



Highlighted Contents from Today's TIS Bulletin: 21/4/17

Click on each topic to take you to the corresponding page

- Thought for the Week
- Calendar
- Parent Reminders
- Making Us Proud
- TIS Re-registration
- Exam Students
- Exam Candidates Service/Visiting Sunday
- G10 Prom 2016
- MYP Corner
 - Exams!!
- Counsellor's Corner
 - College Guidance Department: Key Initiatives
 - ACT June Reminder
 - College Visits
 - Conflict Resolution
 - University Highlight: McMaster University, Canada
 - To our DP2s & Grade 10s
- Creative Arts in Retrospect
- CAS Updates

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TIS BULLETIN: 21 APRIL, 2017

Thought for the Week

Simplicity is the shortest path to a solution.

Ward Cunningham

Calendar

23/4/17: Exam candidates' service (11.00am); visiting Sunday (1.00-5.00pm)

24/4/17: June ACT deadline for registration.

28/4/17: DP exams commence

29/4/17: U16 football gala (Accra); Dear Fellow (Accra)

1/5/17: May Day holiday (external exams continue)

6/5/17: SAT

[Back to top](#)

Parent Reminders

- Complete student re-registration for 2017/2018 by 30 April.
- If you are experiencing TIS email hassles (and not internet provider issues), then please forward them to support@tis.edu.gh
- Students will not have exeats approved if they have outstanding work to complete.
- Exeat requests for a weekend should be received by COB Wednesdays.
- Students returning from an exeat on a school day must be in full school uniform, including shoes, not sandals.

Making Us Proud

- Our G12 and 10 students as they prepare for the first exams next Friday.

[Back to top](#)

TIS Re-registration

To confirm enrolment for next year, parents are required to complete student and family data to ensure current data on MB is accurate. Please use the specific link provided in the email sent at the end of March. If unable to find it, please email Ken.

This accuracy is crucial. For the past two years, incorrect spelling of names and dates of birth have only been noticed once students have been registered for IGCSE or DP exams.

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For the health records section, if you have new records that should be on file, please attach them to OA, or email them to me. Documentation we have for health records will be uploaded by Bijoux over the coming months, so you can overlook this question in re-registration.

Re-registration should be completed by 30 April to avoid a late fee*.

You will enter this data on OpenApply (OA) which is MB's younger sibling. It is user-friendly, however, if you have any issues, please contact Bijoux or myself.

To date, only 24% of parents have completed the task. Your cooperation and timeliness will always be appreciated.

** A late fee of GHC250 will be imposed for re-registration from 1 May - 3 June. From 4 June – 31 July, re-registration will require the payment of the admission fee. From 1 August, re-enrolment will be required for those students who did not re-register.*

[Back to top](#)

Exam Students

The time has come for our G10 and 12 students with their final examinations commencing next week. They have our prayers and best wishes over the next month, as they strive to achieve the final grades they deserve.

Exam Candidates Service/Visiting Sunday

There will be an exam candidates' service on Sunday, commencing at 11.00am. It will conclude by 1.00pm.

To coincide with the exam candidates' service, this Sunday will be Visiting Sunday from 1.00-5.00pm. Please note that there will be no entry after 4.00pm. No registration is required for this event.

G10 Prom 2016

There is still GHC3000 outstanding from the Grade 10 Prom that students organized in June 2016. To clear this external account G11 students from TIS G10 have requested their school accounts be debited the amount owing. Three current students did not pay last year and will be billed GHC450. Remaining students will be billed GHC55.

I appreciate your support.

Dr Ken Darvall
Principal

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MYP Corner

Exams!!

While thinking about my weekly article for the newsletter I came across one I wrote last year in the first week of May at my school in London regarding the e-assessments.

"It's an exciting two weeks ahead for our Grade 10 students with the e-assessments starting on Tuesday. To allow our students to do some extra revision and get emotionally prepared, there will be no lessons for Grade 10 on Monday. Where students need to see a teacher, they can of course come to school for that, otherwise they can stay at home. During the rest of the two weeks of exams lessons will continue as normal as possible under the circumstances. The subject teachers are not allowed to be at their exams and therefore will be available for the lessons, especially for those not taking the exams."

As you can see teaching and learning is indeed ongoing, even during exams. When creating the MYP exams the aim was to create them in such a way that one cannot really study for them but actually has to apply the knowledge and skills that have been obtained over the years. For this the exams are context based and often in a way that students have not really seen before. It is a challenging way of doing exams and they can be tough, but at the same time are a good preparation for the DP. Now we all know that not all is purely contextualized and that there is still knowledge and skills one can revise. Having said that, how much of knowledge that you cram into your brain during a revision actually remains long term?

Of course the MYP students at the International School of London were not as focused in class as they normally would be but in general it was business as usual and students knew that there was still the end of school report as well. By no means I want to say that students were not prepared. They had been going through all the topics over a longer period of time in many ways, and also the e-assessments themselves had been practised beforehand to get the students acquainted with the software.

Here at TIS life will be different for many students when exams start. They will go into revision mode, build up the, hopefully positive stress to get ready for their exams. I wish them all the best and hope for the best outcomes to their potential.

For Grades 7 & 8, however, it will be business as usual with normal lessons and assessments till the last week of school. No exams or test weeks for them!

Ate Hemmes
MYP Coordinator

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Counsellor's Corner



College Guidance Department: Key Initiatives

One-on-one meetings with our DP1 students and their parents are ongoing. With dedication and relentless support, we continue to guide our students through the college application process in a timely and efficient manner. Not only does our department provide this opportunity; here are some of the other ways that we encourage our students:

- We have a comprehensive college guidance curriculum which we take all students through, right from grades 7 – 12.
- There are weekly college guidance classes for every grade, as well as one-on-one meetings and walk-ins.
- We host universities from Ghana, UK, US, Australia, Canada, and other countries that personally inform students about study opportunities.
- Counsellors meet individually with all students and their parents to outline each student's personal university interests and preferences.
- The department provides career testing and coaching to assist students in identifying appropriate career choices, and connects students to internship opportunities and provides letters of support for students applying for internships.
- We facilitate all applications to summer program opportunities, such as Yale YGS.
- We help identify appropriate scholarships and assist students with scholarship and financial aid applications and nominations (our students have won full scholarships to universities every year as a result).
- We facilitate all aspects of the college application process, including assistance with college essays and personal statements, reviewing and submitting recommendation letters, and applying for financial aid and scholarships.



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ACT JUNE REMINDER

All students interested in writing the ACT June exam should pay no later than the extended deadline of next Monday **24 April**. Cost of registration: U.S. \$110.

Those writing **SAT May** on 7 May should give their valid unexpired passports to the college guidance department immediately. It is the only acceptable form of ID based on strict College Board SAT directives.

COLLEGE VISITS

- Kingston University, UK - Thursday 27 April 11 a.m. N.E.H. (New Exam Hall)
- Robert Gordon University, UK – Friday 28 April 10:30 a.m. N.E.H. (New Exam Hall)
- Nottingham University, UK – Friday 28 April 12:00 p.m. N.E.H. (New Exam Hall)
- Aston University, UK – Friday 28 April 1:45 p.m. N.E.H. (New Exam Hall)
- NYU Abu Dhabi – Thursday 4 May 11:00 a.m. N.E.H. (New Exam Hall)

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Last week, Grade 7 students identified conflicts that they sometimes experience in their class. After identifying several different tensions, including social conflict, and physical or verbal conflicts, the students collected ideas about key areas of conflict within their peer group. Once these were identified, students collaborated to suggest solutions to solving conflicts. The Emotional Counsellor emphasized the need to learn to listen to others and to respect each other, among other guidelines given. Some of the problems and solutions the students raised are as follows:

People Become Angry: Creating a reading corner or calm down space in the school where students can go when they are feeling frustrated or angry

People Not Keeping Good Hygiene: Students should talk to their peers in private to encourage better hygiene practices.

People Being Rude or Disrespectful: Teachers and class representatives should work together to encourage better behaviour.

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TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Our conflict resolution class



University Highlight: McMaster University, Canada



- Offers Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Health Sciences, Nursing, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Tuition: CAD\$35,000
- Scholarships and entrance awards available
- On campus housing is available for all first year students
- International students represent 98 countries and 20% of the student body

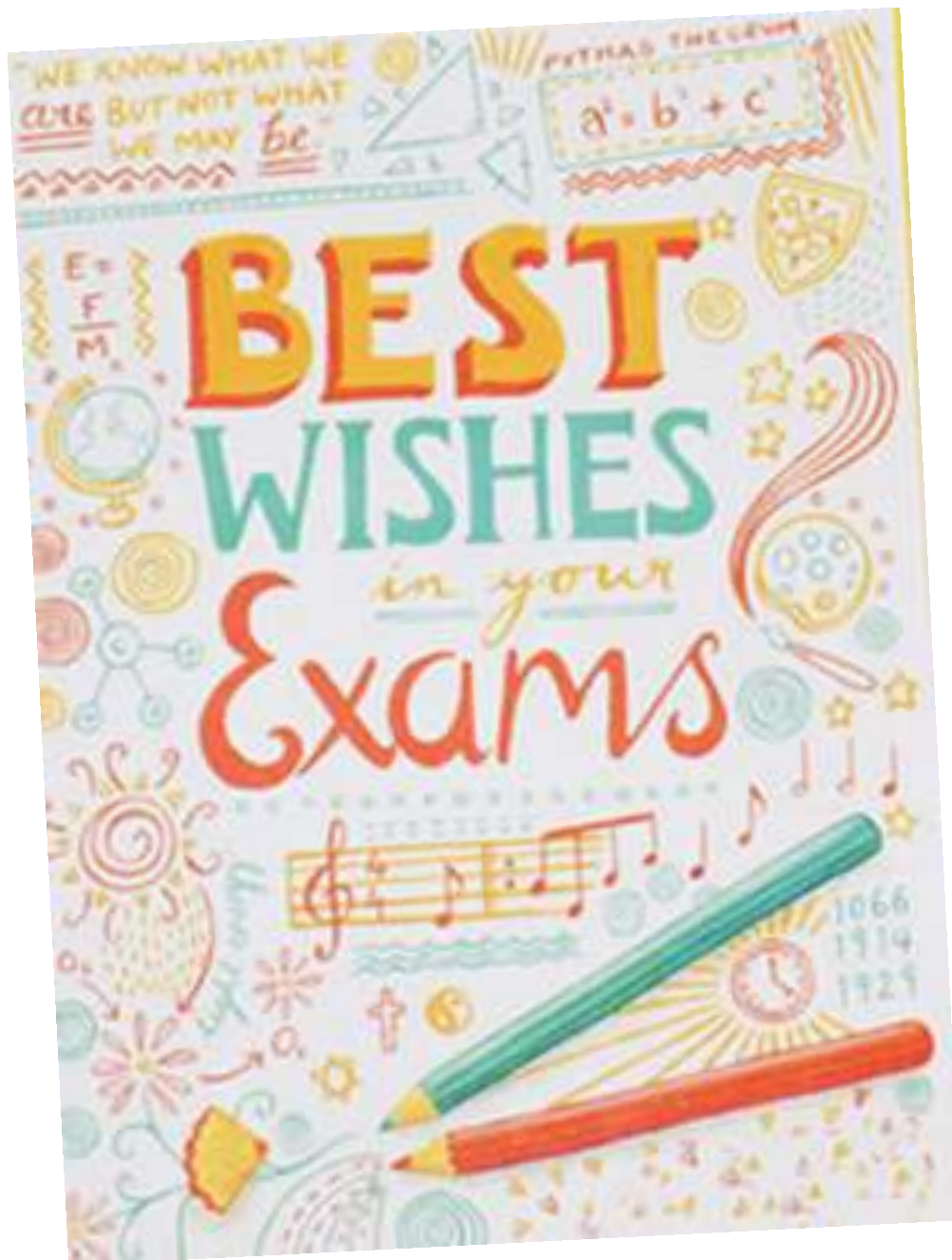
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- Research intensive school with more than 70 research centres and institutions
- Located close to Toronto and Niagara Falls

TO OUR DP2s AND GRADE 10s:



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CREATIVE ARTS IN RETROSPECT

The next couple of entries will be celebrating the gallant men and women who have made us so proud to be teachers in the creative arts. These exuberant energies, passion and personalities have graced the creative arts department with unforgettable experiences and memories. Here are some of them:

I never expected I would ever finish the I.G.C.S.E art course. I had always thought that I might drop it along the way like my other friends who couldn't handle it. It still surprises me I was able to finish this course.

Since Grade 9, I struggled to balance my art with the rest of my subjects since art is very time demanding. I was constantly pestered by my art teacher to submit my pieces or complete my resource book. It all seemed very irritating and made me even hate the subject more. It's quite sad that then I wasn't able to appreciate art like I do now. Though you may be forced to spend all your free periods in the art room and sometimes your prep, I have benefitted a lot from completing this art course.

Surprisingly, art has helped me manage my time better. Now, I'm able to study the most time consuming subjects at the perfect time since I was forced to do that in art. I have also learned to take risks and try new things. During art, I had always been afraid to try out using paint or anything I wasn't used to, but the art syllabus demanded that student should explore so I guess I didn't have a choice. This has helped me become a risk taker. Art has also helped me realize some talents I never thought I had possessed. I always thought I was bad at art from the beginning but I gradually began to grow fond of my art works and appreciate my talent from hard work. The most amazing part of doing art is working as a team with my fellow art students. I had never thought I would become friends with them before I did art but now we are closer than ever. Amaru is always there to prompt me when my work doesn't look so good and I can count on Kwame to compliment my works. We always worked as a team and helped each other. Though we had many fights about who would wash the brushes or who would clean the sink, I must say that it was worth it.

Many people may see art as useless but I would never second that. Art has opened my eyes and has made me experience many other interests I had. All the friends and memories I have made doing art has definitely made me happy. Though it was a real struggle to dedicate most of your time to painting or colouring, I will never regret my decision of ticking the little box right by the letter "ART" on my subject selection sheet in Grade 9.

Maama Ama A. Benyarko

When I came to TIS in Grade 8, I knew nothing about music. I basically thought it was just singing. The sad thing too, was I couldn't sing to save my life. Now I am currently in Grade 10 and I am a skilled violinist playing Grade 5 violin; playing pieces like Serenade in G and Kanon. I also play the piano on the side, and I am definitely a better singer.

Juku S. Attionu

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In the first week of Grade 9 I walked in to Mr Elikem's office as a timid girl with five others students not knowing what Drama was truly about; neither did I know that I would be the last one standing. Grade 9 started off quite well, where I was made to explore drama with my peers and work on certain techniques such as improvisation, getting in to character and breathing exercises. These things proved to be quite challenging at first as at the time I didn't have the confidence to truly explore and see what I could do to really bring a performance to life. At a certain point the people in my class started dropping like flies, we were then left with three then two by the end of the year. I knew I could not drop the subject, because I truly loved it. As the weeks progressed in Grade 10 I saw a new change in me I became more relaxed. I could act different characters and scripts and direct my own performance. Soon my coursework started, and it was very challenging, especially my devised piece. But certain people like my teacher, and especially Mr. Ebenezer, pushed and encouraged me to achieve great heights. Drama truly opened new doors for me to be creative. It boosted my confidence, I was able to really express myself how I wanted to, and I was allowed to be me.

Benita Kusi

CAS Updates



Two years of hard work, mind-mapping, friendships, successes and failures, learning and unlearning, collaborations, taking and giving back to society (service learning), and growing up. While on this journey, many indelible footprints have been made, especially in leadership and service.

Just as 'every journey begins with a first step', every road has an end. It takes courage to take first steps, but it takes much more courage to see the end of the road. It takes persistence, commitment, discipline and many sacrifices. And so it can be said of the two-year DP trip of the IB Class of 2017, 'The Initiators'.



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TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



It is common knowledge that anyone who manages to successfully complete the IBDP is nothing short of a hero, in fact, a superstar. This class of DP students has been phenomenal, managing to balance their academics with extra-curricular activities and leadership opportunities, while still managing to come out on top. Undoubtedly, there have been challenges, but at this point and with this group of people, it has only become obvious that, “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger”.



For many, the journey has been a straight flight, while others had to take transits; taking turns to change subjects and aspirations at different times. For all that its worth, the end of the road stares in the faces of the graduating class. The end of this journey is near, and a new one awaits.



As the class prepares for their final DP Exams, the CAS Team wishes them the best of good fortunes in both their final exams and in any future endeavours.



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OUR ALUMNI OF THE WEEK



Full name: **Paul Charles Owe**

Year group: **Class of 2016**

Hostel: **Francis Hostel**

Colour group: **Red Kigelia**

Achievements/Awards in TIS: **Best in Computer Science HL 2014/15 and 2015/16, Best in ITGS HL 2015/16.**

Most memorable experience in TIS: **Finishing the last IB exam**

Current university: **York University**
Year of graduation: **2020**

Major/area of specialization: **Computer Science**

Achievements in/out of college: **Derek and I successfully managed to start up Tutoring Services for specific courses**

Key word in life: **Tenacity**

Word of advice: **Have the courage to live a life true to yourself, not the life others expect of you**

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