



TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2015,

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

Welcome to the new academic year 2015/16. We are excited to have our new students and parents/guardians in Grade 7, 8 and 9 join the TIS Family.

We also extend a warm welcome to our IB1 parents whose wards have joined us to commence their IB journey.

The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging and rigorous 2-year programme that provides our students with an internationally recognised and respected school exit credential. The DP is respected and favoured by the leading universities based on the success of DP graduates in their tertiary studies. I invite you to be involved in supporting them

through all the steps they will take along this journey. We will be organizing a series of meetings to assist you in supporting them in their desire to gain admission to universities of their choice and fulfill their dreams.

You will be notified of such events in our monthly newsletters and weekly bulletins, as well as via email or phone text message. There will be follow up notes available for those parents who are unable to attend.

One important goal this year is to ensure regular communication with parents about events, activities and updates. The new weekly bulletin is one means of ensuring timely communication. ManageBac access for parents

will be enabled within the next four weeks, so that parents of students in Grades 11 and/or 12 will be able monitor their son's/daughter's progress throughout the year. These parents will receive a welcome email when access is available.

Please note that the preferred means of communication will be email. If this limits communication in some circumstances, then please notify Miss Bijoux so that we can arrange an alternative strategy.

It has been so pleasing to meet many former TIS students, our Alumni, when they visit the school to say hello. Each of them demonstrate why a TIS education is so special. Responsible,

successful, thinkers, leaders, service and family-oriented are the similar attributes that each of our Alumni demonstrate. We are so proud of our Alumni and their achievements post-TIS. I extend my personal invitation to them to visit us at any time they are within the area, as we are always happy to see them.

Yes, TIS is an extremely busy school. There are regular opportunities for parents to participate in school activities. However, I appreciate that, in this 24/7 world in which we live, it is impossible for parents to attend all activities. In the case of our international parents, it is unrealistic to attend many events. Hopefully, the TIS calendar assists parents in scheduling their participation to a variety of events that help form the TIS experience.

Dr Ken Darvall

HEAD OF BOARDING CORNER

Word of Thanks to all parents who took their time and came on visiting Sunday 30th August. It was nice to see the students happy and enjoyed the food with their parents and siblings.

Gentle reminder to all parents about Weekend at home on the 19-21 September. Please do pick up your children from 8am with the exception of the IB1 students as they will have CAS trip with the CAS coordinator.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 12 September Saturday at 6 a.m. as you join in the Health Walk.
Thank you

Mrs. Thelma Dekuku
Head of Boarding.

NO COOKED FOOD ON NON-VISITING DAYS

Parents are kindly reminded that cooked food in any form is not allowed on non-visiting days. Please do not conceal cooked food in the supplies you drop off at the gate for your children. Help us teach our students to abide by rules wherever they may find themselves.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER.

Dear Principal,

It is with great pleasure that I write to inform you that your former student **Ann Lorraine Owusu** has gained an **Upper Second Class Honors Degree** on our **MChem Pharmaceutical Chemistry** course at the University of Leicester this summer. This is a wonderful achievement and my colleagues and I are delighted and proud, as I am sure you and your staff will be also.

You can find full details of the Chemistry Department here at Leicester on our website, which is regularly updated with items of interest to schools and sixth form colleges [see: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/chemistry/>]

Yours sincerely,
Emma Raven/Head of Department



CREATIVE WRITERS CONFERENCE

Dear Parent,

Does your child love to write stories, poems, or song lyrics? Does he or she perhaps have a dream of becoming a screenwriter for a movie? Or do you want to expose your child to the aesthetic beauty of writing? If you want any of these for your child, then the TIS Creative Writing Workshop is the answer.

Tema International School will be hosting its second annual Creative Writers' Workshop on October 30 – 31, 2015. The workshop aims at inculcating writing skills in high school students, and enhancing the skills for students who already have the passion for writing. The theme for this year's conference is *Growing Tomorrow's Writers Today*.

Last year, the participants developed and improved their writing skills and gained confidence as writers in fiction, poetry, memoirs, newspaper articles, song lyrics etc. The workshop also produced an anthology of the participants' works which is titled *Whispers: Creative Expressions*.

Please encourage your child to be part of this great event to learn different writing techniques while having fun with dozens of other high school students from around the Greater Accra Region!

For more information about the workshop, contact Jeremiah Essuman at jeremiah.essuman@tis.edu.gh

IBDP UPDATE

Dear Parents/ Guardians,
Greetings,

Time flies.... How else can I explain the month which has just passed by? A big thanks to every member of the extended TIS family for making me comfortable and giving me a wonderful opportunity of shaping the destinies of these talented students.

My immediate professional goal at TIS is to ensure 100% diploma results for the batch of 2016. My team is all revved up to achieve the same. You will receive periodic updates from my office about the measures taken to ensure your ward achieving their personal best. The following are the actions taken last month based on student's feedback.

1. A hostel work schedule has been created and implemented where in a student gets one marked hostel work per day with at least two or more working days to submit the same.

2. Students will be writing a monthly assessment test at every fourth week wherein the test will have a portion of what has been taught in Gr 11 as well as the content taught in the previous 3 weeks. This has been done to ensure periodic revision of the content taught in Gr 11 and prepare

students to face the final exams with confidence. Syllabus for the test will be shared with the students in advance.

3. The internal assessment submission calendar has been reworked in such in a manner wherein there are detailed process based deadlines for each subject instead of mentioning the date for final draft submission. I have also ensured these deadlines are placed in a calendar format ensuring students have a clear picture of deliverables from their end every week. I will share the same with parents and guardians also.

4. We are adopting managebac (<https://tis.managebac.com>) as complete curriculum delivery monitoring portal for IBDP, parents/ Guardians will have access to all the critical information pertaining to their ward's progress on managebac. Parents/ Guardians having difficulty in accessing managebac can contact me for regularizing their access to managebac.

5. Batch of 2016 will be processing their college applications this semester, to facilitate this we have given a two hour slot per week for the same. You can find this time mentioned as CART (Counselling and Research Time) on the time table. In addition to this my office has identified the free time slots of students in the academic week and has shared the same with academic staff and career guidance staff, for them to schedule their interactions without affecting their academic schedule.

6. Extended essay is the next area which has been regularized, Gr 12 will meet their supervisors every week on Thursday between 4 and 5 PM under my monitoring and

supervision. We had the first such session last week and the student feedback of the same is encouraging.

Looking forward to your support in ensuring a wonderful DP experience to your ward and molding them into life-long learners who think globally and act locally. Global citizens who will carry with them the ethos of TIS while living the IB learner profile as **Principled, Balanced and Open-minded knowledgeable communicators and thinkers**, who are **caring inquirers** and smart **risk-takers** (the ones in block letters are the IB learner profiles...) .

Please feel free to contact me for any clarifications, my communication details are given below

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IBDP Coordinator,
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CAS UPDATES

New Students orientation –: New students and student's leaders were welcomed into the New Year with an orientation, followed by a trip to Prampram. They were engaged in a cleanup exercise, football match, games and a bonding time. In TIS we create opportunities for our Student leaders to develop their leadership skills and bond with their peers. *We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have commitment to Service and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and the world around us.*

CAS/CO-CURRICULAR

activities for the semester: We started on a good note; students have been engaged in a variety of activities after school. What's new? **Taekwondo, Swimming Club and Zumba Classes.** The enthusiasm is contagious on Campus! Let's encourage our children to be engaged and challenged.

IB1 CAS new guide: CAS is a Core component of the IB program. Even though points are not awarded, an IB student who does not meet the requirements of CAS will not be awarded his/her IB Diploma. The New CAS guide has been rewritten with more clarity. Clear emphasis has been made on the 3 strands of CAS, and guidelines for CAS have been made more evident. The following items outline the changes:

- ✓ CAS renamed **Creativity, Activity and Service**
- ✓ Learning outcomes reviewed and rewritten, there are 7 outcomes instead of 8.
- ✓ CAS activity renames CAS experience
- ✓ CAS Journal renamed CAS portfolio
- ✓ Greater guidance on reflection provided – Reflection is a very important aspect of student's experiences.
- ✓ Introduction of a CAS cycle for service learning: The stages are:

Investigation, Preparation, Reflection and demonstration of results.

- ✓ CAS no longer dwells on hours or points scored; however there is the need to show evidence of one's involvement and achievements. Duration of CAS is 18 months. Self-initiated projects and at list one project with the 3 strands of CAS is a must. At the end students are asked to present a concrete evidence of their experience: a performance or product.



Health walk: Coming up on the 12th of September, starting point TIS gate 1(Hostels gate) through Community 22. All parents are encouraged to support their wards' color group (**Yellow Outeniqua, Green Wisteria, Blue Cedar, and Red Kigelia**). There will be light refreshment after the walk, a great opportunity to bond within school community

Color Group assembly: On the 7th of September new students and staff will be welcomed into their Color Groups - **Yellow**

Outeniqua, Green Wisteria, Blue Cedar, Red Kigelia. New criteria for points will be adopted this academic year. Math, Singing, Sports Inter color competitions are coming up. Make sure you get your color group Shirt and cheer your color on.

Fun Fair – The Comeback: The IB 2s and IB 1s are sharing a common project while doing the TIS Annual Fun Fair. A range of activities will be happening on campus with the aim of raising money for a project in aid of Children with Congenital Heart disorder. Parents of the IB classes and school community are encouraged to support this initiative. More information in the parent's bulletin.

Service learning - IB trip. The IB 1 will have their first Service learning trip on the 19th and 20th of September. The students will be engaging in a range of activities such as; Literacy classes, teaching the students of the Graceland Academy in Akorlikope; designing teaching aid materials for the Classrooms; making blocks and painting the classrooms; cooking; etc. This is another opportunity for collaboration with the Akorlikope community. More details will be sent to all parents of the IB 1 Class.

Student Initiated Projects

Akorlikope Water Pump: Derek Bonsu (IB2), on one of his visits to the village of Akorlikope for the **'Liter of Light'** project, came

across a borehole (constructed by Alumni of TIS) which was out of service due to a broken pump. Realizing that the pump could be restored to continue to provide clean water for residents of the village, Derek took the initiative of seeking funds for the purchase of a new pump. With donations from family, friends and the African Regent Hotel (major sponsor), Derek has been able to raise an amount of: Gh¢ 10,000.00 for the purchase of the manual pump (pump cost of: Gh¢ 7,750.00) which has already been installed and will be commissioned on Thursday, 3rd September 2015. A shed will also be built over the pump to protect the people from the hot sun. TIS students taking initiative and making a difference. Derek, the TIS community is so proud of you!

Emmanuella Kukua Bennin (IB2) CAS project: Emmanuella has realized that schools are being built around the country. She has also become conscious of the fact that the kids, for whom these schools are built, actually lack proper clothing and stationery to encourage them to attend classes. It is therefore against this backdrop that she is eager to make a difference by donating clothes, shoes and books to the school children of Akorlikope and other communities. Let's support Emmanuella's initiative by donating items such as: Used cloths, books and stationaries. Kindly drop your donations in

Kind at the School Gate 2 to support this noble initiative.

Liter of Light Ghana is a sub-unit of the **Liter of Light Organization in USA**. The NGO plans to supply homes in rural areas with eco-friendly, sustainable and cost-friendly lights. It is a very simple mechanism and the main tools needed to make these lights are bottles, water and bleach. The device functions like a deck prism and its ability to work is explained by the physics Law of Refraction. To supply light in the evenings however, we need a small solar panel which costs Gh¢ 350.00 per unit.

A pilot run was held at the end of July and the outcome was amazing. The team plans to extend their project and provide 100 homes with these lights by December.

The project was founded by TIS Alumni namely; **Elikem Tettey Tamaklo, Abraham Asante, Hornam Kumahor (IB Class of 2012), Elom Tettey Tamaklo (IB Class of 2015), and Adjoa Kwakwa (IG Class of 2012)**, while the logo of the **Liter of Light Ghana** was created by **Ambavi Longe (IB Class of 2012)**. Students from the current IB 2 and IB 1 classes are fully engaged with the project.

Thank you all for your massive support last Visiting Sunday; an amount of Gh¢ 2,577 was raised towards this project. Thumbs up to Mr. Alex Tay and Mr. Richmond

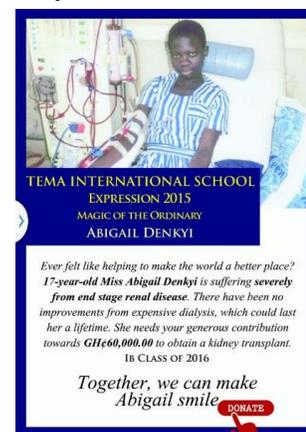
Dzongor for being such committed Patrons.

Donation of Table and Chairs for the Graceland Academy in Akorlikope: A set of 30 school tables and chairs was donated to the Graceland Academy last week. Another set of 30 will be delivered come Thursday, September 3rd, 2015. We are doing our bit to make the world a better place!

Abigail Denkyi's Guardian Mr. George Abbeyquaye visited the school last week to share some great news: Abigail has a compatible donor and the transplant will be done in November, 2015.

She has undergone a minor surgery and she is getting stronger for her main surgery. The IB Class of 2016 wishes to express their gratitude to all those who contributed towards this project.

They are pleased to inform you that so far, an amount of Ghc 15,838,78 has been raised to support Abigail Denkyi.



***Abigail Denkyi**, a 17 year old girl suffering from 'end stage renal disease' and who needs a kidney transplant.

CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

IGCSE Drama in TIS

The best lessons in life are learnt through playing (play). Best memories and life changing experiences are experiential. The greatest men and women who ever walked the face of this earth were creative and imaginative. That is what Drama in TIS aims at achieving in the lives of our learners. The application of dramatic principles and skills is fundamental in the total development of a child. We teach creativity, team work, innovation, confidence, research and perseverance. We give those who have the desire for performance, tools to access and harness their skills to tell and present their stories.

IB Theatre

A gathering of different individuals from different backgrounds with different ideologies is a landmine for idea creation, exploration and implementation. Theatre in IB is a practical subject that gives learners the tools to discover through experimentation, the taking of risk and the presentation of ideas to others. It results in the development of both Theatrical and life skills; the building of confidence, creativity and working collaboratively. Theatre is a new program offered at SL to harness and develop the creative skills of our learners desiring in challenging

themselves artistically and innovatively.

Black Box: There is a well-furnished and fully equipped “black box” studio almost completed to give students involved in Drama and Theatre the space to explore and experiment their ideas.



BLACK OUT!!

The creative Arts Department in conjunction with the student representative council presents a social, interactive and performative event dubbed **Black Out**. We are gathering as a family; both staff and students to share and socialize. With the complement of the whole student body, we will like to use this event to meet, play and share food, music, games and laughs to set the tone for the months ahead. It will also be a means for the entertainment team to raise funds to support entertainment efforts.

The set up for the evening will be a satirical nightlife in the streets of Tema and Accra without any electrically powered form of illumination nor sound. With lanterns and other forms of light source, the evening will be characterized by live acoustic music, games, and street wise

snacks like kelewele, fried yam, coconut juice, roasted corn and plantain etc. All this will be organized by the students with support from the teachers.

School Play Audition: School play audition: Coming up on the 13th of September. Students will be involved in a range of activities to showcase their creativity in music, dance and drama.

This year the TIS Drama Club is staging: **SARAFINA, by Bongeni Ngema** - Sarafina is a story based on the struggle for freedom by the black majority in Apartheid South Africa. Set in Soweto, Sarafina, a young black South African school girl battles with her friends to understand the concept around freedom; what it means to be free as well as what it takes to be free. The thematic concerns around “freedom” will be interrogated and showcased in this energetic and highly versatile production. It is a total Theatre full of music, dance, drama, design and spectacle.

Recital Colloquium

This year’s Recital Colloquium happening on the 18th of September is going to showcase a mix medium of recitals. There is going to be blends of genres and artistic expressions, creatively couched and exhibited by our students. It is a platform created to allow students explore their talents in a mini concert by performing pieces of compositions to the school community. This has also been a tool to build the interest of students

in music and to propel them towards their coursework. Over the years, solo and duet performances on various instruments have been featured as well as ensemble performances.

BIRTHDAYS

Finally, TIS would like to wish a Happy Birthday to our dear students, staff, parents and guardians whose birthdays are celebrated in September.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We do welcome your comments and suggestions on how to make this newsletter more relevant to you. Do not hesitate to contact info@tis.edu.gh if you have any queries or concerns.

Warm Regards
Dr. Ken Darvall
Principal



September 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Introduction to coursework- Pre-IG & Grade 9	IB1 students arrive by 5pm Financial Aid meeting - Parents of IB2s	Beginning of semester thanksgiving service
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
IB1 Orientation begins	SMT meeting	IB1 Orientation ends; Distribution of books (IB1)	Classes begin for IB1 students	IB1 CAS sign up "In a cool seat with the Principal"	Health Walk ACT	School play audition
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
HOD meeting	CAS - IB 1 begins		Math Day	Recital Colloquium	Weekend @ home begins Service Learning Trip for IB 1	Service Learning Trip for IB 1
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
National Founders' Day Public holiday Students return from weekend @ home	Classes resume		Staff meeting	Creative Arts field trip for IB students	Parent information Day Hostel Cleanup & General Inspection	
28	29	30				
Inter-hostel basketball, squash & badminton competition		HOD meeting Inter-colour Math evening				

Creativity, Activity & Service in TIS



TIS Alumni, students and some staff installing lights and fixing a borehole in Akorlikope School

