

# TIS RECORD

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## At TIS,

we believe that personal success is best judged by one's proficiency in demonstrating daily the ten IB Learner Profile attributes: thinker, inquirer, reflective, caring, open-minded, communicator, knowledgeable, risk-taker, balanced and principled.

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## Key Dates

- 28/9 - 5/10/25: 22nd Anniversary Spirit Week
- 3/10/25: TIS Founders' Day; 2026 admissions open.
- 4/10/25: SAT

## Thought for the Week

If you get tired, learn to rest, not quit.

- Banksy



## TIS@22

Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Spirit Week is a testament to the creativity of our students. We are celebrating with bold fashion statements this year as TIS fashion takes on a life of its own. Following the roof-raising Nii Okai fundraiser at the weekend, the week began with a mix of streetwear, techwear, retro, and everything in between on Monday. On Tuesday, Nollywood drama hit the Hollywood scene with a burst of colour. Wednesday's Career Fair fashion with trendy dress ideas celebrated future careers. I loved the innovation and energy put into the Inside Out & All Around fashion, where wardrobe items clashed for attention.

Still, we have time to remember our roots on Founders' Day with colourful attire from places near and far, while celebrating our Founders and their vision. Watch out for news of the Gala evening with bold Met themes and our All-White Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 5 October.



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

-Steve Bollar

## Making Us Proud

- **Asher Gyesi, (10)** who is our swimming champion of the week. Congratulations.
- **Adwoa Darko, a Grade 5 PYP student**, thoughtfully carried out her role as cafeteria head by devising strategies to solve cafeteria problems and managing the flow of the queue while food is being served.

## Accounts

- When paying an amount into our school's account, always **ensure you use the student's family name and student ID as the payment reference.**

## SAT & ACT

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

Yet again, the wardrobe changes for our Dukies who set off into the wild in their hiking gear for another endurance trip. We wish them a great experience as they push themselves to discover hidden strengths.

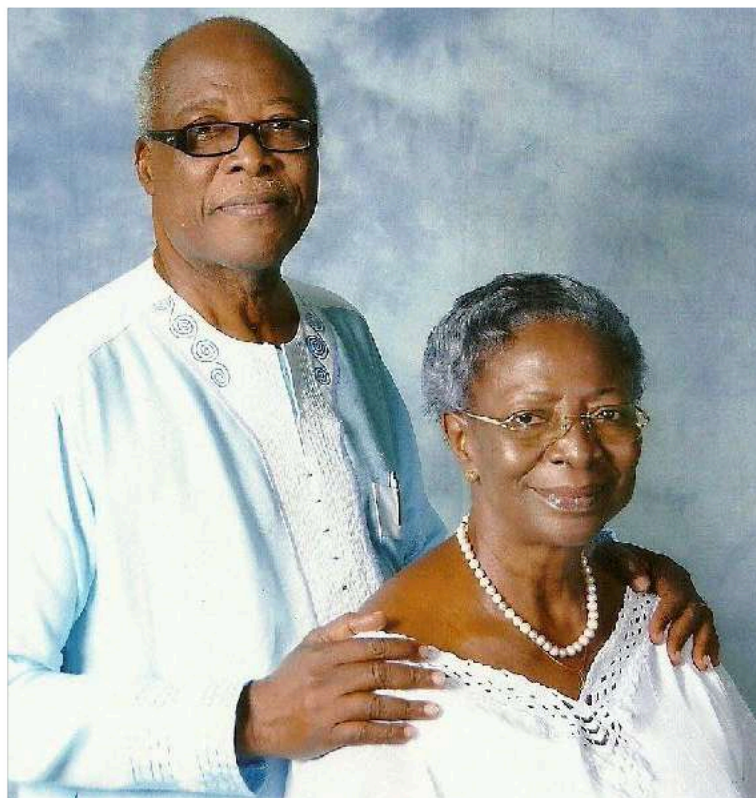
Last but not least, our dear Dr Ken will don his travel clothes as he leaves us for Kotoka International Airport this weekend. Safe trip, Dr Ken, and au revoir!

## Making Us Proud

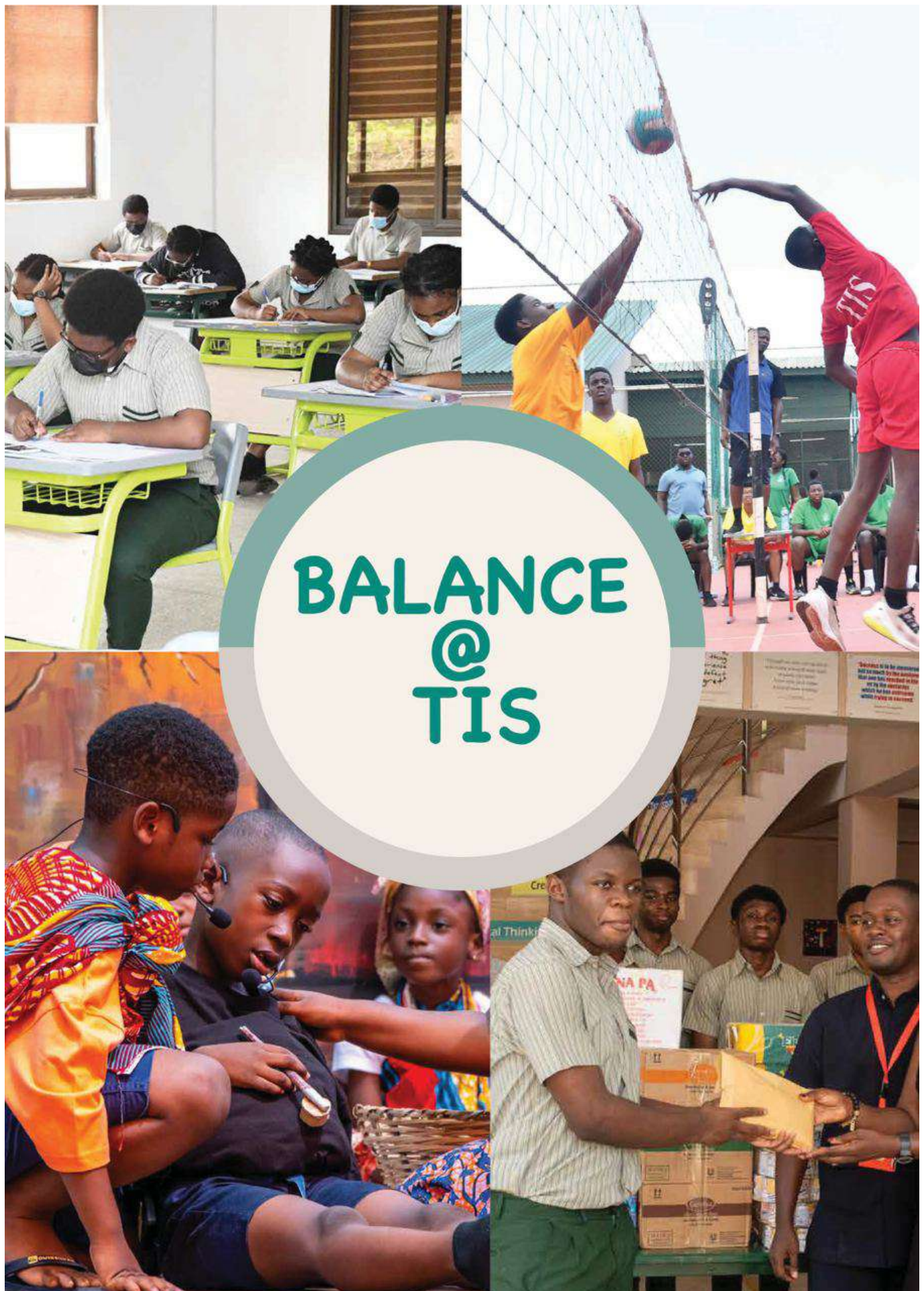
**Dr Ken Darvall – Principal of TIS from August 2015 to October 2025**, making him the longest serving Principal of the school. During Dr Ken's leadership of the school, it has grown from a mixed curriculum school to an IB World school and an IB continuum school which offers 3 of the 4 IB programmes. Although Dr Ken will be taking a professional leave from his work at TIS, his spirit will live on through his "three things", 'insistence on integrity at all times' and his support for many CAS projects of the school. Dr Ken is going to join his family in Australia. We wish him and his entire family the very best in this new chapter of their lives together..

Yvonne M Tagoe

(Vice Principal). [yvonne.tagoe@tis.edu.gh](mailto:yvonne.tagoe@tis.edu.gh)







## Main Campus Information



### Exeats

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

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

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

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

The integrity of an exeat request is critical.

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

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

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

**(NO SHOW. NO GO.)**

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

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

### Visiting

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

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

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

Then click next to receive a confirmation of your booking.

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

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

Sessions are 60 minutes.

Only one booking per family per weekend.

There are restrictions on food and/or drink that may be consumed during a visit.  
Book early to avoid disappointment.

6 - 8 - 2025



# TIS 2025/26 School Calendar

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

September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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30						

December 2025						
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January 2026						
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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29	30	31				

April 2026						
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May 2026						
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31						

June 2026						
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July 2026						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Public holidays 2025/26

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

Dates and/or events are subject to changes.

**FIRST SEMESTER**

1/8/25	2025 MYP Results Released; 2025 MYP Enquiries Upon Results Open;
1/8/25	MYP PP: Final product (photo evidence upload)
5/8/25	All staff resume
11/8/25	Student Council executives return
13/8/25	Newbies arrive (Meeting @ 2.00pm)
15/8/25	PYP Meet the teacher session (1.30pm)
16/8/25	Personal Project: Criterion B draft due
17/8/25	Continuing secondary students resume
18/8/25	All P-12 classes commence
22/8/25	TIS Junior Soccer Championships
23/8/25	SAT
24/8/25	School Performance auditions
29/8/25	TIS Senior Soccer Championships
30/8/25	Peer Buddies Workshop. <b>NO EXEATS FOR NEWBIES. Dukies RA trip</b>
31/8/25	Thanksgiving Service (11.00am) <b>NO EXEATS</b> 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
11/9/25	G12 TOK Exhibition
12/9/25	MYP PP Criterion B final due
13/9/25	SAT; MYP & DP Parents Information sessions. <b>NO EXEATS (Until after these sessions)</b>
19/9/25	PYP End of Unit 1 #WI; DP Geography Excursion
20/9/25	TIS Sporty Family. <b>NO EXEATS</b>
24/9/25	Girls Handball Championships
25/9/25	Boys Handball Championships
26/9/25	MYP CP: Community tour
27/9/25	High School Praise (Praise Night Fundraiser)
28/9-5/10/25	22 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary TIS Spirit Week. Career Fair <b>NO EXEATS</b>
3/10/25	TIS Founders' Day. Main Campus admissions open for 2025/2027
4/10/25	SAT;
5/10/25	22 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. <b>NO EXEATS until after 1.00pm</b>
5-8/10/25	Dukies Gold Aawrd Camp
6-11/10/25	Mid-semester break
12/10/25	Students return to hostels
13/10/25	All classes resume after mid-semester
14/10/25	G9/G11 Changes to Subject Selections close; DP Geography Data Excursion
15-17/10/25	AIS MUN
18/10/25	PSAT: ISSAG Football, Handball, Tennis; ACT
20/10/25	MYP PP: Criterion C draft due
20/10/25	Student Council (SC) shadowing process commences;
21/10/25	G12 EE Café
23/10/25	Girls Volleyball Championships (during ASA)
24/10/25	Boys Volleyball Championships (during ASA)
25/10/25	ISSAG Football, Handball, finals
26/10/25	TIS swimming championships (3.00 – 5.00pm)
28-29/10/25	I&S Celebration Days
31/10/25	PYP End of Unit 2 Celebrations; Submission of G12 TOK Draft Essay; Language competition (7-12)
1/11/25	ISSAG Volleyball, Swimming and Badminton
3/11/25	DP Business Management Excursion
8/11/25	SAT; <b>Annual Production NO EXEATS</b>
11-12/11/25	Collaborative Sciences Project – G12;
14/11/25	PYP Book Day
17-21/11/25	MYP5 On-screen examination <b>(Reports due 5/12/25) No exeats for G10</b>
19-28/11/25	<b>G11-12 end of semester exams (Reports due 5/12/25) No exeats for G11-12</b>
24/11/25	MYP CP: Presentation of objectives
28/11/25	PYP End of Unit 3 3WI;
29/11/25	MYP PP Criterion C completion; Peer Buddies Workshop
1/12/25	SC applications open for 2026 elections
6/12/25	SAT
7/12/25	Choral Night (Chaplaincy)
8/12/25	Christmas Lunch
9/12/25	MYP PP Final Report due: photo evidence & bibliography upload

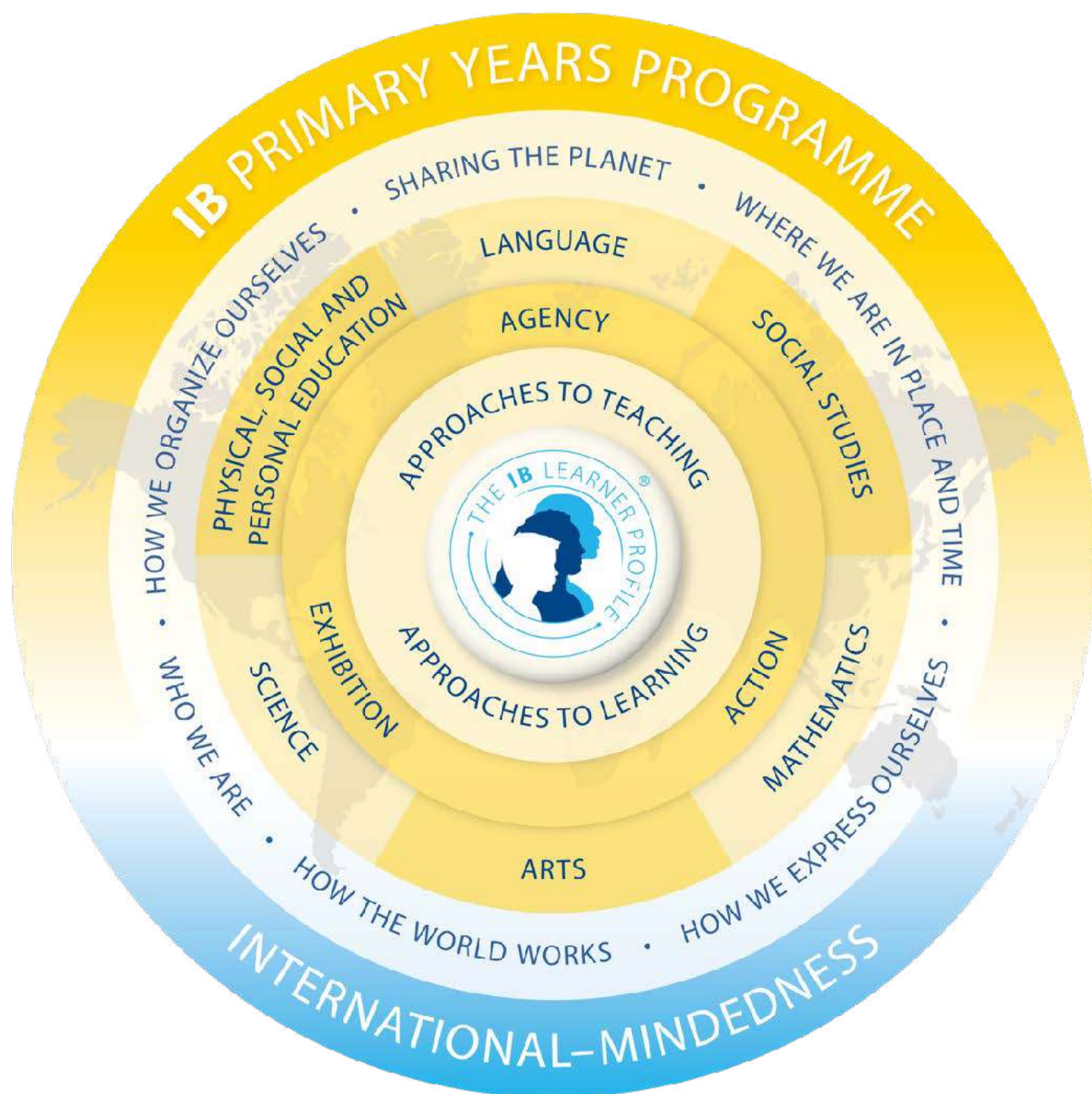


10/12/25 Last day for the first semester: Students may depart after 3-Way interviews or 1.00pm if no interview  
 12/12/25: Last day for teachers  
 13/12/25 ACT

## SECOND SEMESTER

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

**V010925**





# Celebrating Togetherness and Resilience: Sporty Family 2025

The annual *Sporty Family* event at Tema International School once again united students, parents, teachers, and alumni in a lively celebration of athleticism and togetherness. Held on Saturday, 20th September 2025, the Secondary Campus came alive with energy, colour, and cheer as the entire

community gathered to compete, collaborate, and connect. This year's edition stood out not only for its spirited contests but also for the genuine sense of family and inclusivity it inspired across generations. From the youngest PYP learners to the seasoned DP athletes, every participant



contributed to a festival of joy, resilience, and unity. Beyond the games, the event reflected the values of the IB Learner Profile, fostering sportsmanship, collaboration, and balance among all participants. Indeed, *Sporty Family* was more than just a competition; it was a tradition renewed, a reminder that at TIS, sports are a bridge that binds us as one community.



## 1. Dr Ken's Impact on Sports and the School at Large

On Saturday, 20 September 2025, our Secondary Campus at Tema International School came alive with excitement and vibrant energy as our community gathered for the much-anticipated annual sports competition. This year's *Sporty Family* was made even more memorable by the presence and influence of **Dr Ken**, whose creativity and vision introduced exciting new activities such as the **Dizzy Relay** and the **Four-Cornered Tug of Peace**. These events not only brought laughter and energy to the field but also reflected the values of fun, innovation, and inclusivity that continue to shape our TIS culture. His presence inspired participants across generations, making the celebration a truly remarkable one.



This year's competition was particularly special because of the enthusiastic participation of our youngest athletes, the PYP students. With their bright energy and boundless enthusiasm, they added a refreshing spark to the event, reminding us that sports at TIS are not just about competition but about joy, discovery, and growth. From the dizzy relay to the sack race, the balloon relay to the tug-of-peace, PYP students proudly joined hands with MYP and DP peers, parents, and teachers to celebrate teamwork and fun. Their laughter, cheerful shouts, and determination lit up every race, earning admiration and encouragement from the entire community.





The involvement of PYP students was more than symbolic; it captured the very essence of TIS as a family. Their participation across different events reflected the values of inclusivity and cross-generational unity that our school upholds. It was heartwarming to see our youngest learners collaborating with older students and parents, showing that no one is too young to contribute to the vibrant spirit of the TIS community.





## 2. Acknowledging the Winners

After a series of spirited contests, **Team Yellow** rose above the rest to claim victory, embodying the IB Learner Profile Attributes of being principled, balanced, and risk-takers. Yet, beyond medals and points, the presence and participation of the PYP students made every house feel like a winner. Their resilience, courage, and willingness to try new activities revealed the ATL skills they are steadily building: communication, collaboration, and self-management, laying a strong foundation for their journey as lifelong learners.





### 3. Reflection from the Runner-up

For the other teams, the competition was an opportunity to reflect on perseverance, resilience, and unity. Although they did not claim the ultimate prize, their energy and determination enriched the event, reminding us that true success lies not only in winning but also in the lessons learned along the way. Their presence ensured that the spirit of competition remained balanced with camaraderie, making the entire event a shared victory for the community.



Their commitment also underscored the importance of sportsmanship, as they continued to cheer for their peers and celebrate every achievement, regardless of its size. By embracing the values of respect, humility, and teamwork, these teams reminded us that the heart of Sporty Family lies not in the final score but in the spirit of participation. Their positive attitude set an inspiring example for the younger students, showing that even in moments of challenge, there are always victories to be found in growth, friendship, and unity.

Beyond the results, the non-winning teams gained invaluable experiences that will serve as building blocks for future events. The lessons of preparation, strategy, and perseverance will undoubtedly inspire them to come back stronger, more focused, and more determined. These reflections will not only strengthen their athletic skills but also shape their character, teaching them resilience in the face of setbacks and the courage to keep striving for excellence.

#### 4. Reflections from Colour Patrons and Members

##### ● Team Red

Team Red highlighted their admiration for the creativity of the new events and celebrated their students' growth in collaboration and communication. While they did not secure first place, their strong bonds and determination were evident. Patrons emphasised that the true victory lay in the joy of participation and the friendships built across generations.



*“I really enjoyed the Sporty Family; it was amazing and a lot of fun. It helped me to keep fit and healthy. The activities were exciting, especially the Dizzy Relay. This was the first time Red came second, and I am so proud of us.”*

**David Darko- Red colour member**

*“Team Red proudly placed 2nd at this year’s Sporty Family Day! Our students, across all grade levels, showed incredible confidence, teamwork, and determination in every event. Their hard work and spirit paid off, with a marked improvement from last year’s performance. We are so proud of their efforts and look forward to going even further—our eyes are on lifting the trophy in the 2026 Sporty Family Day! Go Team Red!”*

**Charles Kudjo Teye (Team Patron)**



## ● Team Blue

For Team Blue, the competition was a reminder of the value of persistence and strategy. Patrons noted that their students showed leadership and sportsmanship, setting an excellent example for younger peers. Though the house did not claim the trophy, they cherished the lessons of resilience and are motivated to prepare with renewed focus for the next event.



*“I really felt the zest and passion of all the athletes and fans, as it were. It was a thrilling experience to see the students compete with such intensity and still remain friendly afterwards. Of course, the best colour has always been Blue, but occasionally we allow the others to enjoy a taste of victory! Every bit of this sports event was a joy.”*

**Mr. Owusu Darko - Blue Colour Patron**

*“This year’s Sporty Family was full of energy and fun. I loved how it brought the TIS family together, and I believe we should have more events like this to strengthen our bonds as a community.”*

**Solomon Atseku - Blue team member**



## ● Team Green

Team Green reflected on the enthusiasm and courage of their members. Their patrons praised the inclusivity displayed, particularly how older students guided and encouraged younger ones.





*“The sports event was engaging and motivating. The students had fun and were excited to participate in most of the events. Our parents were there to support us, and we truly appreciate the support of our parents, students, and teachers. Remember, next year we will be first from the top — Green Wisteria!”*

**Barbara Karimu-Green Color Patron**

*“This year’s Sporty Family was full of energy and fun. I loved how it brought the TIS family together, and I believe we should have more events like this to strengthen our community bonds.*

**Allen Berko**



## ● Team Yellow

For Team Yellow, victory was a celebration of both effort and unity. Patrons expressed pride in the team’s ability to balance determination with joy, ensuring that every participant contributed meaningfully. They attributed the win not only to athletic ability but also to a shared culture of encouragement and teamwork that embodied the spirit of the event.



*Our school's Sporty Family Day was an unforgettable experience! It was a day filled with fun, excitement, and team spirit. Seeing everyone come together, cheering for their favourite colour group, created an electric atmosphere. The event not only promoted physical activity but also strengthened bonds among students and teachers. And the cherry on top was when my colour group, Yellow, emerged as the winner! We were over the moon with joy and pride. I'm so grateful to have been a part of it, and the memories will surely last a lifetime!*

**Ruth Lawson- Yellow Colour Patron**

*"I enjoyed this year's Sporty Family not only because my colour won, but also because I participated in four activities and learned that teamwork is essential."*

**Ellis Darko**



## Reflection From The Event Coordinator (Sporty Family) – Perfecta Ezzo

*"As the PYP representative on the planning team, I worked closely with the PE team, student reps, security, and kitchen staff to prepare for this year's Sporty Family. New games, such as the Ladle Ball Relay and Dress-Up with a Twist, brought freshness to the event, which was well-organised and fully represented by all four colour teams. The activities were engaging, competitive, and fun, with Red giving a splendid cheerleading display full of creativity and rhythm; however, Yellow emerged as the undefeated champions. Overall, it was an excellent opportunity for our community to exercise, unwind, and connect."*



## Closing Reflection

At TIS, sports are not just about physical activity but about nurturing values that extend far beyond the field. For PYP students, experiences like the inter-athletic competition provide opportunities to practise leadership, embrace teamwork and cultivate empathy.

They also promote international mindedness, as children learn that collaboration and respect transcend cultural and national boundaries.





Indeed, our *Sporty Family* is more than an event. It is a cherished tradition that enriches the TIS community year after year, weaving together generations through laughter, teamwork, and celebration. It serves as a living reminder that sports at TIS go beyond physical activity; they nurture values of resilience, empathy, and togetherness that extend far beyond the playing field.

For our PYP students in particular, this year's competition marked a joyful initiation into the school's culture of unity, courage, and shared identity, allowing them to discover the power of collaboration alongside their older peers, parents, and teachers. The energy and joy they brought reflected the very heartbeat of our community: one that celebrates growth as much as achievement, and participation as much as victory. As the TIS family looks forward to many more sporting moments in the years ahead, the memory of this year's celebration will remain a proud reminder of how even our youngest learners play a crucial role in strengthening the bonds of family, spirit, and community that unite us.

Looking ahead, *Sporty Family* will continue to serve as a beacon of the TIS spirit—an annual moment that calls us to celebrate our shared values and collective achievements. Each year, new traditions are created, old ones are cherished, and lessons are carried forward, ensuring that every member of the TIS family feels a part of something greater.











# Change <sup>the</sup> World Through Excellence

## #Make a Difference



# == LOVE ALL OF IT! ==

## LOVE THE STRUGGLE

because it makes you appreciate your accomplishments.

## LOVE CHALLENGES

because they make you stronger.

## LOVE COMPETITION

because it makes you better.

## LOVE NEGATIVE PEOPLE

because they make you more positive.

## LOVE THOSE WHO HAVE HURT YOU

because they teach you forgiveness.

## LOVE FEAR

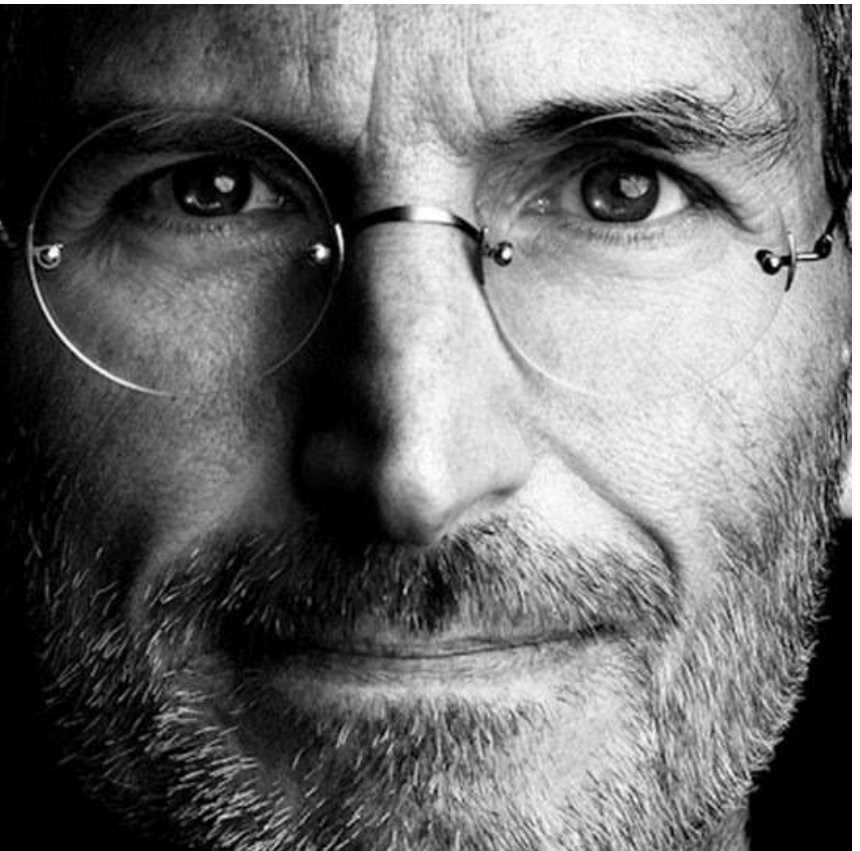
because it makes you courageous.

The  
Carpenter | *A Story About the Greatest  
Success Strategies of All*

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**The most important  
decisions you make  
are not the things  
you do — but the  
things that you  
decide not to do.**



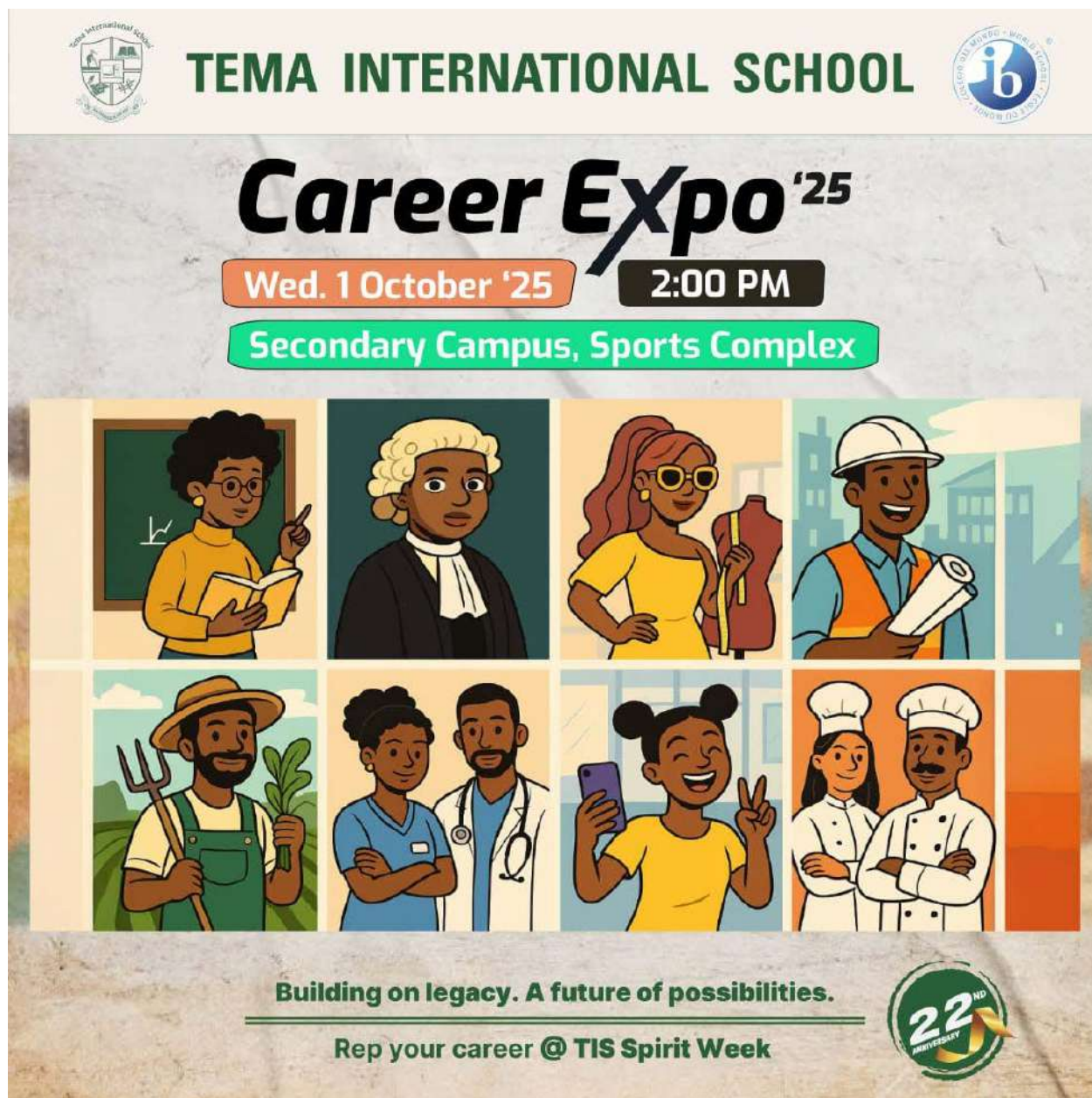
# COUNSELLORS' CORNER



**TIS @ 22 — Still Soaring, Still Shining!** From humble beginnings to a beacon of excellence, Tema International School has spent 22 years lighting the path for dreamers, thinkers, and positive changemakers. To the students who dared to be different, the teachers who sparked brilliance, and the families who believed in the vision — this milestone is yours. We've danced through challenges, leapt over limits, and soared beyond expectations. And guess what? We're just getting started. Here's to 22 years of impact, innovation, and inspiration — and to the next chapter that promises even more magic.

**TIS: Where greatness begins, and never ends.**

**Parents & Alumni,  
Thank You for Making Our Career Expo 2025 Unforgettable!**



The poster for the Career Expo '25 at Tema International School features a textured, light-colored background. At the top left is the school's crest, and at the top right is the IB logo. The school's name, "TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL", is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below this, the event title "Career Expo '25" is prominently displayed in a large, black, stylized font. The date and time, "Wed. 1 October '25" and "2:00 PM", are shown in white text on orange and black rectangular backgrounds respectively. The location, "Secondary Campus, Sports Complex", is written in white text on a green rectangular background. A central grid of eight illustrations depicts various career paths: a teacher, a lawyer, a fashion designer, a construction worker, a farmer, healthcare professionals, a social media influencer, and chefs. At the bottom, the school's motto "Building on legacy. A future of possibilities." is underlined, followed by the text "Rep your career @ TIS Spirit Week". A circular logo on the right side of the bottom section commemorates the school's 22nd anniversary.

**TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**Career Expo '25**

**Wed. 1 October '25** **2:00 PM**

**Secondary Campus, Sports Complex**

**Building on legacy. A future of possibilities.**

**Rep your career @ TIS Spirit Week**

**22<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

To our incredible parents and alumni,

What a day! The TIS Career Expo 2025 was nothing short of phenomenal — and it's all thanks to YOU. Your presence, passion, and powerful stories lit up the room and inspired our students to dream boldly and strive for greater heights. From boardroom brilliance to creative careers, you showed them that the future is theirs to shape. We are proud of the TIS family — a community that never stops giving, guiding, and growing. Your impact will echo far beyond today, sparking ambition in every student who walks through those doors. Thank you for showing up, speaking out, and standing tall with us. Here is to building futures together — one conversation, one connection, one career at a time.

**With gratitude and pride, Tema International School**



## DP2s, Big News: YES! The OUAC Portal Is OPEN!

Dreams of studying in Canada just got real — the OUAC portal is officially open for applications to Ontario universities!

To our ambitious scholars: this is your moment to take flight. Whether you're aiming for engineering at Waterloo, business at Western, or arts at Queen's — your future starts with one bold click



### Ready to Apply?

Once you've decided which programs you're interested in, it's time to start your application to Ontario's universities.

Apply Now 

Yes, the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) has opened for the upcoming application cycle. Applications for Fall 2026 began in late September 2025, with the official opening date usually occurring in late September of the preceding year, so you can now create an account and begin your undergraduate application for admission to Ontario universities. **What to do now:**

1. **Create an account:**

Go to the [OUAC website](#) and select the undergraduate option to create your account.

2. **Complete your profile:**

Fill out the personal details, contact information, and background sections, including all secondary and post-secondary institutions you have attended.

3. **Add your choices:**

Search for universities by name or program to find and add your desired programs.

4. **Review and apply:**


Follow the remaining steps to review your application, submit supporting documents, and make the payment to complete your application.


Click here for more information : <https://www.ouac.on.ca/>

## DP2s, its Application Showtime!



After the mid-semester break, we're hitting *submit* on all university applications — and we're doing it with confidence, clarity, and pride.

 Polish every supplement, personal statement, and essay until it reflects your best self as discussed with your assigned counsellor.

 Plan your submission timeline so nothing is rushed and everything shines.

### Biodata Accuracy

Cross-check all personal details on your passport (name, date of birth, nationality, etc.) with the information on your university applications.

Any discrepancies must be corrected *before* submission.

### Parent Confirmation

Parents/Guardians must send a confirmation email to the university counselor stating:

Final university choices

Approval of submitted biodata

Consent to proceed with application submissions

### Counsellor Go-Ahead

Once the confirmation email is received, the counsellor will give the green light to submit all applications.

This is your moment to shape your future. Let's make every word count, every choice intentional, and every submission a celebration of YOU.

TIS students, the world is waiting — go show them what excellence looks like.



**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](mailto:portia.atubiga@tis.edu.gh)



**Online payment only with Visa/credit card NEW;**

**ACCEPTABLE IDs ARE THE VALID UNEXPIRED PASSPORT IN ADDITION TO**



**GHANA'S NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD (GHANA CARD),**

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

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

**DIGITAL TEST DATES AND DEADLINES 2025**

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

**Congratulations in advance to all SAT 4 October 2025 Test Takers.**

**2025 TEST DATES (COMPUTER-BASED TESTING ONLY!)**

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

**DIGITAL TEST DATES AND DEADLINES 2025**

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

# Change <sup>the</sup> World Through International Mindedness

## #Make a Difference



## How Your Teenager Can Manage Distractions

It's entirely normal for teens to get distracted from studying from time to time, especially during stressful exam periods or when they're struggling to understand the work. Plus, the transition to digital school work and having the internet right at our fingertips means that it's never been easier to be distracted.

Avoiding doing work or study is a widespread response to feeling overwhelmed and stressed, but while leaning into a bit of self-care to get through high-stress study periods is one thing, you don't want your teen perfecting the art of procrastination because it'll come back to bite them during exam time.

If your teenager is struggling to balance study with school work, social media and other daily distractions, there are ways you can help them help themselves.

### **Set time aside for fun**

After spending hours studying and working, it's to be expected that your teen might be feeling exhausted or stressed. While they may already have a study plan, please encourage them to have a fun plan, too. If they have a specific time set aside for relaxing, social media or gaming, they'll have less desire to distract themselves while working.

### **Take regular minibreaks**

Suggest that they work in chunks of time – say, 20 minutes – then take a few minutes to get a drink, stretch and walk around. This will keep their energy, maintain their concentration and make their study more manageable. You might watch how they're going by having a cup of tea and a quick chat with them during one of these scheduled mini-breaks.

### **Block screen alerts**

Encourage them to block the alerts if they're working on a tablet or computer linked to their messages or social media. When they're concentrating, a message alert pinging up will distract them and break their train of thought. They can go for it in their non-study time and catch up on social media.

### **Agree on 'phone free' zones**

Talk about areas of the house that can become temporary phone-free zones, such as where they study and where everyone eats together. Encourage the whole family to play a role in making it happen.

### **Create a space they can concentrate in**

This is especially important if your teen has to study in a common area with plenty of distractions, like the living room or kitchen. Being around a lot of noise and activity can significantly disrupt their study routine. Creating a space primarily dedicated to their study hours will help them focus and concentrate.



If you're unable to create a dedicated space, try to create a quiet environment where they're studying. Keep the TV turned down or off and avoid having lengthy conversations around them. If you have other kids, ask them to keep the noise down, so their sibling doesn't get distracted. Some people work best with silence, others with a hum of background noise or music. See what works for them.

### **Minimise interruptions**

While they're studying, don't let anyone disturb them; leave it until they're having a break. Did you know that it takes most people around 20 minutes to get back on track with study after an interruption?

### **Monitor their sleep**

Lack of sleep makes you lose focus, so it's easier to procrastinate or get distracted when you're tired. [Here's how you can help them get better sleep](#). On the flip side, if your teen is studying from home, there may be a temptation to hit snooze on the alarm and lay around all day. Explain the importance of maintaining a routine like this, including when they wake up and go to bed. [They can learn more sleep routine tips here](#).

### **Eat healthy, regular meals and snacks**

Being hungry causes energy levels to drop and makes it hard to concentrate, so encourage your teen to eat proper meals and healthy energy snacks such as nuts. [Help them out by using these handy tips when cooking them food](#). Sharing a meal with your teen is a good chance to check in on how their study is going. Even a break for a quick lunch before heading back to the books gives you a chance to ask how they're feeling and support their wellbeing.

### **Cut the caffeine**

Encourage them to drink lots of tap water; being hydrated will help them concentrate. Long days at the desk may make them keen for coffee (and lots of it!). Remind them that [too much of a good thing can be bad](#), and suggest alternatives: Herbal teas are an excellent calming substitute.

Exams, expectations and study loads can make your teenager stressed and easily distracted. Trying even a few of these tips can help you support them to manage teenage distractions, keep calm during exam periods and [study more efficiently](#), which reduces their overall stress and improves their wellbeing.

Source: [https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/things-to-try-exam-stress/how-your-teen-can-manage-distractions?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=MKTG%20231004\\_Schools\\_Exams\\_MZ&utm\\_content=MKTG%20231004\\_Schools\\_Exams\\_MZ+CID\\_6298b5fffa7f6c0adf6f60f87fe36a51&utm\\_source=ROemailCM&utm\\_term=Share%20with%20parents](https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/things-to-try-exam-stress/how-your-teen-can-manage-distractions?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MKTG%20231004_Schools_Exams_MZ&utm_content=MKTG%20231004_Schools_Exams_MZ+CID_6298b5fffa7f6c0adf6f60f87fe36a51&utm_source=ROemailCM&utm_term=Share%20with%20parents)



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional



# 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 others.



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

Don't try to gain an **unfair** advantage in coursework, mock examinations, or assessments by copying someone else's answers or using a mobile phone during an exam, for example.



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.

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



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

**Take responsibility** for your own actions and their consequences.



Know how to **safely collaborate** and share work when using social media and digital collaborative platforms.

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



Try to **overcome procrastination**. Managing your time wisely will reduce stress-induced, last-minute work which increases the likelihood of cheating.



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Colour Sporty Family 2025

## **Spirit, Sweat, and Surprises: Sporty Family 2025**



The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Tema International School's Sporty Family was a celebration of energy, unity, and determination. From the very start, it was evident that this was going to be an unforgettable occasion. With passionate participants, enthusiastic supporters, and highly competitive events, the atmosphere was electric as anticipation built throughout the day.

The morning opened with an invigorating aerobic session that brought the entire school community together. Students and staff alike joined in, warming up not only their bodies but also their spirits. The colour leaders of Blue Cedar, Red Kigelia, Green Wisteria, and Yellow Outeniqua rallied their teams with chants and displays of colour pride, setting the tone for the competition ahead.

The first event, the Fill-in-the-Bottle Relay, required both speed and accuracy. Red Kigelia started strongly, but in a surprising twist, Yellow Outeniqua surged ahead with flawless coordination to secure victory. Riding on this momentum, Yellow extended their lead in the Sack Relay, where, despite Red's early dominance, they once again delivered an impressive performance to clinch another win.

Excitement grew as the day progressed to the much-loved Team Walker event, which highlighted teamwork and resilience. Green Wisteria initially took the lead with strong coordination, but Yellow Outeniqua quickly rose to the challenge. In the end, Green regained their rhythm and crossed the finish line first, bringing variety and balance to the day's results. One of the day's most intense contests was the Tug of War. The sight of all teams pulling with every ounce of strength they had was both thrilling and inspiring. After a long, hard-fought battle filled with determination and grit, Red Kigelia emerged victorious, demonstrating the team's persistence and unity.

The day concluded with the highly anticipated Dizzy Relay, an event that never fails to entertain. True to their form, Yellow Outeniqua dominated from start to finish, maintaining their composure and securing yet another victory to the delight of their supporters.

At the end of the competition, the final results were announced. Yellow Outeniqua emerged as the overall champions with an impressive 18 points. Followed by Red Kigelia with 23 points,

Blue Cedar with 28 points and Green Wisteria with 30 points. Though Yellow celebrated a clear victory, every colour group displayed admirable teamwork, spirit, and resilience, making the day a success for the entire TIS community.

The 22nd Sporty Family was more than just a competition; it was a vibrant reminder of what makes the TIS spirit so special. As we look ahead, there is no doubt that the IB Class of 2028 will build on this legacy and deliver an even more memorable edition next year.

- The Sports Team and Bruhan-Deen Husain G -11.

## Students Reflections

Sports Day at my school was a valuable experience that allowed me to engage with the school community positively and actively. Participating in athletic events, such as tug of war, helped me develop my physical fitness as well as my teamwork and communication skills. I appreciated the opportunity to challenge my physical ability and see the importance of communicating with people and practising sportsmanship.

Through collaboration with my teammates during the tug of war, such as listening out for when one teammate yelled “pull” and following suit, I learned how effective communication and encouragement could improve group performance and create strength together. I also became more aware of my strengths and areas for



improvement in sports, such as the fact that my physical ability is low in my lower body, but I have strong upper arms, which motivates me to set personal goals for fitness and skill development. I also learnt that I do not give up easily.

Overall, Sports Day reinforced the importance of staying active and working together while still having fun, which helped me grow and helped me bond with other students at TIS. This experience has encouraged me to be more proactive in participating in future school events, such as the upcoming ISSAG competition, and to connect more with students I do not usually talk to.

- Mildred Okyere Darkwa – Grade 10





The 2025 Sporty family event was an exhilarating experience, filled with captivating moments and electrifying competition. The highlight of the festivities was undoubtedly the races, where anticipation was visible as the judges eagerly awaited the results. I felt a lot of joy when the winning color, yellow, my color, was

celebrated. That moment of triumph made the entire event even more unforgettable.

- Kadmiel Annang – Grade 8



The Sporty Family event was a unique experience for me, as I was leading and organising it this year, which gave me new insight into the amount of planning that goes into an event I had only ever participated in before. I also took a more active role in my colour house, helping organise students to join the activities. There were five events for the main campus

students: filling the bottle relay, sack relay, team walker, tug of peace, and the dizzy relay. I took part in the team walker and the dizzy relay, leading my colour to victory in the dizzy relay while placing second in the team walker. Overall, my colour won the event, and it was a fun day filled with energy, teamwork, colour spirit, and celebration.

- Antonio Osei-Agyeman – Grade 11









# Change <sup>the</sup> World Through Teamwork

## #Make a Difference





## Admissions 2026/2027

Admissions for the next academic year are now open for the secondary school, Grades 7-12.

Priority for TIS family members ended on 30 November 2025.

The first round of admissions will be conducted in February.

Prospective students are required to complete application forms online via <https://tis.openapply.com>

An application fee can be paid into the school's account. The account details can be found on the Bank Details page.

All prospective students will take an aptitude test that does not require special preparation. Before a final decision is made, an interview will be conducted. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the selection process.

Only candidates who have fully completed the application form will be contacted for the aptitude test and subsequent interview.

Prospective families must ***arrange a school tour before the admission test and interview.***

Early applications and admissions are encouraged. Late applications will be considered if vacancies exist.

For grades 7, 8 and 9, applicants must provide three current term or two-semester reports.

Applicants for Grade 11 will be required to provide three current term or two semester reports, predicted grades and a recommendation letter. When final results are released, applicants must attach a scanned copy on OpenApply. The release of final results will confirm subject selection levels (Standard or Higher).

After completing the Middle Years Programme (Grade 10), TIS students are expected to complete the IB Diploma Programme in Grades 11 and 12. They will make initial subject selection choices during the second semester of Grade 10. The release of examination results will confirm subject selection levels (Standard or Higher). Please note that students are generally not accepted into (Grades 10 and 12).

# TIS ADMISSION PROCESS

## KEY QUESTIONS

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

## DUE DILIGENCE

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

## APPLICATION

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

## BOOK A TOUR OF TIS

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

## TEST AND INTERVIEW

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

## APPLICATION DECISION

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

## NEED HELP OR IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

- ✓ Please email: [admissions@tis.edu.gh](mailto:admissions@tis.edu.gh)
- ✓ Please call: +233 303 305134  
+233 24 963 7762



## Tema International School



**MAIN CAMPUS**  
**SECONDARY ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN FOR 2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR**  
**FROM 3 OCTOBER 2025 UNTIL 31 MARCH 2026**

*A family school, a unique experience.*

**Flexible online admission testing is available**

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

### Grade 7 (MYP 2)

Students should:

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

### Grade 8 (MYP 3)

Students should:

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

### Grade 9 (MYP 4)

Students should:

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

### Grade 11 (IB Diploma Programme)

Students should:

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

To learn more  
scan this.



To enrol scan  
this.



The online application process can be completed at: <https://tis.openapply.com>  
 For further information contact us on phone:  
 +233 303 305134, +233 303 308737, +233 249 637762 email: [admissions@tis.edu.gh](mailto:admissions@tis.edu.gh)  
 Or come and visit the school (Opp Afariwa Farms, Off Tema-Akosombo Road)  
[www.tis.edu.gh](http://www.tis.edu.gh)





# TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



## Primary School Campus Admissions Open For 2026/2027 Academic Year

**Flexible admission screenings and interviews**



### Entry Points in 2026

#### Preschool

Nursery (1.9 years @ August 2026)  
Kinder 1 (2.9 years @ August 2026)  
Kinder 2 (3.9 years @ August 2026)  
Kinder 3 (4.9 years @ August 2026)

#### Junior Primary

Grade 1 (5.9 years @ August 2026)  
Grade 2 (6.9 years @ August 2026)  
Grade 3 (7.9 years @ August 2026)

#### Senior Primary

Grade 4 (8.9 years @ August 2026)  
Grade 5 (9.9 years @ August 2026)  
Grade 6 (10.9 years @ August 2026)

All admission applications will be online via Open Apply:  
<https://tis.openapply.com>

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

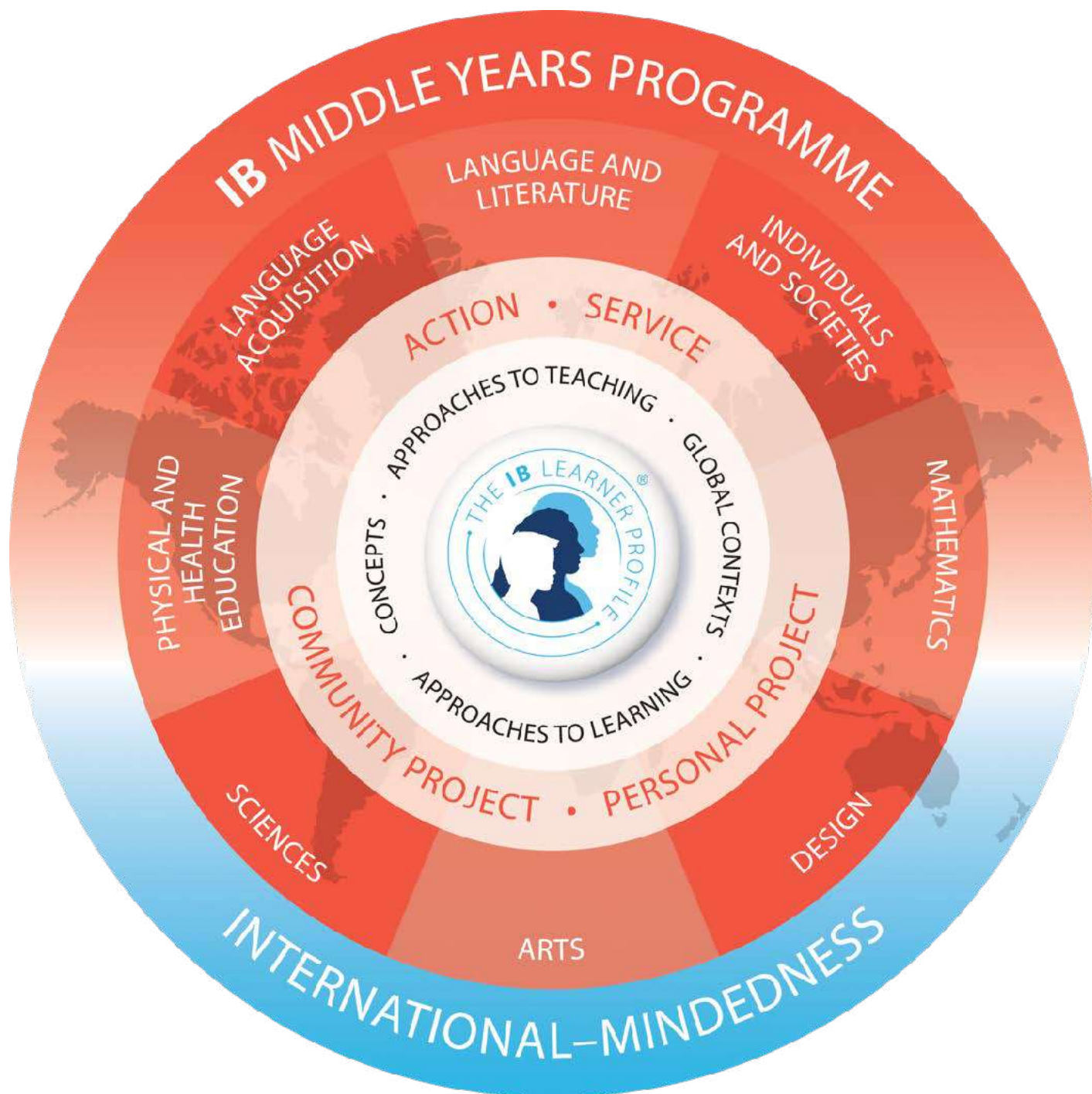
TIS is an IB World School, authorised to offer PYP, MYP and DP.

To learn more  
scan this.



To enrol scan  
this.







## THE MYP EXPERIENCE: Grade 9 Design Class



**Delali Ayivi, Digital Design:** In the Digital Design unit, "Do Not Litter", so far, I have learnt how to combine creativity with technology to promote a meaningful social message. Throughout the unit so far, I have explored various design tools and digital platforms to create an infographic focused on raising awareness about littering and its consequences. I learned how to research my audience and use design elements such as colour, font, and layout to capture attention. This helped me understand the importance of communication in digital media.

Working on this project also helped me develop essential skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking. I had to evaluate different ideas and receive feedback to improve my Criterion B.

It was rewarding to see how design could be used as a tool for change, not just for aesthetics. This unit reminded me that even small digital projects can contribute to a larger cause. I now feel more confident in using digital tools not only to express my creativity but also to make a positive impact in my community.

### Elikem Amegah, Digital Design

In our digital design class, we were tasked with creating an infographic that addresses the issue of littering. As part of my research, I investigated some of the common causes of littering. I found that they often include the placement of bins, bins being full, or simply people's unwillingness to dispose of waste properly. Based on this, I decided that the purpose of my infographic would be to raise awareness of the adverse effects of littering and to encourage individuals to make the effort to use bins.

To take action on this, I sketched several possible design layouts. Each layout developed to communicate the dangers of littering to my target audience which is members of the TIS





community. After drawing the ideas, I now need to show them to a few colleagues to gain feedback on the designs and help me choose one that will be created in Criterion C as my final product to address the problem of why people litter the environment.

If given another opportunity to tackle the problem, I would create a video on the dangers instead of an infographic to help the audience see the impacts through video, rather than just images and words.

This process has helped me learn how to develop digital solutions to address real-world problems through research and creative thinking.



**Alvin Arthur, Digital Design:** In digital design criterion B strand 2, we were asked by our teacher to come up with an idea to solve a problem and the problem was the mass impact of littering on the environment. This task required us to present a range of design ideas that were easily understandable to others. The focus was not just on creating a design but on making sure it could be clearly understood, communicated, and visually appealing, so that people would engage with the

message and recognise the importance of reducing littering.

For the action, we sketched out some designs for an infographic on why we should stop littering the environment. We also explored different layouts and styles to make the designs stand out, ensuring that the message was simple, direct, and effective. By doing this, we created multiple options that could be communicated correctly and used to spread awareness.

The reflection is that creating these sketch infographic designs allowed us to understand better how to use visual communication to solve issues. We learned that design is not only about aesthetics but also about clarity and impact. The sketch has to be easy to read and eye-catching. Overall, this strand helped us think critically about how design can contribute to solving environmental problems like littering.

**Michael Adjovu, Digital Design** In digital design

Criterion B strand 2, we were given the task of creating ideas to be able to spread information about littering and solve the problem through the creation of an infographic. In criterion A, we identified the problem and gathered information about it. We were meant to do this based on the knowledge of research that we had gathered throughout the process and create our own ideas to reach our targeted audience or customers. To properly carry out my action, I conducted extensive research on my topic and audience. I created three different designs, and I will select the best one to achieve the maximum results and reach our target audience. I did this by sketching ideas on paper in the hopes of adequately describing the problem, its effects, and solutions. I used various styles, including cartoons, that were suitable for my audience. This helped to assure my information was clear and understandable.



Through this activity, in the hope of informing other people, I have also informed myself about littering. As well as research methods and steps to attain credible information. This has made me realise how communicating ideas through your own ideas extends your knowledge greatly. I have developed the research skills required for the future criteria, which will make them easier for me.

# Change <sup>the</sup> World Through Critical Thinking

## #Make a Difference





## CAS-SA Corner



**TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**



**Happy Anniversary, TIS!**

**Celebrating 22 Years of Legacy and Possibilities**



We cannot begin this milestone without recognising two very special people, our co-founders, *Mr. Alphonse Adjavon* and *Mrs. Comfort Adjavon*. Because of their vision, **Tema International School** opened its doors on 3 October 2003, built on the belief that education must be transformative, holistic, and future-focused. Today, 22 years later, we celebrate not only how far we have come but also the possibilities ahead.

### **A Week of Vibrancy and Spirit**

From the very first day, this anniversary week has been nothing short of exceptional. The school has been alive with creativity, colour, and joy as our community came together for a series of unforgettable events.

We began with **Sporty Family**, a dynamic celebration of sportsmanship, unity, and fun, bringing parents, students, and staff together in true TIS spirit. The following Saturday, we

hosted the **Nii Okai High School Praise** concert, where voices from schools across Ghana joined ours in worship and service. The atmosphere was electrifying, and with the leadership of the **IB Class of 2027**, we rallied to raise funds for the *Saving Hearts Initiative*, giving hope to children in Ghana who need open-heart surgery.



Monday welcomed us into **Spirit Week** with a **special assembly**, the induction of class representatives, a special farewell to Dr Ken by the assembly team, and *My Aesthetic Day*, where creativity and self-expression filled the corridors. Each day since has been a showcase of imagination: from the glitz of *Nollywood vs Hollywood* with the ‘Sister Act 22’ and a number of famous Nollywood movies, to the meaningful explorations at the **Career Expo** on Wednesday, where alumni and parents shared wisdom and guidance with our students. Thursday’s *Inside Out and All Around Day* carried the fun and light-heartedness that makes Spirit Week uniquely TIS.

### Founders’ Day and Beyond

Now, as we look to **Friday, 3 October**, the celebrations culminate in **Founders’ Day** with a special lunch in honour of Mr and Mrs Adjavon, a farewell to Principal Dr Ken Darvall, and a showcase of talent and gratitude. In the evening, the **Afrik Gala** will light up the MPH with African fashion, culture, food, and music, a reminder of our roots and the international identity we proudly uphold.

On **Sunday, 5 October**, we close with the **Anniversary Thanksgiving Service**, a time to reflect, give thanks, and look ahead. Students will then depart for the mid-semester break, carrying with them the memories and lessons of an extraordinary week.

### A Celebration with Purpose

Throughout all these events, one thing remains central: *purpose*. This anniversary is not only about joy and unity, but also about saving lives. We continue to raise funds for the *Saving Hearts Initiative*, urging students, staff, parents, and alumni to support in every way possible, through donations, book purchases, or even a T-shirt. Every effort counts, and together we are making a difference.

### In the Spirit of Legacy

**TIS @ 22** has been a celebration of vibrancy, unity, and community spirit. It has shown us that our legacy is alive, and our future is bright with endless possibilities. Thank you to everyone who has made this week a meaningful experience.

Happy Anniversary, TIS!



## Well Wishes to TIS @ 22



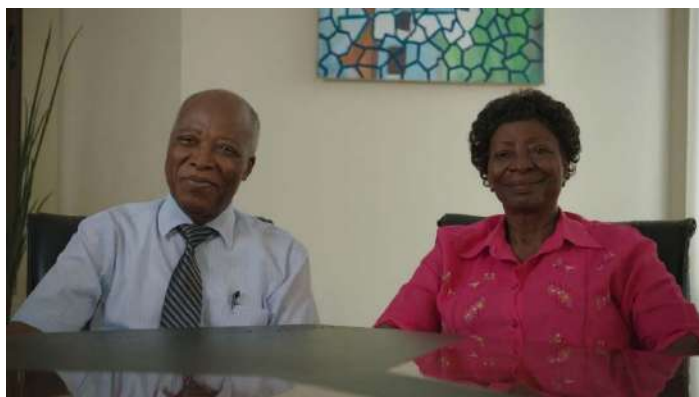
22! Stronger, better, and higher with each year. TIS is a unique school, continually making the world a better place through our actions and service initiatives. **Dr Ken Darvall, Principal, Both Campuses**

I am new at TIS, so I don't have many things to say yet. However, I have seen how well the school supports its students, and that makes me excited about my future. I am very happy to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of TIS, and I look forward to being part of this wonderful school's

journey. **Josiah Tham-Kanduri, Student, Grade 8, Secondary Campus**

As TIS celebrates 22 years under the theme Building on Legacy. A Future of Possibilities: I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our co-founders, founding family, board of governors, management, staff, students, parents (past and present), and alumni. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment, and for continually instilling hope and inspiration in us all. May this legacy of excellence and care continue to shine for generations to come. Long live TIS. Hip-hip-hip! Hurray!!! **Callistus (Bafansangu) Sullo, Science Department, Secondary Campus**





Congratulations to the Primary School for making TIS a beacon of PYP excellence. Long may this continue. Congratulations to the Secondary School for sustaining 22 years of continued quality IB education. Long may this also continue. **Yvonne M. Tagoe, Vice Principal, Both Campuses.**

I count, you count, we count. **Charles Obiri, Transport Department**

TIS! For 22 years, you have been a beacon of excellence, shaping bright minds, nurturing dreams, and inspiring future leaders. Your commitment to holistic education, discipline, and community has left an indelible mark on countless lives. Here's to celebrating the past, honouring the present, and looking forward to even greater achievements in the many years to come. **Elyna Aku, Hostel, Secondary Campus**

Congratulations to TIS. Cheers to 22 years of excellence and to many more years of impact, adventure, and success ahead. **Eunice Abotsi, Hostel & University Guidance, Secondary Campus**

My fondest memories at TIS aren't just about the lessons in class, but the life lessons outside of them, cheering at sports matches, late-night study sessions, and the support of friends who feel like siblings. TIS is truly a place worth celebrating. **Amy-Frances Seyeram Gavor, Student, Grade 9, Secondary Campus**

Happy 22nd birthday, Tema International School! Congratulations on reaching this milestone! You've come a long way, achieving greatness and empowering students. Here's to many more years of excellence, innovation, and inspiring young minds. Keep shining, TIS! **Setor Adih, Hostel & Learning Centre, Secondary Campus**

For 6 years, TIS has been more than a workplace; it has been a home. Our happy school has also added a vibrant colour to the already amazing school it was before we joined in 2019. As a pioneering staff member, I wish the entire TIS family a happy 22nd anniversary and a special 6th anniversary to the Primary School Campus! Long Live TIS! Long Live the Legacy!! Long Live the Impact!!! **Angela Naa Adaku Quaye, PYP, Primary Campus**

Our dear TIS is 22. What a huge blessing to be part of this family. This is a place I proudly call home. I have grown here in ways I cannot recount, and for that I am deeply grateful.

I honour our Founders, the late **Mr Alphonse Adjavon** and **Mrs Comfort Adjavon**, affectionately known as 'Mummy.' They have been a blessing in my life and in the lives of the many who have passed through this school. Indeed, the legacy they built continues to inspire and shape generations, and we look forward to a future of possibilities and blessings.

The TIS experience is transformational, purposeful, and one filled with joy.

God bless TIS!

**Surama King, CAS & Events Coordinator – Secondary Campus**

## TIS On The News

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# Tema International School Hosts Nii Okai High School Praise 2025 As Part of Its 22nd Anniversary Celebrations



by Prosper AGBENYEKA — September 29, 2025 Reading Time: 3 mins read

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<https://currentissuesonline.com/tema-international-school-hosts-nii-okai-high-school-praise-2025-as-part-of-its-22nd-anniversary-celebrations/>

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## Tema International School Hosts Nii Okai High School Praise 2025 As Part of Its 22nd Anniversary Celebrations

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<https://mydailynewsonline.com/2025/09/29/tema-international-school-hosts-nii-okai-high-school-praise-2025-as-part-of-its-22nd-anniversary-celebrations/>

## Tema International School Hosts Nii Okai High School Praise 2025 As Part of Its 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



Tema International School (TIS) had the honour of hosting the **Nii Okai High School Praise 2025** on Saturday, 27 September, as part of its **22nd Anniversary celebrations**. The event was electrifying, an encounter that left every participant uplifted and inspired. Voices of students, staff, parents, and alumni united in harmony as worship and service converged in purpose.

### Praise with Action

More than a music and worship gathering, this year's **High School Praise** was anchored in giving back. The event raised funds in support of the **Nii Okai Saving Hearts Project**, which provides open-heart surgeries for children living with congenital heart disorders in Ghana. At TIS, this effort was championed by the **IB Class of 2027** as part of their **CAS initiative**, reminding us that service and compassion lie at the heart of education.

### A Showcase of Talent

The programme featured an impressive line-up of schools and artists whose ministrations stirred faith and joy:

- Tema International School Choir
- Akosombo International School Choir
- Life International School Choir
- Ghana Christian International High School Choir
- Vine Christian High School Choir
- Creative Arts Dance Team



Guest artists **Cofi Boham, Naa Mercy, and Edem Evangelist** led the audience in unforgettable moments of praise, while the highlight came from **Rev. Nii Okai** himself, performing his latest song *Foundation* with the **High School Mass Choir**.

### A Community United

**Mr Michael Ansah**, Hostel Parent and IT staff at TIS, warmly welcomed the gathering, affirming the power of talent when used in service to God and society. Behind the scenes, the commitment of staff, parents, and students ensured the programme's success, demonstrating the spirit of unity that defines TIS.

Parents also joined in to honour Principal **Dr Ken Darvall**, pledging their support by purchasing copies of his books, with proceeds directed to student-led projects including the **Saving Hearts Initiative**.



### Speaking on the Impact

The school Chaplaincy leader, **Mr Hayford Gyasi**, emphasised that High School Praise perfectly reflects the ethos of Tema International School: nurturing young people not only in academic excellence but also in compassion, service, and community leadership. Parents and guests described the event as “*more than a concert, it was an encounter that touched lives and will continue to save lives.*”

Since its inception, **High School Praise** has provided a transformative platform for students across Ghana to discover and grow their gifts, collaborate with peers, and be mentored by leading musicians and influencers. Hosting the event as part of **TIS @ 22** highlighted the school's deep commitment to its founding vision: *building a*

*legacy of excellence, service, and purpose.*

### Looking Ahead

**Rev. Nii Okai** expressed gratitude for the outpouring of support and called on all present to continue championing the Saving Hearts cause:

*“Even small contributions can save a life. Together, we can raise a generation of purpose-driven young people who will use their gifts to positively influence society.”*









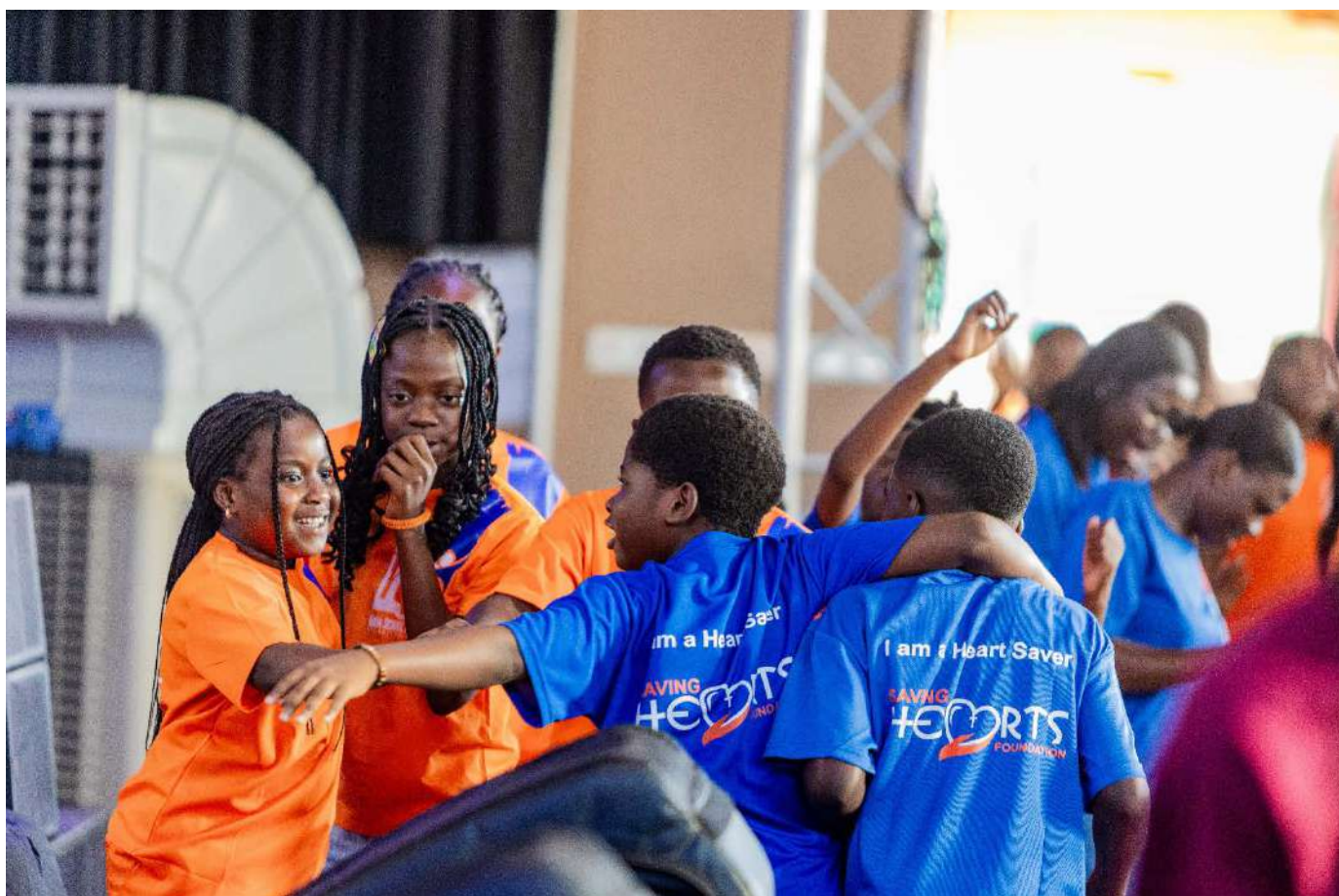
















## *Grip Am!* – Save the Date for Our Annual School Production



The excitement continues!

Following the fun and exceptional auditions for our Annual School Play, *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 an amazing 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!

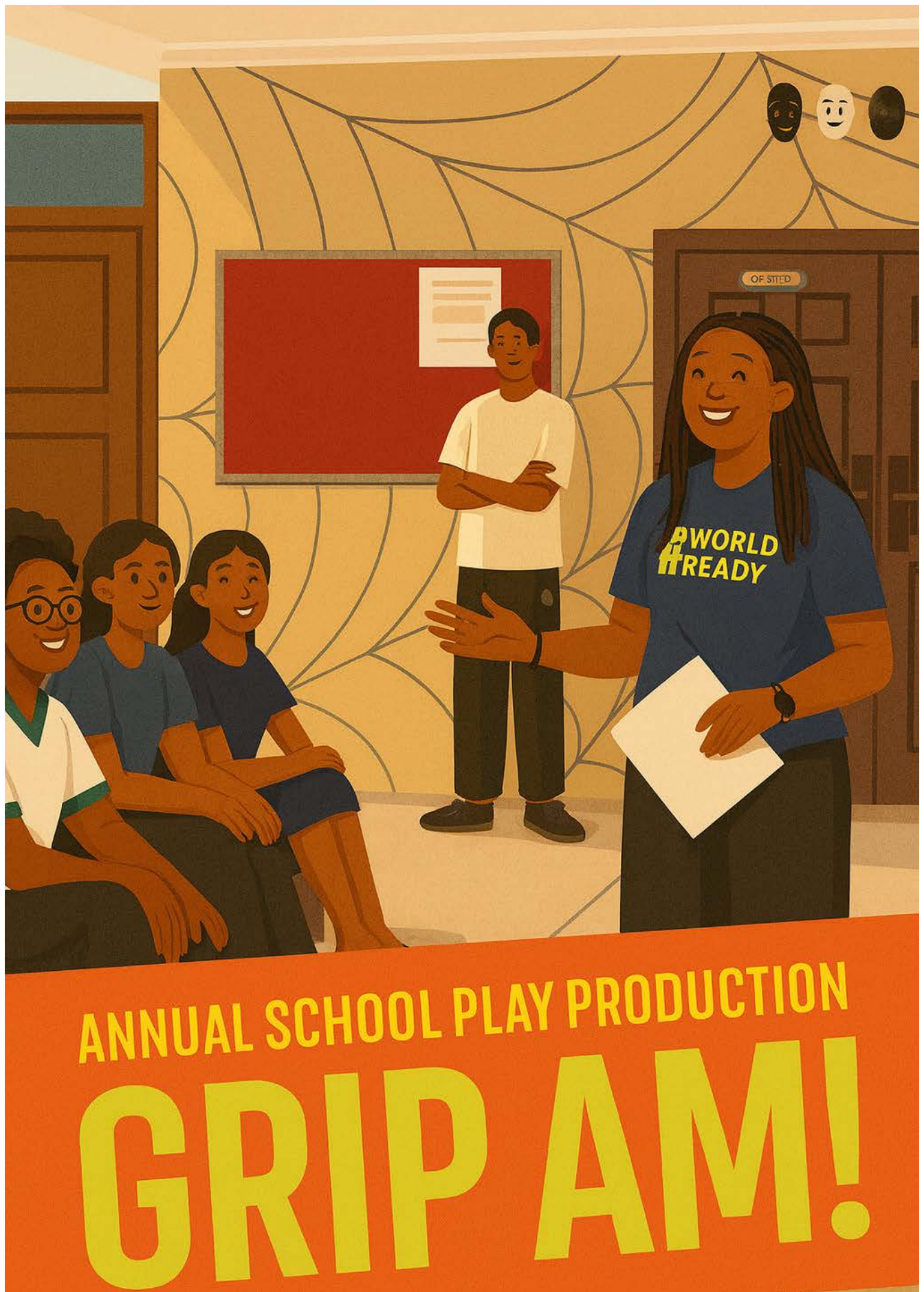
### Synopsis of *Grip Am*

*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.









## Special Assembly - Dr Ken: Always Part of Our Story



Good morning, School!

Today, as the Secretary General, I stand before you on behalf of the Student Council, the entire student body, staff, the Assembly Team, and the Class of 2026. This moment is both an honour and a challenge. It is an honour because we get to celebrate and thank a leader who has shaped our school in countless ways. It is a challenge because it is never easy to say goodbye to someone who has had such a deep and lasting impact on our lives.



When we think about our time here, we cannot imagine it without your guidance and presence. From greeting us at the gate to the encouragement you gave during assemblies and events, you reminded us that TIS is not just a school, but a family.

Over the years, you have been more than a principal. You have been a mentor, a role model, and a source of inspiration. You guided us with wisdom, patience, and compassion, encouraging us to do our personal best not only in academics, but also in our character and values. Your leadership reminded us that education is about more than grades – it is about integrity, resilience, and vision.



We have seen how you treat staff, parents, and students with respect and fairness, teaching us lessons no textbook could. Though your decision to leave was not easy, we respect that it was made with love and responsibility to your family. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones.



On behalf of all students, teachers, and staff, we say thank you. Thank you for your leadership, for your unwavering commitment to this school, and for the countless hours you devoted to making our community stronger.





As Patron of the Assembly Team, you gave us more than support – you gave us vision. You showed us that leadership is not about power but about service, inspiring us to use our voices to uplift others.

As Grade 12 students, this farewell feels especially personal. We have grown under your leadership, and the values you instilled will guide us far beyond these gates. Although you may be leaving your position, you will never leave our hearts.

Your legacy lives on in the classrooms, teachers, and students you nurtured. We promise to honour your work by upholding the standards and spirit you set.

On behalf of the entire school community, we extend our gratitude, bid you farewell, and wish you love, peace, and happiness. You will always be part of our story.

Thank you, Dr Ken, for everything.



## 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.

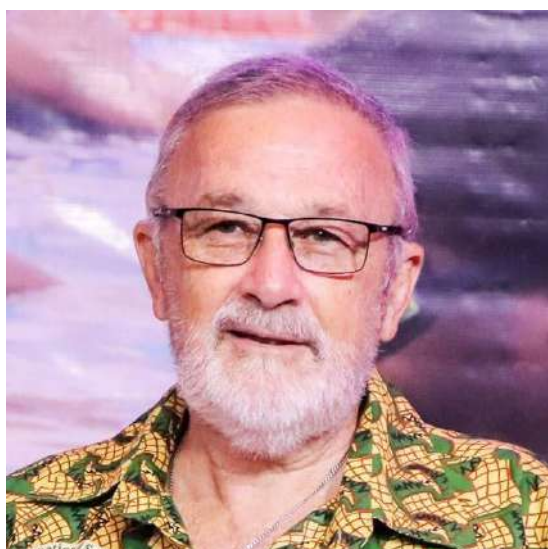
Enjoy the reading, and don't forget to pre-order your copy. The official launch of *The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things* is on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Founders Day. Order your copy now.

I would like to end with a line from the foreword I wrote in one of Dr Ken's earlier books, *The Teaching Guarantee: Making a Difference*:

*"Making a difference isn't just about big gestures. It's in the little things, the service we render, the lives we touch, and the community we build."* – Surama King



# LITERARY TITAN

[HOME](#)[AUTHOR SERVICES](#)[BOOK REVIEW SERVICE](#)[LITERARY BOOK AWARDS](#)[CONTACT US](#)[ABOUT US](#)<https://literarytitan.com/tag/ken-darvall/>**Jun 21** Posted by [Literary-Titan](#)

## Ken Darvall Author Interview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Academic Integrity Foundation*

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

### *Teacher Professional Development*

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

### *Graduated Implementation by Grade Level*

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

### *Transparent Usage Policies*

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

### *Critical Thinking Enhancement, Not Replacement*

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

### *Regular Assessment of Learning Outcomes*

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

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

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

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

#### *Start with Your "Why"*

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

#### *Master the Essential Ignore the Optional*

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

#### *Find Your Teacher Tribe*



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

### *Create Non-Negotiable Boundaries*

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

### *Document Everything Simply*

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

### *Using What Works to Improve What Doesn't*

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

### *Remember: This Too Shall Pass*

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

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

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

Institutional memory.

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

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

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

This quality manifests in several critical ways:

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

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

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

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

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

## The Teaching Guarantee: Three Things

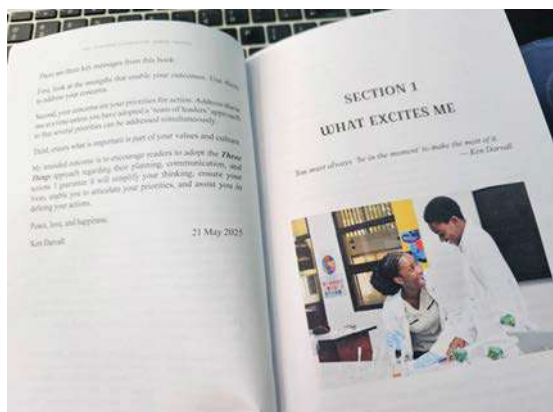
Jun 10 Posted by [Literary Titan](#)



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

is consistent: education must be grounded in values, driven by purpose, and oriented toward practical action.

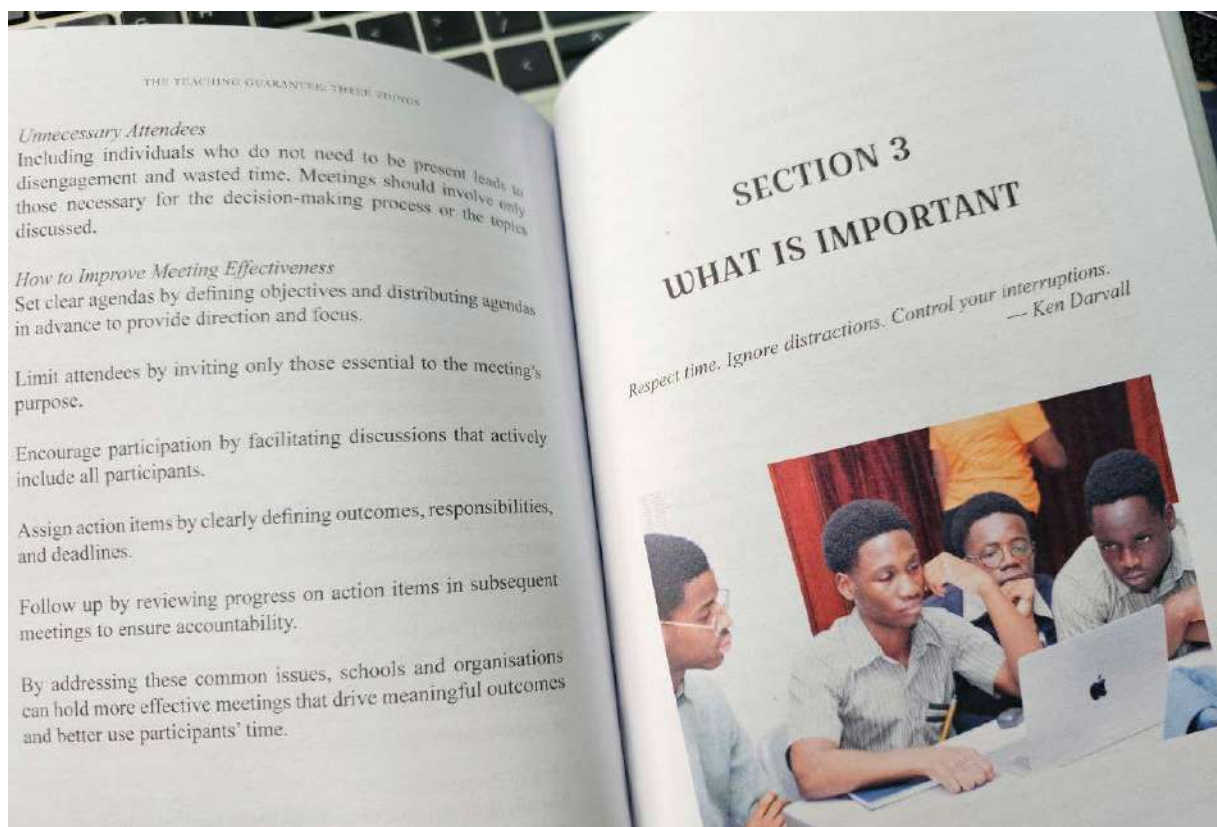




What I liked most about this book was its clarity. Darvall doesn't lecture. He shares. And his voice, though authoritative, carries the warmth and weariness of someone who has seen it all and still chooses hope. I found myself nodding along with much of what he wrote, particularly his points about personalised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

The bullet-point style and repetitive emphasis on familiar themes (growth mindset, lifelong learning, team culture) occasionally felt like being in a lengthy staff development meeting. But then again, maybe that's the point—his book mirrors the very structure of a school year: full of lessons, reinforcements, goals, and gentle nudges. It isn't flashy or revolutionary, but it is solid. Dependable. Much like a good teacher.

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



## Farewell Messages for Dr Ken



lives.

A special thank you to **Princess Dzidefo Afi Kuivi (Grade 10)** and **Michelle Adjovu (Grade 10)** for their initiative in gathering these heartfelt tributes. What began as a simple idea from two of our students has blossomed into a beautiful collection of messages that reflect the deep love, gratitude, and admiration we all share for Dr Ken Darvall.

We invite the entire TIS community, as well as Dr Ken himself, to read through these words from our alumni, students, parents, and staff. Each message tells its own story, but together they form a powerful testimony of the lasting impact Dr Ken has had on our school and in our

May these reflections serve not only as a farewell, but also as a celebration of the legacy Dr Ken leaves with us.

## Messages from the Initiators

Your love, dedication, and patience to us throughout your time here mean so much, and I am grateful for all that you have done and the things you taught us in TIS. I will miss your smiles, your warm greetings, and all the inspiring messages and advice you gave us, reminding us to be better versions of ourselves, to work hard, and to be disciplined. I want you to know that I will always keep you in my prayers and that when you return home, you will receive nothing but love, laughter, and joy. We understand that this was a tough but necessary decision, and we wish you all the best. **Princess Dzidefo Afi Kuivi, Grade 10**



It excites me to know how much of yourself you've poured into TIS and how many lives you've touched along the way. You've made this school feel alive with energy, opportunities, and unforgettable moments. The way you believed in us as students has made us believe in ourselves too, and that will always stay with me.

It's hard to imagine TIS without you. We'll miss the way you made us laugh, pushed us to do better, and reminded us of what really matters. Things will feel different without your presence, and it's scary to let go of someone who has been such a big part of our community for so long.

What's important is for you to know how deeply loved and appreciated you are by all of us. Thank you for every memory, every lesson, and every moment of encouragement. As you return to your family, I hope you feel proud of the incredible impact you've left behind. We wish you peace, happiness, and all the love you deserve in this next chapter. **Michelle Adjovu, Grade 10**



## Messages from Alumni



As a pioneer and the first Head Girl of TIS, it excites me to see how Dr Darvall has carried the vision of our school forward and helped it flourish beyond those early days. He has not only nurtured students, but has also shaped TIS into a community that values reflection, excellence, and heart. His leadership assures me that the TIS spirit I knew as a student has not just been preserved, but strengthened and renewed for the generations after mine.



My concern is that with Dr Darvall's departure, TIS is losing more than a principal... we are losing a leader who understands the delicate balance between discipline and compassion, rigour and reflection. For those of us who laid the school's foundation, it is bittersweet to know that one of its strongest builders is moving on. Change is necessary, but it always comes with the ache of absence... and I am feeling that ache like the aftermath of a rude slap in the face.

What's important is gratitude. Dr Darvall, thank you for honouring and continuing the legacy that we, as pioneers, dreamed of when TIS first began. Thank you for holding up a mirror to every student, encouraging them to think about what excites them, what concerns them, and what is important to them, to society, and to humanity. Thank

you for the revolutionary books you have written, which provide a window into and a formidable resource for comprehending 21st-century international education. The fact that these books were written by the principal of my alma mater fills me with immense pride. You have brought repute to TIS, and to Ghana.

As a TIS alumna, I am proud that you have added so much to the TIS story. May your next chapter (pun intended) be as impactful as the ones you have written here. All the best!! **Apiorkor Seyiram Ashong-Abbey, Alumni – IB Class of 2007**

I admire Dr Ken for taking the bold step of leaving his country to come and work in Ghana. Also, he was always himself, and that authenticity was inspirational.

After 10 years, I have no worries because I know he is leaving his mark and a strong team behind, and he will be missed dearly.

Thank you for always smiling when I greeted you. You made me feel seen during my time at TIS, and that meant a lot. **Sarah Emefa King – Alumni – IB Class of 2017**





Dr Ken has inspired me to learn more and go further in life. What concerns me is how sudden his departure feels. What's important is that we all get through this together and remember him in our hearts. **Terrie Tenge, Alumni – IB Class of 2025**

Quite frankly, I wouldn't have made it through TIS without Dr Ken. His

encouragement, perseverance, and leadership inspired me, challenged me, and often consoled me. I am excited to look back at his tenure with a smile, knowing that his legacy is one of unwavering dedication. I do worry about our school spirit. Dr Ken deeply embraced the pillars of TIS, showing us what it means to be holistic and balanced. He set an example for how to apply yourself fully, and I hope the whole community takes this to heart. Dr Ken, you are the height of what it means to be an educator. Your role far exceeded administration; you let TIS pass through you. This community is as much a part of you as you are of it, and we will carry your lessons with us always. It must be bittersweet to leave one home and return to another, but know that you will always have a family in TIS. **Ethan Sunkwa-Mills, Alumni – IB Class of 2024**

Dr Ken inspired me in many ways, but one lesson that stayed with me is the importance he placed on integrity. Before TIS, I heard the word often but never really understood it. Through my personal interactions with him, I learned what it truly means to stand by your values and live them out, even when no one is watching. This, and many other lessons, will stay with me throughout my life. It's very sad to see him go after so many years of being such an integral part of TIS. He will most definitely be missed. Thank you for always being in my corner, cheering me on even as I stepped into my next chapter. I wish you nothing but the very best in this new adventure. **Seffirina Masoperh, Alumni – IB Class of 2024**



chapter. I wish you nothing but the very best in this new adventure. **Seffirina Masoperh, Alumni – IB Class of 2024**

He taught me to work hard towards my goals, to be ambitious, and to believe I can achieve anything I put my mind to. He also reminded us of the importance of balance and of sleep. I'll miss his good advice, his warm and friendly spirit, and the way he knew every student. His work ethic and discipline were inspiring. He sacrificed so much for the school and poured his all into it. I don't know where he's heading next, but it was a true pleasure knowing him. I'll never forget how warm he was when I first joined in Grade 7 and throughout all my years at TIS. I wish you the very best, Dr Ken. You'll be deeply missed, and I truly hope we stay in contact. **Lexi Forson, Alumni – IB Class of 2023**



## Messages from Students and Parents



I'm excited by the incredible impact Dr Darvall has had on our school, shaping TIS into a place where we think critically, act responsibly, and pursue excellence, and leaving us with values and traditions that will guide us long after his departure. It's hard to imagine TIS without his steady presence; his guidance, encouragement, and weekly "three things" are part of our rhythm, and the challenge now is adjusting to change and filling the gap his leadership leaves behind. Most importantly, thank you, Dr Darvall, for believing in us, challenging us to reflect and grow, and always reminding us of what truly matters. You leave a community transformed by your vision and care. Wishing you every success, happiness, and fulfilment in your next chapter. You will always be part of the TIS family. **Jamal Mustapha, Grade 10**

I am excited because Dr Ken inspired me to come out of my comfort zone and interact more confidently. Whenever I had doubts, I knew he was there to support me. I worry about how the school will coordinate without his leadership, and I'll miss his "three things" each week that made us proud of our efforts and accomplishments. Thank you for everything, Dr Ken. *Bonne chance et au revoir.* **Michael Kabutey Adjovu, Grade 9**





Even as a new student, your presence has made my time at TIS more enjoyable, and I've appreciated all your speeches, no matter the topic. Though I've known you for just a month, I feel deeply concerned for you and your family, and I wish you the very best back home. I want to wish you farewell and pray that you return to TIS with nothing but good news, and bring your family to join this family you already, and always, will have. **Florence Valley, Grade 9**

When I first came to TIS, I wasn't familiar with the IB/MYP system, but even though I've only known you for a month and a half, your words, encouragements, and quotes have helped me adapt. Thank you. I never really got to know you fully, but seeing older students' sadness made me realise your true impact, and I feel sad not to have experienced more of it. I hope your wife and granddaughter get better soon. Please don't forget us, and remember

you always have a family at TIS. In Krio, we say "WI GO SI BAK", see you soon. **Lorraine Pabs-Garnon, Grade 9**

Dr Ken, your kindness and leadership inspired me and made a real difference in our school. You encouraged us always to do our best. I'll miss your support and energy. It's hard to imagine the school without you. Please remember how thankful we are for your dedication and kindness. We wish you the very best in the next chapter of your journey, and hope you know that your impact here will always be remembered. **Mmalabna Salifu-Mahami, Grade 8**

Dr Ken helped me decide where I want to attend university by providing me with valuable advice, and I am very thankful for that. I was in shock when, out of the blue, he said, "I need to return to my village" I almost cried. Dear Dr Ken, thank you so much for everything you've done for us. You've been more than a teacher; you've been a mentor and a friend. We'll really miss you, but we're glad you'll be with your family where you're needed most. Wishing you lots of happiness, peace, and good health in this new chapter. You'll always be remembered with love and respect. **Fadl Wunimi Habib, Grade 8**

You convinced me to use ManageBac, and it has helped me follow my daughter's activities. I believe you've prepared a strong team behind you. When I visited TIS, I saw clearly the hard work and effort that has gone into building the school. I congratulate you on all that you have done, and I wish you and your family all the best. **Djibril Kanazoe, Parent**







What excites me most is the legacy Dr Ken leaves behind, grooming TIS into a force to reckon with over the decade. He has excellent human relations, communicates clearly, and is compassionate and empathetic. He made TIS feel like it was on autopilot, yet whenever there was a mishap, he took swift action. His seamless communication with parents will

be sorely missed. Doc has become family to us, and as his family goes through temporary health challenges, we empathise with him. Our thoughts, best wishes, and prayers are with him. We sincerely thank him for his sacrifices over the years. Whenever he feels lonely across the miles, I hope he remembers that he is never alone; the smiles he put on the faces of the TIS community will continue to lead him on. **Michael N. A. Cobblah, Parent**

Dr Darvall has inspired me through his dedication, care, and constant encouragement. His leadership created an environment where every student feels valued and supported. I admire how he balanced discipline with compassion, showing us the importance of responsibility while caring for our well-being. From his words of advice to his genuine concern, he has shown us what it means to be a leader who serves with integrity. His impact goes beyond academics; he has shaped our character, strengthened our community, and reminded us to strive for excellence in all we do. I'll miss his reminders to wear sports shoes to the complex and his concern whenever a student went on a medical exeat. May the Lord God Almighty be his strength, guide, shield, and comforter every step of the way. May He bless him with wisdom, good health, and peace in all his endeavours. **Sheridan Tawiah, Grade 11**

What excites me most is how you remembered every child's name. The first time we brought our son to TIS, you repeated his full name back to us even though we had only said his first name. I was amazed.



Dr Ken, your smile will be greatly missed. You greeted every parent, walked around during visiting, always checked with security and made sure everything was in order. You will forever be missed. Take care, and God be with you. **Mary-Rhoda Abor, Parent**

Your kindness, generosity, and big heart are inspirational. My hope is that your successor will continue to maintain the academic and co-curricular balance you established. Your

sympathy will always and forever live in my memory. **Harry Agyeman, Parent**



Dr Ken, you've been more than just our Head of School; you've been the heart of TIS. Your speeches, your calm presence, and the way you always made time for students inspired me to be more thoughtful, curious, and confident. You made TIS a place where every voice matters. It's hard to imagine

school without you. You've been such a steady part of assemblies, events, and daily life. I worry we'll miss your wisdom and the way you always made us feel safe and supported. Your departure feels like the end of an era. Thank you for everything. You've helped shape a culture that is truly special. I hope your next chapter is full of peace, joy, and adventure. You will always be part of our TIS family, and we'll carry your legacy forward with pride. **Michael Patrick Boateng, Grade 7**

I am genuinely inspired by your remarkable ability to organise your team and seamlessly coordinate the school's activities. Equally inspiring is your refreshingly simple outlook on life, one that brings clarity and positivity to every challenge. While your unique presence will be deeply missed, I am reassured knowing that TIS has a strong continuity plan for the future. Dr Ken, as you embark on new endeavours, may blessings accompany you at every turn. May peace, healing, and comfort enfold you and your family. May your journey ahead be graced with fulfilment, joy, and serenity, and may divine grace light your path, bringing strength in abundance. With heartfelt gratitude and prayers, we wish you and your loved ones every blessing. Amen. **Toriola Omolola, Parent**

Even though my journey with Dr Ken just started, he has already inspired me to strive in education, and because of him I'm getting the best educational journey possible. What concerns me is that we won't be seeing his daily walks around the school anymore. Dr Ken, thank you for being our rock, our role model, and our supporter. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be in this school and I wouldn't have had such a dramatic change in my education. Although I'm still new, I've already seen the impact you've spread across the school. TIS can't thank you enough for all you've done. You will surely and most definitely be missed. Safe journey, speedy recovery, and stay healthy. Thank you so much and farewell, Dr Ken. May the Lord see you through. **Zayda Opare, Grade 7**

Your impact has been priceless, Dr Ken, and your friendliness has touched many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during these challenging times. I wish you God's grace. **Imoro Abdul Rashid, Parent**







endeavours—Godspeed. **Theodora Fynn, Parent**

I only met you a couple of times since my daughter Victoria just started Grade 7 this year, but I brought her to TIS because another parent spoke so highly of you. I can already appreciate what they meant. I pray that you have a replacement who will advance the school's purpose and create a thriving environment for the students. I hope the transition is smooth and that TIS continues to improve and achieve its goals. All the best in your new

What excites me is how you always brought warmth and encouragement into TIS. Long before I became a student, you would see me visiting with my siblings and point out how many years were left until I joined. Those small moments made me feel expected and welcomed into this community. Your belief in the potential of students who give their personal best inspires me to work hard and to see TIS as more than just a school, but a family. What concerns me most is that we will miss your presence, your humour, and your genuine care. You have been a constant part of TIS life, and it is difficult to imagine assemblies, graduations, and daily school life without your guidance and encouragement to live with balance, integrity, and effort. What's important is for you to know how much you mean to us. Your impact on the whole TIS community will always be remembered. Thank you for welcoming me years before I officially joined, and for creating an environment where we could all thrive. I wish you and your family love, peace, and happiness as you begin this next chapter. **Oforiwa Sakyi-Addo, Grade 12**

You always encouraged us to move forward and stay consistent. I will miss the assemblies where you shared *three insightful things* with us, and the way you encouraged us to improve. Thank you for always being there, even during the times you were in Australia, you still connected with us through bulletins, videos, and so much more. We will surely miss you, Dr Ken. **Jason Adjei, Grade 12**

TIS, in general, is very exciting for me. What concerns me now is Dr Ken's situation, and what's important is moving on and continuing to do what is right. **Jaiden Klenam Domey, Grade 8**

Dr Ken has always made me feel positive. He responds when I greet and advises me when I'm wrong. I feel worried that when he leaves, the school community will change depending on who takes over. I'm also worried about the health of his wife and granddaughter. What's important is that we all stay positive for Dr Ken's sake. **Ohenenana Akwasi Danso, Grade 8**

Dr Ken is a true leader. He gave us a sense of security with his strong leadership, knowing our children were in the right place. Honestly, it feels sad that he is leaving, but I know it's for a good reason, and we wish him the very best. His presence will be missed. Please know that we will miss you very much, and thank you for the impact you have made. God bless you. **Mrs Marita Adjovu, Parent**







Dr Darvall's simple nature is very inspiring. My concern is how TIS can continue to improve on the high standards he has set for the school. Dr Darvall, we love you so much and wish you great success in everything you do. Thank you. **Joseph Nmiyine Abor, Parent**

The amount of time you spent at the school demonstrated how you maintained a stable and family-like environment. What concerns me is how I couldn't tell from

your behaviour or expressions that something was wrong, I worry about your wellbeing. The most important thing to remember is that God is in control. He alone can heal. Keep praying! **Michelle Asabea Tieku, Grade 9**

You kept me pushing for greater things. I want you to go and see your family, but I also want you to stay here, I can't think straight. I wish your wife and family a safe journey, and may God be with them. **Kwabena Krampah Appiah, Grade 7**

Dr Ken, you have shown me so much wisdom since Grade 7. I am concerned that we will miss your presence. What's important is that we keep going stronger and faster, always "fast and furious." **Sameera Abdul Rashid, Grade 10**

Dr Ken, you have been such a great principal for many years. Every time you saw students around campus, you made sure to say "Good morning" or "Have a great day." That always brightened my mornings and made the school a cheerful place. I look forward to seeing how you'll help other schools in the future. I feel really sad that you are leaving. It's hard to say goodbye to someone who made us feel so good every day. I'll miss your friendly greetings and the way you made us feel important. I'm worried school won't feel the same without you, but I hope we find a way to keep your spirit alive here. Thank you for everything you've done. You made our school special, and we will always remember you. I hope you find peace and comfort with your family during this difficult time. You'll be missed more than words can say. Goodbye. **Abena Okoampah, Grade 11**

Dr Ken is always smiling, and I never knew he was going through so much, yet he still kept smiling. I'm so proud of him for making it this far, and he's the reason I love this school. I really don't want him to go; sports and assemblies won't be the same without him. His "three things," his cheers, his laughs, I'm really going to miss him. Dr Ken has made such a big impact on me. Even though I haven't been in the TIS family for long, I'm grateful to be here while he is. He is so kind, he always says hi and never walks past without a wave or greeting. He has solved so many of my problems and made TIS feel like home. When I first came, I thought I would hate it and that I needed to be with blood family, but Dr Ken truly made it feel like home. Thank you for everything, and goodbye. **Lady-Victoria Frimpong, Grade 7**





What excites me is being around people who truly care about making a difference. Dr Ken has inspired me with his passion, kindness, and dedication. He always pushes us to do our best, not only in academics but also in how we treat each other as a community. His encouragement has made me more confident, and I've seen how he created a positive, supportive atmosphere in our school. Because of him, I feel motivated to aim higher, help others, and bring that same energy into everything I do. What concerns me most is how much we will miss his presence, guidance, and leadership. At the same time, I understand he needs to be with his family, his wife Jan and granddaughter Bella, who are unwell, and his daughter Holly, who requires constant care. It's hard to say goodbye, but being close to them is most important right now. Even though school will feel different, his impact will always stay with us. What's important is that he remembers how thankful we are. He built a strong school community, and even though he is leaving, we must stay strong and move forward as he taught us. We will forever carry him in our hearts, his lessons, his encouragement, and his positive spirit will always be part of TIS. We wish him the very best, and we will always remain proud TIS ambassadors, just as he encouraged us to be. **Ashanti Tettey-Amlalo, Grade 7**

He is approachable, and his affable nature made him the easy go-to person to discuss any issue. I believe his hard work, along with that of his colleagues, has built a resilient TIS system. The enduring legacy of TIS will be a credit to him and his team. Of course, his affable nature will be sorely missed. Dr Ken, you have positively impacted so many lives, and that should make you proud. Your legacy lives on. It is my prayer that the favour and grace of the good Lord be with you and your family in all your future endeavours. **M. Wumbilla Salifu, Parent**







Dr Darvall has inspired me to be more confident and curious. He always encouraged us to ask questions, think deeply, and believe in ourselves. He made learning exciting and helped make our school a place where everyone felt safe and important. I'm excited to see the amazing things he will do next. I know he'll continue helping others, just as he helped us. It's hard to imagine school without him. I'll miss his kind words, funny stories, and the way he made everyone feel welcome. Things will feel different, and it's sad to say goodbye to someone who made such a big difference. Thank you, Dr Darvall, for everything. You've helped us grow, learn, and feel proud of who we are. I hope your next chapter is full of joy, success, and new adventures. We'll always remember you and all you taught us. Don't forget your second family, TIS.

**Reginald Danquah, Grade 7**

Dr Ken inspired me by always encouraging me to push past my limits and to keep smiling. He even kept a picture of me in his office, saying I make TIS a happy school. It's really hard to describe how I feel right now. I know he will be missed by many, and I will be one of them. Dr Ken, I want you to remember this: thank you for all you have done for me. Keep putting smiles on people's faces. We will forever miss you.

**Paa Kow Oppan, Grade 4**

Dr Darvall inspires me because he is kind, calm, and cares about our school. He makes me feel proud to be part of our community. I feel sad that he is leaving. He made our school feel safe and happy, and it will be hard to say goodbye. We will really miss him. Thank you, Dr Darvall, for everything you've done for our school. We will miss you a lot. Good luck on your next adventure!

**Amewusika Awurama Petra Tay, Grade 4**

Dr Darvall inspires me with his supportive leadership and the positive impact he has had on our school community. His departure is tough because he has been such a steady and positive presence. His leadership, kindness, and support will be deeply missed, and it's hard to imagine the school without him. Thank you, Dr Darvall, for everything you've done for us. Your leadership and care have made a lasting impact. Wishing you all the best in your next chapter, you'll be greatly missed!

**Ellie Elinam Sevor, Grade 4**







The positivity and enthusiasm Dr Ken has brought to TIS over the years, even to this day, inspire me. What concerns me is that his iconic “three things” will be missed. Thank you for all the support, Dr Ken, you will be missed. **Nana Kwame Adu Danso, Grade 11**

What inspires me is Dr Ken’s vision for TIS, his friendship with students, staff, and parents, and his selflessness towards all. As an academic, I was intrigued by his resolve to sell his book and use the proceeds to support a school project that encourages TIS students to serve the needs of less-endowed schools. He is principled, resilient, and has a great sense of humour, qualities every good leader must have, and Dr Ken has them in abundance. My concern is whether TIS will be the same without him. His shoes are so big that whoever takes his position will have to work extra hard to fill them. Will all the rules be applied and maintained? No food in the hostels! Will the person still stand in the office during visiting hours, monitoring students? Will his initiatives be continued for the good of the students? Maybe yes, but we will surely miss Dr Ken! Thank you for taking care of our children. We wish you could stay at TIS forever, but we also know family is as important as how you treated your TIS family. I pray that your family is healed and restored so that you may have joy in your heart. May your next steps be blessed, as you have blessed us all. Please come back and visit! **Prof. Dora Edu-Buandoh, Parent**

You made swimming not just a sport for me but a way to express myself in the pool. Your story really touched my heart, and I hope to hear updates about your family and the school in Australia. The end is never really the end. As Dominic once said, “There’s always room for family.” And as you go back to your village, always remember one of your villages is in our hearts. Thank you, Dr Ken, and may you leave with no regrets. **Michael T., Grade 10**

Your presence has always encouraged me to study harder than I ever have. Seeing how busy and involved you are in the school shows how principled you are, and I realised we share that same DNA. When I heard about your struggles, I nearly cried. But there’s hope, and I

always pray for your family. I still remember one time at the sports complex when you were standing alone watching the pitch. I approached you, and you told me everything that had been happening. That moment has stayed with me. I love you, Dr Ken, and I hope to hear the authentic “three things” from you again. **Adrien I. Mate, Grade 10**





What excites me is the energy you brought to campus every single day, and the way you were invested in every aspect of school life. It showed us all that you truly cared. What concerns me is that TIS will be missing an integral part of its community, you. We are losing an icon, a leader, a father figure. My batch may not get to reunite with you, because by the time you return, we may have graduated. What's important is saying a proper goodbye, expressing just how much we will miss you, and letting you know that even if we are not with you physically, we are always rooting for you. To our cherished Dr Ken, we say farewell. You will be missed, but in your own words: "Au revoir, not adieu." **Louisa Xose Ayem, Grade 11**



Dr Ken, you have always inspired me to think deeper, ask questions, and look for the bigger picture. Your passion for education and your systematic approach to everything have truly made TIS a haven of excellence. It is hard to imagine the school without you. Your presence has been a steady source of encouragement and warmth, and the thought of not seeing you in the hallways or hearing your wisdom makes me feel like something important is missing. I worry about how different things may feel without your leadership, but I also know you've built a strong foundation that will carry us forward. What's most important is that you know how much you are loved

and appreciated. Thank you for everything you've given us—your time, energy, wisdom, and heart. As you move into the next chapter, I hope you carry with you the memories of how deeply you've touched this community. I will miss you dearly, but I send you off with gratitude, admiration, and my very best wishes. **Amy-Frances Gavor, Grade 9**

Dr Ken inspired me to be a leader and showed me how unique it is to be a role model to others. He also inspired me to become the best swimmer I can possibly be. I will deeply miss his presence, not hearing his "three things," and knowing the bulletins and ASAs won't feel the same without him. Good luck, Dr Ken—you've inspired me to always strive for excellence. Thank you for believing in me and in the TIS community, and for making this school experience feel like family. All the best! **Asher Gyesi, Grade 10**









He has made life in school wonderful. What if he may not come back? I want you to know that you are the best principal I have ever met in my entire school life. **Kwame Adusei, Grade 7**

He has done so well for us as parents. He replies accurately and immediately to emails and always makes information very clear for us to understand. We love him and we will miss him for all his hard work. I will miss his patience and dedication to his work. I wish him all the best in life. May all his efforts for us and our wards never be in vain. **Belinda Amarh, Parent**



Dr Ken has really encouraged me to keep playing the violin by giving wonderful comments about how beautiful my song sounds. His encouragement inspired me to keep working harder, which made all my music mornings truly amazing. After hearing that Dr Ken was leaving, I was truly shocked and heartbroken. I will deeply miss his kindness, respect, and his warm, pleasant smile that always brightened my day. Farewell, Dr Ken. You have been such a joy to be around, always kind to talk to, and you truly made our school a happier place. Even though you are leaving, I know you will continue to show everyone just how amazing you are—just as you did here, making this school brighter for all of us. **Michal Annoa Annan, Grade 6**

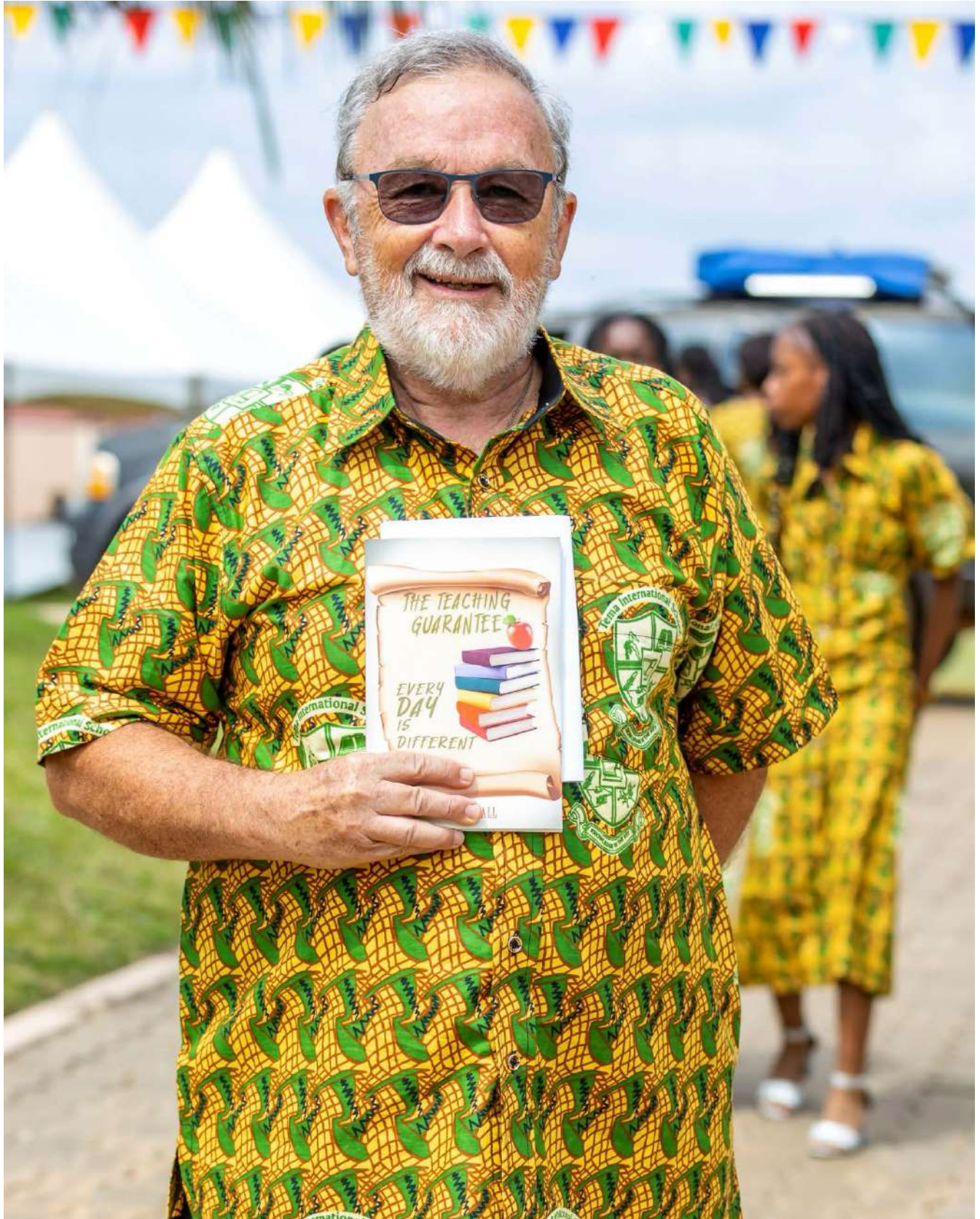


will be missed. Thank you, Dr Ken, for having such an impact on the life of my young unassuming son and for giving him the opportunity to have a world-class education right here in Ghana. **Maxwell Kofi Efrem Donkor, Parent**

He makes me feel like a better person, and he inspires me to be kind to others. I'm sad that he is leaving because I have known him since I was 5. Sometimes I look at him as a father figure. I hope he is doing well in his hard times. Dr Ken, thank you for being such a kind man and helping others during your time in TIS. I hope things go well for you, and we will all dearly miss you. **Austin John Fudzagbo, Grade 7**



This question always led me to think about the positive side of life. Dr Darvall has inspired me to always do the right thing, stay focused at all costs, and give no excuses. A change that feels hard for me is adjusting to not hearing his *3 things* during assembly and the daily advice he would give us every now and then. Thank you so much, Dr Ken Darvall, for all the things you have done to make this school a better place to be. **Kadmiel Annan, Grade 8**





## Messages from Staff



**Dr. Ken Kwame Darvall, Principal of Tema International School (TIS), 2015–2025**

The Founding Family of TIS, a school that provides unique experiences and embodies the spirit of integrity and respect for others, values that are central to the personal, academic, and ethical development of each member.



We, the members of the Founding Family, appreciate your dedication to upholding the core values of TIS. Your 10+ years of devoted service to our school cannot be quantified. We are immensely grateful. We are pleased that, through your efforts, we have become a fully accredited IB World School, offering the PYP, MYP, and DP programmes. You made sure the teaching staff are well-grounded in their areas of expertise and that the foundation you laid will endure and stand the test of time.

You will be missed.

However, we wish you all the best. Continue to take good care of yourself. Enjoy good health, happiness, and prosperity. Take care of the family in Sydney. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you. If you ever want to enjoy a relaxing holiday, the country at the centre of the world, Ghana, should be your first choice. You will be welcomed with open hearts, minds, and arms.

**CHEERS. HIP, HIP, HIP, HURRAY!**

**Dr Mrs Sylvia Boye – Member of the Board of Governors**



Dr Ken has always pushed us all in the school community to be the best we can be. My concern is that his legacy not be forgotten. Don't forget us too soon, share insights of the TIS community wherever you go. Thank you for holding up TIS so well; I promise to continue the same. All the best with the next chapter of your life. May it be as rewarding to you as TIS has been. **Misty, Vice Principal.**



Being consistent! That is what I learnt most from Dr Ken. What I now need to accept is his physical absence. We're sad to see you go, really! But we're grateful for the incredible impact you've had on Tema International School and, more importantly, its brand.

Your leadership, vision, knack for excellence, and passion for education have inspired us all. We wish you and your family all the best, and may the future be kinder to you than it has been. Thank you for your friendship and mentorship. **Eddy Torkornoo, Administrator**



My educational journey, especially at TIS, has in many ways been impacted by Ken. I remember his kind words during my interview almost a decade ago: "You are a lifelong learner, Jerry. Continue to explore new opportunities for growth." These words have stuck with me throughout my educational endeavours at TIS and beyond. Pursuing further studies with the University of the People with a full scholarship by the IB was through his professional sharing

and advice. Being part of IBEN with the different hats was also inspired by Ken and Ate (our first MYPC).

Leading TIS for more than a decade shows consistency and growth. There are many things we have developed or achieved under his leadership, including the 4 Pillars, the weekly TIS Bulletin, PYP-MYP authorisation and supervising their first iteration of the evaluation visits, and ensuring a Continuum mindset across the whole school. As a school, we need to reflect on how we can consolidate the gains made under his leadership and consider ways to improve standards across the whole community. It has been a great pleasure working with you, Ken. I will continue to cherish the good moments and Take ACTION!

It is difficult saying goodbye, but with technology, we can continue to do what we are passionate about, empowering our young minds to take advantage of opportunities and make an impact, even if we are worlds apart geographically. I wish you safe travel back to your village and a fulfilling time with your family in Australia. **Jerry Darko, MYP Coordinator**





In the few months I have been here, I have been inspired by your genuine interest in people's growth. You encourage others to believe in themselves and never give up. You've shown me that leadership is not just about giving instructions but about guiding and lifting others with kindness. I worry about who will continue the culture of excellence, kindness, and discipline you have built, and how we will adjust without your wise counsel and reassuring words. Thank you for inspiring us to be better and for showing that true leadership is measured in the lives you touch. We will never forget you. **Miss Eunice Abotsi, Staff**

Dr Ken's leadership, vision, mentorship, and passion for education have truly inspired me. I will miss his support and encouragement, his sense of humour, and how he always asked how the previous day or weekend had been, wishing me the best in the day. His *fast and furious* ideology made him more efficient, organised, and a multitasker. It's hard to say goodbye after 10 years of working together in TIS. I know it was tough for you to say goodbye, but you had to. I pray for strength for you and continue to pray for your family's healing. I will always cherish the memories we've shared. I know your next chapter is well-grounded. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavours. God bless and keep you. **Georgina Brasor Anaafi Mensah, Staff**



Dr Ken is not only my Principal but also a mentor and a guide. I have learnt a lot from him through his guidance. *Consistency, Punctuality, and Integrity* are the key words I will always carry with me. I feel sad he is leaving us, but I am convinced the whole school community will carry high the torch he will be leaving behind. This will be the best tribute we can pay him. May God help you in all your future endeavours. He will definitely put a smile on your face again. He will heal all those who are dear to you. *Au revoir, Ken.* **Kodzo Agbeko, Staff**







One quote has come to stay with me: *“Do your personal best.”* Your genuine concern for our well-being will be missed. Thank you, Dr Ken, for your impact. Wishing you love and light on this new journey. **Eunice Eyram Mahoney, Staff**

Your leadership has left an indelible mark on our school community, particularly on the Primary School Campus, which you have nurtured with such care. Your principles, integrity, and unique blend of fun and firmness have made a lasting impact on us all. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met you and for the gift of your writings, which have inspired us through your three amazing books. They will outlive your stay here at TIS—they will be your voice to future students, staff, and parents who may not have the privilege of meeting you personally. As we bid farewell to Dr Ken, the Primary School Campus will undoubtedly miss the little things that made a big difference—your warm morning greetings, engaging chit-chats, and witty comments that sparked laughter and deep thinking. Your



ability to connect with children, coupled with your gentle yet firm approach to discipline, created a nurturing environment that inspired us all. We will also miss how you hyped the Primary School campus, proudly declaring it the best primary school in Africa, and making us feel like the pampered lastborn. Your enthusiasm and confidence in us inspired us to strive for excellence and believe in our own potential. Your presence was more than just leadership—it was a source of joy, wisdom, and guidance. The void you leave will be deeply felt, but we are grateful for the memories and lessons you have shared with us. We wish you all the best as you

embark on this new chapter, knowing your legacy will continue to inspire and shape our school community. **Angela Naa Adaku Quaye, Staff**





Your presence as a father figure to students who have challenges, offering guidance and direction, has meant so much. Personally, seeing you drop your PA and do all the typing, sending and replying to emails from parents, admissions inquiries, and coming to the reception to welcome parents and visitors yourself has inspired me to take personal responsibility with minimal delegation. In the TIS community, I see myself as your favourite daughter.



You have gifted me time and again. With my “father’s guidance,” as I love to call it, I have been able to provide help to some students I call “my project.” I will miss your morning supervisory walks, chit-chats, pieces of advice, and playful jokes. Ken, thank you for loving me. I will miss you, Father, as I love to call you. Father, I want you to always remember that I, Rita, love and appreciate you so much. Your time in TIS has left a lasting impact on my life. I will always be guided by these three things: what excites me, what concerns me, and what’s important. Akpe, Mawu nayra wo! (Thanks, God bless you).

**Rita Fiankobe Bikor, Staff**



Some lessons speak softly, yet they echo for a lifetime. Dr Ken’s ethical leadership didn’t just teach me, it awakened something deeper: to do what’s right, even when no one is watching. I’ve become more present in my choices, more careful with my steps. Whether it’s arriving on time or showing up with intention, I move through life with purpose and focus. Career-wise, I choose to become a better version of myself every single day. That commitment to growth and development is deeply rooted in the TIS DNA—it’s not just a value, it’s a way of life. I will miss your thoughtful responses to emails. They felt just like big hugs from Grandpa—wrapped in love, correction, and appreciation, even in the little things. Your in-person guidance, especially, left a lasting mark. The way you noticed every detail—nothing escaped your eye. Your legacy lives on, and the name Dr Ken Darvall will forever be etched in my heart—marked by fond memories of correction (I vividly recall your lesson on the use of apostrophe “s”). That is pure

joy to me. With deepest thanks and a reverent heart, I love you, Dr Ken, for every part of who you are and what you give. You’ve taught me not just how to live, but how to lead, to thrive, to be the very best version of me. You will be sorely missed. I’m deeply grateful and truly blessed to have worked with an ethical leader whose standards are unwavering and whose heart leads with wisdom. Once again, with deep admiration and gratitude. **Constance Quaye, Staff**

I was privileged to be Ken’s PA when he first became Principal at TIS. Taking ownership, thinking creatively, and pushing myself beyond my comfort zone are qualities I’ve adopted from him. He is the best boss I’ve ever had. He leaves with a wealth of knowledge and an admirable flair for technology, and I’m confident he’ll leave nuggets of wisdom behind. Three things: your impact will last a lifetime, your TIS family will forever treasure you, and you deserve a resounding farewell. Thank you for being you. **Bijoux Essuman, former Staff**



I have learned from Dr Ken that there is beauty in simplicity. My concern is learning to get used to whoever will be appointed to fill his shoes. I haven't known you for very long, and I looked forward to working with you, but fate has made that short-lived. I wish you the very best wherever you go from here, and I'll always remember you as the Principal I never got the chance to truly know. **Happiness Adanu, Staff**

Thank you, Dr Ken, for being more than a principal; you believed in us, encouraged us, and challenged us to be the best versions of ourselves. Your strong commitment to excellence, your belief in every student's potential, your ability to see the best in everyone, and your vision for a supportive learning environment will leave a lasting impact. You led with wisdom, compassion, and courage, turning challenges into opportunities and sharing every success with joy. The culture of respect, integrity, and resilience you cultivated will continue to shape us for years. Though it is hard not to see your vision fully come to life, thank you for all you did to bring discipline, stability, and hope to this community. The hostels will not be the same without you. We will miss you dearly, but we also celebrate the remarkable legacy you leave behind. We will keep you and your family in our prayers. Thank you for pouring so much of yourself into this community. You will always have a special place in our hearts. We love you dearly. **Elyna Aku, Staff**



I remember my first encounter with Dr Ken on 1 August 2024. He commended me for being punctual. At the time, I didn't even know who he was until school reopened on 6 August and he was introduced during the Staff Wellbeing session. Those words still linger in my mind and guide me daily. Naturally, you feel sad when your boss is leaving, but to immortalise his memory I will work hard and discharge my duties effectively and efficiently. I pray the good Lord leads him in his new adventure. He will forever be remembered as the first principal I worked with in my teaching journey. Wishing him success and happiness in his next chapter—it has been a privilege working under his leadership! **Emmanuel Asirifi Effah, Staff**





What excites me most is remembering the many ways Dr Ken touched my experience here. He was not only a principal but also an educator, a parent figure, and a mentor. I often smile when I think about the many trips I made back to his office because I was still trying to catch his Australian accent. Even though I came to rely on emails to be sure I got the full message, those extra visits turned into moments that made working with him memorable and full of warmth. My concern is how deeply I will feel his absence. He brought a calm strength and steady wisdom that shaped the way we worked and learned together. Without him, there will be a gap that cannot easily be replaced, because he carried not just the title of principal but the heart of a guide and mentor. What is important for me is to say thank you with all sincerity. Thank you for the encouragement, the guidance, and the patience you showed in both big and small ways. Thank you for reminding us that leadership can be kind as well as firm, but not hard. You leave behind not just a legacy of policies and plans, but of people who are stronger and better because of you. **Diana Agyapomaa Asante, Staff**

Dr Ken has really impacted me with his punctuality and with his concern that extended beyond the work environment. He reminded us all that when work is over, family is what we return to. His leaving feels abrupt—life can sometimes be unpredictable. I will always miss him for his selflessness, his sense of organisation, and his willingness to communicate openly even in disagreement. I will forever remember you for your support during the darkest days in my life. May the good Lord grant you journey mercies and strengthen you to stand firm with your family. Till we meet again somewhere in life—stay safe, as you always wished us. **Edward Kumah-Noi, Staff**





your sacrifices—both noticed and unacknowledged—and for your selfless dedication, because it felt like a part of you, not just a job. May God continue to bless you and take care of you and all that you love. Bonne chance! **Vanessa Elorm Fiador, Staff**

I have not been here for long, but you have already taught me so much about punctuality and time management. What if I have a challenge tomorrow on ManageBac—who will help me? Thank you so much, Dr Ken, for the warm welcome and the help you gave me when I had difficulty logging in to ManageBac and AssessPrep. I wish you all the best as you leave. **Millicent Mensah, Staff**

Dr Darvall has inspired me through his humility, discipline, and the respect he shows to every member of staff, regardless of role. His positive impact on the school community has been clear in the way he encourages safety, order, and teamwork. One quality I admire greatly is that he is very time-conscious, which has influenced many of us to be more punctual and efficient in our duties. Personally, I have learned from his example of leadership and dedication, which motivates me to approach my work with pride and commitment. What concerns me most is that we will miss his strong presence and steady leadership on campus. His time consciousness, professionalism, and daily interactions—even in simple greetings—and the trust he placed in us as security personnel created a sense of unity and respect. His



departure will bring change, but his positive influence will remain with us. I want to thank Dr Darvall sincerely for his respect, kindness, and time consciousness, which set a good example for both staff and students. His leadership has left a lasting mark on the school, and I wish him every success, good health, and happiness in his next chapter. He will always be remembered with gratitude. **Reuben Amanortey, Staff**

Thank you, Dr Ken, for always making us feel your presence. Your humility and warm smile brightened my day, especially when I saw you walking to the sports complex with PYP students. I worry that I may not see you or hear from you again, unless I send you an email, and that makes me sad. I'll miss your accent, your vocabulary, and the way I always learned a new word from your emails. Thank you for being so kind, for

departure will bring change, but his positive influence will remain with us. I want to thank Dr Darvall sincerely for his respect, kindness, and time consciousness, which set a good example for both staff and students. His leadership has left a lasting mark on the school, and I wish him every success, good health, and happiness in his next chapter. He will always be





It's been barely two months since I joined the TIS family, and I have been genuinely inspired by Dr Ken's commitment to creating a warm and welcoming environment. His eagerness to greet every member of the school community with a smile, even from afar, fosters a strong sense of belonging. I truly feel at home here, and it's a testament to his leadership. Dr Ken's absence will be felt, as his strong leadership and guidance have been invaluable. I am committed to upholding the high standards he has set and ensuring that the values he has instilled in us continue to thrive. It's crucial for me to remember the principles Dr Ken has taught us: to be punctual, to remain committed to our roles, and to support one another as a team. I promise to honour these lessons and ensure they continue to resonate

within the TIS community. I wish Dr Ken all the best even as he takes leave of us to be with his family in his home country. We will miss you greatly! **Samuel Sakyi-Addo, Staff**



In my first interview, I mentioned being apprehensive about working at TIS because I wanted to work in industry. You told me I would probably teach beyond my probationary term and become a guidance counsellor. Today, I have not only earned my Master's in Counselling Psychology, but I am also on my way to becoming a licensed psychologist and completing my Master's of Education. Thank you for the "hex" you cast on me. I had seen you a couple of times at dawn on your way to your office and always wondered if you were just a chronic workaholic. I now understand it was to

talk to family and to work hard for family. You have demonstrated the model of a leader and father that the world desperately needs today. I pray that you get back a thousandfold whatever you poured into TIS. God bless you. **Mishio Alhassan Nathaniel, Staff**



Dear Dr Ken, when you shared your decision, I realised that although I always knew this day would come, I was not prepared for it. Perhaps we are never truly ready for goodbyes. Since losing my mother, I have found farewells difficult to handle, but as you said, it is not a goodbye—only an *au revoir*.

Your decade at TIS has left a legacy that will echo for years to come. Under your leadership, I have grown in ways I never imagined. I have spoken at international conferences, written the foreword to your second book, *The Teaching Guarantee: Making a Difference*, and earned an M.Ed., all while navigating the demands of my role and personal challenges. These are milestones I never thought possible, yet they happened because you consistently believed in me and encouraged me. You were a great support to our children while they were at TIS, always reminding Sarah and David of their potential and encouraging them to embrace opportunities and overcome challenges. Thank you.

Al Zahra College is truly fortunate to have you return. I know you will continue to inspire and transform lives there, just as you have done here. Please be assured that your impact at TIS will remain in our hearts and our work. Thank you for this journey, your leadership, and for making such a profound difference.

### My three things:

- **What excites me:** *Jan, Holly, Rowan, Toddy, Bella, Harrison*, and your whole family will have you back near them. They deserve to spend time with you. Oh yes, they deserve you. Specifically, Jan. I look forward to meeting her in person one day. Kwame and I may visit you, so stay tuned. The doors you opened for me, the valuable lessons I learned, and the confidence you nurtured in me to believe I could make a difference as I continue to learn and grow.
- **What concerns me:** You leave behind very big shoes to fill. My hope is that we can remain faithful to the culture of integrity, compassion, and high standards you have built, and continue to nurture a community where values guide everything we do.
- **What is important:** Life moves in cycles, and each cycle is purposeful. When we fulfil the purpose, it ends. It is important to stay focused on what matters, reflect on the lessons, cherish the memories, and continue this precious journey called life.



With deep gratitude,

*Au revoir. Até logo.*

**Surama King – CAS & Events Coordinator**





Dear Dr Ken, The CASSA office may have been the most visited place by you... and that is such an honour for the entire team. You shared prompt feedback with us and constantly challenged CASSA to grow. The **ASA – After School Activities-** was very close to your heart, and the **4 Pillars** became our anchor under your leadership.

Through **Service**, you led by example, purchasing students' work to support their projects

and donating all proceeds from your three books to student-led service initiatives. It was clear how deeply you cared for the wellbeing of others, especially those less fortunate than we are.

Through **Culture**, you celebrated every expression of creativity, whether in music performances, the school play, or other events. You were always captivated by the array of talents our students showcased and never missed an opportunity to cheer them on.

Through **Sports**, you promoted and supported every activity with commitment and consistency. As Patron of the Swimming Club, your presence was a constant source of inspiration, always there, encouraging, and reminding us of the value of dedication and discipline.

Through **Adventure**, you stood firmly behind the DoEIA (Duke of Edinburgh's International Award), believing in the life skills and resilience it nurtures in our students. You signed the partnership with HOSA and DoEIA, ensuring new opportunities. You embraced every expedition, and your joy was evident as you shared in our students' reflections.

The CASSA team will feel your absence deeply. We will miss your daily visits, your encouragement, and the way you lived out the spirit of our programmes. Over the past decade, each of us has grown under your leadership and guidance.



Thank you, Dr Ken. Your “favourites”: *Mawuli, Abigail, Grace, Joshua, Bernice, and Mama Su*, will miss you dearly. We will continue to make you proud, and the F&F will live on.

God bless you. May He continue to watch over you. Don't forget your **CASSA Chaos...** you called us the engine, the heartbeat of TIS; thank you.

**Our three things to you:** *We Love You.*

*The CASSA Team - (Abigail, Grace, Bernice, Joshua, Mawuli, Mama Su)*



Dr. Ken, your dedication to bringing out the best in those around you has truly inspired me over the years. I have greatly benefited from your guidance and mentorship, and I am deeply grateful for the invaluable lessons I have learnt from you.

I am still getting used to the thought of your departure. I will truly miss the *3 Things* you always shared weekly at assembly and the nuggets of wisdom you personally shared with me. I will cherish those memories.

I wish you a warm farewell and all the best in your future endeavours. Enjoy every moment with your family. As you go back to your village, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your leadership, dedication, and the love you shared. Your impact on my life and on the school community will be remembered for years to come. May your new chapter be filled with happiness,

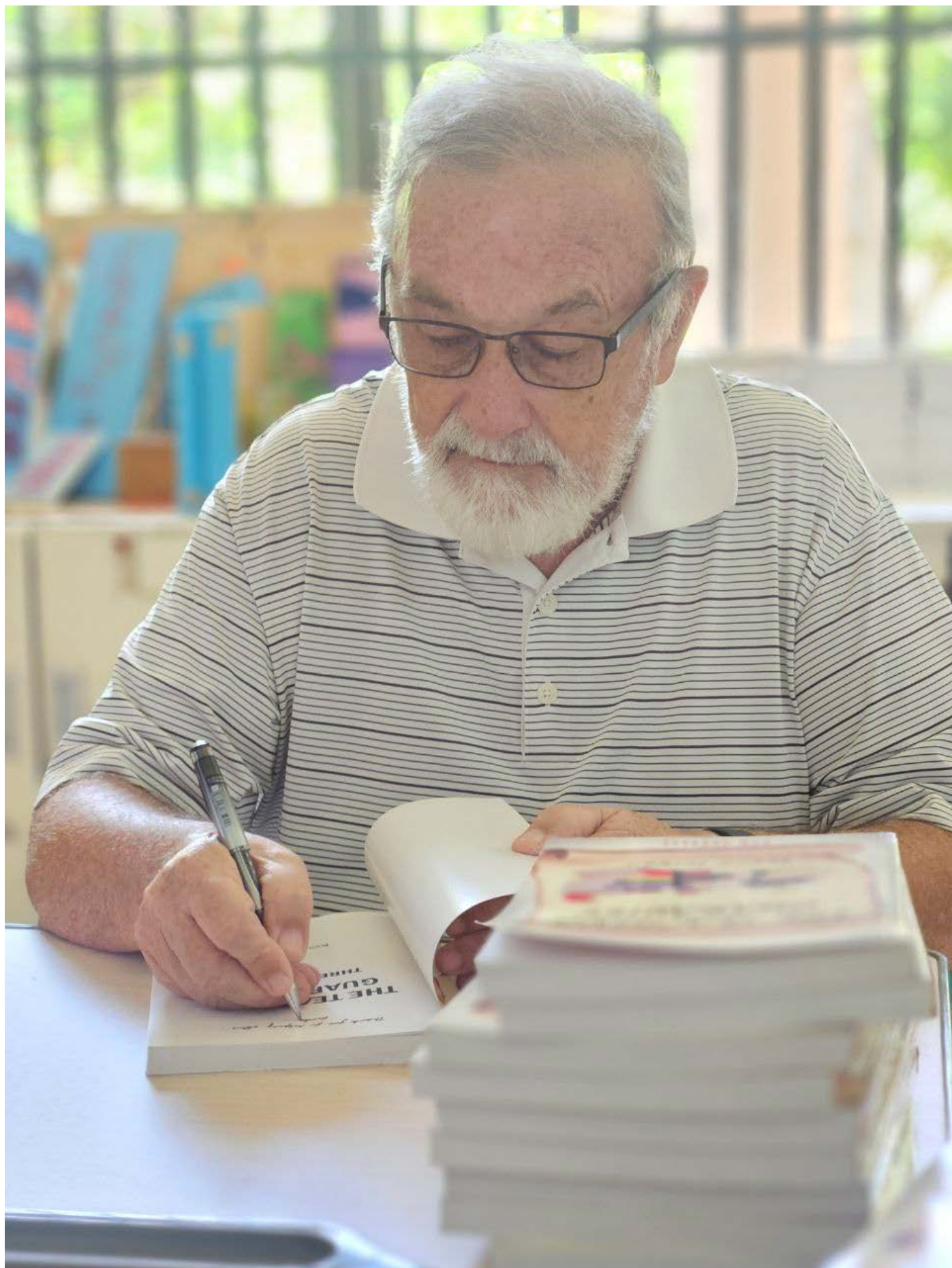
good health, and God's favour. I wish you peace, love, and joy. You will be deeply missed. **Setor Adih – Staff**































































# Change <sup>the</sup> World Through Service

## #Make a Difference





Thank you,  
TIS Family.

I will miss  
you.

Dr Ken.

# **TIS INTEGRITY Code**

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

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





