Dear Parents,

May I wish you all a very happy New Year and welcome you to a new school term at Tenby International School. This term also marks the start of the first school year of our sister school Sekolah Sri Tenby. Future editions of this newsletter will be circulated to parents of both schools.

New School Staff
In addition to our new colleagues at Sekolah Sri Tenby, we are pleased to welcome the following new staff who join Tenby International School at the start of this term.

Mr Alan Crombie joins us as Deputy Principal. Mr Crombie spent six years as Head of Faculty of Modern Languages and Head of Professional Development at Alice Smith School before moving to Nigeria as vice-principal of a leading international school. Mr Crombie originates from Scotland and obtained a Master’s degree in modern languages at the University of Glasgow before training as a teacher at Nottingham University. Prior to moving to Alice Smith, Mr Crombie taught in the UK and Brunei. We are delighted that Mr Crombie has decided to return to Malaysia with TIS.

Mr Caleb Hewitt Jones will be class teacher of our new year 3 class (3E) which will be opening on 12th January. Mr Hewitt Jones obtained a degree in Primary Education at the University of Melbourne and also holds a Master’s in Educational Psychology from Cornell University. He has gained experience of international teaching in Vietnam, the UK, Qatar and Brunei since beginning his career as a teacher in Australia.

Miss Cheryll Loh is the teacher of our new reception class (RE) opening on 12th January. Ms Loh graduated from the University of Canberra before training in Kindergarten teaching. For the past four years Miss Loh has taught at a local pre-school education centre.

Mr Matthew MacInnes is our new PE teacher. Mr MacInnes has a degree in Physical education from the University of Edinburgh and has been teaching in Scotland since his graduation. He also has experience as a football coach. I am sure that Mr MacInnes will find the weather in Malaysia a little warmer than in Scotland at this time of year!

Mr Steven Williams joins us as teacher of music; a post which, like that for PE, has been vacant since September. Mr Williams hails from the North of England and obtained a degree in music from the Royal Northern College of Music before training as a teacher in Manchester. Mr Williams taught music in the UK before moving to an international school in Thailand from where he joins us to set up the Tenby music programme.

Miss Low Mooi Hong has been appointed as our second teacher of Chinese, yet another post which we were unable to fill last term. Miss Low is a graduate of Dong Hwa University, Taiwan and has previously been teaching in a local private Malaysian Curriculum school. We shall now be able to divide the Chinese classes, to better cater for the range of experience in the language.

Mrs Rachel Ho and Mrs Yap Lai Ken will both be joining the Early Years team as assistant teachers. Mrs Ho is a graduate of La Trobe University and also has a Montessori certificate. Mrs Yap has both a degree and MBA from American universities.

We hope that all our new staff enjoy working at Tenby and have successful careers here. I would also like to thank all our existing staff for the extra commitments they had to take on last term due to our staff shortages.
We are now fully staffed for our existing number of students but would like to appoint further teachers so that we can open additional classes in the primary school. We shall also shortly be starting to recruit the extra teachers we shall need for additional classes and in particular for year 10 from next September.

Senior Staff

The appointment of Alan Crombie as Deputy Principal of TIS will mean that over the next few weeks Jane Kuok will take on the post of Principal. As you are aware, Jane has many years experience of international and British education including experience as Head of the Primary School and Teaching and Learning Advisor at Garden international School. I shall remain as group Director of Education, providing support to my colleagues and advising on the continuing development of the school. We shall also be shortly announcing the appointment of some of our existing teachers to posts of responsibility within the school. I am confident that with an improved management team and the additional teachers we have been able to appoint, we shall be able to move forward rapidly both in developing teaching and learning at TIS as well as introducing a wider range of activities and enhanced holistic education for our students.

School security and access to the school campus

The number of students attending Tenby Schools, Setia-Eco-park has increased from a little over 200 last September to almost 600 at the start of this term. There has of course also been a proportionate increase in the number of school staff.

This larger school community means that we need to review our arrangements for the management of students, especially their arrival and departure. We also need to improve our arrangements to ensure safety and security during the school day.

As a consequence we would ask you all to please note and abide by the following.

• If you bring your children to school by car then wherever possible simply drop them off and leave. There are only a small number of designated car-parking spaces, please do not park in non-designated areas.

• With effect from Monday 19th January, vehicles without Tenby stickers will not be admitted to the school without security checks. If you have not yet got a sticker then please obtain one from the school office as soon as possible and certainly before the 19th.

• We regret that we shall no longer be providing a “breakfast” facility for parents. The cafeteria will now be for school student and staff use only. All parents except those of students in the Early Years Centre are now expected to have left the school campus by 8.00am. Parents of early year students should leave immediately after passing their children in to the care of the Tenby staff.

• If you wish to see any member of the school staff we would ask that wherever possible you make an appointment to do so in advance. The guard-house will have a list of parents and other visitors with appointments at the school each day. All parents and other visitors during the school day should please report to the school reception desk in the Administrative Building.

• All vehicles arriving at the school campus between 8.00am and 1.50pm will be subject to security checks at the guard-house. (Vehicles with Early Years stickers will be permitted to enter the school campus between 8.00am and 8.30 am to drop off their children and again from 1.00pm to pick them up.)

• Identity tags given to “Drivers" are for access, drop-off and pick-up only. Drivers should not leave their vehicles or enter the school buildings or Tenby Square.

• All adults on the school campus will be expected to be wearing identity tags at all times. Anyone not doing so is liable to be questioned by members of the school or security staff.
We appreciate that these arrangements will be inconvenient for some parents, and will make informal contact with the school more difficult for others. However our major concern must be the safe management and security of all the students at the school.

Parent –teacher conferences
The parent-teacher conference for secondary students of TIS will take place on Wednesday 7th January from 6.30 to 9.00pm. This will be an opportunity to meet with your child’s subject teachers. An appointment system will be used, pleased prioritise the teachers that you wish to see so that your child can make appointments for you at the start of the week. The PTC will be held in the Auditorium. We expect students, wearing school uniform, to accompany you on the evening. Please understand that this will be a very busy evening, meetings with teachers will need to be concise. If a longer in depth discussion is required teachers will arrange this with you on a separate occasion.

Parent–teacher conferences for primary students will take place during the week beginning 12th January.

CCA Programme
The CCA programme for last term will continue for the next three weeks for students already enrolled on the programme. A new CCA programme will be introduced after Chinese New Year.

We look forward to a successful term for all our students and teachers.

Best Regards,

Robert Lloyd