Dear Parents,

Term 1 Welcome back letter

I hope that you and your families are enjoying your summer break and that the children are beginning to get excited about coming back to school in the week beginning Monday 15th August. I thought it would be useful to give a brief update on developments on the site and provide some TBS website links where you can find information that might be useful as we prepare for the new academic year.

Join us for our 50th Anniversary Dinner and Dance on Saturday 20th August

As many of you will know The British School turns 50 this year and we plan to start celebrating this occasion than with a TBS 50th Anniversary Dinner and Dance on Saturday 20th August. It will be a great chance to get together as a community early in the year and to enjoy socialising with old and new friends. The cost of the tickets will be 3500NRs (with any profits going to TBS charities) and you can purchase them at the TBS Community Shop or email Ms. Nancy Khetan nkhetan@tbs.edu.np for advance bookings. We will be hosting the Dinner at the Regal Ballroom, Hotel Yak and Yeti. We hope all TBS parents are able to attend this event and celebrate with us.

Staggered start and parent information sessions

To ensure a smooth start to term for all parents and children, there are different start times. This means the car park is less overwhelmed on the first day and also that we can give parents and children more time at the start of term when it can be a worrying experience!

Monday 15th - All primary children return (F1-Y6) at 8.15am with an information meeting for all primary parents in the Hall at 8.20am once children are settled with their teachers

Tuesday 16th - Years 7 and Years 12 & 13 return at 8.15am with an information meeting for all parents of children in Years 7, 12 & 13 in the Hall at 8.20am

Wednesday 17th - Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 return at 8.15am with an information meeting for all parents of children in Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 in the Hall at 8.20am

The new TBS buildings are nearly there! Latest deadlines

Our contractors are working hard to finish all the new TBS buildings and, given how much they are attempting, they have made very good progress. Although the buildings will not be quite finished for the start of term, there will not be any impact on learning as we can temporarily relocate some secondary classes and the Music and Performing Arts Building will be ready for use. The new completion deadlines are:

Music and Performing Arts Building - 12th August (ready for use when children return)
PE tennis/basketball area - to be ready for use when clubs begin
Science laboratories and Art Studios - 22nd August
Library & Design Technology workshops - 31st August
English and Humanities Block - 5th September

TBS Community Shop

The TBS Community Shop is open for business from Monday 1st August and a full price list can be found here. Do be careful on the school site if you would like to come and get “back to school” items.
The TBS Ethos and Mission
For those who are new, and to remind all parents, TBS aims to provide ‘excellence at the top of the world’ and our vision statement is below. We implement this vision through our learning policy as well as other key policies which are all available on the website. Our most recent BSO OFSTED inspection report can also be found there, in which we were praised for being ‘an excellent school’ which ‘provides an outstanding quality of education and demonstrates an exceptional flexibility in meeting the learning and personal needs of its students’.

Weekly newsletter
We will continue to publish our weekly newsletter which has links to the various class and subject pages at the bottom left of page 1 (see left). The footer (below) has links to key staff you may need to contact and clicking on their name will take you to their email.

‘Meet the Staff Evening’ - 6pm Wednesday 17th August 2016 (plus optional e-safety pre-meeting at 5.30pm)
At the start of the academic year it has been customary to hold a relatively informal meet the teacher evening. In recent years it has developed from ‘meet the teacher’ evening to facilitate meeting other relevant non-teaching TBS staff as well such as our Librarians, clubs organisers, office managers etc. It is also a chance to meet other parents in your year group and to have a look at your child’s classroom. This has been a well-attended event which parents have found useful so we look forward to seeing you in school on Wednesday 17th August. On the same evening, there will also be an introduction to e-safety for parents who would like to know more about online safety at 5.30pm in the Secondary ICT room.
Office managers & Information for parents

Ms. Nancy Khetan  Ms. Sona Chhetri  Ms. Lumina Shrestha

For many parents our office managers are the most regular point of contact. They are Ms. Nancy Khetan for Sixth Form (Years 12 & 13), Ms. Sona Chhetri for Secondary (Years 7-11), and Ms. Lumina Shrestha for Primary (F1 -Y6). They are the point of contact if children are absent or if you have any queries. They compile an information booklet which is updated in the light of queries they receive.

Welcome to our new TBS colleagues!

As always at the start of a new academic year we welcome new members of staff to the TBS team and Ms. Isha Tamrakar and Mr. Krishna Neupane join us to run the school shop and to provide additional administrative support. We also welcome 24 new teaching colleagues to the school - a brief introduction can be found here. Whilst this is the highest number of teachers we have ever welcomed in a single year, it is worth noting that only 9 are replacing colleagues who left in 2016: our 15 additional colleagues are to enhance the curriculum on offer at TBS and to accommodate student choices in growth subject areas. It is a very exciting time to be working at TBS and I hope our new colleagues will enjoy their time with us!

Final points - Further questions and safety on site

TBS takes the safety of your children very seriously so please do ask drivers to be very careful in the car park, ensure there is close supervision of your children on the school grounds (before 8am and once we have released them back to your care at the end of the day) and do let Mr. Steve Priest know of any Health & Safety issues. If you are worried about a child’s well-being from a safeguarding perspective then do contact Ms. Gemma Caines or any of her safeguarding team (their pictures will be displayed near the front gate from 15th August). We also share our safeguarding policy and our intimate care policy on the website with all the other TBS policies we think parents may wish to see.

This is a busy school so there is a great deal happening - I am sure you would not want it otherwise - but there can be a great deal to take in at the start of term (including everything in this letter!). Much of the information we share is online and you can follow us on twitter (@TbsKathmandu) to get daily stories about the sheer variety of learning experiences that occur during the school day. Our school nurse, Mrs. Pabitra Deula, is available in the playground every morning from 8am as are our ICT support staff, Mr. Ashish Marsani and Mr. Soyam Khanal, so if you have any ICT questions you can visit their ICT Help Desk (which will be in the courtyard if it does rain). Our clubs and activities do not start until Week 3 so we will give you more information about clubs at the end of week 1 once we are back in school.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming all TBS families back to school in a few weeks and I hope 2016-17 will be a year of celebration, exciting learning and fun activities for everyone. Best wishes and enjoy the rest of the break in the meantime!

Yours sincerely

Dr. John Moore
Principal

PS - The administrative team will send out a reminder regarding the annual forms that we will require parents to return at the start of term (and paper copies will be available from the Admissions Office next week if you did not receive them via email at the end of last academic year).