Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of TBS,

Thank you to everyone for their support this week. All the staff at the school have been absolutely fantastic in helping us begin to return to normalcy and in getting stuck in to their tasks. The positive parent feedback has also been tremendous and given everyone here a real boost. Of course, the best way to put some joy into the soul is to watch the children getting back into the usual routine, enjoying being back with their friends and having fun.

Support is flooding in from friends of TBS and I must give a special mention to FOBISIA and COBIS schools who have given us details of counsellors who will offer pro bono skype sessions for anyone in our community who wants it (see below) and who have begun fundraising drives to help the people of Nepal. Many of our partner organisations, suppliers, friends, former teachers, students and parents have also been in touch offering support and this has all been greatly appreciated by everyone here.

Although many of us at TBS have some feelings of frustration at not being able to help the people of Nepal more directly, our job is to support those parents, many of whom are experts in the field, by making sure that we offer a safe place for children to play, learn and be happy. Our goal is to make sure that even in these circumstances we are striving for excellence for all our children.

Given our own good fortune, I think it is important that we do encourage the children and students to start thinking about recovery and rebuilding through our own charities. This is a positive way for them to frame what may have been traumatic for many. Details of what we are doing now is on the website and we hope to build a fund for rebuilding that we can use for the next few years to help our friends in Dhading and in our Kathmandu schools get up and running and then create secure buildings.

What we are doing now to provide immediate help!

Mr Chris Phillips (cphillips@tbs.edu.np) is coordinating our charity effort and he would be very happy to give more details or liaise with anyone who could help us spread the message and raise funds (of which every single penny will get to the people who need it).

What we will do in the future

We must not be complacent and at TBS we will continue to prepare for any eventuality - I know you will do this, but please consider all the health & safety precautions at home and look after yourselves!

Happenings & Events

Counselling services

Accompanying this newsletter is a note on the counselling opportunities. Ms Gemma Caines is coordinating secondary support and Ms Jessica Bloor is coordinating primary.
Some clubs with outside coaches will restart. We will try to keep communication flowing, but it is the intention to try to get clubs with outside coaches restarted where we can next week - tennis will probably restart and we will write separately to the relevant parents when we can get things going.

Farewell and good luck
In situations like this, individuals must take decisions for their own well-being and safety and TBS will always support these decisions. We bid farewell and good luck to Ms. Ruthann Radlett, English teacher and Head of KS3, Mr. James Prodg (Maths) and Ms. Alex Beech (Learning Support). We thank them all for their many contributions to TBS in their time with us.

Ms Alex Hands - Head of KS3/ Other cover!
In one of the fastest applications, interviews and promotions in history, Ms. Alex Hands will take on Ms. Radlett’s duties as acting Head of Key Stage 3 and she looks forward to meeting with parents in due course. She teaches Chemistry, Science and Maths so many parents will already know Alex well. Mr. Prodg’s lessons will be covered by Mrs. Taylor who is Head of Maths with some support from others. Ms. Beech’s Year 8 English duties will be covered by Ms. Caines and this frees Ms. Butler to cover Ms. Radlett’s Year 10 class. I won’t go on with further details, but we are extremely fortunate to have such flexible and versatile staff!

Contacting Universities of Year 13 Students
Ms. Caines and the Sixth Form team have written to all universities about the situation here so that they know what a challenge the public examinations will be for students. The Universities and Colleges all around the world have been incredibly sympathetic to our plight.

Examination arrangements
Public examinations begin in earnest on Monday. The students have all been briefed and besides minor room changes (to use the Sixth Form Building as the main centre) we will be carrying on as expected. Good luck to all our students - they have worked hard this year and we know they will do brilliantly!

Primary FOBISIA games in Bangkok
It is still our intention to offer to attend the Primary FOBISIA games if parents still wish us to at the end of May. Mr O’Sullivan will send out a letter shortly asking parents to advise us on whether we should continue with this trip. We would like to go as part of the return to normalcy but this is a decision for individual families.

A safety notice and plea for your understanding
Please can parents help us as much as possible in the coming weeks. Many staff are not living in their own homes, some are still camping out in gardens, many of our Nepali staff have lost their homes or they are seriously damaged. Lots of us have no power, water or extensive supplies so it is important that we give staff time to manage their home lives alongside our desire to get a full service up and running. To help us could you:
• Please ensure your children are closely supervised on the site at all times.
• I know this is a safe place so I will ask you to use your discretion, but we are running a skeleton support staff at times and if you could leave promptly it would help.
• We do not have staff on duty before 8am so if children arrive before then they must not go into the building and parents need to wait with them or they should wait at the main gate. This is an important safety point!
• Keep expectations realistic! For example, homework can take a back seat for now, just let your children read a book or play at home! Some clubs run by staff will not restart for a few weeks - please be patient - I have never worked with such a dedicated team who have been so resilient in the face of such challenges.
These are extraordinary times and I will be trying to make sure my staff focus on essential tasks and I know all parents will understand this.

TBS Quiz Night last Friday!
Last Friday seems a long time ago now, but how appropriate that the night before the earthquake was spent by the Sixth Form raising Funds for their Dhading schools! Only a week before their AS Levels they were thinking of others and laying on a fun quiz night for parents, teachers and friends of TBS. Thanks to all who supported this and of course to our wonderful Sixth Form students. (PS - We won’t mention who won!)

Board of Governors support to our Nepali staff and for immediate relief
Many of the Nepali staff who have supported the school so loyally for many years have had severe losses and the Governors have sanctioned a hardship fund which will release 30,000NRs to those local colleagues who have suffered material losses. (Staff are organising support beyond this for those in the most serious position). Alongside our own charities (who are using the 1.5million rupees we had already collected this year on immediate aid projects) the Governors have released 1 million NRs from our contingency funds to support immediate aid and will pass this to others to administrate.

At this difficult time, please let us know how we can support you and please take all precautions and stay safe! On behalf of TBS staff thank you for your support!