



TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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TIS BULLETIN: 12 APRIL, 2017

Thought for the Week

Your perspective is not how you see it. It's how you CHOOSE to see it.

Andy Andrews

Calendar

- 12/4/17: Sports Gala (2.00-4.00pm); exeats commence at 4.30pm
- 13/4/17: Easter long weekend commences
- 17/4/17: Easter long weekend ends; students return by 5.00pm
- 19/4/17: Graduation photos
- 21/4/17: G9 business excursion (local)
- 23/4/17: Exam candidates' service (11.00am); visiting Sunday (1.00-5.00pm)
- 28/4/17: DP exams commence
- 29/4/17: U16 football gala (Accra)

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Parent Reminders

- Complete student re-registration for 2017/2018 by 30 April.
- Exeat requests for a weekend should be received by COB Wednesdays.
- Students returning to school from exeat must arrive by 5.00pm. After this time, school gates are closed.
- Students returning from an exeat on a school day must be in full school uniform.
- If you are experiencing TIS email hassles (and not internet provider issues), then please forward them to support@tis.edu.gh
- Parents are invited to attend any school event.

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Making Us Proud

- Science fair exhibitors and staff for a spectacular science fair last Saturday.

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TIS Re-registration

Please take advantage of the Easter long weekend with your son/daughter by getting them to help you complete the re-registration process for 2017/2018. An email link to do this was sent to parents on 31 March. **Re-registration should be completed by 30 April to avoid a late fee*.**

To confirm enrolment for next year, parents will be required to complete student and family data to ensure current data on MB is accurate. Please use the specific link provided in the email.

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 13% 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.*

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Completion of Tasks and Exeats

Students will not have exeats approved if they have outstanding work to complete. For example, G11 students were required to complete certain tasks as part of their university application process by the end of mid-semester break. All, bar a few, failed to do so and they were reminded yesterday afternoon that would not be proceeding on exeat today if these tasks had not been completed.

Ignoring deadlines, or leaving things to the last minute, is not being principled. These poor habits will deny true success in the future.

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Easter Long Weekend Exeat

Students and staff will commence the Easter long weekend from 4.30pm on Wednesday, 12 April and must return by 5.00pm on Monday, 17 April.

I take this opportunity to wish all staff, students and their families a happy Easter.

I appreciate your support.

Dr Ken Darvall
Principal

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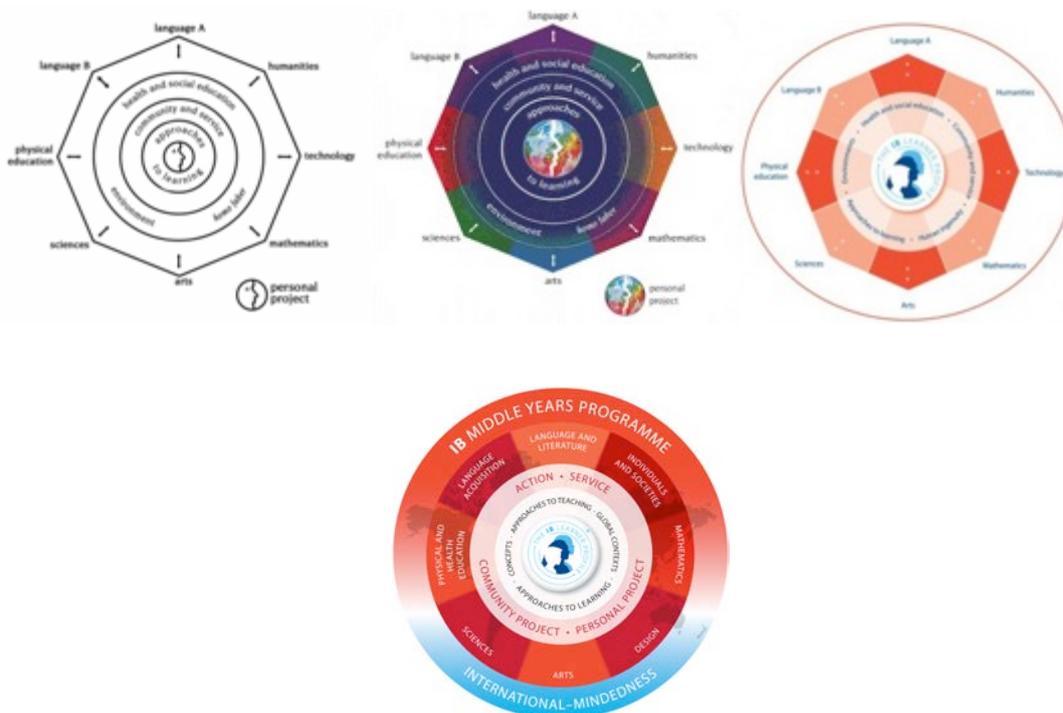
MYP Corner

The history and the future of the MYP

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Through this link <https://balimyp.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/history-of-the-myp.pdf> you will be able to read about the history of the MYP and how it all started in the 1980's. It is an interesting read how it describes the failure of not being able to come to an international consensus to create one international curriculum for secondary education. Hence how it resulted in IGCSE and MYP who for years now are competing in the world of international schools.

Due to a general dissatisfaction of the IGCSE processes, en masse, most of the international schools in the Netherlands switched to the MYP at the end of the 20th century. This is how I started the MYP back in 1998. Since then it has gone through a number of changes, which are reflected in the different models below.



Change happens in education and is actually essential. As the world changes and so should we. However, human beings are creatures of habits and often do not like change, thus change at times is slow. The funny thing is now that over the years the differences between the IB and the Cambridge programs have become smaller. IGCSE is more criterion based and use a

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similar approach to MYP, and A levels seem to look more like the IBDP. So, perhaps they are more close to a consensus than they were in the eighties.

Similarly, where the MYP never had exams at the end, since last year we have the e-assessments. It is an official, OFQUAL certified exam, but based on concepts and contexts. The MYP never had an exam as it was never intended to be the end of an education but aimed at preparing for further higher education into the Diploma Program. I will not go into the need of the exams but acknowledge they exist and now that this will have further implications. As the IB has 4 different programs starting from the PYP (Primary Years Program) change in one of them always results in changing the others, one way or the other. With the e-assessments in the MYP we know that this will affect the exams in the DP. The changes are aimed to commence in 2020 where the DP exams will steer into the direction of the MYP ones, meaning on-screen and in a contextualized manner, replacing paper exams completely.

Where the MYP always has been seen as the best way to prepare for the DP, this will even be more the case in the future. Going through the experience of sitting the e-assessments in MYP will benefit the students when starting the DP.

Would it however not be great if in the future there would be just one, clear, simple yet functional, international education?



Counselor's Corner

IB2s: A Note about IBIS Reports

IB2 students should choose a maximum of six schools to have IB report their final DP scores for free, and give this list to their counselor. Students are allowed to choose two Canadian and one U.S. school, and unlimited Ghanaian universities, as well as universities in other countries. Additionally, we suggest UK applicants select both their firm and insurance choices to report their scores. Any scores in addition to the six chosen will require payment before being sent to universities, after final results are released. Deadline for notifying the Counselors about top 6 choices was **Monday, 10 April 2017**, any final changes to the list should, however, be made no later than the **24 April, 2017**.

SAT & ACT REMINDER

ACT June Registration sign-ups are ongoing – All students interested in writing the ACT June exam should sign up by **Monday, 17 April**. Cost of registration: US\$110.

Those writing **SAT May** on 7 May should bring their valid unexpired passports with them to school after the long weekend for Easter. Passports should be given to the college guidance department by **Tuesday, 18 April**.

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Skype with York University, Canada

Ms. Emi Morita from York University took IB2 students through some key points about applying for a Canadian student visa. She also gave very insightful tips on how to prepare to transition into higher education as an undergraduate international student in Canada. Here are some salient points shared with the students:

- Accept your university offer by each university's stipulated deadline and make your deposit
- Read through all details of the offer you've chosen
- Visa application takes 4-5 months, so apply early

Below is a helpful slide from the York University presentation:

Applying for Study Permit



Important Contacts for your Visa Application to Canada

- Canadian Visa Application Centre (CVAC) in Ghana
 - Osu badu Road/Broadway, Airport West, Accra
 - <http://www.vfsglobal.ca/Canada/Ghana/index.html>
- IRCC Website
 - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp>
- Authorized Visa Advisor at your University
 - York University: iadvisor@yorku.ca

Visa application process may take up to 4-5 months. Please start your visa application process soon!



A copy of the presentation has been made available to all IB2s on ManageBac

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AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY FAIR

14 Australian Universities visited us on Friday, 7 April. Here are some highlights from several of the universities that visited.

Monash University

- Medicine, Engineering, Law, Business, Pharmacy
- IB requirements: 39
- Rank no. 2 in the world for Pharmacy
- Merit scholarships available
- Tuition: AUS \$60,000



UNSW (University of Sydney)



- 4,800 international students
- Business, Medicine, Law
- IB requirements: 26-38
- Tuition: AUS \$30,000

Charles Sturt University

- 5,000 international students
- Business, IT, Pharmacy, Psychology, Communication
- IB Requirements: 24-34
- Few scholarships available
- Tuition: AUS \$30,000





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The Australian Invasion



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COLLEGE HIGHLIGHT:



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY GHANA

Lancaster Ghana visited TIS last week. Students learned about the opportunity to study and earn a UK degree right here in Accra. The campus is located in East Legon.

- Lancaster is a top ten university in the UK
- Scholarships are available covering up to half of the tuition
- Opportunities are provided for students to study in the UK
- Programs include Law, Business, Accounting and Finance, Economics and International Relations, Computer Science
- Tuition: \$9,000

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CAS Updates

Graduation Pictures

It seems like yesterday when our now IB2s were assisting the CAS team to organize the graduation photo-shoots for their seniors who are now Alumni. Little did they know their turn will be here and now. The grade is preparing to take their graduation pictures after the Easter holidays on Wednesday, 19 April. There will be three shoots, an individual shot with their certificate in hand, an official group photo in front of the Administration block and an unofficial group one in the TIS Gardens, where the grade will throw their graduate caps in unison. They are very excited, prepared and we wish them all the best as they shrewdly prepare for their final exams.

The CAS Journey – IB2

We still cannot get over our dear IB2s who will be leaving us in a matter of weeks. As they reflect on their CAS journey some have tried, grown, matured, overcome, challenged, won and failed. Through it all, they were very optimistic about whom they have become and the impact of CAS in their Academic life and persona on the whole. A few excerpts and moments shared by our IB2s during their CAS journey are shared below:

As part of the IB curriculum and in accordance with the IB Learner Profile, my grade mates and I were told that we would be given the opportunity to initiate a CAS project as long as it fitted into the categories of Activity, Community and Service. This got everyone in the grade talking. A couple of my grade mates came up with the idea to start a restaurant in the school named KARMA. I instantly fell in awe of this idea but I wanted to take it to the next level, so I decided to start a bar called L\$D (Luke's Smoothies and Drinks). I served smoothies, drinks and snow cones to accompany the food sold at the restaurant. I will admit, there were a lot of arguments and clashes between all the partners involved in the project and the process of testing flavours and making recipes pushed us to the edge. But I can truly say it was more than worth it. In the end, we had come out with a successful restaurant and bar that had everyone buzzing around campus, but most importantly we were able to raise GHC 4000 for the Akorlikope fund.

- Luke Ige

Starting the IB Diploma Programme, the one thing that I was definitely not looking forward to was CAS. Creativity, Activity and Service they said but to me, I just saw it as a distraction from what I actually came to the IB to do which was to study and get good grades. I had no idea how wrong I was. I was very introverted, shy and quite afraid to take risks or own an initiative however, through my involvement in various CAS activities, I have grown to become more self-confident and innovative which are skills that are essential to anybody. I always wanted to make a change in society and I always wanted to help others in need and CAS gave me the correct platform to be able to effectively help the people who are less fortunate than me and also in the process, teach me various virtues such as humility. In my first year of the program, I was put in charge of the technical team for my schools Christmas fiesta and initially panic set in. I had no knowledge about how microphones and speakers worked or how they were even

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set up, but I acquired this knowledge after working with a team and working together.

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- **Casey Koomson**

My first exposure to CAS was during our school's adaptation of the play "Sarafina". Being shy, I turned away from auditions in the fear that I would miss out on a part in the play, but I was determined to live up to being a leader in some way, as such I jumped at the opportunity to be part of the backing choir. My singing has never been very perfect, but I have always been able to win over a crowd when given the chance. However, I could not perform at the big event due to a severe cold I picked up which left me in no state to sing. Devastated and looking at how to still ensure that the play was a success, I did my best to attend the choir sessions and ensure the other members (particularly those from younger classes) performed each song to the best of their ability. The play was a huge success and I was very satisfied with the contributions I made (however little they were). With this new found confidence, I jumped at the opportunity to sing at the school inter-colour singing competition. This was where a major change came; the shy boy began to speak up and lead when required to. When I stepped up to audition for the Kigelia choir, a lot of the students threw ludicrous glances my way, but the second I finished singing, they had ridiculously wide grins on their faces. We went on to win the Inter-colour singing competition and I can say that this gave me a great boost as a person. I became confident and very energetic. I jumped at more and more opportunities; representing my colour in the inter-colour athletic competition, representing the school in the ISSAG tennis tournament, representing my colour in the inter-colour chess tournament and with all these tournaments, I grew stronger and stronger. Likewise, with all these tournaments, I got more and more opportunities to lead. I led the tennis team to the finals of the tournament where I lost. Prior to my IB life, I would have been okay with runner up – it would have been an outstanding achievement for me back then – but the new me was more interested in pushing on and this only made me more interested in taking up more activities.

- **JohnPaul Eta**

Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) is a major component of the IB Diploma Program. I joined the IB with great knowledge of this fact, but frankly, had no idea what it actually entailed. From the name however, I was able to tell that it would not involve sitting around and doing nothing but would rather involve hard work and determination, two things I was not sure I'd be able to put into CAS given the rigorous nature of the IB. This was all before I understood the true value of CAS. I was thrilled to learn what CAS was all about since I have always wanted to make a change in society and always strive to help others in all cases. My great interest in wanting to make the world a better place greatly influenced me during my CAS journey, which was surely an interesting one. CAS not only enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of my abilities and true potential to do something that can make the world a better place when I put my mind to it, but it also showed me how much can be done when a group of people make a conscious effort to work together to achieve a common goal.

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- **Daniel Ainbyona**

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In IB1, I volunteered to be a peer tutor. When the Grade 10s had their physics exams coming up, I assisted them. Many of them even forgot the basics of physics up to Newton's Laws. I did think it was quite shocking and unbelievable as forgetting Newton's Laws was like failing to come to work on time for the first time at your newly received job (in which case you could easily get fired), but I realized that as human beings we forget things. It was something that I simply had to accept. I taught them the birds and the bees of Grade 10 physics. I taught them the mathematics and scientific explanations for things that they wanted to know. Of course I was not able to teach them absolutely everything. I was only able to teach what I know. I knew very well that if you do not fully understand something, it is safer to let the students learn the material themselves than you teaching them with your half-enriched knowledge. I did not want to fail the Grade 10s. Thus, there was another trait I have gained. You can't know everything and therefore it is alright to say that you don't know something when you don't know something. It may seem embarrassing but nothing is truly embarrassing about not knowing something.

- **Sani Rogers**

During my 2-year DP course, I had the chance to do quite a number of activities that I love. I managed to increase my skills when I joined the cooking class. I love cooking so much because I normally help my mummy in the kitchen. The exciting thing about cooking in school was, being exposed to how to prepare continental dishes. I acquired new skills as little as how to stir a stew. I also managed to join the soccer and volley ball team where I also managed to increase my skills and increase my team working skills. I was also in the squash club where I managed to win the first tournament that was hosted and it was a very big accomplishment for me.

- **Cedric Junior Mensah**

Engineering Club

The engineering club is a society geared towards problem-solving purposes of all kinds. Physics, mathematics, and computer science are the main areas from which these problem-solving approaches are derived. It entails a focused group of creative, innovative students ranging from grades 7 to 11.

The science fair was just another pedestal for us to showcase our passion and drive for problem-solving. We displayed our top-spinner – a perfect emulation of the popular Ghanaian game, 'alikota' – a hand-generator car, the much-loved Rubik's cube solver, and not to forget our centre of attraction, the dji phantom 2 drone. With these projects, we were to put scientific and mathematical concepts into practical demonstration.

Much time went into planning and developing the projects, but like most amazing feats, our hard work was crowned with noteworthy success. **(Dennis Donkoh _ President, Engineering Club)**

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Science Fair in a Thousand Words



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