



PARENTS' BULLETIN: 9 OCTOBER, 2015

Thought for the Week

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Vicki Corona

Important Dates

12/10/15: Mid-semester exams begin

17/10/15: Service Learning Day (Grade 11)

22/10/15: Board Meeting; Time with an expert; MUN (Accra) Conference Day 1

23/10/15: Speaker of the Year Contest (2.00-4.00pm); MUN (Accra) Conference Day 2

24/10/15: MUN (Accra) Conference Day 3; Mid-semester break begins; ACT

30/10/15: Mid-Semester Reports Available; Creative Writers' Conference Day 1

31/10/15: Creative Writers' Conference Day 2

1/11/15: Mid-semester break ends: students return to school by 5.00pm

2/11/15: Classes resume

6/11/15: 3-Way Performance Interviews (7.30am-1.00pm); Careers Expo (2.00-5.00pm)

7/11/15: SAT; TIS Athletics Carnival (TBC)

Founders' Week

Last week was a long, but fantastic week, as we appreciated the achievements of the Founders and the Founding Family, as well as celebrating another birthday for TIS. The Alumni have current bragging rights, having won the Adjavon Memorial Cup last Saturday. However, as many G12 students were sitting a SAT exam on that day, the final match for the Adjavon Memorial Cup will see the Alumni team play G12 on Saturday, 17 October @ 10.00am sharp. This match will be 'winner-take-all' and the successful team be declared the 2015 champion team for the Adjavon Memorial Cup.

We were fortunate to enjoy our pioneering students, along with other Alumni, at the Founders' lunch on Saturday. Following lunch, a special photo of Mr Adjavon was unveiled in the library, in memory of the late Founder.

To conclude Super Saturday, the Inter-Colour Singing Competition showcased the singing and musical talent within TIS. While Red was declared the champion colour, the performances and costumes of each colour were simply brilliant and awesome. Everyone was a winner on Saturday night and those in attendance came away with a wonderful memory.



The week rounded off with Visiting Sunday and students always appreciate seeing family on any occasion, especially when they are provided with some goodies.

G12 IB Entries

We have requested copies of G11 and 12 passports to verify student data. This is critical so that the correct name appears on the IB DP diploma when it has been awarded. Entries for the current G12 students will be made during the first week of November. Any changes after this date incurs a fee.

- The spelling of a student's name and their DOB are listed in ManageBac (MB). All parents of students in G11-12 have been sent an invitation to access MB. Please check your son's/daughter's details to ensure accuracy.
- Any change in name details for G12 students after 1 November will be a parent's responsibility.
- Please email Dr Ken if you are unable to access MB (parents of G11-12 students only).

PGCSE to Sixth Form?

The PGCSE is a junior secondary credential. It is currently used at TIS as an indicator for subject selection for IB Diploma courses, especially when deciding between higher and standard level courses. The PGCSE exams also allow our students to experience an external exam situation before the Grade 12 DP exams.

TIS expects enrolling students to complete their education by gaining the IB Diploma at the end of Grade 12. It is the school exit credential of choice by many universities due to its standard and rigour. At the end of Grade 12, students are mature and ready to be successful in their chosen course.

Surprisingly, several students seek entry into sixth form in England after completion of the IGCSE at TIS. This is not a recommended option, simply because a student at TIS has completed four years of junior secondary education to gain the PGCSE, while students in England have completed five years of junior secondary education for their GCSE. That year is a crucial difference when it comes to future academic success. Students are generally younger and this age difference is often crucial when coping in different situations.

For any reference to Sixth Form, TIS will advise that students have completed four years of secondary education for the award of the PGCSE

November Visiting Sunday

November will be an extremely busy month, even though they all seem very busy. 15 November was set on the calendar as the next Visiting Sunday. This event is now cancelled as parents will have the opportunity to visit the school on:



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- **1 November:** returning students following the mid-semester break
- **6 November:** 3-way interviews and career expo (7.30am- 5.00pm)
- **7/8 November:** TIS athletics carnival
- **14 November:** Interschool Athletics carnival (Accra)
- **15 November:** TIS swimming carnival
- **21-22 November:** Annual School Play
- **28 November:** Interschool swimming and volleyball carnival at TIS

3-Way Performance Interviews: Save This Date

On Friday, 6 November, 3-way performance interviews will be conducted from 7.30am-1.00pm. This will be an opportunity for parents, their child/ren and teachers to discuss student performance during the first mid-semester. Interviews will be limited to 10 minutes to ensure parents can meet as many teachers as possible. Specific details will be provided within the next fortnight.

Following this interview session, there will be a Careers Expo in the TIS Sports Complex and parents may wish to visit the expo with their children.

Mid-Semester Exams

Next week, 12-17 October is exam week. This may also include Monday 19 October. Best of luck, students. Stay focused and balanced.

IBDP update

Students and staff are in full time preparation mode for the mid-semester exams next week. The Fun-fair which was planned for this Saturday has been postponed to January 2016 to enable students to put their best foot forward for the exams.

Grade 12 completed an important exercise this week by discussing their goals with their teachers and freezing their predicted grades for the colleges. The finalized PG will be shared with all the stakeholders at the earliest after due deliberation.

In Grade 11, quite a few students have approached me for subject changes this week, I had advised them to make a call after the mid – semester exam next week.

In view of the mid-semester exams next week all the IA's process deadlines for next week get postponed to the week after (19-10-15 to 23-10-15). IBDP students will not get any hostel work or assignments during the mid-semester exams. I urge parents to go on Managebac and read the messages from the ASSCUS team for the timely updates on university applications.



Science Update

The science department will embark on an educational trip on the 16 October, 2015 with 31 G10 physics students to the Atuabo Gas Processing Plant and return the following day, 17 October, 2015. They will be accompanied by 4 teachers and a hostel guardian. Departure time is 8.00 am.

Another science educational trip is scheduled for **14** G11(HL) and **10** G12 (SL&HL) physics students on 20 October, 2015 to visit the Planetarium in Accra. They will be accompanied by three physics teachers. Departure time is 2.00 pm and arrival time is 5.00 pm.

Maths Update

Some students in Grade 7 & 8 who require support in some topics in math will meet their peer tutors for support in the Maths Lab on Monday, 12 October from 2:45pm to 3:45pm under the supervision of two Maths teachers.

ASSCUS Update

Careers' Day

November 6th, 2015! We have a month to go.

We are looking forward to parents who wish to be part of the group of professionals to share career truths with our students. Kindly confirm your interest via email: Adwoa.Opoku-Mensah@tis.edu.gh

Parents are encouraged to remind their wards to bring along their career outfits after the mid-semester break to enable them to dress up for the Careers' event.

Parents who wish to contribute to the event by providing job related tools or paraphernalia for the career exhibition stands should also kindly contact us via the above email address.

Time: 2pm-5pm

Venue: Sports Complex

College Fairs & Visits

Last Tuesday, 13 students accompanied by college advisors, visited the United Kingdom Advisory Service (UKEAS) International Education Exhibition at the Holiday Inn - Accra. The event was represented mostly by UK universities and others from Canada and the United States. Our appreciation goes to parents who joined us for the event.

This Friday, (**9 October, 2015**) we have an admissions representative from **University of Debrecen**, Hungary visiting our IB students. The rep will be sharing information on the school's popular medical programme as well as a variety of other great programmes available at their beautiful campus in Debrecen- the 2nd largest city in Hungary. We are happy that a number of our alumni are currently enrolled there and both students and parents have given us positive feedback about the school so far.



Time: 1:45pm

Venue: Handel Picasso Exam Hall (New Exam Hall).

College Sessions & Test Reminders

On the same day, our IB1 students will role play admission officers. They will be presented with different student profiles and required to make decisions on whom to admit. This session is an opportunity for students to understand the different criteria used by different universities for admission decisions. They will also appreciate the competitive nature of the admission process and learn to build outstanding profiles for their future applications.

Please be reminded that registration for the **December 2015 SAT & ACT examinations** take place next week Friday, October 16th as stipulated in the SAT, ACT Test Dates and Deadlines schedule communicated earlier.

Please remember that a **valid unexpired passport** is the only acceptable form of identification for students to be allowed to take these standardized tests. This is in line with strict directives from the testing agencies in the U.S.A.

Payments due by Monday October 19, 2015:

SAT I- \$110

SAT II- 1 subject (\$100), 2 subjects (\$110), 3 subjects (\$120)

ACT- \$110

***Predicted Grades**

This week, teachers shared Predicted Grades with our IB2 students. Kindly join us to encourage and motivate our students to work towards these grades or improve on them. College lists may be revised for some students based on the outcome of predicted grades.

IGCSE Update

Attached is the provisional IGCSE Timetable arranged by subject code (not date of start or completion)

The provisional registration for IGCSE will take place in December and parents will receive bills for registration alongside the fees for the second semester. Final checks and submission of registration details to Cambridge will take place by the end of January after receipt of payments from parents. Parents are entreated to pay registration fees promptly so as not to delay the registration process as undue delay beyond the deadline attracts penalties.



IGCSE PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

0410	12	Music	1 hour 15 minutes	Fri 10-Jun-16	Morning
0413	12	Physical Education	1 hour 45 minutes	Fri 20-May-16	Morning
0417	12	ICT	2 hours 0 minutes	Wed 18-May-16	Morning
0455	11	Economics	0 hours 45 minutes	Thu 09-Jun-16	Afternoon
0455	21	Economics	2 hours 15 minutes	Wed 18-May-16	Afternoon
0460	12	Geography	1 hour 45 minutes	Tue 03-May-16	Morning
0460	22	Geography	1 hour 30 minutes	Fri 06-May-16	Morning
0470	12	History	2 hours 0 minutes	Mon 09-May-16	Morning
0470	22	History	2 hours 0 minutes	Fri 13-May-16	Morning
0470	42	History	1 hour 0 minutes	Mon 06-Jun-16	Morning
0478	11	Computer Science	1 hour 45 minutes	Tue 24-May-16	Afternoon
0478	21	Computer Science	1 hour 45 minutes	Thu 26-May-16	Afternoon
0486	12	Literature (English)	1 hour 30 minutes	Mon 23-May-16	Morning
0486	22	Literature (English)	1 hour 30 minutes	Fri 27-May-16	Morning
0486	32	Literature (English)	0 hours 45 minutes	Fri 27-May-16	Morning
0500	11	First Language English	1 hour 45 minutes	Tue 03-May-16	Afternoon
0500	21	First Language English	2 hours 0 minutes	Tue 03-May-16	Afternoon
0520	11	French	0 hours 45 minutes	Mon 09-May-16	Afternoon
0520	21	French	1 hour 0 minutes	Fri 13-May-16	Afternoon
0520	41	French	1 hour 0 minutes	Mon 09-May-16	Afternoon
0530	12	Spanish	0 hours 45 minutes	Fri 20-May-16	Morning
0530	22	Spanish	1 hour 0 minutes	Thu 12-May-16	Morning
0530	42	Spanish	1 hour 0 minutes	Fri 20-May-16	Morning
0580	12	Mathematics	1 hour 0 minutes	Wed 04-May-16	Morning
0580	22	Mathematics	1 hour 30 minutes	Wed 04-May-16	Morning
0580	32	Mathematics	2 hours 0 minutes	Wed 11-May-16	Morning
0580	42	Mathematics	2 hours 30 minutes	Wed 11-May-16	Morning
0606	11	Additional Mathematics	2 hours 0 minutes	Tue 31-May-16	Afternoon
0606	21	Additional Mathematics	2 hours 0 minutes	Fri 03-Jun-16	Afternoon
0610	11	Biology	0 hours 45 minutes	Tue 17-May-16	Afternoon
0610	21	Biology	0 hours 45 minutes	Tue 17-May-16	Afternoon
0610	31	Biology	1 hour 15 minutes	Tue 17-May-16	Afternoon
0610	41	Biology	1 hour 15 minutes	Tue 17-May-16	Afternoon
0610	61	Biology	1 hour 0 minutes	Wed 04-May-16	Afternoon
0620	11	Chemistry	0 hours 45 minutes	Thu 19-May-16	Afternoon
0620	21	Chemistry	0 hours 45 minutes	Thu 19-May-16	Afternoon
0620	31	Chemistry	1 hour 15 minutes	Thu 19-May-16	Afternoon
0620	41	Chemistry	1 hour 15 minutes	Thu 19-May-16	Afternoon
0620	61	Chemistry	1 hour 0 minutes	Tue 10-May-16	Afternoon
0625	11	Physics	0 hours 45 minutes	Wed 25-May-16	Afternoon
0625	21	Physics	0 hours 45 minutes	Wed 25-May-16	Afternoon
0625	31	Physics	1 hour 15 minutes	Wed 25-May-16	Afternoon
0625	41	Physics	1 hour 15 minutes	Wed 25-May-16	Afternoon
0625	61	Physics	1 hour 0 minutes	Thu 12-May-16	Afternoon



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The Timetable excludes Art and Design papers which will be written between March and early April. IGCSE ICT Practicals papers are also not included. These dates will be provided by CIE in due course.

I appreciate your support.

Dr Ken Darvall

Principal



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