DAY 1 - WELCOME TO GREECE
On the 10th of July, 2017, a handful of students chosen from each SABIS school around the world arrived at the Titania hotel in Athens, Greece for the Student Life Training Conference (SLTC).
The students came in waves; those who arrived earlier helped the SLCs and those who arrived later hung around meeting new students. In the lobby you could see students who never met before gather and introduce themselves, converse and joke together like they have known each other for ages.

At dinner, students grabbed plates of food and just sat together. You had tables of Germans sitting with Syrians, Koreans sitting with Pakistanis, and Americans with Egyptians.

Once dinner ended, everyone met in the conference room for a small introduction, by our esteemed Mr. Roger, to discuss the curfew and the conference rules followed by a team building exercise to get to know each other better.
The day concluded with some more free time in the lobby, where the students socialized, played games and had some ice-cream! Definitely a day to remember.

DAY 2 - GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND ATHENS
After an amazing and pleasant breakfast, the students were gathered in the conference hall in which Mr. Roger gave the Welcome Address. During the address, he talked about hotel rules, curfew and what he expects from the students. Towards the end of the presentation the theme of the year was disclosed: The Year of Accountability. This was followed by group discussions focusing on implementing accountability in each school's SLO.
After lunch, the students were taken on a city tour around Athens. They saw many ancient buildings and special attractions, including the first ever Olympic Stadium that witnessed the start of the modern Olympics in 1896 and the Botanical Garden in which the students discussed the story of Bill Porter “Door to Door”. During the discussion, the students talked about how the story relates to their SLO’s and their school.

Following the gardens the students witnessed the traditional changing of the guard at the parliament followed by dinner at TGIF. At the restaurant, the students had a wonderful time in which they got the chance to mingle with others and even had the opportunity to dance.
DAY 3 - SLO SESSIONS AND TREASURE HUNT
The third day of the SLTC, was definitely an action packed day. There were many activities that undoubtedly improved the students' leadership and team building skills.

After a hearty breakfast, the day was boosted by an excellent teambuilding activity by ISC-Amman. This consisted of teams being challenged to build a tower made of sticks, clay and tape. There were many interesting towers (One being able to reach the ceiling!) and it had a very positive atmosphere. And the result of this activity was that at the end of this challenge we had 10 strong teams full of team spirit.

Then, Ms. Nathalie and Ms. Hanan presented to us the ‘Fish Philosophy’. The basic idea was incorporating four elements to our daily lives: Play, Be There, Make Their Day, and Changing Attitude. It’s amazing how adding even a tiny bit of each of these allows not just one person, but everybody else’s day to be changed for the better. Another point was paying kindness forward. Everyone learned that by helping, this generates a flow of people helping each other.
Before the awaited ‘Treasure Hunt’, we had another team building activity which split us into 10 teams. The treasure hunt had everybody ‘hyped up’ and ready to go. We discovered and explored Athens on foot going from one station to the other while having to perform a song and dance at one of the stops. It has hilarious. Even though the students were tired, they still had a positive attitude. The underlying message of this activity was to gain self-confidence, leadership and being able to work with any sort of team. As well as be able to talk to anybody on the street and be able to use their resources to achieve the objectives.

Finally, it was time for dinner. At first, everybody was calm. After about fifteen minutes, you could hear everybody singing. There was even a conga line! One of the many things that happened was a student, Suhaib Gendy from ISC-Khalifa, won a basket of free drinks because he was able to open a soda bottle without an opener. This was met with roaring applause and drinks being handed out.

By the time the students were heading to the hotel, everyone was exhausted. Still, they exerted even more positive vibes. Some were singing, some were skipping and some
were even rapping! This shows that as long as friends are present, no one will ever be negative.

DAY 4 - SLO SESSIONS AND VISIT TO MONASTIRAKI
We kicked off our fourth day with a team building exercise organized by Prefects from The International School of Choueifat DIP that helped to bring together the team members from various schools across the sabis network. It encouraged us to think outside the box by working hand in hand and communicating with one another. Afterwards, we had an immensely inspirational presentation by Ms. Zeina Abou Zelof that touched the hearts and souls of both students and SLCs alike around her. It motivated us to be a stronger and more confident version of ourselves and to not be overwhelmed by the circumstances around us and to instead focus on the goals to be achieved not on the obstacles hindering their path towards success. Picking up where Ms. Zeina left off Mr. Robinson who gave an energy-filled presentation and he accomplished that by interacting with the students. He put everything into perspective for us and gave us a more positive outlook on life. He emphasized controlling our own destinies through the power of positivity. After these powerful presentations we decided to switch things up a bit by doing a fun little exercise where we had another team building activity to advertise for a new school and we were given keywords to include. With these keywords the students took their advertisements 'to infinity and beyond'. To top of the day we were given the chance to roam the streets of Athens and to shop which gave the students the opportunity to mingle amongst each other and to bond. Overall, the day was extremely motivational and filled with enthusiasm.

DAY 5 - SLO SESSIONS AND SHIRT CEREMONY
Day five of the SLTC 2017 was yet another eventful and insightful day filled with unforgettable presentations and amazing moments that are sure to last forever in our hearts. Following breakfast in the morning was a team building activity held by prefects from our Cincinnati school. All students were given fifteen minutes in order to write and
prepare a rap song based on a list of words that was provided to every team. The verses were then performed in front of everyone with a panel of our SLC's judging to find the top three.

The first session of the day was conducted by Mr. Sam Horness, the SLC of Ruwais Private School, who presented the "Power of belief." This powerful and life-changing presentation was composed of a number of science facts and inspiring video clips to help comprehend the message. Mr. Sam, putting a whole lot of effort into the presentation, did an exceptional job.

The second session of the day, The Languages of Appreciation was led by Ms. Angela Nichols - the SLC of the International Academy of Flint. This inspiring presentation taught us that appreciating people makes them care more. This presentation was extremely inspirational. The next half an hour was spent reflecting these incredible presentations and we then proceeded to lunch.

The second team building activity took place after lunch. It was hosted by the prefects from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Prefects were divided into groups of ten where each person was given a chance to share two truths and one lie. The purpose of this activity was for the batch to have a better understanding of each other.

After that, we had a session dedicated to individual schools and developing goals for the following academic year. The whole team reassembled at 7:30 in the evening at the conference room in order to celebrate the traditional 'T-shirt Ceremony' that occurs annually at the SLTC. The event was organized by the head prefects. We were given a brief history about this ceremony, after which they revealed this year's shirt color: teal. All prefects and SLC's received their shirts among cheers and claps.
This Saturday July 15th, all 130 members of the Student Life Training Conference ventured out for an exhilarating trip across three islands of Greece; Hydra, Poros and Aegina. The morning of the cruise, we had to stray from our usual morning schedule and painstakingly pull ourselves out of bed around half past five for this once of a lifetime experience. Most of us ended up properly waking up only after we boarded the buses at 7 in the morning. The sight of the harbor and the clear blue water glittering in the sun was enough to take our breath away. We boarded anxiously not knowing what lay before us.

The first island we visited was Hydra which is based in the Aegian Sea. This island was a take on modern and ancient architecture which in fact was very pleasing to the eye. After reaching the island we took a stunning group photo and parted our separate ways to shop, have ice-cream and see everything this island had offer. After just a short 50 minute stop we boarded the ship again to our next destination, Poros.

The second island we had the opportunity to visit was the island of Poros. This Island is covered in shops, restaurants and amazing Greek architecture. Many of the students watched as ships entered the harbor. Others spent time in shops and eateries. Once it was time to board the boat, we were surprised with a DJ who taught us how to Zorba. During our dance session we made it to our final destination, the island of Aegina.

The last island, Agina was the largest of them all. It is famous for its sights and plentiful shops. The students were very eager to try to shop at them all. Some students even sampled the local cuisine. Some students ended up renting bikes to explore the island, we didn’t want to leave!

After a long yet grand trip, we headed back towards the mainland early in the evening. It was truly an unforgettable experience.
The seventh day of the conference started off with a pleasant breakfast and was followed by a team building activity lead by ISC-Ruwais. Next, Mr. Abel from Phoenix presented the Power of Positive Thinking. This inspirational session taught the right attitude, always smile, and see the effect of it on people around you. After lunch, a team building activity was hosted by the ISC-Choueifat students. After the activity, SLCs and their students had a discussion on ‘How to start the Academic Year with a Bang’. Prefects shared the project ideas for recruiting students to Student Life in the beginning of the new Academic Year.

The day proceeded with students visiting the Acropolis. The Acropolis’s breathtaking view left unforgettable impressions and gave an opportunity to students to learn its history. After all the pictures were taken, students walked all the way down to Hard Rock Café where they socialized, enjoyed each other’s company, sang and danced and tasted delicious food. Even though by the time we left Hard Rock Café most shops were closed, prefects still had fun by walking around and back to the hotel.
DAY 8 - SLO SESSIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The 8th day of the conference began with a team building exercise led by the wonderful school of ISC-Sharjah. After that, 5 of the SLCs presented an enlightening presentation about what it takes to be a leader. The five practices to be a leader were: Challenge the Process, Inspire a Shared Vision, Enable Others to Act, Model the Way, and Encourage the Heart. Following the presentation, a movie entitled "Shackleton’s Antarctic Adventure" was shown to the prefects, followed by a discussion about how it relates to the SLO(R) and the SLTC.

Following lunchtime, prefects from Egypt, Lahore, Kurdistan, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon visited Floga Parents Association of Children with Cancer, where they were able to give the children presents, handmade cards, and coloring books to brighten up their day. Meanwhile, the students from UAE, the Gulf Region, KSA, Oman, Sharjah and Germany went to an orphanage called, The Smile of a Child, also bearing gifts and toys to brighten their day. The orphanage representative spoke to them about the origin of this organization. The Springfield, Flint, Phoenix, Lancing and Cincinnati schools went to a nursing home, singing songs to the senior citizens of Athens.

After all that, the prefects were given a few hours to shop to their hearts’ desires at the Monastiraki Square. At the end of the day, they had an enjoyable walk back to the Titania Hotel accompanied with light rain. Another wonderful day at the Student Life Training Conference.
DAY 9 - SLO SESSIONS AND CLOSING OF CONFERENCE

Today Tuesday the 18th of July 2017 is both the best and worst day in this Student Life Training Conference. The best, because we have been preparing so long for the closing ceremony which took place today and the worst because it's the day we all say goodbye.

We all woke up at 7:00am and went down to the cafeteria to enjoy our last breakfast together at the Titania hotel. At 8:00am we entered the conference room as we did everyday and watched an amazing, eye opening presentation about gratitude. Just like every day spent in this conference, we learnt so much from this presentation and how we sometimes forget to express gratitude to others who deserve it. This was followed by a movie that was very relatable to all the presentations right here in the conference. It included leadership, spreading positivity, gratefulness and many more skills that we ought to implement in our daily lives. We then had lunch and started preparing for the closing ceremony. Prefects were decorating the rooms, rehearsing for traditional dances from all around the world and songs in various different languages. Each prefect put a little bit of their talent and hard work and with all the amazing team working skills we acquired from this conference, we ended up with an amazing ceremony filled with laughter and fun. At 7:00pm, we left the hotel to go to a traditional Greek restaurant called Zafiro. We all enjoyed an amazing final meal together as we danced endlessly with professional Greek dancers and broke plaster plates for good luck. This night and the entire conference in general turned into an unforgettable experience like no other. We ended the night with hugs and tears but no goodbyes, simply an "I'll see you later".