

Newsletter



Terms 3 & 4, 2018

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear learners, parents, staff and friends

As I reflect on the past six months, the following proves that it has truly been a successful time:

The school is now 6 years old and it is with much appreciation that we thank Niel and Yolanda for their vision and for allowing the rest of us to be part thereof.

It went well with the exams and the results are a true reflection of the dedication and effort of every learner, teacher and parent. We know that the curriculum is demanding and tough, but after the promotion meeting, we were convinced that our learners did benefit from the learning process during this year.

It was an enriching experience to work with a motivated and dedicated staff, to have experienced the extra mile they went with the learners, and to see how they stuck to our core business of teaching and promoting the school.

To have worked with open-minded children, who also reach out to the community and contribute to campaigns such as Breast Cancer Awareness on Pink Friday and Casual Day, was an inspiring experience. The Entrepreneur's Day for the Checkpoint 3 learners was also a huge success with a lot of original ideas, fun and food. There were also two field trips for the learners (to Gold Reef City and a day at the movies at Menlyn). These outings were enjoyed tremendously by the learners.

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The highlight of the 3rd term was the elegant school leavers function held at The Pretoria Country Club. It was a huge privilege to be associated with TBA on that night.

It is with huge relief that we can announce that all except two staff members will still be part of TBA in 2019, and that we can continue with a dedicated and professional team, and build on the high standard with which we finish off in 2018.

Thank you, parents, for your continuous support to your children and the school. I am impressed by the learners' focus on their academic work. It is because of you that they are successful. We are working on a few changes to streamline the academic process for the learners in 2019 so that they may benefit from it in years to come.

We are convinced that when the results are available on the 10 January, all of our learners who did the external exams will have the sweet taste of success and victory as a result of their commitment in the academic world.

Enjoy the summer break with your loved ones and have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Rooie Robbertse
Principal



News from the Phase Heads

Checkpoint Phase Head

‘Success is to love, to laugh and to inspire children’ ~ Anonymous

Dear Checkpoint learners and parents

At the end of the academic year it is always good to pause for a moment and reflect on the past.

It was a pleasant experience to have an interview with every learner in the school, to hear their opinions about their experiences at school and to get to know them better in general. This allowed for a more personal approach when I saw them on the school grounds.

I am convinced that they benefitted from the month of extra contact time with the teachers and that they will achieve the academic results they deserve.

Thank you, parents, for the support you gave your child and the school.

My best wishes follow them during the holiday season, and we hope to see you back in good health and spirit in 2019.

Mr Rooie Robbertse
Phase Head: Checkpoint

IGCSE Phase Head

Congratulations on another successful term, IGCSE's!

I am extremely proud of all the hard work the IG's have put in this term. I have seen students put in many sleepless nights, studying or preparing for lessons. I am, however, sad that I have to say goodbye to my IGCSE 2's as they will not be in my phase next year. However, I will still be there for them for moral support.

Thank you IGCSE's for making this year an amazing year, for always volunteering, always coming to me for help and always being very honest with me.

Keep up the good work!

‘We'll never know our full potential unless we push ourselves to find it’ ~ Travis Rice

Ms Sunay van der List
Phase Head: IGCSE

AS and A Level Phase Head

Dear AS/AL students

The end of the year is always the scariest for an AS/AL student. The AS/AL examinations are unique in that they can make or break your entire lifetime's schooling. However long you have been at school, it all culminates in these final exams. Because of this, the stress can be overwhelming.

Remember that over a decade of preparation has gone in to this, so you are ready even if it doesn't feel like it. Stress is only useful if it helps you to focus. If it distracts you, you don't have time for it right now. If worst comes to worst, rewriting next year is an option. It isn't ideal, but it happens. Many a student that walked out of TBA with top marks did so on their second try.

If you need some support during this hectic time, remember that the school has a counsellor and several teachers who know all about stress management. You can also come and chat with me if you want some tips on stress ignorance (ignoring stress until it gives up and goes away), or if you just need a hug.

This is also an important time for university applications, so make sure you get your predicted marks from me if you need them and do your research thoroughly.

You have all been incredible this year, and I wish you only the best in your future endeavours.

With love and warmth,

Stéf Smit

Phase Head: AS and A level



News from Hampstead House

A day at Gold Reef City

It is quite amazing that people pay tons of money to be tossed through the air like vegetables in some kind of food processor. This was the great idea of our hostel students for our termly outing: visit the great theme park of Johannesburg, Gold Reef City, and come back in one piece and not chopped up in to a thousand little nauseas pieces. Challenge accepted!

We started the day very early, with one goal in mind: tick every single ride off our bucket lists. This could only be done by being in line before the actual park even opened – and so it was. The main gate opened and we ran straight for the most popular ride in Gold Reef; the legendary Anaconda, a lightning fast rollercoaster. What a way to start your day! Better than Berocca, I'd say.

Nothing could stop us after that. We ploughed through the park, riding every single moving machine in sight. We also dabbled in a bit of culture by visiting the mining museum and watching the 4D short film experience. It was all-in-all a very productive and fun day that we will never forget; definitely something to write home about.

Our oldest, A-level student and big brother of Hampstead House, Shali Neumbo, will be leaving us at the end of this year. I was fortunate enough to get to know Shali this year. His exuberant, positive and youthful energy sparked life in us all at Hampstead House. He will sincerely be missed and we all wish him well for the next stage of his life.

Furthermore, we wish the rest of our hostel students the best of luck with the end of the year exams and hope to see them again next year.

Andries van Tonder
House Parent



Staff news

Congratulations

We wish our **newly weds**, Mrs Lindy Koch (née Hartman) and Mrs Rozel Pullinger (née Redelinghuys), congratulations, and many years of joy, love and adventure!

Congratulations also goes to Mr Andries van Tonder and Miss Caitlin Brown who will share the responsibility as **Checkpoint phase heads** in 2019, and to Johnell Pelser who is our new **Head of Department for Second Languages**.



Farewell
We will miss you!

Farewell

We bid farewell to Mrs Carolina Christians and Mrs Rozel Pullinger. We wish them all the very best in their new ventures!

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Miss Annika Bouwman (geography), Mr Jeanclaude Loh Yai (French) and Mr Warwick Sales (combined sciences, physics, chemistry and biology).



Student news

Outings

The IGCSE's all went to Gold Reef City on 19 September. They really enjoyed it and a lot of new friendships blossomed. The reason for the outing was for the IGCSE's to bond with each other and with some of their IG teachers, and I can happily say that this was very successful. The IGCSE's are already talking about next year's outing.

Thank you to all the IGCSE's for being awesome, and to the teachers who went along and helped. The Checkpoints all went to Menlyn Maine to watch a movie and eat at the food court afterwards.

The Checkpoints were excited about their movie choice and had a lot to say about the movie afterwards. We all went and ate some food at their chosen food outlet, and afterwards we played some games in the entertainment area. This was an extremely successful day.

The Checkpoints really enjoyed it and some new friendships blossomed. Thank you to all the Checkpoints and all the teachers. We can't wait for next year's outing.



Ms Sunay van der List

Entrepreneurship Day

The Checkpoint 3's took part in Entrepreneurship Day on 31 August 2018. Overall, it majority of students made a profit. I am surprised at the type of products the students sold, as they were not the usual products one would expect. Majority of stalls sold food and sweets, but Pierre, and Bronwen and Ewan had games to play which were very popular among the students. Jordan and Fortune had a games room to play PlayStation games.

I have to admit, in terms of popularity, Bronwen and Ewan took the cake with their game. The teachers, who kindly volunteered, were put in the stocks, and jelly or a sponge filled with water was thrown at their heads. The students really enjoyed this.

I am extremely proud of the entire Checkpoint 3 group for all the hard work that they have put in to this day.

Ms Sunay van der List



Outreach



TBA was involved in various charity events this year. Casual Day, the Pink Drive, the pad drive and the Immanuel Shoebox project are worth mentioning.

We asked learners to volunteer to donate R10 to get a Casual Day sticker. For the pink drive, learners volunteered to pay R10 to wear something pink on a Friday at TBA. This was for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The pad drive was a huge success as TBA collected 652 packets of pads and tampons that were donated to two orphanages of 16 girls each. Both these orphanages will only need to buy pads again in 2020.

We are currently involved with the Immanuel Shoebox project where every learner and teacher has the opportunity to choose a specific child from an orphanage according to age and gender. A shoebox is then filled by them with a few gifts and goodies.

Each box contains at least 5 items of the following suggestions:

1. Something to hold and to have
2. Something to wear
3. Something for school
4. Something for personal hygiene
5. Something to play with
6. Something sweet
7. Something special



The project offers an opportunity for 4000 boxes to be packed and we have already contributed 102 boxes.

The boxes have to be completed and handed in to Miss van der List before 22 November.

If you are interested in packing a shoebox, or if you want to donate any items, please contact Miss van der List at sunay.vdlist@britishacademy.co.za. Any help would be much appreciated.


For persons with disabilities



THE BRITISH ACADEMY

Prepare to hold your every breath and
sit at the edge of your seats

as the acting talent of TBA takes the
stage on the 1st of June 2018

Whodunit? Does that give you a clue?

Watch this space as we reveal the
production of the year...

Thinking Schools South Africa



2018 has been a year of many changes and challenges at TBA, and with everything going on it saddens me to admit that our Thinking Schools initiatives were placed on the proverbial back-burner. This stands to change in 2019, because at TBA we are committed to shaping our students into independent, critically engaged thinkers capable of negotiating the turbulent currents of this age of information saturation.

We have already scheduled several workshops throughout the 2019 school year where we will train all our teachers in the various thinking languages we are implementing.

Given their success in 2018, we also plan on having a few interactive workshops with the parents, where you as a parent can learn to use these languages at home with your child. Making thinking visible and improving it is something that should happen at school and at home, and we plan to give you as parents all the tools you need to play your part.

The importance of parental participation in creating a school as a thinking community cannot be stressed enough. 2019 will be an exciting year with many transformative milestones when it comes to TBA's journey towards becoming an accredited Thinking School, and we look forward to taking you on this journey right along with us.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the Thinking Schools initiative, or would like to participate even more actively, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Mr Stéf Smit



Professional development

From June to August, I underwent a ten-week training course with Cambridge University to become accredited as a course leader qualified to run a professional development diploma in teaching and learning at The British Academy. This entitles us to train our teachers in-house as a recognised Cambridge Professional Development Centre; one of only four centres in the country. The full diploma will run over two years, starting in January 2019, and will benefit the school in the following ways:

- * Candidates taking the diploma will learn to be more effectively interactive, reflective, student-centred teachers.
- * All staff will benefit as we plan and deliver our syllabus material, using the reflective teaching method. This method requires teachers to reflect continually on the effectiveness of their classroom delivery and to assess the progress of their students' learning on a day-to-day basis.
- * The diploma will enhance the reputation of the academy, lifting its academic prestige and ensuring a steady improvement in the delivery of the Cambridge curriculum.
- * The diploma will help stabilise staff turnover as it will require candidates to agree to commit to The British Academy for several years.
- * Each candidate will be aided by a mentor (a teaching colleague) who will also benefit from engaging in the course material and being involved in teacher observation.

I am very excited by the prospect of running this course next year and experiencing the changes it will bring to the quality of the teaching practice at the academy. In the long-run, we will be able to bring teachers in from the outside for training at The British Academy. This will further raise the academy's prestige and reputation.

Dr Peter Farrands
Vice Principal



Leavers' dinner

A glamorous evening with the stars of TBA, our AS and A level students, took place at the Pretoria Country Club on Friday 21 September.

After a few 'paparazzi' shots on the red carpet and with life-size Oscars, students were treated to a gourmet dinner and entertainment, including heartfelt speeches; an award-giving ceremony; a stellar surprise saxophone performance by one of our star musicians, Bradley Sibiya; and an energetic line dance performed by TBA staff members.

The elegant evening ended in much fun on the dance floor and many giggles from a corner where talented artist, Gary Böttger, sketched caricatures. It was unanimously agreed that this years leavers' dinner was one of the best yet.

TBA wishes all of our AS and A level students the very best in their final exams and in their future endeavours. We know that whatever they choose to do, they will be great.





<u>TERM</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>NO. WEEKS</u>	<u>NO. OF SCHOOL DAYS</u>
<u>ONE</u>	(9th) 14 th Jan – 15 th March	9 weeks	45
<u>TWO</u>	2nd April – 22 nd June	11 weeks	51
<u>THREE</u>	9 th July – 20 th Sept	11 weeks	53
<u>FOUR</u> (External Exams)	1 st Oct – 4 th Dec	10 weeks 5 Academic weeks (CP – IG1)	47

<u>Date</u>	<u>Holiday</u>
1 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
19 April	Good Friday
22 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
1 May	Workers' Day
16 June	Youth Day
17 June	Public holiday
9 August	National Women's Day
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill