school undertakes an annual survey to gather parents’ views on some key questions. This only takes a few minutes to fill in and it does help us as we plan for the future. The link to the survey is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8J5MNB. If you complete the survey by Friday 6th June it will give us time to plan for any changes by August.

2. At the same time we are beginning to compile a more detailed 3 year whole school development plan which will run from August 2014 to July 2017. Again, it is useful if parents can contribute to this process and it will ensure that we share common aims about where we need to focus in the next three years. Teachers and students will be working on this plan over the last half-term before sharing with the Board of Governors for approval and publishing a summary to parents by the start of the new academic year. Therefore, if you could complete this by Monday 9th June it would be much appreciated and give us time to consider all viewpoints as we plan for the future. The link to the survey is:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H9ZHW3L.

Two quick reminders

1. Summer has definitely arrived so sunhats or caps, sunscreen, drinking plenty of water in order to avoid heat exhaustion and taking special care on days when children have PE or other strenuous activities is important. We will all keep reminding children I am sure.

2. If you send medicines in with your children, please do add a note which indicates the dosage and time the medicine should be given. The nurse cannot give medicine without this information.

Thank you.

For the future!

A TBS parent contact list for new parents and class representatives

Our list of nationalities continues to grow so if you could be on a list to help new people if required we would be very grateful. Similarly, do contact Tumika Sthapit-Priest if you would like to volunteer to be a class representative (tumika@tbs.edu.np). An outline of the role of the class representative will need to be developed as we trial it but essentially it is to be a link between the parents of children in a particular class and to bring any matters to the class teachers’ attention if necessary.

Repeat reminder - TBS Admissions for 2014-15

Families have been extremely helpful in letting us know about their intentions for the future. The final deadline for parents to let us know of children who will not be returning for Term 1 of the 2014-15 academic year is 6th June (the first Friday after half term) (admissions@tbs.edu.np).

British Council A Level Exposition & Ministry of Education

Teacher training

We will be out and about after half term. On Tuesday 3rd June and Wednesday 4th June we will take a stand at the inaugural British Council A Level Exposition to try to spread the word about our excellent A Level programme. On Friday 6th June and Saturday 7th June, me and the Secondary Heads of Mathematics, English and Science will deliver training in Chitlang to subject teachers from ten schools in the environ. Although this is extra work for everyone involved (not just the teachers but the support and administrative staff) it is an important way of making links with other institutions, helping others, sharing information about how we teach and contributing to the wider community. We are grateful to be asked to such events and to have the chance to learn more about schools and education in Nepal.

23 May 2014