TIS RECORD

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At TIS,

we believe that success is the result of: taking on new challenges by moving out of your comfort zone; ensuring consistency by avoiding complacency; understanding that performance requires balance; and reflecting on outcomes to set new personal best targets. After all, success is personal.

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Key Dates

- 20/9/25:Sporty Family (Main Campus)
- 26/9/25: MYP CP Community Tour

Thought for the Week

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

- Thomas Edison



Blue Wants YOU!

So does Green. Red and Yellow!

But as the reigning Champion Colour House, Blue is making a determined push to have their parents at tomorrow's Sporty Family Day at the Main Campus.

Red always competes as if it were the Olympic Games! Green and Yellow compete as if it is the Football World Cup final, right here at TIS!

Sporty Family Day is full of fun and fierce competition. Parents, this is always your big chance to display your athletic prowess that you have constantly reminded your children and cousins about since they were two years old!.

No excuses! This event has been on the calendar since April!



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

-Steve Bollar

Making Us Proud

Madam Sophia Dumakor, Chief Matron at TIS, Madam Felitia Gormann, Head of the Kitchen Department at TIS Primary Campus, and the kitchen staff are appreciated for their dedication to service during the IB evaluation visit to the Primary School.

Mr. Abraham Anum-Quaye and the Transport Department are commended for their commitment in transporting the IB school evaluators in and out of the school and supporting them with their transport needs.

PYP teachers: Mr. Seth
Shadrach Asase (Music), Mr.
Dennis Dzah (Drama and
Dance), Mr. Merveil Kioto
(Mandarin), Mr. Ntimah
Hagan (Art), Mr. Frederick
Amoah (Grade 5 HRTA), Mr.
Kweku Darko (Grade 3
HRT), and Mr. Charles Teye
(Grade 6 HRT) are
acknowledged for their
outstanding band performance
during the final school
community meeting with the
IB evaluation team.

Plan to arrive at the TIS Sports complex around 8.00 am to do your warm-ups. The competition commences at 9:00 am and will conclude at 1:00 p.m.

Winners have bragging rights for the next 12 months.

Use It or Lose It.

ManageBac (MB) keeps parents informed about many aspects of their child's learning journey at TIS. All parents have received invitations from MB to set their passwords so they can access it.

Unfortunately, there remain parents who have not accessed MB and remain unaware of what is happening. This fails to meet the expectations of a TIS parent.

If you need assistance accessing your account, please email us by 25 September.

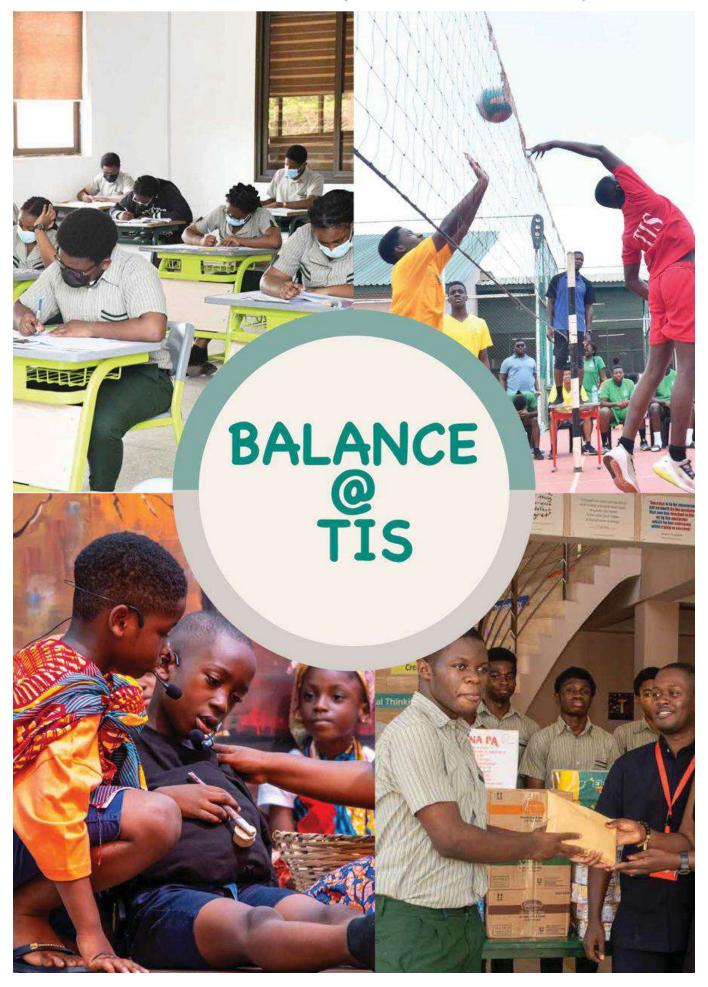
Otherwise, parents who have never logged in will be removed from MB on 27 September.

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 preceding 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



TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

P. O. Box CO 864, Tema, Ghana Tel: +233 303 305134

> +233 303 308737 +233 24 963 7762 +233 50 384 9799

E-mail: info@tis.edu.gh Website: https://www.tis.edu.gh



Device Minimum Specifications

Laptops – Windows or Mac

- ✓ Operating system
 - Windows 11 Pro or higher in order to join TIS domain (to access Wi-Fi, apps, etc.)
 - MAC OS 14 or higher (OSX 15 Sequoia recommended)
- ✓ RAM minimum 12GB (16GB recommended)
- ✓ CPU minimum 14th Gen Intel recommended Gen 15 Intel i5/i7/i9 or M3/M4 or equivalent
- ✓ Hard drive minimum 256GB SSD (500GB Solid State Drive recommended)
- √ Wi-Fi 802.11ax only dual band 2.4ghz/5ghz /6ghz required to connect to TIS Wi-Fi
- ✓ Screen Size at least 12"
- ✓ Anti-virus software up to date at all times (Symantec Antivirus or Sophos Antivirus)
- ✓ Battery life minimum 4hrs
- ✓ Personal Power Banks in case device need recharging during the day in case of power outage
- ✓ No US plugs/power adaptors
- ✓ Protective case and laptop carry case
- ✓ Microsoft 365 apps (word, excel, PowerPoint, teams)

NOTE: Microsoft Windows 10 devices will not be accepted for security reasons since it will reach its end of life by October 2025 thereby exposing the device to malware attacks.

TIS 2025/26 School Calendar

	August 2025									
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa				
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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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28	29	30	31					

January 2026								
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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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26	27	28	29	30					

	May 2026								
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31									

June 2026								
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28	29	30						

	July 2026								
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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)

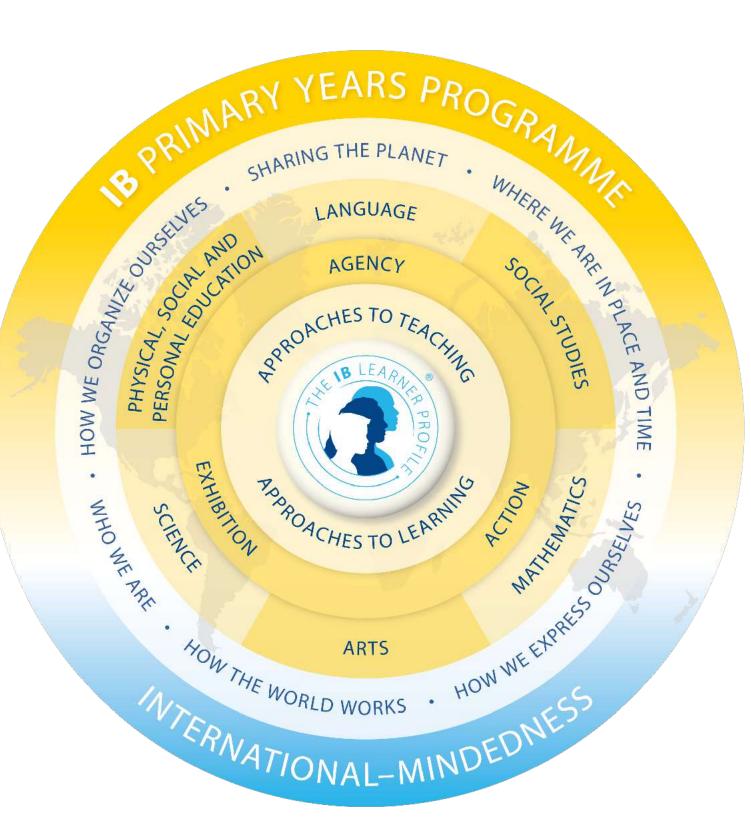
Dates and/or events are subject to changes.

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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
                Student Council executives return
11/8/25
                Newbies arrive (Meeting @ 2.00pm)
13/8/25
                PYP Meet the teacher session (1.30pm)
15/8/25
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. Dukies RA trip
31/8/25
                Thanksgiving Service (11.00am) NO EXEATS
                                                                  Dukies RA trip
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
                G12 TOK Exhibition
11/9/25
12/9/25
                MYP PP Criterion B final due
                SAT; MYP & DP Parents Information sessions. NO EXEATS (Until after these sessions)
13/9/25
19/9/25
                PYP End of Unit 1 #WI; DP Geography Excursion
                TIS Sporty Family. NO EXEATS
20/9/25
24/9/25
                Girls Handball Championships
25/9/25
                Boys Handball Championships
26/9/25
                MYP CP: Community tour
                High School Praise (Praise Night Fundraiser)
27/9/25
28/9-5/10/25
                22<sup>nd</sup> 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:
                22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. NO EXEATS until after 1.00pm)
5/10/25
                Dukies Gold Aawrd Camp
5-8/10/25
                Mid-semester break
6-11/10/25
                Students return to hostels
12/10/25
13/10/25
                All classes resume after mid-semester
                G9/G11 Changes to Subject Selections close; DP Geography Data Excursion
14/10/25
                AIS MUN
15-17/10/25
                PSAT: ISSAG Football, Handball, Tennis; ACT
18/10/25
20/10/25
                MYP PP: Criterion C draft due
                Student Council (SC) shadowing process commences;
20/10/25
21/10/25
                G12 EE Café
                Girls Volleyball Championships (during ASA)
23/10/25
24/10/25
                Boys Volleyball Championships (during ASA)
25/10/25
                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
                SAT; Annual Production NO EXEATS
8/11/25
                Collaborative Sciences Project – G12;
11-12/11/25
14/11/25
                PYP Book Day
                MYP5 On-screen examination (Reports due 5/12/25) No exeats for G10
17-21/11/25
                G11-12 end of semester exams (Reports due 5/12/25) No exeats for G11-12
19-28/11/25
                MYP CP: Presentation of objectives
24/11/25
                PYP End of Unit 3 3WI;
28/11/25
29/11/25
                MYP PP Criterion C completion; Peer Buddies Workshop
1/12/25
                SC applications open for 2026 elections
6/12/25
                SAT
                Choral Night (Chaplaincy)
7/12/25
8/12/25
                Christmas Lunch
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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	·					
SECOND SE	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) ISSAG Basketball, Table Tennis and Hockey.					
24/1/26 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						
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 27/3/26	2026 STEAM Day NO EXEATS (until after the event) 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->DP1info session; PP Criterion A draft due					
24/4-22/5/26	DP Final Exams					
24/4/26	PYP Spelling Bee					
2/5/26	SAT NAME OF A COLUMN					
4/5/26	MYP PP Criterion A final due					
4-15/5/26 16-30/5/26	MYP IBMYP On-screen examination 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 25/7/26	ACT; France/Spain trips end MVP PP: Final Product (Photo evidence upload)					
2311120	MYP PP: Final Product (Photo evidence upload) V010925					
	7 V1V/2J					



IB Philosophy and Our Four Pillars @ TIS Primary School

At TIS Primary School, the Primary Years Programme (PYP) is not just a curriculum framework; it is a way of living and learning that nurtures the whole child. Grounded in the IB philosophy, our PYP emphasises inquiry, international-mindedness, and the development of lifelong learners who are principled, caring, and reflective. This philosophy is not confined to the classroom; it is woven into every aspect of school life through the four main pillars that define our community: **Sports, Service, Academics, and Culture.**

Each of these pillars offers unique opportunities for students to embody the IB Learner Profile and take action in meaningful ways. Whether on the sports field, in acts of service, through academic inquiry, or by celebrating culture, our learners consistently demonstrate how the IB philosophy shapes their growth and experiences.

THE 4 PILLARS OF TIS

At the core of our school are four pillars: Academics, Culture, Sports, and Service. Our diverse student and staff population enriches these pillars, fostering a cross-cultural community that shapes globally-minded citizens. Click on the tabs below to learn more about our four pillars.



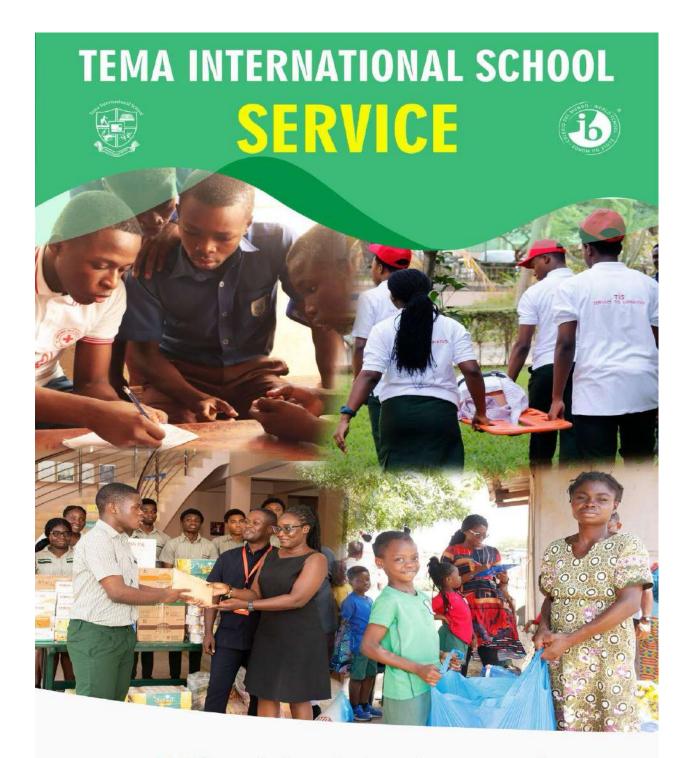






SERVICE

Service is a vital pillar of the TIS PYP, as it provides opportunities for students to transform their knowledge and understanding into meaningful action. The IB emphasises that "PYP students demonstrate agency by taking action: making responsible choices, and through their voice and ownership, they impact their own learning and their community" (IBO, 2018). At TIS, this philosophy is evident in the way students consistently connect their classroom inquiries to real-world issues and take initiative to make a difference. Through action projects, our students have shown remarkable empathy and responsibility: Grade 2 students donated bins and raised awareness on how plastics endanger lives; Grade 1 students donated clothes and food items to support the needy in the local community; and Grade 6 students carried out their PYP Exhibition project through a beach clean-up and awareness campaign on the dangers of plastic waste to marine life. Beyond these projects, individual students also take personal initiatives such as donating resources to strengthen the smooth running of the school, demonstrating that service is not an isolated activity but an integral part of their growth as caring, internationally-minded citizens.



At TIS, we believe that service, as one of the four pillars for student balance and ensuing success, provides a hands-on experience to demostrate how we can make the world a better place through action and an understanding that success comes from helping others grow and becoming empowered.



EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD







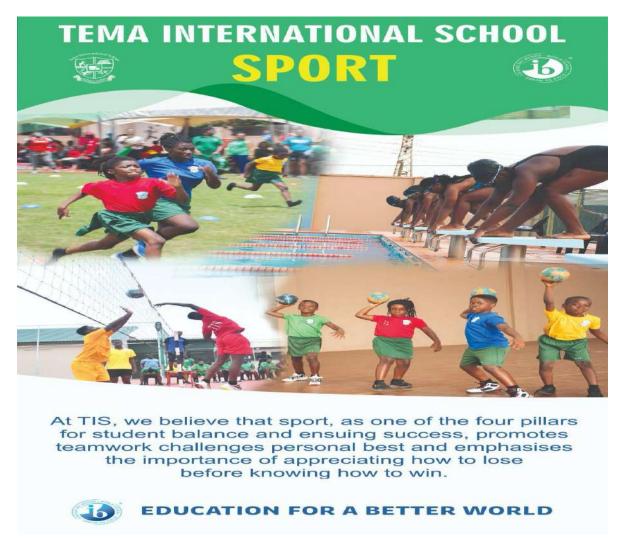


SPORT

At TIS Primary School, sports are at the heart of our commitment to developing balanced learners. Our annual Sporty Family Day is a highlight, bringing students, parents, and staff together through fun and engaging activities, including relay races, *Fill the Bottle*, tag-team events, team walks, and sack races. These moments not only create lasting family memories but also strengthen our sense of community and emphasise the importance of staying active together.

Students also enjoy structured Physical Education (PE) and swimming lessons, where they build core skills in coordination, agility, and endurance. Through guided instruction, they learn discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship while also discovering the value of perseverance. Swimming, in particular, equips them with essential life skills in water safety while promoting fitness, stamina, and confidence. These structured programs ensure that every child develops both the physical skills and the positive mindset needed for lifelong healthy living.

Beyond lessons, students take action by participating in an inter-colour competition. Such competitions foster teamwork, resilience, and determination, while encouraging healthy rivalry and goal-setting. At the same time, the school values the role of unstructured play, where children freely engage in activities such as football, skipping, and running games during breaks. This balance between structured learning and free play helps students naturally apply their skills, build friendships, and develop a deep and lasting love for sports.











ACADEMICS

Academic Pillar and the Primary Learning Team

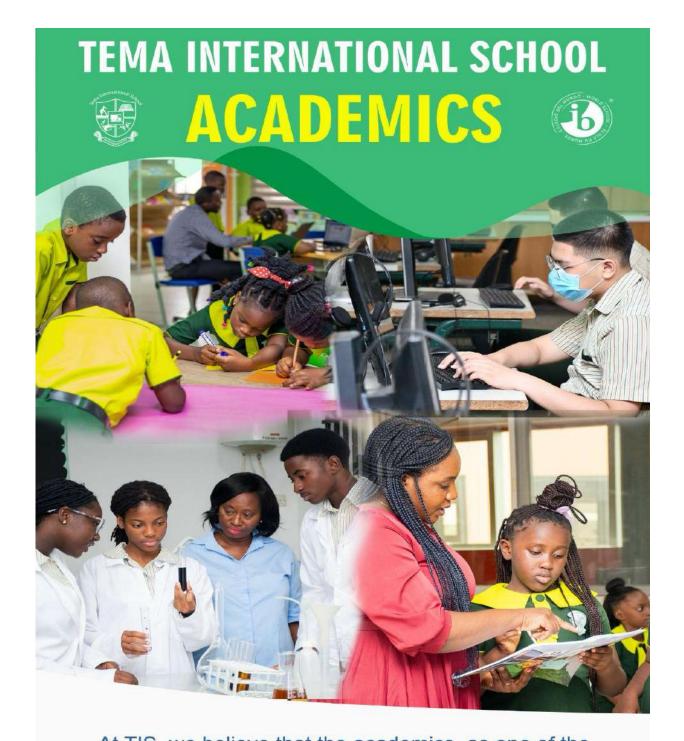
At TIS Primary School, the Academic Pillar serves as the foundation of our learners' growth, shaping inquiry, critical thinking, and conceptual understanding. In line with this, the Primary Learning Evaluation Team plays a vital role in ensuring that teaching and learning practices remain rigorous, engaging, and reflective of the IB philosophy.

Key areas of focus include:

Curriculum Alignment: Reviewing unit plans and learning engagements to ensure they foster deep understanding and connect across subject areas. Inquiry and Conceptual Learning: Guiding teachers to design inquiries that challenge students to question, explore, and apply their knowledge in meaningful contexts. Assessment for Learning: Strengthening assessment practices to capture learners' progress not just in understanding, but in skills, attitudes, and approaches to learning. Teacher Collaboration: Encouraging shared planning and reflective dialogue among teachers to maintain consistency and innovation in classroom practice.

Learner-Centred Approach: Placing learners at the heart of evaluation, ensuring teaching methods nurture independence, curiosity, and critical thinking. Through the Academic Pillar, supported by the Evaluation Team's commitment, TIS Primary continues to provide a strong, inquiry-driven education that empowers learners to demonstrate understanding across many areas of learning.





At TIS, we believe that the academics, as one of the four pillars for student balance and ensuing success, provide a theoretical lens for inquiry, critical thinking and conceptual understanding, as well as the opportunity to demonstrate our knowledge and understanding across many areas of learning.























• CULTURE

At TIS, the school's culture is profoundly shaped by its policies on assessment, academic integrity, inclusion, language, and access/admission, all of which reflect the IB philosophy in action. In the PYP classroom, assessment is viewed as an integral part of the learning journey, fostering inquiry, reflection, and growth. Academic integrity is modelled and practised through principled research and honest collaboration, while inclusion ensures that every student is supported and valued. Language is celebrated as a tool for communication and international-mindedness, fostering respect for diverse cultures and perspectives. Access and admission policies further strengthen this culture by promoting equity and opportunity for all learners. Together, these policies are not just documents but are lived out daily in classroom practices, student reflections, projects, events, and community partnerships, showing clear evidence of inquiry, international-mindedness, and the IB Learner Profile attributes in action.



At TIS, we believe that culture, as one of the four pillars for student balance and ensuing success, develops and enhances the creative, artistic and performing skills and talents in each student.













































Fashion Time:
Grade 4 in Style!
The students
showcased their
creativity and
unique fashion
ideas during the
Fashion Week!

The IB philosophy and our four pillars are inseparable, working together to create a vibrant culture of learning at TIS Primary School. They nurture every student to grow as a compassionate, balanced, and internationally minded individual. By living out these values through sports, service, academics, and culture, our learning community continues to embody the mission of the IB and the school's vision.



Change the WOTLO Through Excellence

#Make a Difference





TIS ADMISSION PROCESS

KEY QUESTIONS

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

DUE DILIGENCE

- ✓ Go to tis.openapply.com
- ✓ Familiaise yourself with all aspects of the admisions
- ✓ Is this the right school for your child?

APPLICATION

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

BOOK A TOUR OF TIS

- ✓ Allow 30-45 minutes for the tour.
- ✓ Be prepared to be surprised

TEST AND INTERVIEW

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

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 on the waiting list.

NEED HELP OR IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

- ✓ Please email: admissions@tis.edu.gh
- ✓ Please call:

TIS Admissions Grade Chart

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

Grade 12

Year 13





Primary School Campus
Admissions Open For 2025/2026 Academic Year

Flexible admission screenings and interviews



Entry Points in 2025

Preschool

Junior Primary

Senior Primary

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







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.



To learn more

scan this.

To enrol scan this.



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).

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

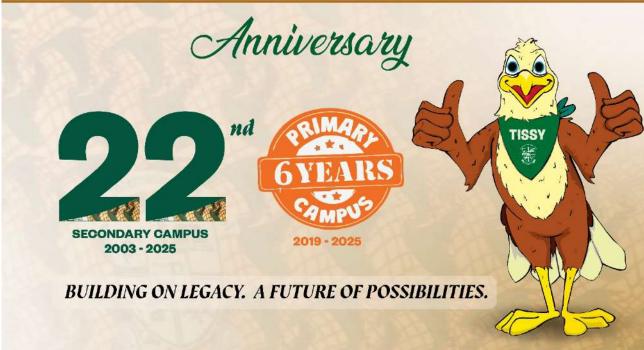
Or come and visit the school (Opp Afariwa Farms, Off Tema-Akosombo Road) www.tis.edu.gh

CAS-SA Corner TIS 22nd Anniversary



TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL





In just a few weeks, our beloved **TIS will turn 22 years old**, with our **Primary School Campus celebrating its 6th anniversary**. This year's theme, "Building on Legacy. A Future of Possibilities," reminds us that we are honouring everyone who has shaped this community, our cofounders, staff, parents, alumni, and most importantly, you, our students. Together, we are a vibrant community of learners, building a future filled with possibilities.

Kindly click here to share your well wishes, memories, or notes of celebration:

https://forms.gle/e8S35iegHp6bAhcJ6

Your voice matters, and we'd love to include your message in our anniversary reflections.

Under the leadership of the IB Class of 2027, with *Bruhan-Deen, Yaa Shandel, and LesleyAnn* (G11) at the forefront, this year's celebrations begin with **Sporty Family**, a day of camaraderie, sportsmanship, fun, and school spirit. More importantly, the class is driving a purposeful cause through the powerful **Nii Okai High School Praise Concert**, supporting the *Saving Hearts Initiative*. Their goal is to raise funds to give children in Ghana access to life-saving heart surgery. Every contribution counts; donate, be a lifesaver.

The excitement will continue with **Spirit Week**, packed with creativity, innovation, and fun, including the return of the **Career Fair**, **now renamed Career Expo**, **on Wednesday**, **1 October**. We'll round off with the Founders' **Day Special Lunch** and our **Anniversary Thanksgiving Service**.

This celebration cannot be complete without you. Show up in your numbers, share the anniversary posters on your social media, and be part of this moment of **service**, **legacy**, **and purpose**. Together, let's make **TIS (a) 22** unforgettable and meaningful.

Thank you for all you bring to TIS. You are the heartbeat of our community!

Call to Action - Nii Okai Saving Hearts Initiative

Our goal is to raise GHC 110,000 to fund life-saving open-heart surgery for children with Congenital Heart Disorders. Currently, hundreds of children are on the waiting list, urgently needing financial help.

Be a Heart Saver. Together, we are creating a future of possibilities.

To Donate:

Dial *887*5067# - Follow the prompt and donate, or

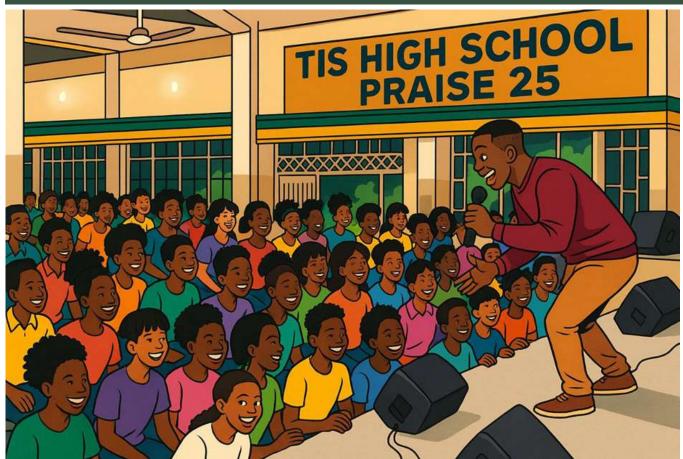
Visit **changoapp.com** and select *High School Praise 2025 for TIS* https://donate.changoapp.com/campaign/5efa98a1-d741-4c22-9ed3-a155fae93c71, or

Via **TIS MoMo** – MTN: *Abigail Ahiadorme, 0597621047* -**Reference:** TIS22 Project – Your Name, or the name of your ward, or by **cheque** (payable to *Tema International School*).

You can also purchase Dr Ken's new book or the High School Praise T-shirt.



TIS @ 22 – High School Praise Celebrating with purpose and Saving Hearts



As Tema International School (TIS) celebrates 22 years of transformational education, we are reminded that true celebration is not only about looking back with gratitude but also about moving forward with purpose. Service has always been at the heart of who we are as a school community. This year, we mark our anniversary in a meaningful way through a partnership with the Nii Okai Saving Hearts Foundation, as we host High School Praise 2025.

This annual event will bring together international schools across Ghana to lift their voices in praise while raising funds to support children living with **congenital heart disease (CHD)**.

IB Class of 2027 Leading the Cause

In alignment with our mission to nurture students who are compassionate and responsible global citizens, the **IB Class of 2027** is taking the lead in this initiative as part of their **CAS** (**Creativity**, **Activity**, **Service**) **Project**. Their commitment embodies the values of empathy, leadership, and collaboration that CAS promotes, and their determination is precise: to raise funds to support at least one child's life-saving surgery.

With the collective strength of our community, the students are working towards a greater goal: to give hope to all five children currently waiting for surgery under the Saving Hearts Foundation. Their leadership makes this not just a school event, but a student-driven mission rooted in service and action.

The Urgency of the Cause in Ghana

Every year, approximately **8,000** children in Ghana are born with congenital heart conditions (Children's HeartLink, 2023). Each open-heart surgery costs about GHC 110,000, far beyond the reach of most families. As a result, many children remain untreated. Currently, over 1,200 children are on the waiting list for heart surgery at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Ghana's national cardiothoracic centre, where limited ICU space and resources create long delays (Mending Kids, n.d.).

This reality makes it clear: the High School Praise is not just an evening of music, but a **life-saving** initiative.

High School Praise 2025

The concert will bring together choirs and students from:

- Tema International School (Host)
- Akosombo International School
- Life International College
- Ghana Christian International High School
- Vine Christian High School



Alongside other schools that will participate, such as AVES, Calvary Presby, Angels Specialist School, to name a few.

It will also feature inspiring performances from renowned gospel artistes: Nii Okai, Sammee Crentsil, MOG Music, Naa Mercy, and Cofi Boham. Together with students, parents, and the broader community, this promises to be a memorable celebration of music, faith, and solidarity.

Event Details

• Date: Saturday, 27 September 2025

• Time: 1:00 pm

• Venue: TIS Secondary Campus – Sports Complex

How You Can Support

We invite all parents, alumni, friends, and partners to support this cause in the following ways:

- Attend the Concert: Be present for this transformative event.
- **BUY a T-Shirt:** GHC 100.00 each proceeds go directly towards the surgery.
- Support Vendors: Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the concert.

Donate:

- Dial *887*5067#
- Visit **changoapp.com** and select *High School Praise 2025 for TIS*https://donate.changoapp.com/campaign/5efa98a1-d741-4c22-9ed3-a155fae93c71
- Donate via **TIS MoMo** or by cheque (payable to Tema International School)

Together, We Can Save Lives

With an estimated fundraising goal of GHC 400,000, this event has the power to provide not just treatment, but life itself. As we celebrate our 22nd anniversary, we are reminded that our legacy is not measured in years alone, but in the lives we touch and the impact we create.

TIS @ 22 – Building on Legacy. A Future of Possibilities.

References

Children's HeartLink. (2023). *In Ghana, with a population of about 34 million, around 8,000 babies are born each year with congenital heart disease*. Retrieved from https://www.facebook.com/childrensheartlink/posts/984070597098595

Mending Kids. (n.d.). *Ghana cardiac programme*. Retrieved from https://www.mendingkids.org/ghana-card iac.html



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!**

Please 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, the amazing DP1s ©. This is part of our CAS journey, and we're ready to make it an unforgettable experience.

Here's the line-up of events and a reminder of **DRESS CODES**. Be Creative and avoid last-minute pressure on yourself and your parents.

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.

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 full 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 true 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 all out with 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, comprising 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 – Founders' Day

We celebrate our Co-Founders and their lasting legacy. Join us for the **Founders' Lunch** at the MPH, a moment of celebration and reflection. **Dress Code: TIS Green Polo**.

Afrik Gala: A Night of Legacy and Culture

In the evening, we honour our founders' vision and the spirit of TIS through an unforgettable showcase of **African fashion**, **food**, **and music**. This is a night to celebrate our diverse roots and proudly highlight our international identity with a special focus on Pan-Africanism.

Dress Code: Wear 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 about the creativity and meaning behind your look.

Sunday, 5 October - Thanksgiving Service

We end the week in gratitude, a time for gratitude, 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 (a) 22 is more than a celebration – it's our story, our journey, and our pride.

We can't wait to celebrate with you. Let's make it unforgettable.

TIS @ 22 – Student Planning Committee - <u>tis_spiritweek@tis.edu.gh</u>

Bruhan-Deen, Yaa Shandel, LesleyAnn – Main Leaders - IB Class of 2027 – DP1s

#TISat22 #SpiritWeekVibes #ProudlyTIS #SavingHearts









Tema International School CAREER FAIR 2025



IMAGINE IT. WEAR IT. BECOME IT!













@ TIS SPIRIT WEEK





TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL























Grip Am! - Save the Date for Our Annual School Production



The excitement continues!

Following the fun and exceptional auditions for our Annual School Pla, *Grip Am!* by Ola Rotimi, rehearsals are now in full swing. It is truly inspiring to see students rushing to the Black Box after siesta, eager to rehearse and bring this production to life.

This year's production is under the

direction of Mr. Mawuli Zonyrah (Theatre Teacher) and our talented and committed student director, Sedinam Ahlidza (Grade 12). Alongside other student directors, they are leading the cast and crew into what promises to be a fantastic production. The Annual School Play is always a display of talent across grades, an experience you cannot miss!

To our talented cast and crew: keep the momentum strong, show up to rehearsals on time, and give your very best. This three-month journey is not just about preparing for the stage, but about teamwork, discipline, and creating something unforgettable together.

We warmly invite staff, students, parents, alumni, and friends of the school to save the date:

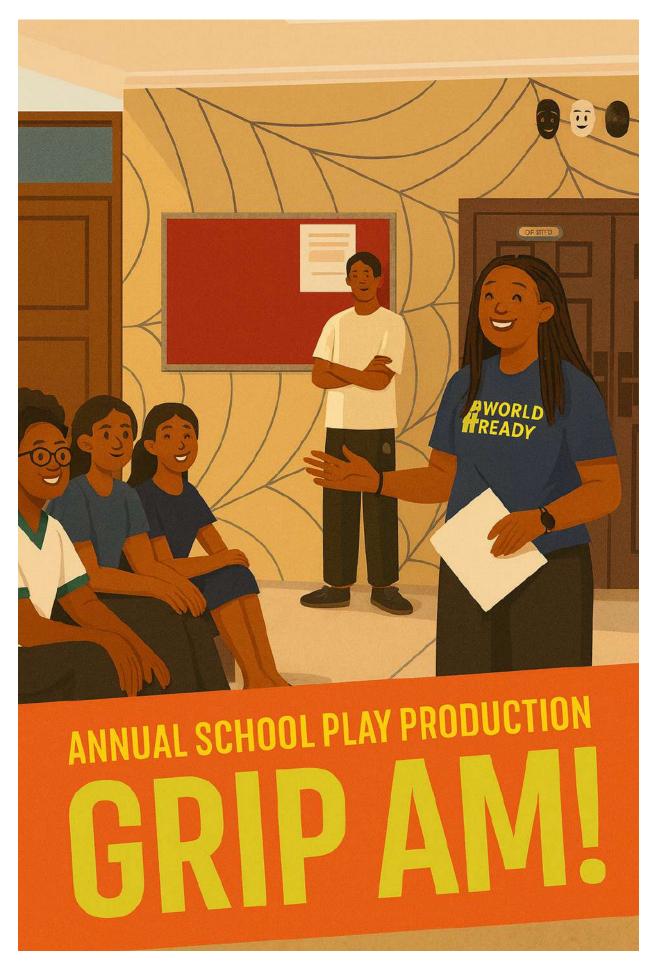
- Saturday, 8 November 2025
- 7:00 pm
- MPH, TIS Secondary Campus

Let's come together as a community and give our audience an experience of a lifetime!

Synopsis of *Grip Am*

Grip Am is a comedic Nigerian play centred on **Ise**, a struggling farmer plagued by misfortune and conflict 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 simply by uttering the words "Grip Am." His newfound ability sets off a chain of hilarious and absurd events — even trapping the Angel of Death himself! Witty and entertaining, the play blends **satire and moral lessons**, exploring the dangers of unchecked ambition, the unintended consequences of our choices, and the fragility of power.









Registration for Tema International School students to enroll on the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award programme is open. Sign up with this link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec6sjbZja329BAOTmAVdOVSxTG99XihJg1YJ0c-RDSFqi91w/viewform?usp=header for your preferred award level.

The registration deadline is 30 September 2025.

Participants must conclude their enrollment by making a payment in reference to the Award Level.

Momo number - 0597621047 (Abigail Ahiadorme - Award Leader)

Bronze registration fee: 100ghc
 Silver registration fee: 160ghc
 Gold registration fee: 200ghc

Parent, please indicate the participant's name in the reference when completing the transaction.

Summary of the requirements from participants and parent/guardian



READY FOR CHANGE. READY FOR OUR NEW WORLD.



Right now, more than a million 14 - 24 year olds around the world are stepping outside their comfort zone. They're learning to lead. They're safely supporting their communities, getting active and gaining new skills. They're discovering adventure and having fun.

They're participating in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

Through the Award, young people can develop the crucial skills they need to navigate change and build positive habits, now and in the future. All while gaining an internationally recognised accreditation which is valued by governments, businesses and universities around the world.

READY FOR NOW The Award is a commitment which encourages young people to: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award develops positive foundations for the future, including: The Award helps young positive foundations for the future, includi

WORLD-CLASS LEARNING, OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

By encouraging your child to get involved with the Award, you can ensure that they benefit from great non-formal education and learning and they are ready for the world, at a time when the world needs them more than ever.

GET INVOLVED



Encourage your child to unplug and expand their horizons, by taking part in the Award

- Embrace the Award and learn more about the benefits and impacts it can have. Many of the extra-curricular activities your child is already doing can contribute to their Award.
- Support young people to do the Award: consider offering to help your child's local Award unit by offering your time and talents to support other young people.
- 8 Refer people to the Award: encourage others to consider delivering, volunteering, or participating, to ensure more young people can benefit.
- Pay It forward: By making a donation to the Award, you can help another young person to benefit from the impact of non-formal education and learning and become world ready.

Young people face exceptional challenge and change. There has never been a more important time to ensure that they are equipped to be resilient and adaptable to that change. To be ready to take on the world of today and tomorrow. The Award is here to help.





The 13th edition of the Tema International School Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Expedition Camp (for Silver & Gold Award Levels only) participant registration is now open. We can assure you an experience of a lifetime while meeting the requirements for CAS (DP students) and the DofE. This is a unique opportunity to develop skills, open up to a new culture, challenge yourself, reflect, be in touch with nature and create long-lasting memories.

Register now! LIMITED space available (first 35 eligible registrants/students). Only students who are DofE Silver and Gold Award participants can join the Expedition Camp.

Activities: Adventurous journey, abseiling, hiking, map reading & compass use, trail navigation, radio communication reading, visit tourist sites, creativity and leadership experiences, life and survival skills, first aid, drills and much more.



Benefits: Students will apply and develop skills, with CAS (DP Students) and DoEIA requirements met.

Safety: All safety measures are being taken into consideration and a risk assessment trip was completed by a TIS team. A wilderness medical officer and emergency nurse with work experience with the West African Rescue Association will be joining the team throughout the

program.

Equipment: World Ready T-shirt, Cap, camping gear, abseil gear, all outdoor equipment is inclusive. **Orientation and safety training:** 3 October 2025, 4:00 pm at the Design Lab with all participants and Expedition Leaders.

Departure: TIS campus Sunday, 5 October 2025, 7:00 am The team will return to TIS Campus on Wednesday, 8 October 2025 by 6pm. Parents are reminded to pick up their wards for the

Mid-semester break.

Comprehensive Outdoor Risk and Liability Insurance: Inclusive

Logistics: Certificate, transport, food, water and fees to destinations all-inclusive

Venue: Avetime, Volta Region.

Register now! LIMITED space available. Cost: GHC 7,000 - Registration deadline:

Friday, 19 September 2025 or when maximum numbers have registered- Kindly pay by the said deadline. Click on the link below to register. A payment receipt will be requested to complete the registration. A kit list is also attached to the form. Ensure you have all items on the kit list prior to the Camp. When making the payment in any of the accounts below kindly state the purpose: TIS DoEIA Expedition Camp, 13th Edition. Expedition Camp Cost: Ghc 7,000

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaSwwmQK0s-f9ge24BPVRFGdZ4R0dUrTDxQdZa6mfH-dK41g/viewform?usp=header

When making the payment in the accounts below kindly state the purpose: TIS DoEIA Expedition

Camp, 13th Edition.

Expedition Camp Cost: Ghc 7,000

TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ACCOUNT DETAILS

BANK: ABSA BANK **BRANCH:** Tema Main

ACCOUNT #: 060-1798808 (GH¢)

#MYP – Community Project



The Community Project is an aspect of the MYP that provides students with the opportunity to work collaboratively in groups. Students are expected to identify an authentic need within their community and design meaningful actions to address it. The project is guided by four key processes: Investigation, Planning, Taking Action, and Reflection.

The project runs on a timeline, beginning in **September** with a Community Tour and concluding in March with the MYP Project Exhibition. This year, the new cohort will officially begin the Investigation Phase with the Community Tour on 26 September. While students have the freedom to select any issue or topic they are passionate about, they are encouraged to consider the following areas of engagement:

1. UNSDG Collaborative Project with Innovation Academy, Florida



The Community Project Coordinator from Innovation Academy has proposed a joint project with TIS, focusing on one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students who choose this option will engage virtually with their peers in Florida to collaborate on a shared initiative. Preparations have already begun through online communication. Further updates will be shared in due course.

2. Zenu Public School

Located within the Ashaiman community, Zenu Public School faces several challenges, including limited access to school uniforms, shoes, stationery, desks, and proper classroom infrastructure. This

presents a meaningful opportunity for students to take action in supporting their peers through impactful initiatives.

3. Comm 22 Polyclinic

As the leading health centre serving the people of Ashaiman, Comm 22 Polyclinic continues to face needs. Building on the foundations of past projects, students in the current cohort can address outstanding issues, strengthening the relationship between TIS and the clinic.

4. HopeSetters Autism Centre

Founded by Mrs. Bridget Jewell Baaba Enchill, this registered NGO provides



care and training for individuals with autism. Partnering with the centre will allow students to foster compassion, open-mindedness, and inclusivity, gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to embrace and celebrate differences. Stay tuned for more updates and pictures from the tour.



#DP – TOK CORNER The nature of the Theory of Knowledge Course





The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course is a vital part of an IB Education. It is designed to develop critical thinking and foster international mindedness in learners. It is hoped that the TOK experience will produce global citizens as envisaged in an IB education. The nature of the subject can be summarised in the following excerpt.

The TOK course plays a special role in the DP by providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature, scope and limitations of knowledge and the process of knowing. In this way, the main focus of TOK is not on students acquiring new knowledge but on helping students to reflect on, and put into perspective, what they already know.

TOK underpins and helps to unite the subjects that students encounter in the rest of their DP studies. It engages students in explicit reflection on how knowledge is acquired in different disciplines and areas of knowledge, on what these areas have in common, and the differences between them. It is intended that

through this holistic approach, discussions in one area will help to enrich and deepen discussions in other areas.

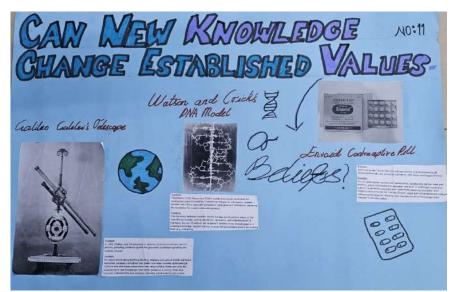
Theory of Knowledge guide. First Assessment 2022. The International Baccalaureate Organisation

The course is assessed with two components: the **TOK Exhibition** and TOK Essay. In the exhibition, students demonstrate the manifestation of TOK in the real world through a commentary that connects a real-world object to a TOK world prompt.

The value of the TOK experience is better understood through the reflections of students who have undertaken the course.

TOK Reflection

The TOK exhibition was a reflective and enriching experience that deepened my understanding of how knowledge shapes and is shaped by our values and beliefs. Preparing my exhibition pushed me to think critically about the objects I selected and how they connected to the prompt.



Receiving feedback from both my teacher and peers played an important role in strengthening my work. Through reviews and discussions, I was encouraged to clarify the links between my objects and the prompt and avoid being overly descriptive. This feedback helped me refine my commentaries to be more analytical—focusing on how each object illustrates a change in beliefs, and the process by which communities of knowers accept new knowledge.

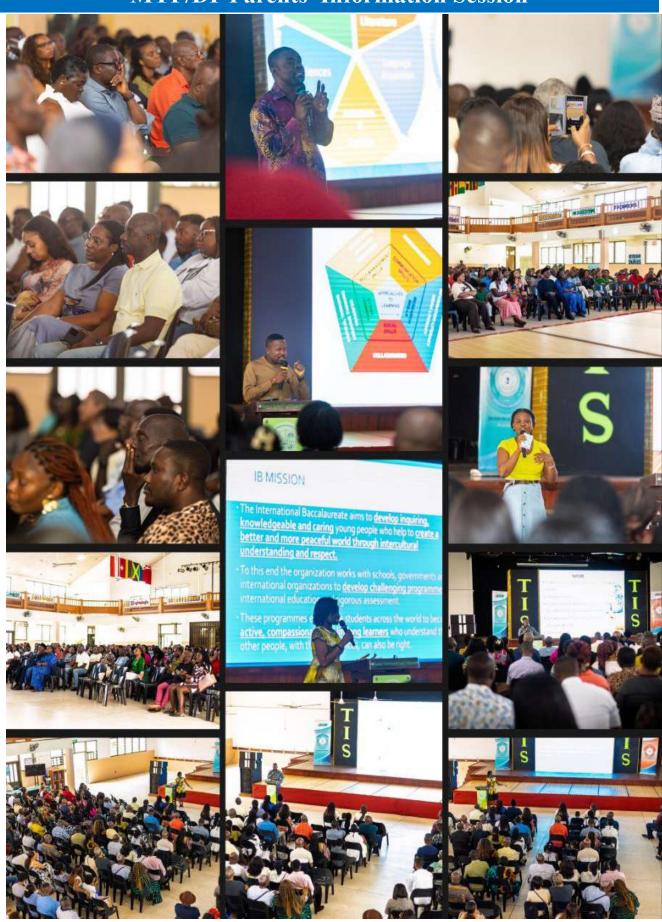
Overall, this experience enhanced my appreciation for the complexity of knowledge and the importance of dialogue in shaping understanding. It showed me that TOK is not just about answering questions, but engaging with multiple perspectives, questioning assumptions, and being open to having our own beliefs reshaped in the process. **Rachael-Louise Assan, G12.**



TOK Exhibition



MYP/DP Parents' Information Session





Monday Assembly









The Teaching Guarantee Series Continues



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 Afienya.

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.

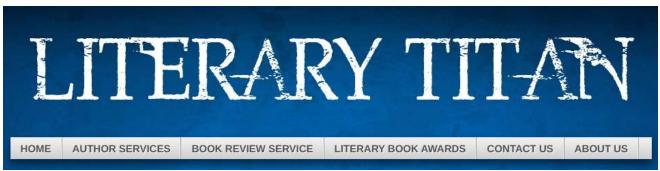
Congratulations, Dr. Ken. We're so proud of you. And yes, we'll carry your three things into our everyday lives, just as every lifelong learner should.

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*.

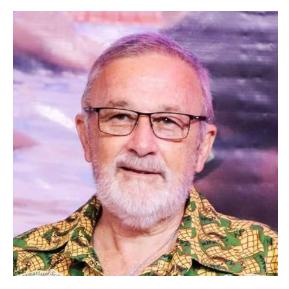
Surama King

CAS & Events Coordinator



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

Jun 21 Posted by <u>Literary-Titan</u>



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.

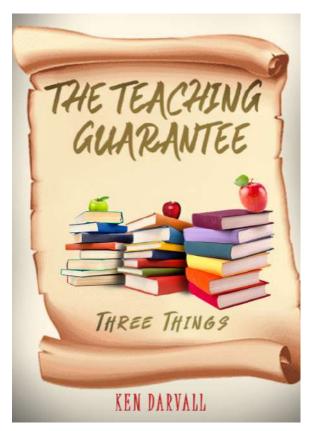
Schools are living institutions with long memories. The most effective leaders honour and learn from that institutional wisdom.

Author Links: GoodReads | Website | Amazon

The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things

Jun 10Posted 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.

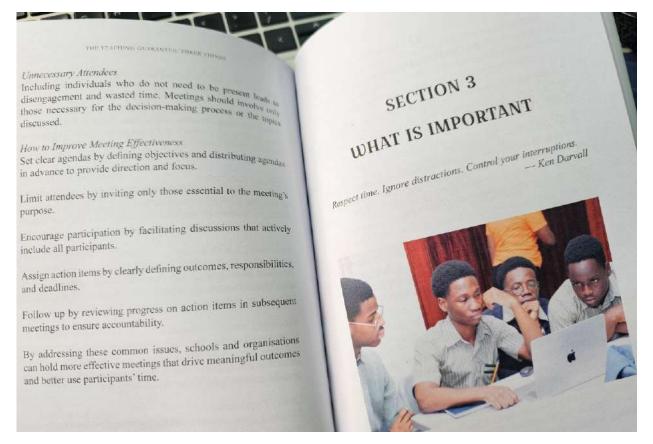




What I liked most about this book was its clarity. Darvall doesn't lecture. He shares. And his voice, though authoritative, carries the warmth and weariness of someone who has seen it all and still chooses hope. I found myself nodding along with much of what he wrote, particularly his points about personalised 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.



ASA - After School Activities - 2025/2026 Academic Year - Semester 1

DAY 4:30 - 5:30PM	ACTIVITY	INSTRUCTOR/PATRON	VENUE	VACANCY /GRADE
	Brass Band	Meshach Asase	Music Room 3 - Handel &	All grades
	Cosmetology	Abigail Ahiadorme	Strands Saloon	10 Ss- All grades
	Chess Club	Abass Amidu and Emmanuel	Design Lab 1	30 All grades
MONDAY	Piano Lessons	Prosper	Music Room 2 - Handel & Picasso	Individual lessons - All grades
	Debate Society	Louis Welagaamo & Ms Irene Koree	C6:LL2	30 Ss G7-G11
	Badminton &Tennis	Sports Team	Sports Complex	All grades
	Architecture Club	Donald Dodoo	Design Lab	10 Ss - G9 - G11
	Fascinator Club	Grace Ameyibor	Project Center	6 Ss G9 - G11
	Cooking Club	Ms. Eunice	Project Center Kitchen	6 Ss G7
	Buddies For Change	Michael Ansah	Project Center Cafeteria	All grades
	Annual School Play	Mawuli Zonyrah – Visual Arts and CASSA Team	MPH, Black Box, Music Rooms 2&3, Black Box	
	Sewing Club (Hand & Machine Sewing)	Donald Dodoo & Ms. Diana	Design Lab	8 Ss - G11s
	Tennis and Table Tennis	Sports Team	Sports Complex	All grades
	Cooking Club – G8	Ms. Bernice	Project Centre Kitchen	8 Ss – Grade 8
TUESDAY	MUN	Mr Louis W and Mr Nicholas	C12 IS4	50 Ss- All Grades
	Innovation & Entrepreneurship Club	George M, Nicholas S. Mr Kumah-Noi	Library	18 Ss- G9 - G11
	Cosmetology	Phoebe Fafa Wensley	Strands Saloon	10 Ss- All grades
	TIS Orchestra	Shadrach Asase	Orchestra Room - Handel	All grades
	Crocheting Club	Ms Eunice	Design Lab	6 Ss - All grades
	Annual School Play	Mawuli Zonyrah – Visual Arts and CASSA Team	MPH, Black Box, Music Rooms 2&3, Black Box	All grades
	Badminton	Sports Team	Sports Complex	All grades
	Squash	Takasi Nyande	Sports Complex	All grades
	Chess Club	Abass Amidu and Emmanuel	The state of the s	30 Ss - All grades
WEDNESDAY	Visual Arts Club	Albert Dowuona	Visual Arts Studio-Handel Picasso	10 Ss - All grades
	Sign Language	Ms. Diana	C8	All grades
	Reading Club	Aunty Setor, Samuel Ato & Joseph B	Learning Center	24 Ss - All grades
	Cooking Class – G9 & G10	Ms Betty	Project Centre Kitchen	8 Ss – G9 - G10
	Annual School Play	Mawuli Zonyrah – Visual Arts and CASSA Team	MPH, Black Box, Music Rooms 2&3, Black Box	All grades
	Handball & Squash	Sports Team	Sports Complex	All grades
	The Operation Smile Club	Mrs King and Samantha	Design Lab	12 Ss – G9 – G11
	Pop Band	Meshach Asase	Music Room 3 – Handel &	Individual lessons - All grades
THURSDAY	Interact Club of TIS - Meeting 2 x Month	Grace Kabukie & Gilda Afegbedzi	I&S CLI13	20Ss - All grades
THOMODAT	STEM CLUB	Science & Math Team	Einstein Block	All grades
	TIS Orchestra	Shadrach Asaase	Orchestra Room – Handel &	All grades
	Photography Club	Joshua Nartey	Media Room - Project Centre	14 Ss – All grades
	Annual School Play	Mawuli Zonyrah – Visual Arts and CASSA Team	MPH, Black Box, Music Rooms 2&3, Black Box	All grades
FRIDAY	Mooting Society	Louis W, Constance & Joseph B.	C6:LL2	25 Ss -G9-G11
	Piano Lessons		Music Room 2 - Handel &	Individual Lessons - All grades
		Prosper & Robert Hayford	Picasso	
	Squash	Takasi Nyande	Sports Complex	All grades
	Annual School Play	Mawuli Zonyrah – Visual Arts and CASSA Team	MPH, Black Box, Music Rooms 2&3, Black Box	All grades
SATURDAY	Volleyball – After lunch	Sports Team	Girls Hostel Court	All grades
	Poetry Club - 3PM - 4 PM	Louis Welagaamo	Gardens	All grades – 10 Ss
SHNDAV 4 5 DM	Swimming Club - Dr Ken Darvall, Sport	ts Team		

SUNDAY 4 - 5 PM Swimming Club - Dr Ken Darvall, Sports Team

Service Projects: Opportunity for Service as Action and CAS students to develop community projects. Discuss logistics with coordinators/supervisors. Check your Handbook or visit the CASSA office for the NGO collaboration list.

CAS Projects (G11 & G12): Submit the CAS Project Proposal Form to the CAS Coordinator before starting.

Red Cross Club: Monthly meetings for Red Cross Ghana Society certified members. Sign up for a 4-day online workshop (Date TBC). Patrons: Mr. Hayford Gyasi, Abigail, & Mr. Callistus Sullo.

Performance/School Event Organizers: Open to all students. Check the Notice Board, Bulletin, or ManageBac for opportunities.

Workshops: Skill-building opportunities are announced in the Weekly Bulletin - CAS-SA Corner and ManageBac.

DoEIA: Follow Dukies Group on ManageBac for updates. For Bronze, Silver or Gold Award registration, visit the Dukies Office at the Project Centre

After-School Activities Participation: All students are required to participate in at least 3 activities weekly. Emphasise commitment and balance. After-School Program and CAS: The After-School Program at Tema International School is meticulously aligned with the CAS requirements. These activities fulfil the CAS experience prerequisites, particularly within the Creativity and Activity strands, providing students with diverse opportunities to engage and develop these essential skills.

ASA – After School Activities in Pictures











Change the World Through Service













Ten tips for acting with integrity

Always act with honesty and in a responsible and ethical manner—being conscious of the influence that you have on those around you can set a great example to



Stand up for what is **right**—alert a member of staff at your school if you suspect that someone has cheated.



Be mindful of maintaining academic integrity during group work/projects and keep track of what each group member is contributing.













Familiarise yourself with the school's rules and ensure that you understand what academic integrity means and consists of.

Always reference and cite other people's work that you have used in your essays—be **proud** of explaining that you understood someone else's ideas and thought that they were good. Seek help if you are struggling or are not sure of expectations.

Learn to accept your strengths and weaknesses and do the best that you can.

Know how to safely collaborate and share work when using social media and digital

Try to overcome procrastination. Managing last-minute work which increases the likelihood of cheating.

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COUNSELLORS' CORNER



At TIS, learning is more than a curriculum—it's a canvas. With a plethora of tailor-designed academic modules and enriching extracurricular layered throughout, every student is invited to discover, create, and shine. The proof is in the pudding: creative talents and gifts are intentionally unleashed for every child to blossom. Dear students, be a participant in the learning process, not a spectator. That's how greatness grows." — Dr. Ken Darvall



At the heart of university applications, creativity and talent count for more than just credentials—they shape the story that sets each student apart.

Here's how we do it at TIS:

- Tailor-made academic guidance that aligns with each student's passions and strengths.
- Personal statement/College Essay coaching that transforms experiences into compelling narratives.

- Global university mapping based on career goals, scholarships, and cultural fit.
- Creative portfolio support for students in the arts, design, and innovation fields.
- Parent collaboration and mentorship to ensure every step is intentional and informed.
- At TIS, we don't just prepare students for university—we empower them to present their most authentic, brilliant selves to the world.

DP2 Refresher Workshop: Writing an Excellent Personal Statement Hosted By: Mr. Percy Amudzi, Admissions Specialist, Coventry University



TIS is home to universities globally. DP2 students enjoyed a presentation with Mr Amudzi on the life of a student in the UK, and how to write an excellent personal statement.

Enjoy reading students' reflections.

The Coventry University presentation during guidance was very engaging and helpful as we prepare for our university applications. The team clearly explained the UCAS process and provided us with practical advice on how to structure and strengthen our personal statements, which made the entire application process feel less overwhelming. I particularly appreciated how they shared tips that were realistic and easy to apply, while also providing us with insight into the kind of qualities universities look for in students. Beyond the application process, they also introduced us to life at Coventry University, which provided us with a clearer picture of what studying there could be like. Overall, the session left me and my friends more confident

about starting our UCAS journey and motivated to approach our applications with clarity and focus - Glorious Angel



DP2 Refresher Workshop: Writing an Excellent Personal Statement By: Percy Amudzi | Manager - Ghana/Africa,

Recruitment and Admissions. E: percy_amudzi@coventry.ac.uk



Listening to Coventry University was an enjoyable experience, especially since I learnt more about why it was so important to make the personal statement all about yourself. It was also nice hearing about the school and its variety of programs. The speaker was also enjoyable to listen to. All in all, I enjoyed it and I am grateful for all I learnt. **Oluwanifemi Toriola**,

Dear DP2s, buckle up—university applications are in full swing. With our tailored teaching modules and personalized guidance on application timelines, you're on track to shine.

DP2 Timelines	
ACT Registration Deadline Test Date	Friday, 25 July, 2025 Saturday, 6 September, 2025
SAT Registration Deadline Test Date	Friday, 1 August, 2025 Saturday, 23 August, 2025
Create Commonapp Account, Invite Counsellor & 2 Teachers and Assign to all schools UC universities	Friday, 1 August,2025
SAT Registration Deadline Test Date	Friday, 22 August, 2025 Saturday, 13 September, 2025
Essays, Personal Statements, school selection sheet, brag sheet, resume/CV, initial updates from Summer break	Tuesday, 26th August, 2025
Final Predicted Grades	Friday, 29th August, 2025
Email Counsellors about EA/ED, OxBridge, Quest Bridge MDV. Complete and Submit the checklist.	Monday, 1 st September, 2025
ACT Registration Deadline Test Date	Friday, 5 September, 2025 Saturday, 18 October, 2025
Quest Bridge all supplementary essays submission https://youtu.be/KNZndnqRxQs	Friday, 12 th September 2025
SAT Registration Deadline Test Date	Tuesday, 12 September, 2025 Saturday, 4 October, 2025
Final updated College Essays, & Personal Statements & updated university list, CV/ resume, submission to counsellors for final review (ED,EA, Oxbridge) Financial Aid Tracker Due	Friday, 19 th September, 2025
Final Submission! Quest Bridge	Tuesday 23, September, 2025

Final Submission! EA, ED (Oct. 15) Early UK Applications (MDV) on UCAS. (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, health-related courses). Create OUAC Account FAFSA for UC Schools	Friday, 26 th September, 2025 Wednesday, 1 st October, 2025
DP2	Timelines
Final Submission! Early UK Applications (MDV, Oxbridge) EA, ED students with an Oct. 15 USA Early Applicants essay supplements (CommonApp and non-CommonApp)	Friday, 3 rd October, 2025
Confirmation and submission of official intent to apply for "special scholarships" (mostly counsellor-nominated ones)	Monday, 6 th October, 2025
Create Financial Aid Application account, remind parents to complete portions (CSS, FAFSA, ISFAA, COF, School-specific). SAT/ACT Score Reporting. (ED/EA applicants)	Monday, 13 th October, 2025
University of Debrecen Registration/ Univ. of Nicosia Registration.	Monday, 20 th October, 2025
Final Submissions! EA, ED (Nov.1/15 deadline) Final updated College Essays, & Personal Statements & updated university list, CV/ resume, submission to counsellors for final review.	Friday, 24 th October, 2025
Final Submissions! OUAC and Canadian Applications. Univ. of California (UC) Schools portal UCAS	Monday, 27 th October, 2025
Final Submissions! USA Financial Aid Submission to universities (ISFAA, COF, CSS Profile, FAFSA etc.)	Friday, 31st October, 2025
Final Submission! All other applications (Ashesi, etc).	Friday, 7 th November, 2025
SAT Registration Deadline SAT Test Date	Friday 17 October 2025 Saturday, 8 th November, 2025
SAT registration Deadline Test Date	Friday, 14 November, 2025 Saturday, 6 December, 2025

ACT Registration Deadline ACT Test Date	Friday ,31 October, 2025 Saturday, 13 December, 2025
Final Submission! USA Financial Aid Submission to universities (ISFAA, COF, CSS Profile, FAFSA, etc.) SAT/ACT Score Reporting. (Regular applicants)	Monday, 17 th November, 2025
ACT Registration Deadline	Friday, 2 January, 2026
Test Date	Saturday, 14 February, 2026
Visa Applications and Interviews	Monday 20 January, 2026
Ghanaian University Applications Open	Monday, 26 th January, 2026
DP2	Timelines
SAT Registration Deadline	Friday, 20th February, 2026
Test Date	Saturday, 14 March, 2026
SAT Registration Deadline	Friday, 20 February, 2026
Test Date	Saturday, 14 March,2026
Final Submission! IBIS Forms	Friday, 3 rd April, 2026

Check ManageBac Guidance Files for more detail



REGISTER

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/policiess https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/dates-deadlines



DIGITAL TEST DATES AND DEADLINES 2025

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE
Oct. 4, 2025	Sept. 12, 2025
Nov. 8, 2025	Oct. 17, 2025
Dec. 6, 2025	Nov. 14, 2025

Congratulations to all SAT 13 September 2025 Test Takers.



2025 TEST DATES (COMPUTER-BASED TESTING ONLY!)

- ✓ ACT Registration Fees (Online payments only: Visit <u>www.actstudent.org</u>): 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
Oct. 18, 2025	Sept. 5, 2025
	•
Dec. 13, 2025	Oct. 31, 2025
- 7	-,

Change the World Through International Mindedness











The Middle Years Programme (MYP) has, since 2015, provided students with opportunities to utilise technology to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The eAssessments are digital assessments that require students "to show disciplinary and interdisciplinary understanding, international mindedness, critical and creative thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to apply knowledge in unfamiliar situations".

The eAssessment in the MYP comprises *on-screen examinations* and *ePortfolios*. Additionally, students complete a culminating initiative, known as the *Personal Project*. The table below provides information on various aspects of the eAssessments.

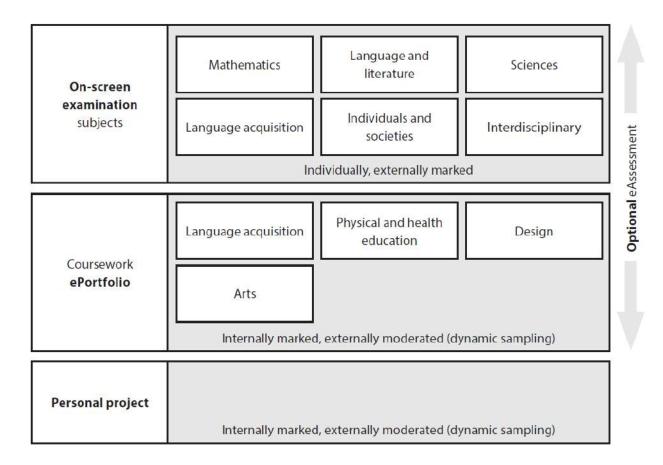


Figure 1: MYP eAssessment model

An understanding of this model will help students make informed decisions about their subject choices in MYP4 (Grade 9).

eAssessment: Certificate or Course pathway

As mentioned during last Saturday's Parent Info Session, the decision to register a student for either pathway is based on evidence of their continuous assessment in MYP4 and MYP5 during the first half of the semester (mid-semester). Further, the pathways are to increase access for students and not to discriminate between performances.

Generally, there are three (3) honours that a student completing the MYP 5 at Tema International School is eligible for. The image below provides some details.



All students will receive the first and second certificates (TIS MYP Completion certificate and IB MYP Course result) regardless of whether they are registered for the certificate or course pathway. The third, IB MYP Certificate, is awarded only to students registered for the certificate pathway.

Like the Parent Info Session, there was a Cohort meeting with all MYP 5 students on Monday, 15 September. The purpose of this meeting was to reiterate the performance expectations and the IB requirements for the certificate pathway.

Students whose continuous assessment grade for both MYP4 semesters is less than 28 points or who continually produce grades less than 3 in any subject will automatically be entered as MYP course candidates. Such students are still eligible to take some Higher-level (HL) courses in the Diploma Programme (DP) if their results are strong.

Change the World Through Critical Thinking





17/09/2025, 16:06

Social media ban: Experts warn gaming platform Roblox is a loophole in Australia's crackdown

The Sydney Morning Herald

Exclusive Politics NSW Social media

The hidden social media apps buried inside Roblox games



Emily Kowal September 17, 2025 – 7.30pm

Children using Roblox have access to social media apps buried inside games, sparking warnings the popular online platform is dangerous and should be swept up in the federal government's crackdown.

As Australia's <u>world-first social media ban looms</u>, experts warn gaming platforms such as Roblox have found a loophole, creating potentially thousands of clones of popular social media apps that exist unmoderated within their internal universe.



Children are being exposed to social media-style apps on Roblox, experts warn. NATHAN PERRI

National eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said Roblox was "morphing into something more than online gaming" and she "worries about these features a lot".

Social media ban: Experts warn gaming platform Roblox is a loophole in Australia's crackdown

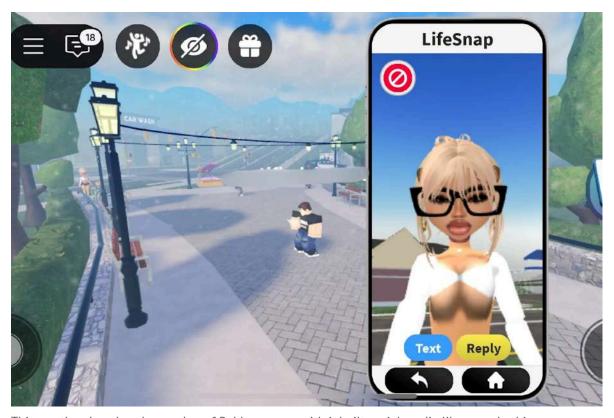
Cybersafety expert and former police officer Susan McLean said in-game social media "normalises and glamorises social media platforms".

"You are playing a game, but within this game you have also got to share something on Snap, or DM your friends on Instagram – it is practice for the real thing," she said.

What is Roblox?

The Roblox platform hosts thousands of games, most user-generated. These can operate like a Russian nesting doll, with each game containing a series of mini-games, all with their own universe, chat functions and features, including virtual phones loaded with cartoonish social media platforms. McLean said if a game, app or platform allowed communication and incorporated social media features, it should be included in the government's restrictions.

This masthead explored dozens of Roblox role-playing games marketed as for children aged five and up. Almost all included virtual phones, loaded with apps knocking off Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok.



This masthead explored a number of Roblox games with inbuilt social media like apps. In this one, reporters were sent sexualised images. ROBLOX

Roblox said it was not a social media platform but an "immersive gaming platform" and safety was its top priority.

While the content is cartoonish and does not allow children to share real images, experts say the cloned social media worlds damage children's attention spans and can further social media and gaming addiction, while exposing children to harmful content.

17/09/2025, 16:06

Social media ban: Experts warn gaming platform Roblox is a loophole in Australia's crackdown



Children using Roblox have access to social media apps buried inside games.

Who is playing?

Roblox, which has 79 million daily users globally, was created to encourage children and young teens to code and think like entrepreneurs. Roblox says 64 per cent of users are aged 13 and over, making about one-third of users primary school aged, and it has become known as a hotspot for adults looking to abuse children.

While <u>Australia is cracking down on Roblox</u>, enforcing mandatory codes and standards that require it to act to tackle the worst online content and conduct, the social media apps in the games pose serious risks, Inman Grant said.



Many role-playing games promote in-game social media apps. ROBLOX

"They are trying to introduce new kinds of services that look and feel like the other social media platforms – it's just a way to create stickiness in the platform, even though I think it creates much more perils," she said.

Inman Grant said the design was "dubious and devious".

"It is concerning to see [these social media features] in platforms that may be exempted [from the social media ban]," she said, predicting Roblox would be a platform "kids will gravitate to" when the social media ban begins.

What do the experts say?

Clinical neuropsychology researcher Michoel Moshel, who specialises in the neuropsychological implications of disordered and problematic screen usage, said the impact of social media content was the same "whether it's on traditional social media or whether it's on a more gamified or different platform of social media".

Screen and Gaming Disorder Clinic director Brad Marshall said games were using elements of persuasive design from social media to hook users, noting: "the minute you make any game social it's a bigger dopamine hit".

"The tech industry is homing in on what is the best formula for engagement, for addictiveness," he said, comparing trying to choose a "healthy" Roblox game to searching for a "healthy lolly".

"I know this is probably not what parents want to hear, but there is no Roblox game healthier than another. That's why we need to focus on having healthy boundaries around gaming," he said.

17/09/2025, 16:06

Social media ban: Experts warn gaming platform Roblox is a loophole in Australia's crackdown

What did we find inside games?

Despite their cartoonish features, players can use in-game social media apps to share explicit content. While playing one game, this masthead's reporters were sent an image via the in-game social media app of a Roblox character with her chest exposed.

In another game, called *Clip It*, designed to mimic TikTok, players within the game can watch short animated videos. A number featured violent messaging, including themes of suicide and murder.

Roblox this month announced a new game feature – Roblox Moments – allowing users to directly create and share short-form video, similar to TikTok or YouTube Shorts. While the feature is not yet available in Australia, many user-generated games on the platform already incorporate these features.

While not every game contains social media-style apps, the only way to know is by loading and playing the game, making it difficult for parents to vet games.

McLean said it was concerning that dangerous games could hide within "benign games" that seemed safe.

"If a game is particularly popular, then there's likely to be a higher proportion of paedophiles there because more kids equal more opportunities. They're across all games, so there's no such thing as safe. There's only safer," she said.

The Morning Edition newsletter is our guide to the day's most important and interesting stories, analysis and insights. Sign up here.



Emily Kowal is an education reporter for The Sydney Morning Herald. Connect via email.

Change the World Through Transparency





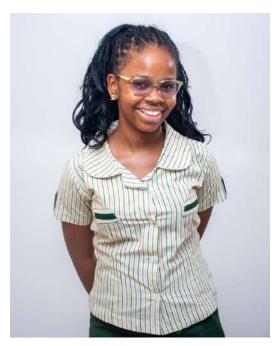


Hostel Corner



A night to remember! A celebration of Talent and Creativity! The Mr and Mrs TIS show was an unforgettable experience, highlighting the artistic side of our students, from mesmerising performances to heartfelt renditions. Every act was a reflection of the students' passion and dedication.

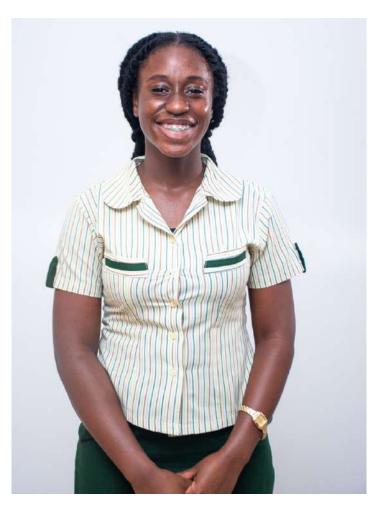
Take a look at our students' thoughts:



When I was first nominated to represent my grade as Miss T.I.S., I was initially reluctant to accept, as I thought I lacked both the confidence and the charm necessary for such an event. But before I knew it, the big day was right around the corner, and there was no turning back. My partner and I had to quickly come up with a dance, practice our chemistry on stage, and, most importantly, make sure we had something that would leave the crowd in awe. One of my biggest challenges was coming up with a pick-up line that would stand out. After much thought (and maybe a slight panic), I finally crafted one that completely blew the audience away. From then on, I felt my confidence grow with each practice and performance. The pageant wasn't just about charm and dancing; there was also a knowledge round. We were asked questions ranging from the maximum IB DP points to the winners of the 2022 World Cup, and even the largest desert in the world. Admittedly, we

stumbled at first (the IB points question had us sweating!), but with the very supportive crowd (wink, wink), we pulled through and nailed the rest. The theme for the pageant was Love Island, which added a touch of spice. The highlight of the night was definitely performing with my partner. Even

when a surprise "bombshell" tried to take him away, we stuck together, gave it our all, and in the end... we won! The cheers, the laughter, and the energy from the audience made the entire experience unforgettable. Finally, the moment came when the sash was placed over me and the crown rested on my head. That feeling, standing there, smiling at the crowd, with the weight of the crown reminding me of what I had accomplished, was surreal. Looking back, I'm so glad I took that leap of faith. Mr. & Mrs T.I.S. taught me that confidence isn't something you're born with; it's something you build when you challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone. Winning was exciting, but the real prize was proving to myself that I could do it. **Amy-Frances Gavor (MYP4)**



Being part of Mr and Mrs TIS was honestly such a fun and unforgettable experience. At first, I was really nervous because I didn't know how people would react or how everything would turn out, but I was also super excited to come in as a bombshell. It felt like a big moment, and I was happy to have had the chance to be part of something everyone was looking forward to. One of the things that made the night even more special for me was my outfit. I wore a pink sparkly dress, and I honestly loved it so much. It made me feel confident, pretty, and ready to enjoy myself. It was the kind of dress that really stood out, and it matched the energy of the whole event. I kept telling myself that no matter what happened on stage, at least I felt good in what I was wearing. When it came to choosing someone, I decided to go for it, but the person I chose decided to stay loyal to their partner. Because of that, I had to leave the stage earlier than I wanted to. At first, it was a little disappointing because I was really hoping to stay longer and enjoy the spotlight

more. But honestly, I wasn't upset. I reminded myself that it was just part of the game and part of the fun. Although I didn't stay on stage for long, I thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience. It gave me a lot of confidence to step out there and be part of something so exciting. It also made me realise that sometimes it's not about "winning" but just about enjoying the moment and making memories. I'm glad I took part, and I'd definitely do it again if I had the chance. **Ewuraba Sarfo (MYP 5)**

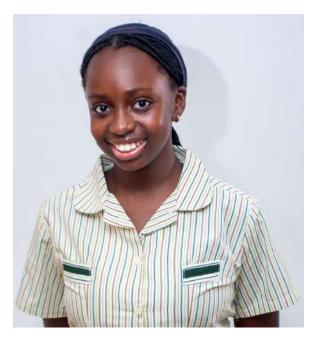


The Mr and Mrs TIS event was an enjoyable experience. I had to go with a boy from my class, and even though that was alright, the whole event actually turned out exciting. Love Island inspired it, so there were bombshells, trivia questions, a talent show, and even a chance to rizz up the judges. Everything made the experience lively and enjoyable. Overall, even though I didn't win at the end, I still had a great time, and I think I would definitely want to join again when I'm in Grade 8. **Ashanti Tettey Amlalo (MYP 2)**



Taking part in Mr and Ms TIS was a really great experience for me as a Grade 7 student. It gave me the chance to step out of my comfort zone, show confidence, and represent my class. I learned a great deal about responsibility, teamwork, and self-confidence. Being on stage taught me that it's not just about winning but about having the courage to try and do my best. This experience helped me grow and showed me that every challenge is a chance to improve.-**Brain Narh MYP** 2)

My experience as a contestant of MR and MRs TIS was a very fun and exciting one though I begun very shy and unsure I ended the night with unforgettable memories backstage and shaking up the crowd doing things that I never thought I would do, a lot of things that I never envisioned myself on stage dancing in front of the school being out of my comfort zone. Still, once the event started, I found it to be an enjoyable experience, from trying to understand what I would wear to understanding the nature of the game. Especially the general knowledge section, it was a highlight of my night getting to exhibit not just a surface-level understanding of general knowledge but the specificity necessary and required of an IB DP student. This experience was a fun one, and if I had the chance, I would participate in it again. -Kwaku Kusi Opare (DP1)



Hey guys, last night was a blast, not only because of the food and drinks, but also because of the experience. I made so many more friends, met lots of new people and went out of my comfort zone. Last year, I would have never stood on stage and done something like this, but TIS has made me change in so many positive ways. I wore a beautiful pink dress and Humphrielle did my hair. All of my roommates helped me get ready, and I was in a rush because I only had 15 minutes to get prepared. When I left the hostel, people were wearing TIS blankets, sweatshirts, and more to cover themselves as they made their way backstage. Ashanti and I were getting ready backstage because we were rushed, and we fixed our hair a little bit and other things. Bethel had to run back and forth from backstage to the hostel to get perfumes, lip gloss, and other things to not

only help us but also the other girls get ready. I used to say freshman's night was the funniest night of my life but Mr. and Mrs. TIS have definitely topped that. I went with Brian as my Mr and I was his Mrs. We had so much fun and it wasn't awkward in any way, shape or form. We both had a lot of fun with our talent; we did the shoulder dance. I also had to come up with a pickup line for one of the judges, and I got sprayed with water a lot that night. On the first couple of days of school, I had told my grade girls that school was feeling like Love Island. The next thing I knew the theme of last night was Love Island. There were many new bombshells, and although they looked gorgeous, all of the contestants who got picked stayed original to their dates. Brian and I had to do a Q&A, and the first question was how many continents there are. The next one was something about TIS, and the last one was what state they call the Big Apple. I said 'NYC,' but my mic didn't work! I also live in the US, so I knew I was right when Brian said California. I couldn't really do anything because he doesn't live in the States, so he wouldn't know, but it's fine because many other contestants got many questions wrong. In the end, Amy and Fareed won, and I'm so happy for them, although I think they are hiding something from the school because their connection is a little too close... Anyway, last night was the best night I've had in TIS so far, and I'm so excited to have many more nights like this. I'm also very

grateful to all the students and staff who helped make this happen. Lady Victoria Frempong, MYP 2. During my time at Mr. and Miss TIS, I honestly had one of the best experiences of my life. It felt so amazing to be in the spotlight with my partner. We had the chance to sing together, dance in front of everyone, and truly enjoy ourselves. There were moments when I felt nervous, but there were also times when I couldn't stop smiling because the whole atmosphere was filled with so much energy and excitement. The audience was supportive, and even though it was a competition, it felt more like a celebration where everyone was having fun. One of the most memorable parts for me was the quiz section. I was asked the question, "What is the boiling point of water?"

At first, I thought it would be an easy one, but when I looked into the audience, I saw people raising their hands and signalling "01, 01." In that moment, I panicked. I felt all the pressure of being on stage, and before I could really think, I just blurted out "01." As soon as I said it, the whole crowd reacted, and people were like, "Heeeyyy!" That's when it hit me that the real answer was 100 degrees. I laughed it off, but deep down I realized how quickly pressure can get to you when all eyes are on you. Even though I got that question wrong, I didn't let it ruin the moment for me. I learned something important: sometimes it's not about getting everything perfect, but about how you carry yourself and keep going. We didn't end up winning the competition, but we also didn't get eliminated, and that in itself was something I was proud of. To me, it wasn't really about the trophy—it was about the experience, the growth, and the fun memories I made. Looking back now, I feel grateful for everything that happened. I know that if I ever get another chance to be on that stage, I'll be even more prepared. I'll be calmer, more confident, and ready to trust myself no matter what. Maybe next time I'll do better and even win, but even if I don't, I'll still know that I gave my best and enjoyed every second of it. This experience has taught me to laugh at my mistakes, learn from them, and keep moving forward with a stronger mindset. **Bradley Owusu MYP3**

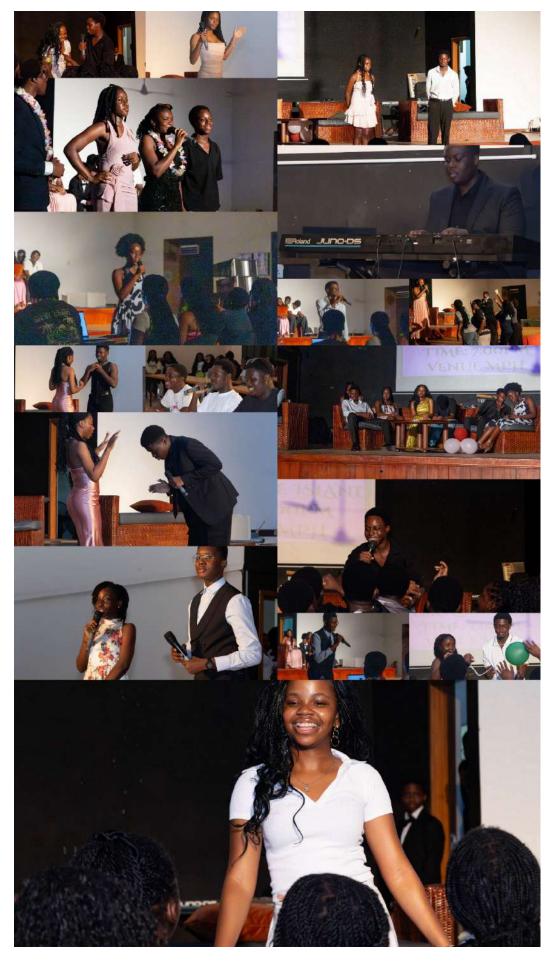


For me, participating in the Mr and Mrs TIS event was an exciting and memorable experience. I was selected to represent my grade, and my partner and I had to entertain the school by dressing up, reciting pick-up lines, and responding to questions. Standing in front of such a large crowd initially made me anxious, but as the event progressed, I began to gain confidence and have fun. Unfortunately, my partner and I were eliminated after the first round. I think it was because of my awful pickup line. I developed several IB Learner Profile attributes through this experience. Because I performed in front of the entire school and ventured

outside of my comfort zone, I was a risk-taker when I sang in front of the whole school, even when I kept telling people that I couldn't sing. Additionally, because we supported each other, working with

my partner made me more compassionate. Megan Mayilamene

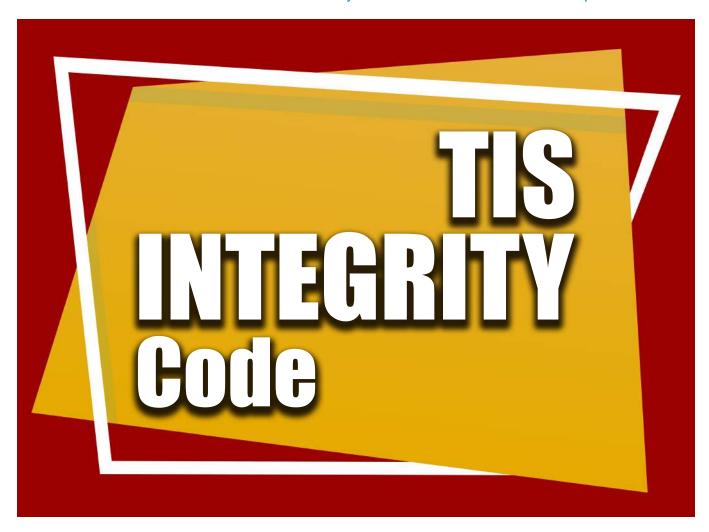




Change the WOTLO Through Teamwork







"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."





