

TIS RECORD

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At TIS,

we believe proof of evidence is important and required to demonstrate commitment. Performance as evidence.

Contents

- CASSA News: Page 9
- Counsellor's Corner: Page 28
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Key Dates

- 11/8/25: SC executives return
- 13/8/25: Newbies arrive
- 17/8/25: Continuing secondary students resume.
- 18/8/25: All P-12 classes commence

Thought for the Week

It's so easy to relax, to cut corners, to let down after you've reached your goal, and begin thinking you can just "turn it on" automatically, without proper preparation. It takes real character to keep working as hard or even harder once you're there.



It's Almost Time, Newbies!

Our Secondary School team is excited and looking forward to meeting our 2025 Newbies when they arrive on Wednesday, 13 August, to commence their TIS journey and join the TIS Family.

Newbies can arrive after 11.00 am and settle into their hostels. A special welcome meeting of newbies, their parents and staff will be held in the MPH at 2.00 pm.

A Healthy Start

It will be vital that we ensure a healthy start to the new academic year. We still need to be aware of COVID and other illnesses that are about, especially in this period of cooler weather. All students should have wet weather gear to wear when it rains. Getting wet in this cooler weather is not conducive to good health.



"My definition of integrity is a set of beliefs, values, and actions that others can depend on."

-Steve Bollar

SAT & ACT

- Best advice: students who are required to complete SAT and/or ACT requirements should do so by the end of Grade 11. Leave it until G12 and you have created a personal time-management monster.
- Please follow instructions and details provided in the weekly Counsellors' Corner section of the TIS Bulletin.

Visiting Protocols

For visits from 23 August until 7 December, parents will be required to book their visit online. Please go to: <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/pznfv>

Complete your details and click *next* to select your day and time. Then click next (at the bottom of the page) to receive a confirmation of your booking.

If you do not receive confirmation of the date and time, then you have not completed your booking.

Weekend times will usually go from 2.00 - 5.00pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Sessions are 60 minutes. Parents must book only one session per weekend.

There are restrictions on food and/or drink that may be consumed during a visit.

Students should bring a supply of face masks and sanitiser to use for the first two weeks. As a general rule, everyone should wear a mask if they are feeling unwell.

Parents are requested to complete any medical or other appointments before school commences so we can avoid a disrupted start to the new school year. Remember the old, but true saying, a day missed is a day lost.

Parents should also advise us if poor health prevents a student from starting on time.

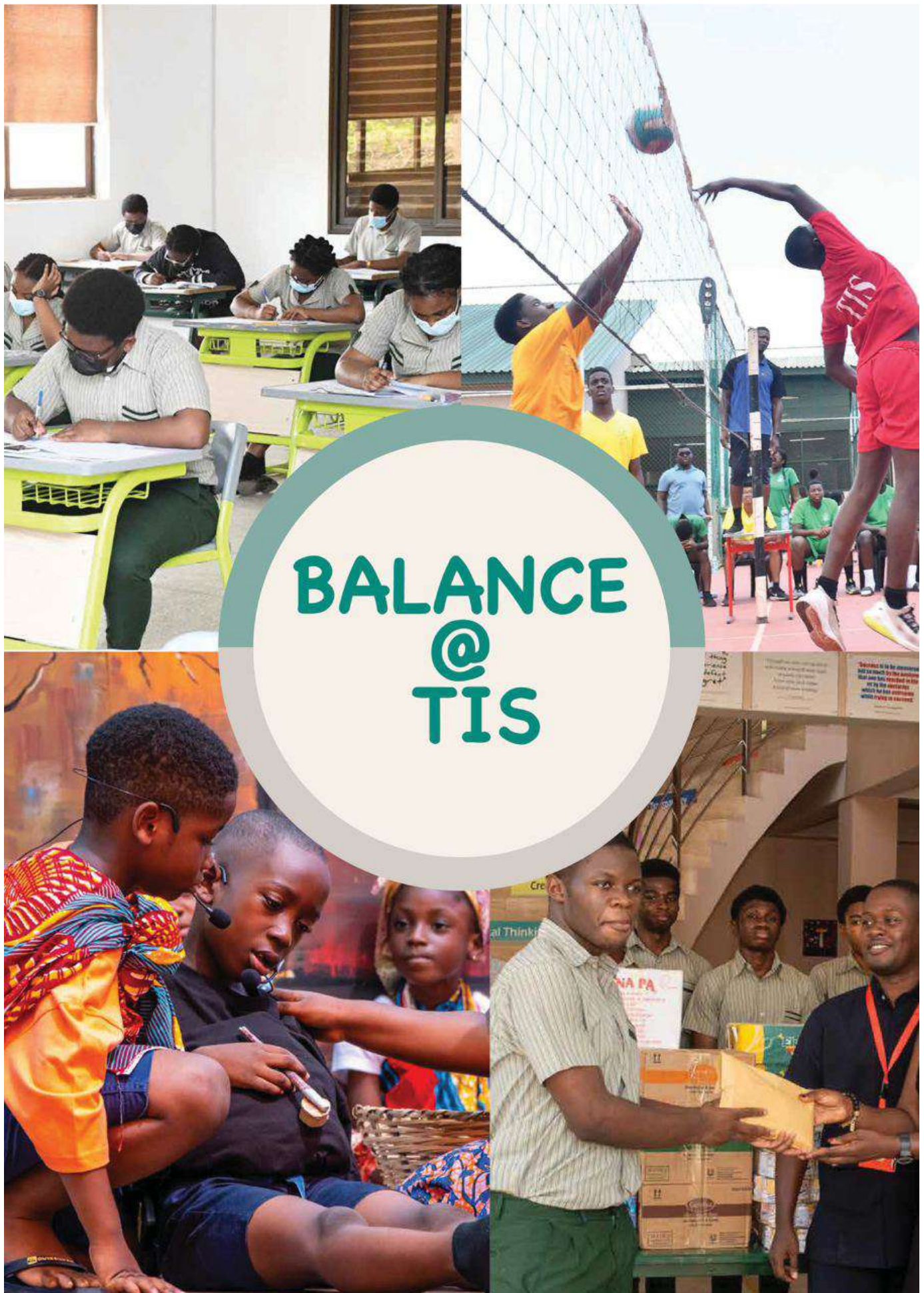
Reminders

- There are still a few vacancies remaining across several grades. Don't hesitate to get in touch with TIS if you require further information, or visit the admissions portal at: <https://tis.openapply.com>
- New parents and students were sent welcome emails to ManageBac last week. Please check your spam folder if it is not evident in your inbox. Any issues, please email me.

I appreciate your support. Enjoy each day as a blessing.

Dr Ken Darvall (Principal) principal@tis.edu.gh





Main Campus Information



Exeats

Exeats for secondary school students cover passport and visa matters, family events, as well as medical, dental, optical and medical appointments.

Students are allowed a maximum of 8 days per semester. **Note:** A weekend exeat that commences on Friday and ends on Sunday counts as three days.

For a weekend exeat, students must return by 5.00pm on the Sunday.

All exeat requests must be completed online and submitted with at least 48 hours' notice, with the exception of urgent medical issues. Weekend exeat requests must be received by the preceeding Wednesday. Any requests after this deadline will not be approved.

The integrity of an exeat request is critical.

No exeats will be granted if a student has outstanding work.

No exeats will be granted during the last week before a semester break.

Parents/Drivers must show the approved exeat from their phone to security to enter.

(NO SHOW. NO GO.)

Access the general exeat form from here: <https://www.tis.edu.gh/exeat-form/>

Families should plan their exeat requests carefully to avoid any disappointment.

Visiting

For visits until December 2025, parents will be required to book their visit online.

Please go to: <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/pznfv>

Complete your details and click next to select your day and time.

Then click next to receive a confirmation of your booking.

If you do not receive confirmation of the date and time, then you have not completed your booking.

Weekend times will usually go from 2.00 - 5.00pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Sessions are 60 minutes.

Only one booking per family per weekend.

There are restrictions on food and/or drink that may be consumed during a visit.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

6 - 8 - 2025

TIS ADMISSION PROCESS

KEY QUESTIONS

- ✓ Why does your child want to come to TIS?
- ✓ How will your child take advantage of the TIS experience?
- ✓ As a parent, why are you applying?

DUE DILIGENCE

- ✓ Go to tis.openapply.com
- ✓ Familiarise yourself with all aspects of the admissions process, including fees.
- ✓ Is this the right school for your child?

APPLICATION

- ✓ Go to: <https://tis.openapply.com>
- ✓ Complete an online admissions application and include all required documents.
- ✓ Pay the application fee.

BOOK A TOUR OF TIS

- ✓ Allow 30-45 minutes for the tour.
- ✓ Be prepared to be surprised when you discover West Africa's best kept secret!

TEST AND INTERVIEW

- ✓ Your child will have to complete an online test.
- ✓ An online interview will be conducted after the test has been completed.

APPLICATION DECISION

- ✓ If an admission offer is made, you will have 21 days to accept or decline the offer.
- ✓ Otherwise, you will be informed if your child has been unsuccessful or placed on the waiting list.

NEED HELP OR IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

- ✓ Please email: admissions@tis.edu.gh
- ✓ Please call: +233 303 305134
+233 24 963 7762

TIS Admissions Grade Chart

TIS		British Curriculum Schools
Kinder 1	PYP	Nursery
Kinder 2		Reception
Kinder 3		Year 1
Grade 1		Year 2
Grade 2		Year 3
Grade 3		Year 4
Grade 4	MYP	Year 5
Grade 5		Year 6
Grade 6		Year 7
Grade 7		Year 8
Grade 8	DP	Year 9
Grade 9		Year 10
Grade 10		Year 11
Grade 11		Year 12
Grade 12		Year 13



TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Primary School Campus

Admissions Open For 2025/2026 Academic Year

Flexible admission screenings and interviews



Entry Points in 2025

Preschool

Nursery (1.9 years @ August 2025)
Kinder 1 (2.9 years @ August 2025)
Kinder 2 (3.9 years @ August 2025)
Kinder 3 (4.9 years @ August 2025)

Junior Primary

Grade 1 (5.9 years @ August 2025)
Grade 2 (6.9 years @ August 2025)
Grade 3 (7.9 years @ August 2025)

Senior Primary

Grade 4 (8.9 years @ August 2025)
Grade 5 (9.9 years @ August 2025)
Grade 6 (10.9 years @ August 2025)

All admission applications will be online via Open Apply:

<https://tis.openapply.com>

A social readiness screening will be required, as part of the admission process, along with a compulsory interview with parents.

TIS is an IB World School, authorised to offer PYP, MYP and DP.

To learn more
scan this.



To enrol scan
this.





Tema International School



MAIN CAMPUS

**SECONDARY ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN FOR 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
FROM 3 OCTOBER 2024 UNTIL 31 MARCH 2025**

A family school, a unique experience.

Flexible online admission testing is available

ENTRY POINTS: Grade 7 (MYP 2) | Grade 8 (MYP 3) | Grade 9 (MYP 4) | Grade 11 (IB Diploma Programme)

Grade 7 (MYP 2)

Students should:

- a) Have completed Primary 6.
- b) Be aged 11+(at the time of admission).
- c) Complete a general aptitude test and interview.

Grade 8 (MYP 3)

Students should:

- a) Have completed JHS 1 or in JHS 2.
- b) Be aged 13+(at the time of admission).
- c) Complete a general aptitude test and interview.

Grade 9 (MYP 4)

Students should:

- a) Have completed Grade 8 or Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE).
- b) Be aged 14+(at the time of admission).
- c) Complete a general aptitude test and interview.

Grade 11 (IB Diploma Programme)

Students should:

- a) Have successfully completed MYP 5, the IGCSE (Or its equivalent) or awaiting the results of the IGCSE.
- b) Be aged 16+(at the time of admission).
- c) Complete a general aptitude test and interview for non IGCSE & GCSE students (i.e. WASSCE, OCR, AQA).

To learn more
scan this.



To enrol scan
this.



The online application process can be completed at: <https://tis.openapply.com>

For further information contact us on phone:

+233 303 305134, +233 303 308737, +233 249 637762 email: admissions@tis.edu.gh

Or come and visit the school (Opp Afariwa Farms, Off Tema-Akosombo Road)

www.tis.edu.gh

CAS-SA Corner

People's Choice Award

Vote for the Best BWB Club - Spotlight on TIS in Ghana



[Admin](#) Jul 17 - 2 min read

Young people need to embrace leadership roles, as they bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas that can shape our future.

Throughout the year, **BWB Club** members earn recognition points by initiating and implementing local change projects, conducting intercultural communication through Global Chats, Club Meet-ups, and SDG Interest Groups. Please click on the link to vote for the Best Club among the **Top Five**

scoring clubs: <https://forms.gle/Dqtf81hQzKx4sWk19>

Today, we want to highlight the **TIS BWB Club in Ghana**.

The BWB club at Tema International School is led by students Christian Kwakye and Glorious Angel Ogyiri Asare. CAS coordinator, Mrs. Surama King, and teacher, Mr. Michael Ansah, moderate the club.

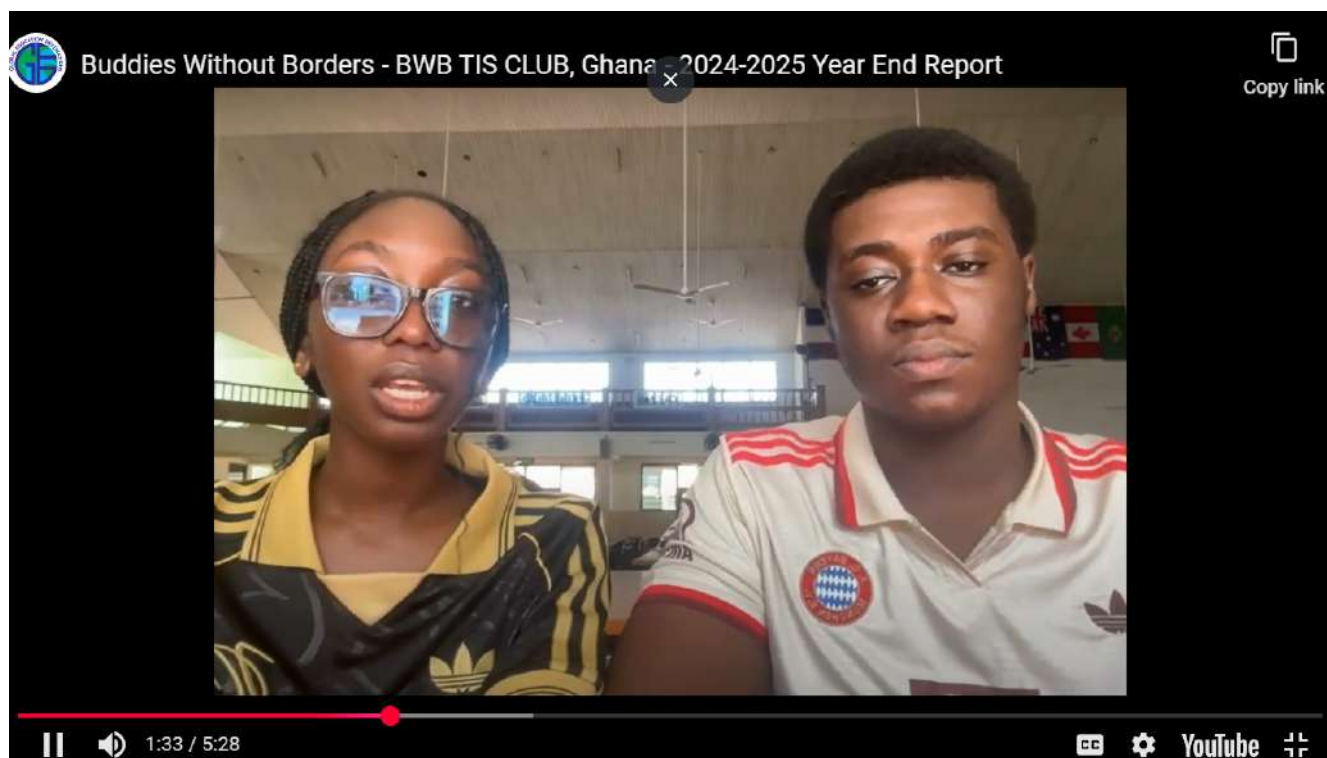
"Our Local Action Project focused on supporting Mante School of Excellence, a public school in a low-income community. The project aimed to build a foundational IT lab that could give students access to the digital tools essential in today's world.... We kicked off with a fundraiser in February, turning the school's Project Centre into a buzzing pop-up eatery where our team sold stir-fry noodles and drinks. The event not only raised substantial funds but also turned heads—students, staff, and even passersby stopped to learn about our cause. Beyond money, we gave time. Club members visited the school to conduct interactive workshops, introducing students to basic computer functions and discussing the power of education. Watching them explore technology for the first time—hesitant but curious—was a reminder of why we do what we do. While our work at Mante continues, the ripple effect is already clear. Students and teachers alike have shown growing interest in digital learning, and our project has gained attention from other schools eager to replicate the model."

Buddies Without Borders - TIS BWB CLUB, Ghana - 2024-2025 Year End Report

Stay tuned for our next Spotlight. We look forward to seeing more countries join our global community to collaborate for the common good and support each other, no matter their location on Earth.

[#internationaleducation](#), [#globaleducation](#), [#highschools](#), [#internationalstudents](#), [#globalgoals](#)

TIS Buddies Without Borders



Christian Kwakye and Angel Asare

The Buddies for Change Club at Tema International School continues to make waves, on campus, in our local community, and now, across the globe. Built on a foundation of empathy, leadership, and action, the club has grown into a hub of purposeful student engagement, where ideas are transformed into real, lasting change.

We're thrilled to share that TIS Buddies for Change has been shortlisted for the Buddies Without Borders (BWB) People's Choice Award 2024–2025! This global recognition celebrates the club's outstanding Local Action Project in support of Mante School of Excellence. From organising fundraisers to delivering hands-on digital literacy workshops, our students have empowered their peers through education and technology. The nomination itself is an incredible honour, but now we need your support to win. Voting is open until 20 August 2025, and every vote counts. Watch our story and vote here:

<https://www.globaleducationdestinations.org/post/vote-for-the-best-bwb-club-spotlight-on-tis-in-ghana>, or head straight to the ballot at <https://forms.gle/Dqtf81hQzKx4sWk19>.

Buddies Without Borders - BWB TIS CLUB, Ghana - 2024-2025 Year End Report
https://youtu.be/0cilftyIV38?si=oQHWwU8KIpMZE_eC

Last semester, several passionate Grade 10 students stepped forward to apply for leadership roles within Buddies for Change, and now, as they step into Grade 11, *we're proud to share that our new leadership team has been selected!* These students showed initiative, vision, and a deep commitment to the values our club stands for. Their official announcement will be made when school reopens, and



Buddies Without Borders - TIS BWB CLUB, Ghana
- 2024-2025 Year End Report

we couldn't be more excited to introduce them to the wider TIS community. As the Buddies for Change leaders for the 2025–2026 academic year, they'll be responsible for shaping our projects, driving meaningful conversations through forums, and guiding our club into its next chapter. With fresh energy, bold ideas, and a shared passion for service, this team is ready to build on the foundation set by those before them and take our impact to the next level.

But beyond the projects and awards, what makes Buddies for Change truly special is the spirit behind it. Every meeting, every idea shared, and every forum hosted is a chance for students to develop empathy, build community, and lead with purpose. Forums in particular are a powerful platform, giving students the space to speak up, challenge norms, and collaborate across cultures and experiences. Whether you're presenting on mental health, advocating for inclusive education, or simply helping organise a supply drive, you're learning how to lead from the heart.

To the TIS community, thank you for always showing up with your support. We invite you to vote, to join, and to continue walking with us on this journey. Buddies for Change is more than a club, it's a reminder that leadership doesn't start with a title, it starts with compassion. And even the smallest act of service can spark a world of impact.



The IB Class of 2027 presents - TIS @ 22 Spirit Week



Dear Students,

We trust you're enjoying your long break! We're looking forward to welcoming you back to campus soon, ready for another amazing ride with our TIS family.

Kindly read below a message from the Organising Committee for **TIS @ 22**. The **IB Class of 2027** has been working tirelessly to bring you a memorable celebration of our school's anniversary and the legacy of our founders.

Please note that this is a tentative plan; some details may change slightly. The full programme for the major events will be shared in due course.

For now, the goal is to get you thinking creatively and preparing ahead. We kindly urge parents and students *not* to overspend on outfits. **Spirit Week** is all about fun, creativity, and bonding. We'll be on the lookout for the most **creative** and **resourceful** outfits, not the most expensive!

Bring your outfits, your energy, and the TIS spirit of togetherness that defines our community.

See you soon!

Mama Su

CAS & Events Coordinator

TIS @ 22 – Time to Prepare for the Best Spirit Week Ever



Our school is turning **22 years** young this October, and you already know what that means... It's time to CELEBRATE – the TIS way!

Mark your calendars, plan your outfits, and get ready to show up and show out for a week packed with fun, community spirit, and purpose – all led by us, the IB Class of 2027, your amazing DP1s 😊. This is part of our CAS journey, and we're ready to make it unforgettable.

Here's the line-up of events and dress codes so you can start prepping (while enjoying summer break):

Saturday, 20 September – **Sporty Family Day 25**

Kick things off with movement and fun – bring your energy, rep your colour group, and let the games begin! (Get all the paraphernalia you can in your colour.)

Dress Code: Sportswear (In your colour group – Blue Cedar, Green Wisteria, Red Kigelia, Yellow Outeniqua)

Saturday, 27 September – **Gospel Concert** (in collaboration with Nii Okai – High School Praise2025)

A night of soul, music, purpose, and gratitude. *Nii Okai's Saving Hearts Foundation* will be raising funds for children with congenital heart disorders. Schools across Ghana will be joining us for this purpose-driven event. Let's come together and help save hearts.

Dress Code: Wear your event T-shirt and Jeans (link to order T-shirt will be shared soon).



Monday, 29 September – **My Aesthetic Day**

Be YOU, or be who you feel like being. From cottagecore to tech wear, the runway is yours.

Dress Code: Show up in a complete look that expresses your personal aesthetic or mood for the day. Whether it's *streetwear, cottagecore, dark academia, retro, techwear, or something entirely your own* — make it intentional, stylish, and authentic to you. It's not just about fashion, it's about owning your vibe.

Tuesday, 30 September – **Nollywood vs Hollywood**

Pick your side. Bring the glam. Be a star.

Dress Code: Nollywood drama or Hollywood red carpet chic. Props, accessories, and bold energy are welcome; go full star power.

Wednesday, 1 October – **Career Fair**

The TIS Career Fair is back! What problem do you want to solve in the world? What's your mission? Let these questions guide your outfit and vision.

Get ready for an insightful day; professionals from different fields, including TIS alumni, parents, etc., will be on campus to engage with you, and special guests will be joining us to share valuable insights on future careers and the skills needed to thrive **in today's world**.

Dress Code: Dress as your future self. Think beyond just uniforms; what does someone in your dream career role actually look like? Whether you're a creative, entrepreneur, researcher, doctor, or artist, bring your vision to life through your look.

Thursday, 2 October – **Inside Out & All Around**

Nothing makes sense... and that's the point.

Dress Code: Mismatched, reversed, flipped – wear your clothes like your wardrobe betrayed you.



Friday, 3 October – **International Met Gala: A Night of Legacy and Culture**

We celebrate our founders' legacy and the spirit of TIS through an unforgettable evening of poetry, literature, dance, music, and African food. This is a night to honour our diverse roots and proudly showcase our international identity with a special focus on Pan-Africanism.

Dress Code: Come dressed in the traditional attire of your country or any African culture you admire.

Think **Met Gala meets Motherland**: bold, elegant, and expressive. It's not about how expensive your outfit is, but how creative and meaningful your look can be.

Sunday, 5 October – **Thanksgiving Service – International Teachers' Day**

We end the week in gratitude – a time for reflection, community, and joy.

Dress Code: All white, with a touch of your favourite colour (accessory, shoes, or detail). Keep it elegant and respectful for a day of reflection and gratitude.

TIS @ 22 is more than a celebration – it's our story, our journey, and our pride. While you're enjoying your summer, keep these dates in mind and plan your looks. We can't wait to celebrate with you. Let's make it unforgettable.



TIS @ 22 – Student Planning Committee

Bruhan-Deen, Shandel, LesleyAnn – Main Leaders

IB Class of 2027 – DP1s

*If you need further clarification, email tis_spiritweek@tis.edu.gh

#TISat22 #SpiritWeekVibes #ProudlyTIS



Tema International School **CAREER FAIR 2025**

IMAGINE IT. WEAR IT. BECOME IT!



REP YOUR CAREER @ TIS SPIRIT WEEK

The Teaching Guarantee Series Continues



We're starting a new academic year, and I had the privilege of receiving an autographed copy of Dr. Ken Darvall's third book: *The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things*.

For the past years, during our school assemblies, Dr. Ken has consistently shared with us the *three things* that shape his thinking: **what excites him, what concerns him, and what he believes is truly important**. These have become familiar benchmarks in our community, simple, honest, and powerful.

His first two books, *The Teaching Guarantee: Every Day is Different* and *The Teaching Guarantee: Making a Difference*, were more than just reflections on leadership. They were also fundraisers for meaningful CAS projects led by our students.

The first book supported the IB Class of 2025's **Transforming Lives project**, which helped fund cosmetic surgery for babies with anorectal malformations and provided five monitors for the ICU of the paediatric surgery unit at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

The second book supported the IB Class of 2026 in their **Mante project**, helping provide a dignified toilet facility for the children and staff of Mante School of Excellence.

And now, with this third book, Dr. Ken once again shows us what matters. All proceeds from *Three Things* will go toward supporting the IB Class of 2027 CAS project; continuing the transformation of the Mante School of Excellence in Afienva.

If you're someone who values what truly matters and wants to be part of something meaningful, don't miss the opportunity to get your copy. By doing so, you're not only reading the insights of a dedicated educator and leader, you're also supporting a vision that's creating real impact in the world.

Congratulations, Dr. Ken. We're so proud of you. And yes, we'll carry your three things into our everyday lives, just as every lifelong learner should.

Below, I share an interview with Dr. Ken Darvall where he gives insights into his new book, along with a review by Literary Titan, which awarded the book four golden stars.

Enjoy the reading, and don't forget to pre-order your copy. Stay tuned for the official launch of *The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things*.

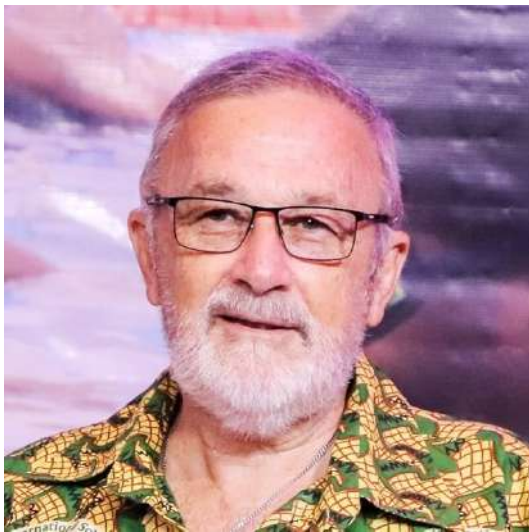
Surama King

CAS & Events Coordinator



<https://literarytitan.com/tag/ken-darvall/>

Jun 21 Posted by [Literary-Titan](#)



Ken Darvall Author Interview

***The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things* is a heartfelt manifesto on education, distilling a lifetime of leadership into three essential reflections: what excites, what concerns, and what truly matters in schools today. How did you decide on the “three things” structure?**

Effective communication across all levels in a school community is the foundation of a well-functioning, supportive, and successful educational environment. It enhances collaboration, trust, and accountability, leading to better school outcomes and a more harmonious school culture.

As a school leader, effective communication is a priority for me. As with everything I do, I ask myself, how can I improve this? How can I ensure that my message reaches everyone? It is by no means an easy thing to accomplish.

Towards the end of 2022- 2023, I experimented with the 3 Things approach at weekly school assemblies. It ensured my message was simple, pertinent, and received. Ramble on too much, and any message can get lost and quickly forgotten. This approach enabled effective communication!

Ever since then, any time I talk, I relate it to the three things framework. My first mention of the model was in *The Teaching Guarantee: Every Day is Different* (Chapter 63: School Assemblies)

You express optimism about AI in education. What safeguards do you believe are essential to ensure it enhances rather than harms learning?

Drawing on decades of educational leadership experience, here are the essential safeguards I believe schools need for AI implementation:

Academic Integrity Foundation

The most critical safeguard is teaching students when and how to use AI appropriately, not simply banning it. Just as we taught proper research methods when the internet emerged, we must establish clear guidelines for AI as both a learning tool and a shortcut.

Teacher Professional Development

First Having led through multiple technology transitions, I've learned that successful implementation always begins with comprehensive teacher training. Educators need hands-on experience with AI tools before they can effectively guide students. Without this, we risk either complete avoidance or misuse.

Graduated Implementation by Grade Level

Primary school students need different AI exposure than secondary school students. I recommend starting with AI as a brainstorming partner in upper elementary, progressing to research assistance in middle school, and finally introducing advanced applications in high school.

Transparent Usage Policies

Students, parents, and teachers must understand exactly when AI use is permitted, required, or prohibited. These policies should be as transparent as our existing guidelines for calculators, spell-check, or internet research.

Critical Thinking Enhancement, Not Replacement

The key safeguard is ensuring AI amplifies human reasoning rather than replacing it. Students should learn to question AI outputs, verify information, and understand AI limitations.

Regular Assessment of Learning Outcomes

We must continuously monitor whether AI is improving learning or creating dependency. This requires new assessment methods that distinguish between AI-assisted and independent student work.

The technology has changed, but the fundamental principle remains: any educational tool should increase student agency and understanding, not diminish it.

What advice would you give to new teachers feeling overwhelmed by bureaucracy and burnout?

Drawing from five decades of watching new teachers navigate these same challenges, here's the advice that has proven most effective:

Start with Your "Why"

When bureaucracy feels suffocating, reconnect with what brought you to teaching. Keep one photo or note from a student's breakthrough on your desk. I've seen countless teachers weather difficult seasons by anchoring themselves to their core purpose rather than the administrative noise.

Master the Essential Ignore the Optional

Every school has required tasks and "strongly suggested" initiatives. Learn quickly to distinguish between them. Focus your energy on what directly impacts student learning and meets actual mandates. The rest can wait.

Find Your Teacher Tribe

Identify 2-3 very experienced teachers who still love their work despite the challenges. These aren't the complainers in the faculty room, but rather the ones who have learned to work within the system while maintaining their passion. Their wisdom is invaluable.

Create Non-Negotiable Boundaries

Decide your work hours and protect them fiercely. I've watched too many promising teachers burn out in their second year because they tried to do everything perfectly. Excellence in a few areas beats mediocrity across all areas.

Document Everything Simply

Keep basic records of parent communications, student interventions, and administrative requests. This isn't about distrust—it's about protecting your time from repetitive questions in the future.

Using What Works to Improve What Doesn't

Reflect deeply on your approaches that work well with your classes. Identify the key actions or processes that ensure success. Then apply these to those approaches that do not work to your expectations and enjoy the difference.

Remember: This Too Shall Pass

Educational initiatives come and go. I've witnessed six major reform movements. The bureaucracy that feels overwhelming today will likely be replaced by something else in three years. Focus on timeless teaching principles.

The students in your classroom need you to survive and thrive, not to burn out trying to satisfy every administrative demand.

In your experience, what's the single most underappreciated quality in effective school leadership?

Institutional memory.

After 52 years, I've come to believe this is the most underappreciated quality in effective school leadership—and the one that separates truly transformational leaders from those who simply manage crises.

Most leaders focus on immediate challenges: this year's test scores, next month's budget deadline, and today's parent complaint. However, the most effective school leaders I've known—and have learned to become myself—understand that every decision exists within a larger institutional narrative.

When I see a principal who knows why the third-grade team resists new math curriculum (because they lived through three failed adoptions in five years), or who remembers that the current discipline problems mirror patterns from a decade ago that were solved through specific community partnerships—that's institutional memory at work.

This quality manifests in several critical ways:

- Recognising which “new” initiatives are recycled ideas that failed before.
- Understanding the deeper cultural currents that drive staff resistance or enthusiasm.
- Knowing which community relationships took years to build and must be carefully maintained.
- Seeing how current challenges connect to historical patterns.

Technology has changed dramatically since I began, but the human dynamics in schools follow remarkably consistent patterns. Leaders with strong institutional memory can navigate these patterns more effectively than those who constantly reinvent solutions.

Without this quality, even brilliant leaders find themselves fighting the same battles repeatedly, wondering why their excellent ideas meet unexpected resistance, or why their predecessor’s “failed” programs might have been ahead of their time.

Schools are living institutions with long memories. The most effective leaders honour and learn from that institutional wisdom.

Author Links: [GoodReads](#) | [Website](#) | [Amazon](#)

The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things

Jun 10 Posted by [Literary Titan](#)



Ken Darvall's *The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things* is a reflective, candid, and highly structured look into the world of education through the eyes of a seasoned school leader. In this third book of his series, Darvall boils down the vast landscape of modern schooling into three simple but powerful categories: what excites him, what concerns him, and what he believes is important. The book's structure—sixty short chapters grouped into those three sections—invites educators, parents, and even students to engage with education not as an abstract policy debate, but as a deeply personal mission. Whether he's praising the role of AI in the classroom, critiquing bureaucratic inertia, or urging accountability and authentic leadership, Darvall's message is consistent: education must be grounded in values, driven by purpose, and oriented toward practical action.

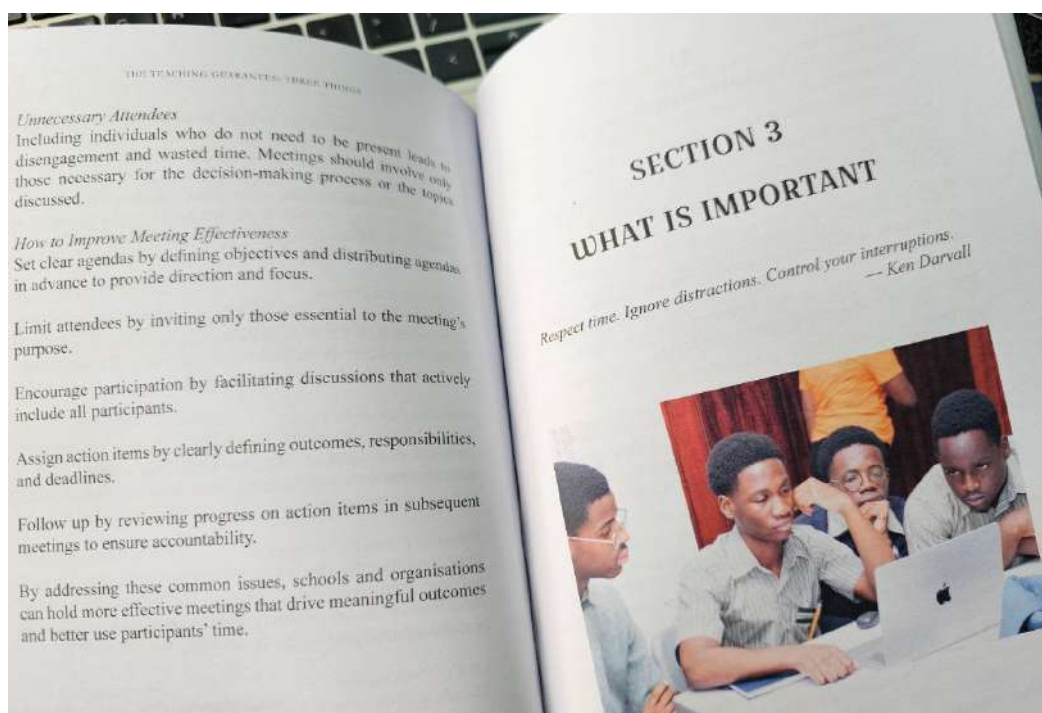


What I liked most about this book was its clarity. Darvall doesn't lecture. He shares. And his voice, though authoritative, carries the warmth and weariness of someone who has seen it all and still chooses hope. I found myself nodding along with much of what he wrote, particularly his points about personalised learning, student wellbeing, and the critical role of integrity in both leadership and the classroom. His excitement about the future of education—AI, hybrid learning, global collaboration—felt genuine, even contagious. At the same time, he doesn't sugarcoat the hard stuff. He lays out his concerns with unflinching honesty: inequity, disengagement, mental health crises, political meddling, and the crushing weight of endless meetings. And yet, he never slips into cynicism. He always circles back to what matters.

The bullet-point style and repetitive emphasis on familiar themes (growth mindset, lifelong learning, team culture) occasionally felt like being in a lengthy staff development meeting. But then again, maybe that's the point—his

book mirrors the very structure of a school year: full of lessons, reinforcements, goals, and gentle nudges. It isn't flashy or revolutionary, but it is solid. Dependable. Much like a good teacher.

I walked away from *Three Things* feeling inspired, even reassured. It's the kind of book that reminds you why education matters. It doesn't promise to solve every problem, but it gives readers a clear compass to work with. I'd recommend this book to school leaders, aspiring teachers, policy influencers, and anyone who's ever sat in a staffroom wondering if what they do really matters. According to Ken Darvall, it does—and he backs that up with more than fifty years of experience, reflection, and love for the craft.



TIS Annual School Play, 2025 – Call for Auditions! 🎭

Every year, our school community comes together to celebrate creativity, storytelling, and student talent through our much-loved stage production. This year, we are thrilled to bring to life a vibrant and hilarious classic from African theatre — **Grip Am** by *Ola Rotimi*.

Whether you're an actor, dancer, singer, musician, stage crew, or just eager to be part of something magical — this is your chance to shine!

See synopsis below and be at the audition. Let's make it unforgettable.

Synopsis

Grip Am is a comedic Nigerian play centered on Ise, a struggling farmer plagued by misfortune and marital strife with his wife, Aso. When an angel grants him a supernatural wish, Ise gains the power to trap anyone or anything that climbs his orange tree by uttering the words "Grip Am." His newfound ability leads to absurd and humorous chaos, including trapping the Angel of Death himself. The play balances satire with moral introspection, exploring themes of human ambition, unintended consequences, and the fragility of power.

**TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

Call for Audition

School Play Production 2025

Ola Rotimi's

GRIP AM!

A Stage Comedy

DATE **SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST 2025**

VENUE **SPORTS COMPLEX**

TIME **2:00 PM**

A New Year Begins with Purpose and Collaboration



We've officially kicked off the 2025/2026 academic year! All staff are back on campus, engaging in a week-long professional development programme filled with planning, reflection, and collaboration across all IB programmes—PYP, MYP, and DP.

Together with school leadership, our teams are preparing to welcome student leaders, newbies, and continuing students. Here's a glimpse into our learning journey as we set the tone for a meaningful and impactful year ahead!



TIS 2025/26 School Calendar

August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
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28	29	30				

October 2025						
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November 2025						
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30						

December 2025						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
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March 2026						
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29	30	31				

April 2026						
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May 2026						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Public holidays 2025/26

4 Aug, 2025	Founders' Day	Jan 1, 2026	New Year's Day	3 Apr, 2026	Good Friday
22 Sep, 2025	KN Memorial Day	7 Jan, 2026	Constitution Day	6 Apr, 2026	Easter Monday
5 Dec, 2025	Farmers' Day	6 Mar, 2026	Independence Day	1 May, 2026	May Day
Dec 25, 2025	Christmas Day	20 Mar, 2026	Eid Al Fitr (TBC)	27 May, 2026	Eid Al-Adha (TBC)

Dates and/or events are subject to changes.

FIRST SEMESTER

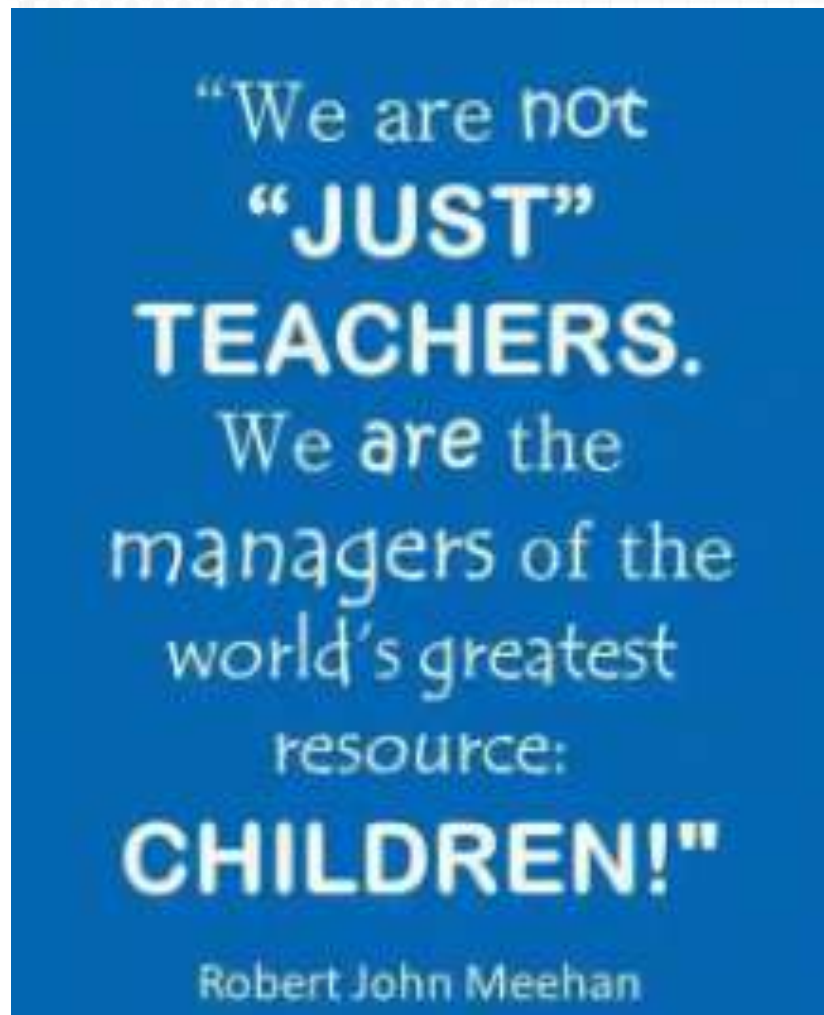
1/8/25	2025 MYP Results Released; 2025 MYP Enquiries Upon Results Open;
1/8/25	MYP PP: Final product (photo evidence upload)
5/8/25	All staff resume
11/8/25	Student Council executives return
13/8/25	Newbies arrive (Meeting @ 2.00pm)
15/8/25	PYP Meet the teacher session (1.30pm)
16/8/25	Personal Project: Criterion B draft due
17/8/25	Continuing secondary students resume
18/8/25	All P-12 classes commence
22/8/25	TIS Junior Soccer Championships
23/8/25	SAT
24/8/25	School Performance auditions
29/8/25	TIS Senior Soccer Championships
30/8/25	Peer Buddies Workshop. NO EXEATS FOR NEWBIES.
31/8/25	Thanksgiving Service (11.00am) NO EXEATS
6/9/25	TIS Tennis Championships/TIS Badminton Championships;
6/9/25	PYP Parents training session (9.00am); ACT
10-11/9/25	PYP Evaluation Visit
11/9/25	G12 TOK Exhibition
12/9/25	MYP PP Criterion B final due
13/9/25	SAT; MYP & DP Parents Information sessions. NO EXEATS (Until after these sessions)
19/9/25	PYP End of Unit 1 #WI; DP Geography Excursion
20/9/25	TIS Sporty Family. NO EXEATS
26/9/25	MYP CP: Community tour
27/9/25	TIS Handball Championships; High School Praise (Praise Night Fundraiser)
28/9-5/10/25	22 nd Anniversary TIS Spirit Week. Career Fair NO EXEATS
3/10/25	TIS Founders' Day. Main Campus admissions open for 2025/2027
4/10/25	SAT;
5/10/25	22 nd Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. NO EXEATS until after 1.00pm)
6-11/10/25	Mid-semester break
11/10/25	ISSAG Football
12/10/25	Students return to hostels
13/10/25	All classes resume after mid-semester
14/10/25	G9/G11 Changes to Subject Selections close; DP Geography Data Excursion
18/10/25	ISSAG Football, Handball, Tennis; ACT
19-25/10/25	Sankofa 2025: Cross Cultural Arts Festival (G11 only)
20/10/25	MYP PP: Criterion C draft due
20/10/25	Student Council (SC) shadowing process commences;
21/10/25	G12 EE Café
23/10/25	Girls Volleyball Championships (during ASA)
24/10/25	Boys Volleyball Championships (during ASA)
25/10/25	PSAT: ISSAG Football, Handball, finals
26/10/25	TIS swimming championships (3.00 – 5.00pm)
28-29/10/25	I&S Celebration Days
31/10/25	PYP End of Unit 2 Celebrations; Submission of G12 TOK Draft Essay; Language competition (7-12)
1/11/25	ISSAG Volleyball, Swimming and Badminton
3/11/25	DP Business Management Excursion
8/11/25	SAT; Annual Production NO EXEATS
11-12/11/25	Collaborative Sciences Project – G12;
14/11/25	PYP Book Day
17-21/11/25	MYP5 On-screen examination (Reports due 5/12/25) No exeats for G10
19-28/11/25	G11-12 end of semester exams (Reports due 5/12/24) No exeats for G11-12
24/11/25	MYP CP: Presentation of objectives
28/11/25	PYP End of Unit 3 3WI;
29/11/25	MYP PP Criterion C completion; Peer Buddies Workshop
30/11/25	Choral Night (Chaplaincy)
1/12/25	SC applications open for 2024 elections
6/12/25	SAT
8/12/25	Christmas Lunch
9/12/25	MYP PP Final Report due: photo evidence & bibliography upload
10/12/25	Last day for the first semester: Students may depart after 3-Way interviews or 1.00pm if no interview
12/12/25:	Last day for teachers
13/12/25	ACT

SECOND SEMESTER

6/1/26	Staff Wellbeing Retreat
8-9/1/26	Staff training days
11/1/26	Students return to hostels; applications for 2024 SC positions close
12/1/26	Second semester commences.
12-18/1/26	Alumni Homecoming Week
17/1/26	TIS Athletics Championships. NO EXEATS BEFORE 1.00PM
18/1/26	Alumni Thanksgiving Service
19/1/26	SC Manifesto Readings
20/1/26	2026 Student Council elections by voting (7.00am-4.00pm)
24/1/26	ISSAG Basketball, Table Tennis and Hockey.
28-30/1/26	IDU Days; G12 EE; G11 EE, 11/12 CAS Reflection Day
31/1/26	SC Leadership Camp NO EXEATS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS ; ISSAG Basketball, TT & Hockey D2
1/2/26	Student Leadership Induction Ceremony NO EXEATS
7/2/26	Creative Writing Workshop
9-13/2/26	MYP5 Mock On-screen examination NO G10 EXEATS
12/2/26	G11 TOK Exhibition. NO G11 EXEATS
13/2/26	PYP End of Unit 4 #WI; Early Years Family Day; TIS Squash Championships;
14/2/26	Peer Buddies Workshop; Chocolate Friendship Day
16-27/2/26	DP Mocks. NO G12 EXEATS
25/2/26	MYP PP standardisation and moderation (teachers)
27-28/2/26	ISSAG Athletics;
7/3/26	MYP Projects (Personal & Community) NO EXEATS (until after this session)
11/3/25	PYP – MYP Info Day at Main Campus
12/3/26	G11 TOK Exhibition. NO G11 EXEATS
14/3/26	SAT; Pi Day
20/3/26	MYP PP: Academic Honesty First Record
21/3/26	2026 STEAM Day NO EXEATS (until after the event)
27/3/26	PYP End of Unit 5 Unit Celebrations; Three-way interviews: Students depart AFTER interviews
28-30/3/26	DP Geography Field Trip
28/3-12/4/26	Mid-semester break
31/3/26	MYP PP Criterion A draft due; Draft 2026/2027 Calendar Overview Released
11/4/26	ACT
12/4/26	Students return to hostels
13/4/26	All classes resume after mid-semester;
17/4/26	G11 EE Cafe
18/4/26	G12 Grad photos (All day). NO G12 EXEATS ; MYP5 Examprep workshop (NO G10 EXEATS)
19/4/26	Exam Candidates' Service NO EXEATS
21/4/26	MYP5->DP1 info session; PP Criterion A draft due
24/4-22/5/26	DP Final Exams
24/4/26	PYP Spelling Bee
2/5/26	SAT
4/5/26	MYP PP Criterion A final due
4-15/5/26	MYP IBMYP On-screen examination
16-30/5/26	Break for MYP5 leavers (Leavers return to Hostels on 30/5/26 by 5.00 pm)
18-29/5/26	G11 semester exams; G10 classes resume (compulsory attendance).
20-26/5/26	MYP4 On-screen examination
21/5/26	PYP End of Unit 6 3WI
22/5/26	PYPX & VAX
23/5/26	Leavers' Dinner
29/5/26	MYP4 (2025/2026) subject selections
30/5/26	2026 PYP Annual Achievers & Graduation Ceremony; Last day for PYP Students
31/5/26	Peer Buddies Workshop
5/6/25	Last day for PYP staff
6/6/26	2026 MYP/DP Annual Achievers and Graduation Ceremony; Last day for MYP/DP Students
12/6/26	Last day for teachers; S2 reports published.
13/6/26	ACT
20/6/26	France/Spain trips commence
11/7/26	ACT; France/Spain trips end
25/7/26	MYP PP: Final Product (Photo evidence upload)

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COUNSELLORS' CORNER



Welcome to a New School Year! At TIS, we're more than a school—we are family. Our students are our treasures and their successes are our pride! **Dear students, plug into joy, purpose, and possibility!** With fresh discoveries, and countless moments of sunshine and happy rains of stimulated learning balanced with myriad extracurricular activities, let's make it remarkable—together!



Tema International School **CAREER FAIR 2025**

IMAGINE IT. WEAR IT. BECOME IT!



REP YOUR CAREER @ TIS SPIRIT WEEK

Career Fair This Spirit Week!

IB stars, shine bright, meet top pros, explore your Big Dreams and Power Up your future! Just Rep your career. See you there!



DP1 students planning to study Law or Medicine in the UK? Important News on Standardised Test. Kindly check ManageBac for more details and practice materials.



Contact Rodrick: 0244167800 as soon as possible to avoid disappointments with regards to the deadline for registration.



<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>



?	WHAT IS LNAT?	✓	LNAT IS:	✗	LNAT ISN'T:
	The Law National Aptitude test helps you understand if Law is the right career path for you, and it helps Universities check that you'll be able to succeed on a law course.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A test of your verbal reasoning skills• A test of your ability to understand and interpret information• A test of your inductive and deductive reasoning abilities• A test of your ability to analyse information and draw conclusions		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An intelligence test• A test of your knowledge of law

<https://lnat.ac.uk/>

DP1 Best Advice- Taking IELTS Exams - It's To Your Advantage



https://www.britishcouncil.org.gh/exam/ielts/which-test?utm_source

With the new climate educational requirements for university applications, we strongly encourage all students to take the IELTS exams during this summer break, as a safety net. Detailed information will be available on ManageBac. Thank you!



SAT 2025 TEST DATES



Want to Register for SAT But Don't Know How? Follow the Links!

- ✓ <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration>
- ✓ SAT Registration Fee Beginning with **August 24, 2024, the SAT registration fee is \$68**, plus a \$43 international fee of \$ 111.
Click here: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/international-testing/>
- ✓ Click here for more information <https://www.bestcolleges.com/test-prep/sat/registration/>.
- ✓ If having Troubles Registering contact **Aunty Portia** in person or by email at portia.atubiga@tis.edu.gh



**Online payment only with Visa/credit card NEW;
ACCEPTABLE IDs ARE THE VALID UNEXPIRED PASSPORT IN ADDITION TO
GHANA'S NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD (GHANA CARD),**

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/international/policies>

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/dates-deadlines>



DIGITAL TEST DATES AND DEADLINES 2025

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE
Aug. 23, 2025	Aug. 1, 2025
Sept. 13, 2025	Aug. 22, 2025
Oct. 4, 2025	Sept. 12, 2025
Nov. 8, 2025	Oct. 17, 2025
Dec. 6, 2025	Nov. 14, 2025



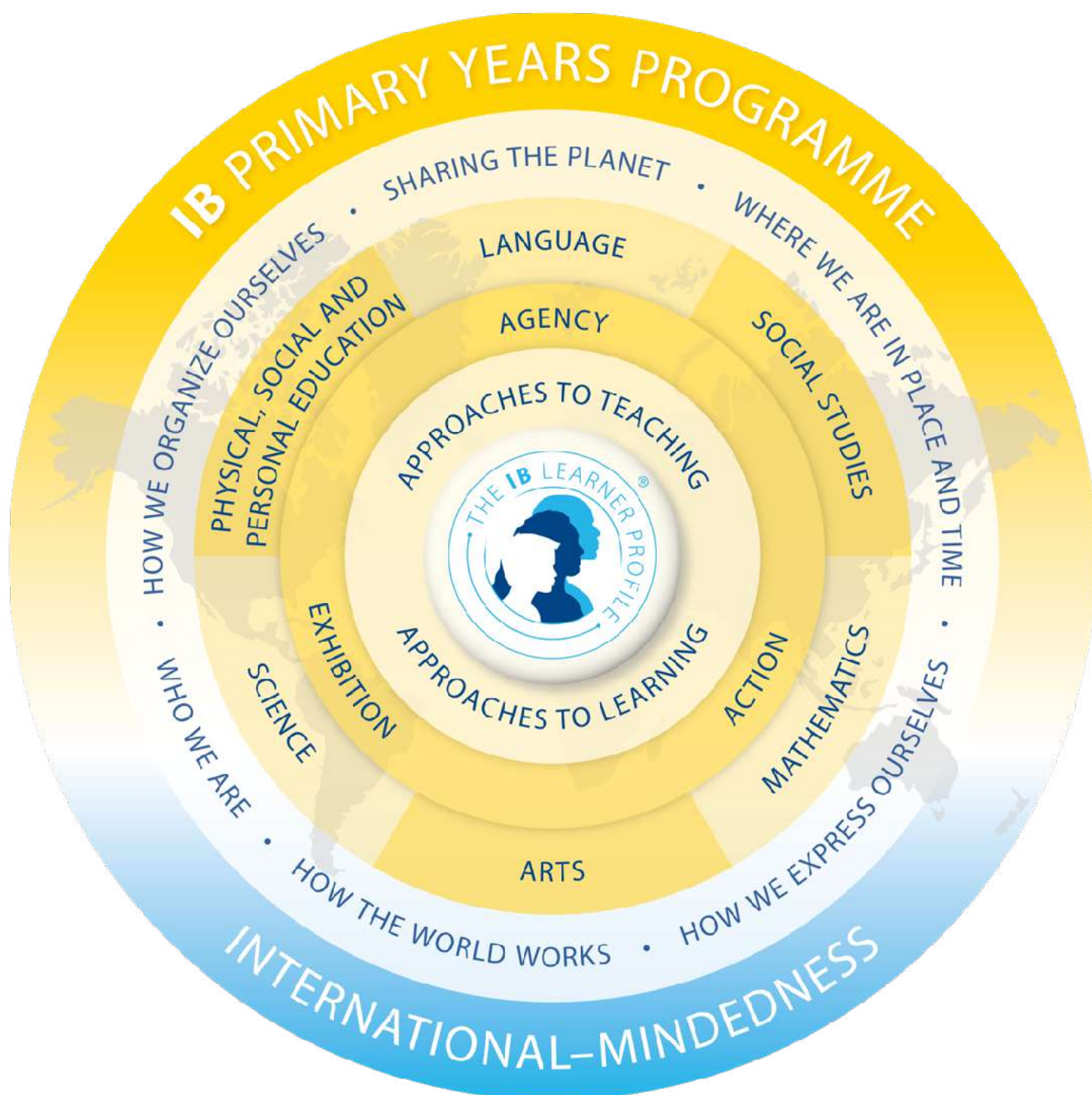
2025 TEST DATES (COMPUTER-BASED TESTING ONLY!)

- ✓ ACT Registration Fees (Online payments only: Visit www.actstudent.org): ACT Registration Fees \$171.50, with writing \$196.50 (Online payments only: Credit Card)
- ✓ **Note: The cost of registration is subject to change.**
- ✓ (TIS Test Centre Code: 870390, but inform counsellor first).
- ✓ If having Troubles Registering contact **Aunty Portia** in person or by email at portia.atubiga@tis.edu.gh



DIGITAL TEST DATES AND DEADLINES 2025

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE
Sept .6, 2025	July 25, 2025
Oct. 18, 2025	Sept. 5, 2025
Dec. 13, 2025	Oct. 31, 2025



A Community Ready to Thrive – Back to School

As the 2025/2026 academic year begins, the TIS community is buzzing with renewed energy, anticipation, and a shared commitment to excellence. From thoughtful planning to hands-on preparation, every corner of the school is coming to life in readiness to welcome students back. This year promises not only fresh opportunities for growth but also a stronger sense of connection across our entire community — students and staff.



Meet and Greet: A United Start for the 2025/2026 academic the Year

To set the tone for a collaborative and purposeful school year, the TIS community came together for a vibrant **Meet and Greet session** that brought teachers, non-teaching staff and school leaders under one roof. The event provided an open forum for connection, questions, and shared vision. Heads of various departments — from academics and student life to pastoral care and co-curricular programs — each took a moment to highlight upcoming initiatives, and shared key expectations for the year ahead. There was a common thread in all messages: a commitment to resilience, and community spirit. Whether discussing innovations in teaching, student well-being, or leadership development opportunities, the departmental heads underscored the importance of a united approach to learning. The atmosphere was one of optimism and enthusiasm, laying a strong foundation for a productive and enriching academic year.





Campus Comes Alive: Preparing the Grounds for Learning

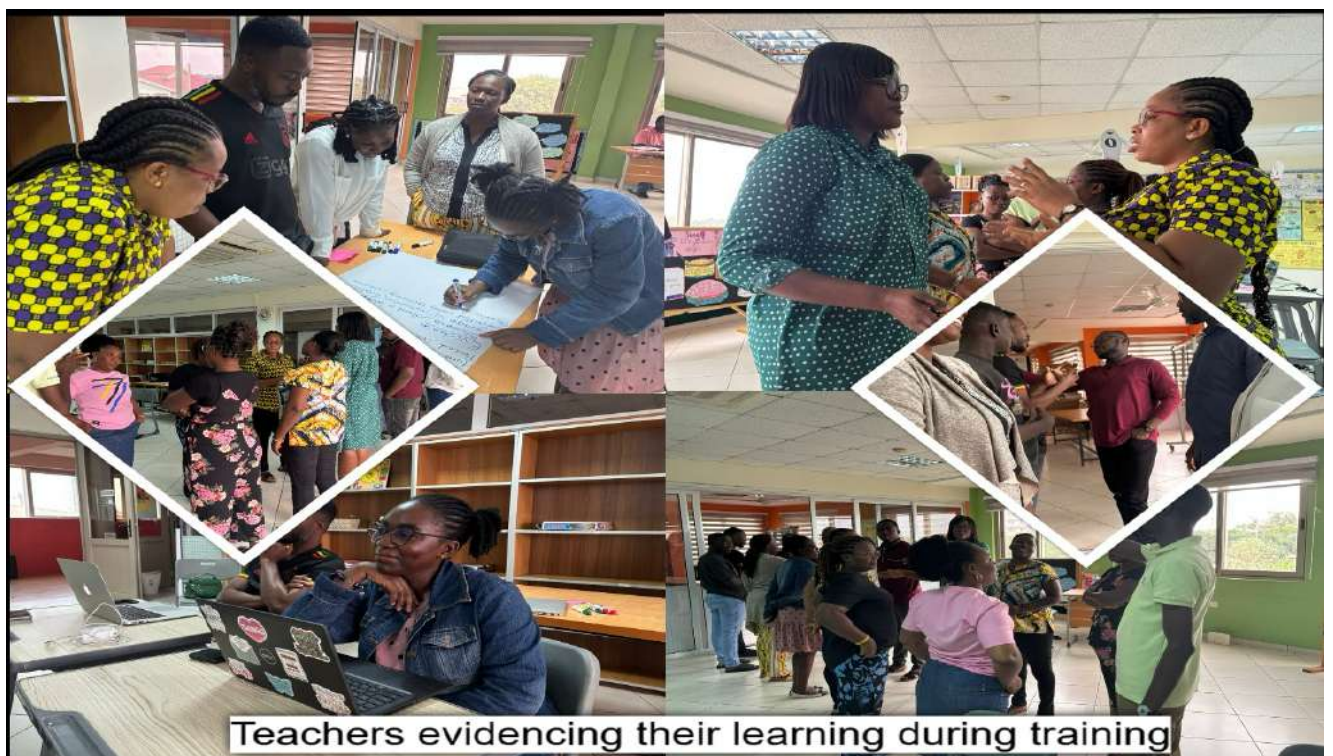
In the weeks leading up to reopening, the TIS campus has been a hive of activity. Maintenance teams have worked diligently to ensure classrooms, laboratories, and learning spaces are safe, clean, and fully equipped. Several enhancements have been made to the facilities, including upgraded learning technology in select classrooms and refreshed communal areas to promote student interaction and well-being. Health and safety measures have also been reviewed to ensure the well-being of all students and staff.



Empowered Educators: Teacher Training and Collaboration

Preparation for the school year wouldn't be complete without the dedicated work of our educators. Teachers have engaged in a series of professional development workshops designed to strengthen instructional strategies, integrate innovative teaching tools, and align with updated curriculum goals. These sessions also provided a space for collaboration, reflection, and renewed purpose. By investing in continuous learning, TIS ensures that its faculty is not only ready to teach — but also to inspire.





Nourishing Body and Mind: Prioritising Wellbeing

As the TIS community engaged in intensive workshop sessions and preparation activities, the importance of well-being remained at the heart of everyday life. Understanding that effective learning and planning require both mental focus and physical energy, the school ensured that staff and faculty were well-fed and refreshed throughout the period.

Nutritious meals, energising snacks, and a steady flow of refreshments were thoughtfully provided to keep everyone fueled and focused. Break times became more than just moments to recharge — they offered a chance to connect, share ideas informally, and build the sense of community that TIS values deeply. From fresh fruit platters to hearty lunches, every detail reflected a commitment to care.

This simple yet impactful gesture reinforced the message that at TIS, wellbeing is not just about academics or professional development — it's about creating an environment where people feel supported, valued, and ready to give their best.



TIS INTEGRITY Code

**“TIS, as a family school that provides unique experiences,
embodies a spirit of integrity and respect for others
which are central to the personal,
academic and ethical development of each member.**

**As a TIS family member,
I promise to uphold and demonstrate its values,
and protect the reputation of the school.
I make this pledge in the spirit of honour and trust.”**



