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TIS BULLETIN: 18 AUGUST, 2017

Thought for the Week

It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement.

Isocrates

Calendar

19/8/17: Continuing students return to hostels

20/8/17: Annual play auditions (2.00pm)

21/8/17: Classes commence for 2017/2018

24-25/8/17: G11 trip to Akorlikope

27/8/17: Thanksgiving service (11.00am); Visiting Sunday (1.00-4.00pm)

9/9/17: ACT; Health Walk (6.00am)

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Making Us Proud

TIS welcomed our newest members of the TIS family on Wednesday –*the 2017 Newbies*. Everyone is commenting, to confirm my observations, about the quality of this group. They are very focused, eager and keen, and are settling in quickly. New friendships are being established that will last a lifetime. Congratulations, 2017 Newbies.

Just as our newest members of TIS arrived, our newest Alumni are starting to head off the various regions of the world in preparation for their university and college studies. TIS is very proud of each of our Alumni members and look forward to hearing from them during the course of the year, as well as expecting to see them when they return to Ghana. BOL, **IB Class of 2017**.

Returning to school tomorrow, along with other continuing students will be our IG class of 2017 who performed so well in their recent IG exams. Their results should now guide them to selecting the best courses, at higher and standard levels, as they commence the DP program in in Grade 11. Congratulations, IG Class of 2017.

Reminders

Uniforms

For those students requiring new uniforms for the start of the new year, please email Bijoux with your sizes, and the number and items required. Bijoux's email is: Bijoux.h@tis.edu.gh

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First Day for Returning Students

Returning students should arrive on campus between 1.00-4.00pm tomorrow, 19 August. Students who are not returning on time should have advised me by now. My email address is: principal@tis.edu.gh

Devices

All students will only be allowed one device at school this year. We recommend a laptop. However, the final decision is the parents. Devices should be kept in a protective sleeve when not in use. Students should not share their devices with their peers. Students must only access the TIS wifi network and personal modems are not allowed. During the evening, devices will be stored overnight to encourage students to enjoy adequate sleep and rest.

Mobile phones are not permitted. International students who arrive with a mobile phone must hand it to Alex Tay on arrival and collect it at the start of a school break.

Returning students will be able to have their device connected to the TIS network tomorrow (Saturday) from 2-5pm in IT Lab 2. This will be the only opportunity over the weekend.

An Exciting Year Ahead

Every year at TIS is busy and exciting. 2017/2018 will be no different with a whole range of experiences and opportunities for TIS students. My key word for this year is excellence. Aunty Cecilia highlights action. Action is required, if excellence is to be achieved. However, it will be the focus, effort and consistency that will result in excellence. Each of us should always be trying to improve upon our personal best in everything we do. The emphasis is on learning: not just in academics, but each experience that is available to us.

Each student needs to ensure a balance in their life. Without a balance, their wellbeing is at risk. Insufficient sleep immediately affects performance, mood, attitude and eating habits. Friendship and family issues, along with missing deadlines, due to poor (or lack of) planning, result in anxiety. As in the case of spending too much time on social media and games, these are distractions to learning, with students losing their focus. Wellbeing issues will torpedo best intentions for academic excellence. All staff are ready to assist each and every TIS student with their concerns and issues. We are blessed to have Aunty Sandra as the TIS Wellbeing Counsellor.

TIS Events

Parents are always welcome to attend any TIS event. We live in a busy 24/7 world, so this open invitation to parents to attend any event hopefully provides some sanity when trying to juggle calendars. Throughout the year, there are specific Visiting Sundays. However, they are

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not a monthly event as there may be sufficient TIS events available to parents to see their son/daughter.

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ManageBac

ManageBac (MB) is our learning management portal that is used by teachers for planning assessments, reporting and attendance. Students use it to access assignment tasks, resources, and assessment results, including semester reports. Parents access MB for reports, announcements and can track their child's academic performance. Almost all messages will be sent through MB to parents. Next week, new parents will be sent an email invitation to set their password to access their account. More information will be included in next week's Newsletter.

Naviance

Naviance is a college guidance and life career skills software program that students will commence using from G7-12. It will be the platform from which university and college applications will be sent. Students and parents will be able to access this program to ensure transparency throughout the university application process min G12. During the coming week, parents will be sent an email invitation and password to access their account. More information will be included in next week's Newsletter.

Dates

In last week's TIS Bulletin, a calendar overview was included. Parents should ensure that their son/daughter arrives at the start of each semester and not depart before the last day. Your child may tell you otherwise, but each day is important.

I appreciate your support.

Dr. Ken Darvall
Principal

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MYP Corner

Thank God the holiday is over!

I guess some of our students must feel like this. What has it been, 10 weeks? They must have been totally bored by the end and happy to come back to school.

During these weeks of holiday a lot of hard work has been going on to make changes to TIS. One of the main changes is the move from year-group rooms to subject rooms. No longer will teachers move back and forth from one room to another, but it will be the students moving. For me personally a normal situation, which I always practised in all the educational institutions I worked in. For TIS staff and students it will be a mind-set and it will take a short time to adjust.

All the classrooms and offices have been freshly painted using mainly white with one additional colour. The result is a bright and nice welcoming environment. All the subjects now have four rooms they can call theirs and for which they have the responsibility and ownership. For me the latter is most important. Having their own classrooms mean they will have their materials around and they can set it up in the way they feel “at home” and the displays reflect the program and subject of teaching and student work that reflects the learning. It’s a win-win situation.

Close to the subject rooms there are shared departmental offices, allowing for more collaboration and students easily know where to find their teachers. In what used to be the DP block one will now find the staff lounge and kitchenette. The old staffroom has been transformed into a new CASSA (Creativity/Action/Service and Service and Action) block, shared with Design and Maker Space.

CAS has always been one of the strong selling-points of TIS with a dedicated team guiding the students. With this new space + the construction that is still going on behind, we will be able to offer an even stronger programme. Design, being a mixture of Product and Digital Design, is a new and exciting addition to the MYP at TIS. As mentioned, it is also earmarked as the Maker Space. Students in Grades 7 & 8 will find a so-called Genius Hour on their timetable. A new concept, which we are going to develop and that I will be explaining more about in the coming weeks.

All in all, a lot of changes, that will benefit the teaching and learning, as well as ensuring the wellbeing of our students.

I wish all a great new academic year!!
Ate Hemmes - MYP Coordinator

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Counselors' Corner



The College Guides welcome the entire TIS family back to school! To our new students, we are *SUPER EXCITED* to have you! 😊😊😊 We look forward to enjoying the action packed semester with you. We trust that God will give you the grace to excel.
Our location: TIS Learning Centre- top floor

To **DP2 students** we are excited and available to support you to complete the rigorous process of college applications. We expect you to **take full ownership of the process** and we are confident that with hard work and a commitment to stick to deadlines, **you will receive excellent university offers.**

Timelines & a checklist for the submission of applications this year will be completed in a timely manner and will be made available to all DP2s and their parents shortly. These will be strictly adhered to.

Upcoming ACT & SAT 2017-2018 TIS Testing Dates.

Below are the TIS SAT & ACT test dates for the 2017-2018 academic year at TIS (Payment deadlines must be met for registration to be processed completely). Rising seniors (DP2s) and juniors (IB1s) considering U.S.A. universities, should register ahead of time. All IB1s are expected to finish writing these tests in DP1. You will observe that **not all SAT tests are available on all test dates**- College Board, has revised their testing schedule and as a school we can accommodate only some selected test dates. Please take note. **See the Guidance Counselors with your payment next week to register for the October ACT & SAT exams.** **SAT I Costs: U.S.\$110, ACT Costs U.S.\$110 (dollar payments only)**

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SAT 2017-2018

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE
OCT. 7, 2017	AUG. 23, 2017
NOV. 4, 2017*	SEPT. 6, 2017
MARCH 10, 2018**	JAN. 9, 2018
MAY 5, 2018	MARCH 6, 2018

ACT 2017-2018

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE.
SEPT. 9, 2017	May 31, 2017
Oct. 28, 2017	Sept. 1, 2017
April 14, 2018	Feb. 16, 2018

SAT SUBJECT TEST ONLY ** & REGULAR SAT ONLY *

PSAT REMINDER

The 2017 Preliminary SAT (PSAT) exam will take place on Saturday 14 October 2017. All interested Grade 10 students who previously signed up (in Grade 9 last semester) and paid for the test are reminded to come along with their receipt to complete registration when school resumes. If payment has not yet been made, please bring your **PSAT registration fee of U.S.\$30** when returning to school this weekend and make payment **latest by next week Friday- the 25 August 2017 to complete registration.**

For more about the PSAT and for practice tests visit:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psatnmsqt-psat-10> or take practice tests at Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

SCHOLARSHIPS

The College of Wooster (Ohio, U.S.A.) has renewed its commitment to provide competitive scholarship offers to African students from around the continent, up to a maximum of full tuition. To be considered for these scholarships;

- Students may apply Early Decision, Early Action, or Regular Decision; however, we recommend applying through one of the early rounds.
- All citizens of African countries will be automatically considered with the completion of their Common Application and other application requirements.
- Awards are based on both academic merit and financial need and will include scholarship and on-campus employment opportunities.
- Please note that the Wooster application is still FREE.

For any queries on this please contact rsines-sheaff@wooster.edu.

Interested DP2 students considering this great liberal arts school, should see their counselors for support with the application.

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They should also note that they must give their Counselors and Teachers at least **2 weeks'** **notice** of all their university application deadlines should they require any documents to be submitted on their behalf.



The Learning Centre at TIS

The TIS Learning Centre Team welcomes all staff and students to the 2017/18 academic year. We wish to encourage all members of the TIS community to always visit the Learning Centre for a real learning experience.

For the kind information of students in **Grades 10 and 12**, they are expected to hand in **all books** (Textbooks & Library Books) issued to them last academic year upon their return from the summer break. The Bookshop expects to receive these books between **Monday, August 21 and Tuesday, August 22** for a special verification and validation exercise to be carried out. The process will take a couple of days to complete. Thereafter, students who wish to have their books re-issued out to them will be given the opportunity to do so.

TIS Learning Centre: “Right Place to Be”!

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English Corner

Debate Society

Tema International School Debate Society has, as one of its main preoccupations, to help students develop their self-esteem and self-confidence through public speaking. Thus, the society challenges its members to step out of their comfort zones to overcome shyness and nervousness that relate to public speaking. Members are also groomed to sharpen their skills for effective presentation of arguments in a socially acceptable manner.

In order to be able to achieve this aim, the Society provides the platform for its members to practise newly taught skills and through this, it has built a reputation over the years for excelling in various debate competitions at both national and international fronts.

Another of such opportunities has come knocking at the door of members of the Society in the form of the maiden edition of the Africa Debate Championship which comes off in Kampala, Uganda, from 10-15 September, 2017. In spite of the late receipt of the confirmation for this (over the summer break), which made it difficult for parents to be contacted early, we believe that this is a golden opportunity for our students to test their debating skills in a relevant multi-cultural environment, another means by which they can be equipped as game changers and leaders of the African continent.

This platform will also help students to understand that regardless of which part of the globe one finds himself or herself on, the ability to communicate clearly is key. Hence, despite this short notice which may prove a hurdle, we wish to encourage parents whose wards are members of the Debate Society to sign them up for this unique experience as soon as possible. In this regard, we will be extremely grateful if interested parents could register their wards by 23 August by contacting the Patron of the Debate Society via lwelagaamo@tis.edu.gh or +233207920650, or the Head of English Department via irene.koree@tis.edu.gh. A detailed letter will be sent out to parents of members of the Society as soon as possible.

Once again, while we recognize that this information comes to you at short notice, we believe the experience will be worthwhile and thus urge you to support your ward to be part of this historic endeavor of networking African future leaders.

We do regret any inconvenience this may cause.

Thank you.

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CASSA Updates

Hello everyone,



A special shout out to our Newbies who just joined the TIS family. To our students who returned after a well- deserved vacation, welcome back, we really missed you. My name is Surama King, you can call me Mama Su. I am privileged to coordinate CAS, SA, Co-curricular and school events. I work with an incredible, enthusiastic, diligent, committed, creative and caring team and we are called the CASSA team. Look out for Miss Grace with her infectious smile and who is always ready to assist you, Ebenezer who can laugh out loud at anything, even when he is upset and Miss Abigail our newbie, you must meet her. She is our intern and just being with her for 2 weeks I can assure you, she is our kind of girl.

We bring the TIS and IB philosophy to life. We assist you in connecting the dots of what you learn in the classroom with real life experiences. We learn by doing. Academics is a very important aspect of education in TIS. And we believe in developing lifelong learners; we believe in developing the person in you. This is why we offer so many experiences outside the Classroom.

The CASSA team facilitates the CAS (Creativity, Activity & Service) Programme for the DP students, the SA (Service and Action) Programme for the MYP students, and we also coordinate school events and co-curricular activities. We collaborate with all stakeholders, teaching, non-teaching staff, parents and Alumni in making these experiences relevant and enjoyable.

As a caring school we have a commitment to service. In TIS, the opportunities to make the world a better place are endless.

So Step up, Show up, Engage and be sure to have fun.

The CASSA team office is at the former office of the Wellbeing Counselor, Sandra. The entrance will be from the Design Lab (Library building) for semester 1. See you around Campus.



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IBDP CAS Orientation/Service learning trip to Akorlikope: What a good way to start the DP journey by engaging with the children of the Grace Land Academy. The Akorlikope project have been initiated by our Alumni. Since 201, the DP classes have been engaged with issues concerning the Akorlikope community. An email will be sent to all Grade 11 parents concerning the SL trip. Watch out for awesome pictures and meaningful reflections from our DP students. #CAS2017



Sports: Physical exercise is good for mind, body and spirit. Furthermore, team **sports** are good for learning accountability, dedication, and leadership, among many other traits. Putting it all together by playing a **sport** is a winning combination.

In recent years, research has also found that sport participation can positively affect your mental health. Here's how.

- Improve mood
- Concentration
- Reduce stress
- Sleep habits
- Healthy weight
- Confidence
- Leadership

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With all these benefits in mind the Sports team have made a number of activities available for you this semester. Make sure to be balanced while choosing after school activities.

Semester 1 Sports Events:

- Health Walk - 9 September
- Sporty Family - 23 September
- TIS Swimming Championship - 3 October
- Adjavon Cup - 7 October
- ISSAG Soccer, Tennis and Table Tennis - 28 October
- ISSAG Volleyball and Swimming - 11th November

* Training for ISSAG Competitions will start from 25th August, 2017.

* All other sports activities will take place alongside.

ASA - Students can choose from the following after-school sports activities:

1. Soccer
2. Tennis
3. Squash
4. Badminton
5. Volleyball
6. Basketball
7. Swimming
8. Table Tennis



<http://www.healthline.com/health/mental-benefits-sports#overview1>

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Watch out for the September Newsletter – Updates on CAS projects/activities, SA projects, school events, ASA (After School Activities) time table, School Play Audition, Reflections from Newbies, Why TIS from our Newbie parents, and much more.

Enjoy the ride!
CASSA Team



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Our Alumni of the week



Full name: Nana Aba (Baaba) Ackah

Year group: 2016

Hostel & Colour group: Catherine & Green Wisteria

Roles played at TIS: Sports prefect 2015/2016, Red Cross member, Female basketball team captain (2014 - 2016), Female volleyball team captain (2015 - 2016), female soccer team captain (2014 - 2016), Head of expression 2015, costume and makeup for annual school plays, Green color leader.

Achievements/Awards in TIS: The only sports prefect for my year. Sportswoman of the year 2015, merit list.

Most memorable experience in TIS: The day my name was mentioned during graduation.

Current university: Trent University (Canada)

Year of graduation: 2021

Major/ area of specialisation: Business and Science

Achievements in College: I actually took a gap year so I haven't been to college yet.

Achievements out of college: Internships at MTN Ghana and smart line publishers. Starting a landscape photography business. (NISSI)

Key word in life: Determination

Philosophy: You always get what you give.

Word of advice: Life is not a race, sooner or later you will get to where you're destined to be.

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The Newest Additions to the TIS Family



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Our Newbies at the Legon Botanical Gardens



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Auditions: Annual School Play 2017

AUDITIONS!!!
TIS Annual School Play 2017
The Slaves

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Written by: Dr. Mohammed Ben Abdallah
Directors: Araba Adenu-Mensah; Mifatu Gadzekpo; Nuna Attipoe

Date: Sunday, 20th August, 2017

Time: 2:00 pm

Venue: TIS Sports Complex

Cast & Crew Roles Available

... come prepared for a voyage of freedom...

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In-House Staff Development



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Tema International School



Welcome



TIS, a family school, a unique experience.



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