Principal's Message
Where has the last 13 weeks gone?! Term 3 will certainly be remembered for our community's response to COVID-19, including our transition to continuous learning at home, which has been nothing short of remarkable. This is due to our collective effort: the skills, professionalism and creativity of our teachers; the patience, adaptability and perseverance of our parents; and the resilience, focus and endeavour shown by our students on a daily basis. This would not have been possible without the immensely strong foundation of trust and respect that has been cultivated over a long period of time and the strong relationships that underline and support this.

Of course, there were 10 other weeks that made up Term 3 and we celebrate the considerable achievements of our students throughout this period of time in the End of Term Assembly, which can be found here. Please do take some time over the weekend to watch this; you will be rewarded with some great memories, as well as some great ideas for fun projects that you can work on with your children during the break.

So much great learning took place this week as is evidenced within this newsletter. It has been an exhausting time for us all and we all deserve a good rest and the time to celebrate Easter and Nepali New Year.

We have been responding to feedback from teachers, students and parents, in conjunction with external decisions, which has resulted in a refinement of our provision; we will continue to do this and I will provide further details on how we will elicit further feedback, the week beginning 20th April. We will, also, hopefully be in a position by then to update everyone on any possible movement of our provisional return to campus date, which is currently set for Monday 11th May. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns, or require any support, do not hesitate to contact me on: bplatts@tbs.edu.np.

Community
During this lockdown, it is vital to look after each other, therefore, we managed to deliver necessary food items to one of our community partners who were struggling. We will continue to check in with all our community partners regularly during these challenging times.

Useful Link
Useful Information and Resources - TBS Website

Message from the Head of Primary
A big thank you to parents for supporting your children on the recent Zoom meetings with their class teachers. I think we all agreed that these are really beneficial and welcomed by all. We plan to continue to arrange these after the Holiday Break. We are also exploring options for communicating with students in small group sessions, offering children opportunities to engage with fellow students and their teacher. Some classes have been trialling this already. We will update you again after the Break when we are able to facilitate this for all classes. As ever, your support with your children’s learning has been invaluable and is really appreciated.

Message from the Head of Secondary
In secondary, students and teachers alike have thrived on being able to keep in regular contact. Our ‘live’ lessons on Zoom and Google Meet have allowed for high levels of engagement between teachers and their students. This engagement is vital for the wellbeing of the whole community when we are physically so far apart. It is important that students take a break over the holidays after all their hard work, but we also recognise the need for students to stay occupied. Years 10-13 will have been set homework by their subject teachers. Years 7-9 will be sent a selection of projects to choose from that have been created by their teachers; some of these projects are directly linked to the curriculum and build on curriculum skills, but others are simply aimed at...
Wherever you are in the world, happy Easter, happy Nepali New Year and please stay safe and well. Brian Platts

Key Stage 1 News

The Year 1 students have been reading the book 'In a Jar.' A story about a little rabbit and his friend. Together they gather things in jars - ordinary things like buttercups, feathers, rainbows and heart-shaped stones. And, best of all, when they hold the jars and peer inside, they remember all the wonderful things they've seen and done. What a great idea to do during the upcoming holiday! In the photograph you can already see an example from one of the Year 1 students. Lots of special visitors have been seen on Seesaw as well this week.

This week’s challenge for the Year 2 students was dropping an egg from a high point onto a hard surface and to make sure the egg did not break. The students came up with a lot of interesting and different ideas. Parachutes, umbrellas, shower caps and paper rolls were seen being used to get their eggs safely to the ground. Amazing to see these inquisitive scientists at work!

Key Stage 2 News

Creating extra enriching learning opportunities for our students. Year 10-13 are also welcome to try out any of the projects- I know some of our teachers will be attempting them as well! Finally, I’ll also be sharing a video with our Year 11-13 students and parents on the latest procedures announced by the examination boards, so please do watch it if it is relevant to your child.

E-Safety

We want to ensure all our children remain safe when online. Please take the time to read through this e-safety Guidance and discuss with your child as appropriate. If you have any concerns or further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Early Years News

Our youngest students changed into scientists this week. Foundation 1 students have been experimenting, investigating and discovering how to make the best soap bubbles and how to make music using glasses, filled with different amounts of water.

Foundation 2 students did a magic rainbow milk experiment, learned about floating and sinking objects and practised their phonics through the science of secret writing. They practised making equal groups by dividing biscuits amongst their teddies. Great to see all this amazing learning!
Upper Key Stage 2 News

It’s been wonderful to see everything Year 5 have been doing over the past week, but we have been particularly impressed with how they’re keeping on reading - sharing their love of books with their class and, in some cases, their siblings. Everyone should have a 25 Minutes of Reading habit!

Meanwhile, Year 6 have been thinking about their wellbeing, carrying out a whole range of activities - cooking, drawing, photography, making videos, keeping fit...the list goes on! It’s wonderful to see how supportive everyone is being of each other through comments made on the blog.

Lower Key Stage 2 News

As part of their IPC topic, Explorers and Adventurers, Year 3 have created maps of the area where they live, thinking about symbols, compass directions and the use of a key. Choosing from a wide selection of wellbeing tasks, we have seen a truly impressive selection of art - ranging from character sketches through to images constructed using natural materials.

Year 4 have been busy with the science week theme, planning and carrying out experiments to test the buoyancy of spoons, pots, pencils and even eggs! So much fantastic scientific language and thinking! Speaking of language, they have also been honing their descriptive skills (look out for similes, metaphors and personification) to describe an underwater scene in extensive detail.
Key Stage 4 News

The students in KS4 have continued to thrive in what are challenging and unpredictable times. The staff have been continually impressed with the level of engagement and enthusiasm from all students in Year 10 and Year 11. It has been very clear that our students value their ongoing education and strive to progress their learning within this unique situation. A particular highlight has been the high attendance rates of our students. We would like to congratulate the following students for perfect attendance over the first few weeks of continuous learning:

Year 11 - Devansh A, Adya, Mariya, Rigden, Harira and Yashasvi
Year 10 - Abayaa, Aditya, Roobenda, Meghna, Manon, Anisha, Karen and Shastraveer

Kindness and compassion are qualities that are often demonstrated by our students. A particular highlight this week has been the kindness and thoughtfulness of our students in looking out for the wellbeing of our teachers. One of our Year 11s took the time to suggest a relaxing music playlist for her English teacher.

Well done Aakifah for thinking about others during a time that many of us are finding challenging.

The use of technology has been paramount in enabling our students and staff to engage in thoughtful and meaningful learning. Below are some pictures of the interactive lessons occuring in Music using Peardeck. This allows students to use rhythmic dictation in real time. Well done to those Year 10 students!

To all Year 10 and Year 11 students, we hope you have a restful and useful break over the holidays. Please take time out to do the things that you enjoy and that make you happy. For those in Year 11, please make sure you have all instructions from your teachers so that our evidence bank can be built up for you. If you do have any questions, please email Mr Jay at any stage.

Happy Nepali New Year and Happy Easter to all!

Key Stage 3 News @TBSKS3

The KS3 students have maintained their positivity and drive right up to the end of this term. I can’t put into words how proud I am of them, how hard they have worked and how well they have adapted. They really have earned a good rest. Highlights of the week were the Y9s creating cartoon strips in Nepali to teach people about the coronavirus and the Y7 Geographers learning about how coastal erosion affects the Holderness Coast in the UK.

The Y8s consolidated their knowledge of minimalist music with some beautiful spider diagrams; the Y7s drew their vision of the mythological Minotaur; the Y7 PE students have been learning about different training methods and the Y8s did some fantastic online peer assessment work.

Finally the KS3 English students contributed to a special edition of ‘TBS Happy News’. A lovely reminder that there are still a lot of positive things going on in the world at this difficult time.
Key Stage 5 News

Year 13 French students have continued to develop their language skills this week, comparing the 1940 exodus following the invasion of Germany and the "health war" declared by President Macron in 2020. Whenever I meet “grown-up” linguists I always find their knowledge of history and politics so impressive as when they’re learning a language they are simultaneously learning so much culture too. Not only are language students and teachers impressively knowledgeable but they have also found time to lighten the mood this week……nothing better than a game of online scrabble!

As well as impressive students in Key Stage 5, we would be lost without the incredible mentor team who are always willing to go the extra mile. For those of you who don’t follow @TBSPsychology on twitter I recommend you have a look at Ms Patterson’s contribution to this week’s dancing wellbeing challenge!

AS Chemistry students have been working hard this week to explain different trends in ionisation energies to each other - looking at patterns in graphs and explaining it to each other is definitely much harder online than in real life!

Our Year 13 students continue to receive impressive offers from universities including at Swarthmore College where they received their highest ever rate of applications and had a just 8% acceptance rate; UMass Amherst, Bentley and Syracuse for our US applicants. Our UK applicants have been equally successful with offers from London School of Economics, UCL and (my personal favourite) University of Bristol.

Contd→