Middle Schools Article – Times of the Islands June 2016

TCI Middle School was opened in 2010 as the first true “Middle School” in Providenciales, encompassing Years (grades) 7 to 9. It has since grown to now offer the full ‘High School’ age range (Years 7 – 11), offering an International curriculum based on an adapted British National Curriculum in Years 7 – 9 then the IGCSE course of study in Year 9 – 11. Like BWIC it is a fully accredited exam centre for International GCSE awards enabling students to leave in Year 11 with an internationally recognized qualification. Its central location on Leeward Highway below Richmond Hills offers easy access to the small, comfortable campus. Mark Dunbavand is its founder, principal, and a teacher—a professional who is clearly passionate about education.

He explains, “The school began as a response to the need for more options for an international education after Primary School. We started with only eight students, three in Year 7 and five in Year 8. We have grown steadily; currently with 41 students on roll rising to more than 50 next year. However, we are small by design; there is a maximum of 12 students per year group in order to facilitate individualized learning. With this number, we can give each student individual attention; challenging and stretching the more able as well as supporting those who need it.”

Principal Dunbavand believes that students need to be challenged academically and they should thrive in the right environment. His school clearly offers a calm, familial atmosphere, with highly qualified teachers, all with international experience, teaching their specialist subjects with all the equipment required to “get kids excited” about learning.

Facilities include a well-equipped Science lab for courses in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Multimedia presenters are standard in every room and half of the classrooms have interactive whiteboards. All students are also assigned their own personal netbook/laptop which can be used in all lessons. As the whole school is Wi-fi’d this means that any room can be turned into an ICT lab at any time.

At TCI Middle School, students are very involved in community activities; encompassing community projects through links with DEMA and the recent “TCI Shines” road clean-up campaign. Students are taught responsibility and through the School Council, have a say in the development of the school – including areas to be developed, resources to be bought and even initially in choosing their school uniform!